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Exam focus

OCR: Gladstone's Irish policies

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This resource presents some sample questions and commentary for OCR Y141: Liberals, Conservatives and the rise of Labour, 1846–1918.

Questions

- 1 **Assess the success of Gladstone's three ministries.** (20 marks)
- 2 **Assess the reasons for the failure of Gladstone's later ministries.** (20 marks)
- 3 **How successful were Gladstone's Irish policies in his second and third ministries?** (20 marks)
- 4 **How successful were Gladstone's Irish policies?** (20 marks)

Commentary

Each of the questions requires the candidate to do the following:

- reach a balanced and sustained judgement linked to the question
- include detailed, accurate and relevant knowledge
- consistently evaluate knowledge in relation to the question
- include a well-developed and sustained line of reasoning

Each of the questions requires some consideration of Irish policies, whether that be the focus of the entire question or an aspect of a question on overall success or failure. In relation to Irish policy candidates might judge success in relation to:

- solving the land problem, violence and unrest
- upholding Liberal principles and achieving Home Rule
- the problem of violence in the period after 1880
- the attempt to solve it through the Kilmainham Treaty — and why this was a failure
- the Phoenix Park murders

You could also argue that attempts to end violence failed and the government was forced to introduce a Coercion Act. In dealing with the land problem some might argue that it was more successful than the first act because of the '3 Fs' of fair rents, free sale of leases and fixed tenancies. However, violence continued as Parnell encouraged the Irish to continue to refuse to pay rents.

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