

HIST 101 – History of the Irish Landscape
Essay List 2012

1. Describe the cultural landscapes created by the Neolithic farming communities in Ireland.
2. Outline the impact of Early Bronze Age communities on the landscape and economy of Ireland.
3. Examine the evidence the Iron Age Celts have left behind in the Irish landscape, what that evidence tells us about society *c.*500BC to *c.*300AD, and how that evidence relates to the early written references to Ireland.
4. How did farming practices shape settlement and society in Early Medieval Ireland?
5. Examine the evidence that the Early Irish Church has left behind in the Irish landscape and what that evidence tells us about Early Medieval society *c.*500AD to *c.*1000AD.
6. Examine the development of Dublin from its foundation in 917 to the end of the Medieval period.

or

‘How does the discovery of the *longphort* at Woodstown changes our understanding of the development of Viking Waterford’.

7. Assess the process of Anglo-Norman sub-infeudation in Ireland and discuss how the legacy of this system of landholding can still be seen in the Irish landscape.
8. Citing examples, discuss how town building played an important role in the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland.
9. Examine the history of the ‘English Pale’ and assess the degree to which it developed a distinctive archaeology in fifteenth-century Ireland.
10. Account for the modest achievements of the Munster Plantation.
11. Citing examples, demonstrate how the establishment of a network of towns explains the success of the Ulster Plantation. What other factors contributed to its success?
12. Citing examples, explain how landlords shaped the eighteenth-century rural landscape.
13. In what ways, and under whose direction, was Dublin transformed as a city in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries?
14. Descriptions of Ireland before the Famine focussed mainly on the poverty of its inhabitants. In what ways was this perception an incomplete and inaccurate picture of pre-Famine Ireland?
15. What were the long-term landscape implications (up to *c.*1880) of the Great Famine?
16. Examine the impact on the Irish landscape of the Congested Districts Board and the Land Commission.
17. Examine the landscape implications of Ireland joining the EU in 1973.
18. Examine the landscape implications of the ‘Celtic Tiger’ economy.

BA students can, if they wish, write an essay on one of the following:

19. Discuss the varied interpretations of court tomb distribution in Ireland.
20. The eighteenth century was the era of the industrialized village. Outline the history of a village or villages you have studied.

or

‘The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries witnessed the establishment of a small town and village network in Ireland.’ Outline its main features.

21. What are the sources for the study of the long term impact of the Famine on the landscape of West Wicklow and South Tipperary? What do these sources tell us?