

**GAA Medal, 1887****LEAVING CERTIFICATE HIGHER LEVEL  
EXAMINATION QUESTIONS 2010–2013****SECTION 2: IRELAND****Ireland: Topic 2****Movements for political and social reform, 1870–1914**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Question</b>
2013	How did one or more of the following provoke controversy: the GAA; the Suffrage movement; the Anglo-Irish Literary Revival? (100)
2012	What did one or more of the following contribute to cultural revival during the period 1870–1914: the GAA; the Gaelic League; the Anglo-Irish Literary Revival? (100)
2010	Which organisation was more effective, the GAA or the Gaelic League? Argue your case, referring to both. (100)

## SECTION 1: IRELAND

### Ireland: Topic 2

Movements for political and social reform, 1870–1914

2007

#### Case study to which documents relate:

#### The GAA to 1891

Study the documents below and answer the questions below.

- According to document A, what did national games and pastimes once develop in the Irish people?
  - In document A, to what does Davitt attribute the poor physical condition of young Irishmen?
  - In document B1, what position had been offered to Parnell?
  - In document B2, how does William O'Brien propose to help the GAA? **(20)**
- Mention one way in which document A agrees with each of the letters in documents B1 and B2.
  - Which document, A or B1 or B2, offers the most practical help to the GAA? Explain your answer. **(20)**
- In document A, does Davitt see the establishment of the GAA as part of a wider break away from Britain? Explain your answer.
  - What do we learn about the character of Parnell from a critical study of document B1? **(20)**
- How did the GAA deal with the difficulties it faced between 1884 and 1891? **(40)**

#### DOCUMENT A

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Letter from Michael Davitt to Michael Cusack

London,  
October 30th 1884.

My dear Mr Cusack,

Sorry I cannot attend the meeting which you announced for Thurles on Saturday. In any effort that may be made to revive a national taste for games and pastimes, such as once developed the muscular power and manly bearing of our Gaelic ancestors, I shall be glad to lend a hand.

In this, as in many other matters, we ought to cut ourselves adrift from English rule and patronage, and prevent the killing of those Celtic sports, which have been threatened with the same fate, by the encroachment of Saxon customs as that which menaces our nationality under alien rule.

There are, of course, many reasons why the physique of our people is not developed as it ought to be, but there is no doubt that one reason for the degenerate (sickly) gait and bearing of most of our young men at home is to be found in the absence of such games and pastimes as formerly gave to Irishmen the reputation of a soldier-like and self-reliant race.

Yours very truly,  
Michael Davitt.

## DOCUMENT B1

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Letter from C.S. Parnell to Michael Cusack

Irish Parliamentary Offices,  
Palace Chambers,  
London SW.  
December 17th 1884.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 11th instant. It gives me great pleasure to learn that a Gaelic Athletic Association has been established for the preservation of national pastimes, with the objects of which I entirely concur (agree).

I feel very much honoured with the resolution of the Thurles meeting, and I accept, with appreciation, the position of patron of the Association, which has been offered to me. I need not say that I shall do anything I can to render the working of the movement a success.

I am, yours very truly,  
Chas S Parnell.

## DOCUMENT B2

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Letter from William O'Brien to Michael Cusack

*United Ireland*,  
Dublin.  
December 24th 1884.

My Dear Mr Cusack,

As you are aware, I have, from the beginning, taken a hearty interest in the movement you have so vigorously inaugurated for the revival of our national sports, and I shall willingly devote a weekly portion of *United Ireland* (newspaper) to assist you in spreading and popularising the movement.

Yours sincerely,  
William O'Brien.

# LEAVING CERTIFICATE ORDINARY LEVEL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS 2006–2013

## SECTION 2: IRELAND Ireland: Topic 2

### Movements for political and social reform, 1870–1914

2013

**B (30 marks)**

*Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes*

Write a short paragraph on the GAA between 1884 and 1891.

2011

**A (30 marks)**

*Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes*

This edited extract discusses the first GAA All-Ireland hurling final. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

Five teams contested the first All-Ireland hurling championship of 1887—Galway, Wexford, Clare, Tipperary and Kilkenny. After a long delay, the final took place at Birr on Easter Sunday, 1 April 1888. The teams lined out twenty-one a side. The hurlers played in their stocking feet. Birr was chosen for the venue because it was both central and neutral for both Meelick and Thurles, the champion hurling teams from Galway and Tipperary respectively.

The final score read: Tipperary one goal and one point, Galway nil. Tommy Healy from Two-Mile-Borris scored the goal—the first goal ever in an All-Ireland championship—and wrote himself into the record books.

1. Where and when did the first All-Ireland hurling final take place?
2. What was unusual about the dress of the players on that day?
3. What hurling teams represented Galway and Tipperary respectively?
4. What record did Tommy Healy establish on that day?
5. What did Michael Cusack contribute to the GAA?

Source: Brendan Fulham, *Hurling Giants*, (Wolfhound Press, Dublin. 1994).

2010

**B (30 marks)**

*Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes*

Write a short paragraph on the early years of the GAA.

2009

**A (30 marks)**

*Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes*

This edited extract from the *Freeman's Journal* is an account of the All-Ireland hurling final between Meelick (Co. Galway) and Thurles (Co. Tipperary) which took place on Easter Sunday, 1888. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

From the time the Thurles and Meelick men met, their relations were characterised by the utmost good feeling and good humour, and the defeat of the latter did not in the least change that.

After a short delay, the members of both teams dressed themselves in the Gaelic costume. They were then marshalled by Captain Lynam, Meelick, who, in military fashion, ordered them into line, the Tipperary men in front and the Galway men behind.

He then gave "right about", and they were formed two deep, every Tipp man standing shoulder to shoulder with a Galway man.

In this order they marched through the town of Birr to the field. Arrived there, they found several thousand people awaiting them.

1. What event is described and where did it take place?
2. Which team won?
3. Was the event well attended? Explain your answer.
4. What, briefly, did Captain Lynam do?
5. How did Archbishop Croke of Cashel contribute to the GAA?

**B (30 marks)**

*Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes*

Write a short paragraph on Michael Davitt.

## SECTION 1: DOCUMENTS BASED QUESTION

### Ireland: Topic 2

#### Movements for political and social reform, 1870–1914

2007

Case study to which documents relate:

#### The GAA to 1891

Study the documents (A and B) below and answer the questions below.

1. (a) According to document A, how was the Archbishop greeted on arrival in Charleville?  
 (b) In document A, what position does the Archbishop hold in the GAA?  
 (c) From document A, mention two ways in which the men were impressive.  
 (d) According to document B, in selecting a location for games, what should the organisers keep in mind?  
 (e) From document B, who should not be allowed to give prizes? **(40)**
2. (a) Which document, A or B, gives the more favourable picture of the GAA?  
 Explain your answer, referring to both documents.  
 (b) Which document, A or B, expresses personal concern for the welfare of the GAA?  
 Give a reason for your answer. **(20)**
3. (a) Mention two features of document A that are characteristic of a newspaper report.  
 (b) Which of the following would be of greatest use to the historian:  
 document A; document B; document A and document B together?  
 Explain your answer. **(20)**
4. In what ways did the GAA develop in the years after 1884? **(20)**

#### DOCUMENT A

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A newspaper's account of the visit of Archbishop Croke to Charleville, Co. Cork.

The Archbishop of Cashel travelled from Thurles by midday train and arrived at Charleville shortly after three in the afternoon. An enormous crowd of people had gathered on the platform and outside the station; and when the Archbishop got off the train he was greeted with enthusiastic cheering.

A notable feature of the gathering was the presence of half a dozen branches of the Gaelic Athletic Association, of which Croke is Patron. The men were dressed in the uniforms of the different clubs, and carried their hurleys on their shoulders.

They presented a very impressive appearance, and everyone was struck with the discipline of their movements. Even in the midst of an excited crowd they kept their order of two abreast, and carried out to the letter the commands of their captains.

Source: *The Freeman's Journal*, 26 July, 1887.

## DOCUMENT B

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A letter from Archbishop Croke to the GAA Convention in Thurles on 4 January, 1888. He complains that drinking was on the increase at GAA games.

He proposed that:

- The sale of all alcoholic drinks be strictly prohibited (banned) on, and as far as possible, even near the field.
- In selecting the location for such sports, the immediate neighbourhood of public houses be specially avoided.
- That no prizes be accepted from owners of public houses.

Source: *The Gael*, 7 January, 1888.

### 2006

Study the documents (A and B) below and answer the questions below.

1. (a) According to document A, for what purpose was a meeting held in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles on 1 November, 1884?  
 (b) From document A, name the two men who called the meeting.  
 (c) From document A, name two of the men who became patrons of the GAA.  
 (d) In document B, what evidence does the writer give for his claim that the GAA was becoming very weak in the Northern Police Division?  
 (e) In document B, what reason does the writer give why the Catholic clergy publicly condemned the GAA in the Northern Police Division? **(40)**
2. (a) Which document contains only facts and which document contains both facts and opinions?  
 (b) Which document, A or B, is more critical of the GAA? Explain your answer, referring to both documents. **(20)**
3. (a) Mention two qualities in document A that are characteristic of a newspaper report.  
 (b) Is document B a primary source or a secondary source? Explain your answer. **(20)**
4. In document B, the writer states that the final break-up of the GAA is 'only a matter of time'. Do you consider that this forecast was accurate? Explain your answer. **(20)**

## DOCUMENT A

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The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is founded in Thurles on 1 November, 1884

A meeting of athletes and friends of athletics was held on Saturday at three o'clock in Miss Hayes' Commercial Hotel, Thurles for the purpose of forming an association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes.

Mr Michael Cusack of Dublin and Mr Maurice Davin of Carrick-on-Suir had the meeting convened (called) by the following circular: 'You are earnestly requested to attend a meeting, which will be held in Thurles on 1st November, to take steps for the formation of a Gaelic Athletic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes, and for providing...amusements for the Irish people during their leisure hours'

Mr Davin was called to the chair and Mr Cusack read the circular convening the meeting. On the motion of Mr Cusack, seconded by Mr Power, Archbishop Croke, Mr Parnell and Mr Davitt were appointed patrons of the new organisation...

*The Cork Examiner*, 3 November, 1884.

## DOCUMENT B

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Police report from District Inspector Reeves on the condition of the GAA, 24 April, 1890

The GAA is becoming very weak in this (Police) Division. There are in all 58 branches, 30 of which are not affiliated (joined) with the central branch and the Association is continuously losing ground. About this time last year there were about 154 branches in the Division.

The Society (GAA) has been held up to so much public condemnation by the RC (Roman Catholic) clergy throughout the North on account of its connection with the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood) that it could not withstand the attacks and its final break-up is only a matter of time...

*Special Branch monthly reports, Northern Division.*