

A HISTORY OF IRELAND IN 100 OBJECTS, A SELECTION LEAVING CERTIFICATE, ORDINARY AND HIGHER LEVEL HISTORY

GAA Medal, 1887



LESSON AIMS

Knowledge and understanding

- To develop knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past
- To promote understanding of the present through the development of a historical perspective on issues of contemporary importance
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Irish, European and world history
- To develop students' understanding of historical concepts
- To provide students with a perspective of change in a world of change

Skills of history

- To develop an awareness of different interpretations of particular historical issues
- To develop a range of research skills essential for the study of history
- To develop an appreciation of the nature and variety of historical evidence

Preparation for life and citizenship

- To develop the ability to think critically
- To develop positive values associated with the study of history
- To develop in students an appreciation of the society in which they live and of other societies, past and present
- To develop in students an informed and critical awareness of their historical inheritance

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Knowledge and understanding

1. Students should acquire knowledge and develop understanding of:

- the specific listed elements of the topics studied;
- how the actions and experiences of previous generations have helped influence the world of their successors;
- how elements of the Irish history topics studied fit into a broader international context. Depending on the topic in question, that context may involve consideration of such aspects as:
 - the British dimension
 - the European dimension
 - the global dimension
 - the Irish diaspora;
- human activity in the past, from a variety of perspectives. In studying human activity in the past, attention should be given to the experiences of women. The main forms of activity to be studied may be categorised as follows: administrative, cultural, economic, political, religious, scientific, social.

2. Students should develop an understanding of, and an ability to apply such concepts as are fundamental to the study and writing of history, for example:

- procedural concepts
 - source and evidence
 - fact and opinion
 - bias and objectivity
- interperative concepts
 - change and continuity
 - cause and consequence
 - comparison and contrast
- substantive concepts
 - power and authority
 - conflict and reconciliation
 - democracy and human rights
 - culture and civilisation
 - economy and society
 - identity and community
 - space and time

Skills of history

Students should develop a range of skills associated with the study and writing of history.

1. Recognition of the nature of historical knowledge

Students should learn to:

- recognise that historical knowledge is tentative and incomplete and, accordingly, subject to revision and/or reinterpretation; and
- recognise that historical writing must be based on reliable evidence and that the available evidence may be open to more than one valid interpretation.

2. Research skills

Students should learn to:

- define an appropriate topic for research study
- locate historical data from a variety of primary and/or secondary sources
- select and record relevant data
- evaluate data
- collate data
- present findings in a well-structured, logical format.

3. Skills in working with evidence

Students should develop the ability to:

- recognise different types of historical source and materials
- extract information from source materials to answer historical questions
- evaluate the usefulness of particular sources and their limitations
- detect bias
- identify propaganda.

Preparation for life and citizenship

Through their study of history, students should acquire a unique combination of skill and understanding, which will contribute to their personal growth as individuals and help to prepare them for life and work in society.

1. Students should develop the ability to:

- think critically by making judgements based on an evaluation of evidence.

2. Students should develop positive values associated with the study of history. They should learn to:

- be thorough in the collecting of information and accurate in its recording;
- be aware of bias and strive to be objective; and
- be able to look at a contentious or controversial issue from more than one point of view.

3. Students should learn to:

- evaluate their historical inheritance through the study of history from a variety of perspectives.