



Ireland During the Emergency

Term	Definition
Belfast Blitz	German bombing of Belfast during World War II
Black market	Buying and selling of goods illegally, especially when they are rationed.
Censorship	The banning of speech, writing or other forms of communication that supposedly spread harmful ideas.
Ditching	During the Blitz, people from Belfast left the city at night and slept in ditches in the countryside to avoid the bombs.
Economic War	A trade war between the Irish Free State and Britain from 1932 to 1938.
Éire	The Irish language name for Ireland.
Glimmermen	Inspectors who visited homes to check that gas, which was in short supply, was not being used outside the designated times.
Harland and Wolff	Belfast shipyard that built ships for the British war effort.
Irish Republican Army (IRA)	Illegal armed movement in Ireland
Irish Shipping	A state-owned company set up by Seán Lemass in 1941 to bring goods in and out of Ireland. It ceased operating in 1984.
Neutrality	A policy of not taking sides in an international war.
Rationing	Use of coupons and ration books to control the amount of food, clothes, footwear and petrol given to each person.
The Emergency	Time used to refer to Ireland's experience of World War II, during which the country remained neutral.



2.5 IDENTIFY the causes, course and consequences of the Northern Ireland Troubles and their impact on North- South and Anglo-Irish relations
 2.8 DESCRIBE the impact of war on the lives of Irish people, referring to either World War I or World War II

Summary

During World War II, Ireland maintained a policy of neutrality, which meant that the country did not take part in the conflict directly. However, the war still had a significant impact on the country, affecting the lives of the Irish people both economically and socially. One of the most noticeable effects of the war was rationing. The Irish government introduced rationing of food and other essential goods, such as fuel and clothing. This was due to the disruption of trade routes and shortages caused by the war. As a result, Irish citizens had to adapt to living with fewer resources and finding ways to make do with what they had. The fear of invasion also loomed over the country. Both the Axis and Allied powers were potential threats, and the Irish government was concerned about the possibility of attack. To prepare for this eventuality, civil defense organizations were set up, and air raid shelters were constructed in many parts of the country. The war also had social consequences. Many young men enlisted in the British armed forces to fight against the Axis powers. Some joined the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to fight for Irish independence. The influx of American troops to Ireland had both positive and negative effects. American soldiers brought an injection of money and resources to the Irish economy, but they also had a significant impact on Irish society, with some Irish women marrying American servicemen and moving to the United States.

Neutrality	Rationing	Fear of Invasion
During World War II, Ireland maintained a policy of neutrality, which meant that the country did not take part in the conflict directly. This policy was controversial, with some arguing that Ireland should have supported the Allies in their fight against Nazi Germany. However, the Irish government believed that neutrality was necessary to preserve Irish sovereignty and avoid being drawn into a conflict that was not of its making. Ireland's neutrality was tested during the war, with both the Allies and the Axis powers making attempts to influence Irish policy. However, the country managed to maintain its neutrality throughout the war, and it is generally regarded as having played a positive role in promoting international peace and cooperation.	Due to the disruption of trade routes and shortages caused by the war, the Irish government introduced rationing of food, fuel, and clothing. This affected the daily lives of Irish citizens, who had to adapt to living with fewer resources. Rationing meant that certain foods, such as sugar and tea, were in short supply and could only be purchased with ration coupons. The rationing system also included restrictions on clothing and fuel, with people being encouraged to conserve resources wherever possible. Despite these measures, however, the Irish government managed to maintain a relatively stable economy and avoid some of the more severe shortages that affected other countries during the war.	Both the Allied and Axis powers were potential threats to Ireland, and the Irish government was concerned about the possibility of invasion. Civil defence organisations were set up, and air raid shelters were constructed in many parts of the country. Irish citizens were encouraged to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the authorities. Despite the fear of invasion, however, Ireland managed to avoid being drawn into the conflict directly, and the country's policy of neutrality helped to protect it from the worst of the war's consequences.

Social Change	Economic Impact	Political Debates
The war had significant social consequences for Ireland. Many Irish men joined the British armed forces to fight against Nazi Germany, while others joined the Irish Republican Army to fight for Irish independence. The influx of American troops also had an impact on Irish society, with some Irish women marrying American servicemen and moving to the United States. The war brought changes to Irish culture and society, with new ideas and influences entering the country as a result of the increased external contact.	The war had a significant impact on the Irish economy, with disruption to trade routes and a decline in tourism. Despite this, some sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, benefited from increased demand for food. The Irish government implemented policies to support the country's economy during the war, including the establishment of a trade agreement with Germany in 1939. Overall, the war had a mixed impact on the Irish economy, with some sectors thriving and others struggling.	The issue of Ireland's neutrality and its relationship with the United Kingdom were hotly debated during the war. Some believed that Ireland should support the Allies in their fight against Nazi Germany, while others argued that neutrality was necessary to preserve Irish sovereignty. The debate over Ireland's relationship with the United Kingdom also continued, with some arguing that the country should remain neutral in the conflict between Britain and Germany. Despite the disagreements, however, the Irish government managed to maintain a policy of neutrality and avoid being drawn into the conflict.

Aid to Refugees	Propaganda and Censorship	Irish Soldiers in World War II
Despite its policy of neutrality, Ireland provided aid to refugees fleeing the conflict, particularly Jewish refugees from Europe. This was in part due to the efforts of individuals such as the Irish diplomat, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, who worked to provide assistance to refugees and prevent their deportation. The Irish government also established a number of refugee camps around the country to provide shelter and support to those in need. While the number of refugees in Ireland was relatively small compared to other countries, the country's efforts to provide aid to those in need were significant and reflected a sense of compassion and solidarity with those affected by the war.	During the war, the Irish government imposed strict controls on the media, censoring news reports and propaganda in order to maintain a policy of neutrality. This meant that Irish citizens were limited in their access to information about the progress of the war and the actions of other countries. While the censorship was controversial and led to accusations of government censorship, it was seen as necessary by the Irish government in order to maintain a policy of neutrality and prevent the country from being drawn into the conflict.	While Ireland maintained a policy of neutrality, many Irish citizens volunteered to fight in the war as part of the British armed forces or other allied forces. It is estimated that over 70,000 Irish men and women served in the British armed forces during the war, with many others joining allied forces such as the US Army. Irish soldiers fought in many of the key battles of the war, including the Normandy landings and the Battle of Monte Cassino. However, their contributions were often overlooked or downplayed in Irish society, as the country maintained its policy of neutrality and sought to distance itself from the conflict.

The Belfast Blitz

The Belfast Blitz stands as a stark reminder of the devastation of World War II, even as Ireland upheld its stance of neutrality. In April and May 1941, the city of Belfast in Northern Ireland was subject to a series of Luftwaffe air raids, marking it among the most heavily bombed cities in the UK during the war. These attacks resulted in immense destruction, with large swathes of the city severely damaged and tragically, over 1,000 people lost their lives. The Blitz also brought a significant number of Irish volunteers into active roles, as many from the Republic of Ireland crossed the border to assist in the aftermath of the bombings, showcasing a spirit of unity and humanitarianism transcending political boundaries. Despite the policy of neutrality, these events highlighted the complex and often poignant interactions between Ireland and the wider conflict engulfing Europe.