

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria

<u>COMPREHENSION:</u>	(1-30 Points)	_____	How well does the writer substantiate a thorough understanding of the issues involved in the topic? How well does the writer clearly distinguish in his/her discussion of the topic the thoughts, expressions, and ideas that are his/hers as opposed to those thoughts, expressions, and ideas of others? How well does the writer demonstrate his/her ability to grasp the wider implications of the topic? How well does the writer cite references used?
<u>ORGANIZATION:</u>	(1-20 Points)	_____	How well does the writer organize his/her thoughts within the paragraphs? How well does the writer express his/her thoughts in a clear, effective manner? How well does the writer adhere to the <i>MLA Style</i> of writing requirements and the additional style requirements specified on the Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet? How well does the writer adhere to the minimum and/or maximum number of words to be used for a LEVEL 1 or for a LEVEL 2 paper?
<u>CONCLUSION:</u>	(1-15 Points)	_____	How well does the writer's conclusion logically follow from the material presented? How well does the writer's conclusion convince the reader?
<u>CREATIVITY:</u>	(1-20 Points)	_____	How well does the writer utilize a variety of references to support his/her topic? How well does the writer convey a creative approach in addressing his/her topic? How well does the writer demonstrate an effective command of vocabulary as he/she expresses his/her thoughts?
<u>WRITING:</u>	(1-15 Points)	_____	How well does the writer use correct spelling? How well does the writer follow grammar rules? How well does the writer use effective sentence structure? How well does the writer use effective transitions to move from one thought to another thought?
<u>TOTAL SCORE:</u>		_____	The total score is the sum of the five (5) category scores.