An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

School
of History

The 'Decade of Centenaries' Irish history competition for primary and post-primary schools 2020

1. The Decade of Centenaries

The decade 2012–2022 is categorised as the 'Decade of Centenaries' as it marks the centenary of a number of important historical events and developments that occurred in the period 1912–1922, and which formed a vital role in the formation of modern Ireland. As part of the 'Decade of Centenaries' commemorations, schools and students at all levels of primary and post-primary schools across Ireland are invited, in the 2019-2020 school year, to enter the annual schools' history competition. The selected themes have a particular link to events of a century ago across the island of Ireland.

2. General headings for the competition

The 'Decade of Centenaries' Irish history competition for primary and post-primary schools is sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and University College Cork School of History. It is also supported by 'History Ireland'.

This year, at both primary and post-primary levels, projects are invited under the following general headings, please note that all categories can incorporate a local/regional studies theme:

- **Revolution in Ireland** – a study of a political/revolutionary event from the 1912–1922 period, a particular aspect of the event, or an individual/group/organisation associated with it. As with the other categories, this can incorporate a local/regional studies theme.
- **Ireland and the First World War** – a study of the Irish experience of the war from the perspective of an individual or group. This could involve a focus on a particular battle, an individual participant's story or a consideration of the entire 1914–1918 period.
- **Women during the revolutionary period in Ireland** – a study of a particular individual/group/organisation/movement striving to improve the quality of women's lives or involved in revolutionary activity in Ireland in the 1912–1922 period
- **War of Independence** – a study of a political/revolutionary event from the 1919–1921 period, a particular aspect of the event, or an individual/group/organisation associated with it.

All entries should principally focus on the 1912–1922 period, or a part of it. The competition is open to all primary and post-primary schools. The project can be submitted by a class, a group of students, or an individual student. Full details, and the template cover sheet for projects, will be available to download at

www.education.ie/historycompetition. The closing date will be Friday, **20 March 2020**, and prizes will be awarded in May that year. Answers to some commonly asked practical questions about submitting projects will be provided on Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie) early in 2020.

This schools history competition is intended to complement the history curriculum at primary and post-primary level. It can also help support and promote the study of history by students. The competition is entirely optional and is not intended to place any additional burden on schools, teachers or students.

3.   Criteria

The maximum word count for projects is 2,000 words at primary level (i.e. for projects submitted by a class, group of pupils or an individual pupil), and 4,000 words at post primary level (i.e. for projects submitted by a class, group of students or individual student). Projects may be submitted in either English or Irish.

All projects must be submitted as word documents. PowerPoint presentations cannot be accepted. Projects will be judged against the following criteria:

- Understanding of the selected individual, event or development: The extent to which the significance and the impact of the selected event/s or person on local or national history is examined and understood.
- Presentation: the overall presentation of the project should be coherent and accurate with a high standard of literacy. While the incorporation of multimedia resources such as pictures into a project is not compulsory they could enhance the overall presentation of a project. Any resources of this nature that are used are not counted in the word count of the project.
- Research: the extent of research evident in the project. School textbooks may be used as a starting point for the project but they must be supplemented by other sources, including books, local lore and primary sources like Witness Statements. Primary documents could also be incorporated into the project where possible in order to enhance the quality of the project. (Due care should be taken that extensive passages are not copied from textbooks or other sources, including online sources, and inserted into the history project).
- Overall quality: the extent to which the project captures the imagination of the reader.

While not essential, a project might benefit from references to other areas of the curriculum that are relevant to the subject matter chosen. For example, references to drama, art, poetry, or literature of the time could be used to enrich a history project.

Efforts should be taken to include historical referencing of the sources on which the project is based. Projects that plagiarise (copy directly) sources, including web-based sources, will not be considered eligible to win the competition. Each project must include a bibliography at the end that lists the main primary and secondary sources that have been consulted. The bibliography does not form part of the word count.

The projects will be assessed by a three-person panel that will be chaired by the School of History in University College Cork. The other members of the panel will comprise representatives from the Department of Education and Skills.

4.   Prizes

There will be nine prizes in total. Four primary winners and four post-primary winners will be selected. An additional prize will be awarded for the best project submitted from Transition Year. Each prize will be of equal status, with no overall winner. It is also important to note that the winning entries will be those deemed to be the best projects, and judges will not be confined to awarding a prize under each of the headings outlined in Section 2 of this document. Naturally, the judges' decision is final and judges reserve the right not to award prizes whereby the entries received are not of sufficient quality.

Prizes will consist of the following:
- a History trophy to be awarded to each winner
- book tokens to the value of €100
- all winning entries will be digitised on www.scoilnet.ie and also on the UCC History website
- one of the winners will be considered for publication in the Sept./Oct. 2020 issue of *History Ireland* and receive a year's subscription to the magazine.

5. Links to other projects, examinations and competitions

It should be noted that success in the schools' history competition should not be considered as any indication of the likely performance by a student or group of students in a state examination, or in any other competition.

It is possible that a student or group of students may wish to use material uncovered during their research for a local project or competition, or for an ancestry or oral history initiative. For example, some education centres may run competitions in local historical studies. If so, and if an entry to such a competition relates to one of the headings and to the date parameters (1912–22) of this 'Decade of Centenaries' competition as well, there is no difficulty with a project being entered in more than one competition.

7. Submission of projects and announcement of winners

The deadline for receipt of completed projects is **20th March 2020** with the winners being announced, and prizes awarded, before the end of May 2020.

Projects must be submitted online to the following email address: historycompetition@ucc.ie. Each project **must include** a cover sheet at the front (a template cover sheet is attached to this letter and is also available to download at education.gov.ie/historycompetition) and a bibliography listing the sources consulted.

8. Queries

Information and application forms can be downloaded or obtained through the means indicated above i.e. the Department's website, or on Scoilnet. Queries regarding the competition can also be directed to historycompetition@ucc.ie. However, in the interests of fairness, no correspondence will be entered into regarding the potential merit of ideas or content in any project, at any stage.

9. Circulation

Please bring this letter to the attention of your principal, history teachers and members of the school board of management.

Evelyn O'Connor

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Appendix A: Possible sources for the schools' history project

A variety of sources are available to assist in researching the period 1912-1922. The sources of information listed below will provide a useful starting point for research.

Scoilnet

www.scoilnet.ie: this portal is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and provided through the Professional Development Service for Teachers, Technology in Education (PDST-TiE). It contains over 3,100 digital resources linked to history curriculums for primary and post-post primary and also provides licenced access within school to the Irish Newspaper Archive and the Irish Times Digital Archive www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet/tools-for-teachers/

Local public libraries

All public libraries across the island of Ireland provide access to a range of secondary sources that support the history curriculum. Each local library has an online catalogue that can be searched for relevant books, including biographies. All libraries have access to the Irish Times Newspaper Archive. Find your local library and the services they provide here: https://www.librariesireland.ie/

The Irish Newspaper archive

The Irish Newspaper Archive is an enormously valuable resource for any detailed study of the revolutionary period. https://archive.irishnewsarchive.com

Dictionary of Irish Biography

https://dib.cambridge.org/: contains the Dictionary of Irish Biography which is the most comprehensive and authoritative biographical dictionary yet published for Ireland. It contains biographical details of over 10,000 lives, including articles on individuals who had important careers in politics, law, religion, literature, journalism, architecture, the arts, the sciences, and sport. Access to the DIB is free online for schools funded by the Department of Education and Skills.

Military Archives

www.militaryarchives.ie: Highly recommended. The many testimonies and accounts of the surviving leaders, veterans and volunteers who took part in the events of the 1916 Rising and afterwards, up to 1923, and supporting documentation gathered from the participants through the unique collection that is the Military Service (1916-23) Pensions Collection (www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection). This resource also enables access to Brigade activity reports, http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection-1916-1923/brigade-activities/ . The Bureau of Military History witness statements are another hugely valuable resource accessible from the military archives website. http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/bureau-of-military-history-1913-1921. You can also access journal collection, image galleries, etc.

Letters of 1916

http://letters1916.maynoothuniversity.ie/learn/ The 'Letters of 1916' project includes letters held at institutions (in Ireland and abroad), alongside those in private

collections. To date, we have collected over 1800 letters that comment on the Easter Rising, literature and art, the Great War, politics, business, and ordinary life.

100 Objects

www.100objects.ie contains on-line resources for primary schools based around selected objects from the 'A history of Ireland in 100 objects'.

National Museums of Northern Ireland

www.nmni.com: The home of the National Museums of Northern Ireland, containing links to the Ulster Museum, the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and the Ulster American Folk Park, each of which contains large amounts of images, documents and information. The Ulster Museum has a number of historical sources including a specific section dealing with events in the decade 1912-1922. This includes an excellent selection of images from the period.

National Archives

www.nationalarchives.ie : The website of the National Archives in Dublin provides a number of digitised resources relating to the history of modern Ireland. There is also an online exhibition relating to the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. The site also allows free access to the 1911 census It also hosts the witness statements from the Bureau of Military History for the period 1912 to 1922.

National Library of Ireland

www.nli.ie: The website of the National Library of Ireland includes a guide for post primary students on how to use the numerous resources available in the library. There are also online case studies of the 1913 lock out, as well as an online exhibition relating to 1916.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni: The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland offers a range of resources that students may find useful. These include a searchable database of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

http://www.cwgc.org/ the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission provides a number of resources on the events of WW1 and a searchable database of soldiers who died while fighting in the British Army.

BBC History

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/ulster_covenant: the BBC website provides a number of historical resources. In particular, it provides a very readable account of the Ulster League and Covenant with information on the background and other events happening at the time.

- www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterrising/: This is a special site on the events, personalities, and impact of the 1916 rising, and includes interviews with witnesses and historians.

RTÉ

https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/ : this is a website supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht which provides a range of resources to support study of the period 1912-1922.

Decade of Centenaries Site

The Decade of Centenaries has a website dedicated dedicated to the programme of commemorations relating to the significant events in Irish history that took place between 1912 and 1922. It is supported by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Century Ireland and History Ireland.

- https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/ucd-online-exhibition-the-finest-men-alive-documents-of-imprisonment-protest-1916-17 Developed by UCD Archives and funded by the Irish Research Council, this online exhibition contains a wide range of documents written by prisoners detained in Ireland and Britain in 1916-17.

- Further links for exploring the Decade of Centenaries can be found at: https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/links/

Appendix B:

Template cover sheet which must be included at the front of all projects

Title of project:

Category for which you wish to be entered (i.e. Revolution in Ireland, Ireland and World War 1, Women's history, or a War of Independence category)

Name(s) of class / group of students / individual student submitting the project

School roll number (this should be provided if possible)

School type (primary or post-primary)

School name and address (this must be provided even for projects submitted by a group of pupils or an individual pupil):

Class teacher's name (this must be provided both for projects submitted by a group of pupils or an individual pupil):

Teacher's contact phone number:

Teacher's contact email address