

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

IRELAND: POVERTY AND MIGRATION

KP1

BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Ireland was the poorest part of Britain and one of the poorest countries in Europe. The population of Ireland was divided by religion. The south was mainly Catholic while in the north (Ulster) there was a large Protestant population - many were descended from Scots who had moved there in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. After Prince William of Orange defeated the Catholic King James III at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, new anti-Catholic laws were introduced. Catholics were forbidden to buy or inherit land from a Protestant; they could not borrow money to buy land and were not allowed to make a profit of more than 30% of their yearly rent. Catholics were banned from all government jobs and were not allowed to have their children educated. When a Catholic died his land had to be divided equally between his sons. These Laws were finally abolished in 1829 but by then the damage had been done. The majority of the Catholic population in Ireland were peasant farmers uneducated and desperately poor. They were completely at the mercy of Protestant landowners who cared little for their welfare and were only interested in squeezing as much rent as they could from their Catholic tenants.

- Irish population doubled between 1800 and 1850 and there was not enough land for everyone. Catholic farms were divided into smaller units making it difficult for families to grow enough food. Protestants owned the best land and Catholics had to farm the poorest soil.
- Small farmers were often evicted because of new farming methods (enclosure/new machines). Protestant landowners often increased rents so that Catholic tenants had little money to support their families.
- Ireland had very few industries so people could not go to the towns for work. Most Irish Catholics were uneducated and unable to do any work but labouring. Farm worker's wages in Ireland were very low.
- Irish farmers were very dependent on potatoes as this was the only crop that would grow on poorer soil. For many families in the south and west of Ireland potatoes and milk were the only source of food they had.
- In 1846, the potato blight struck and destroyed most of the harvest, which millions of Irish depended on. People were hungry and had to beg. The government did little to help relieve the situation and thousands began to starve. All over Ireland, hundreds of thousands died of famine or disease.
- The potato crop failed again in 1847 and in 1848. So many died that the corpses could not be buried and had to be thrown into bogs. There were also thousands of deaths from cholera, dysentery, and typhus.
- Thousands of small farmers were evicted because they could not pay their rents. The government decided that only those who gave up their land would be given poor relief. By 1849, thousands of people had lost their land and were starving and homeless.
- It is thought that two million people died during the Great Irish Famine and a further two million left Ireland to escape poverty and starvation.

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IRISH EMIGRATION TO SCOTLAND

KP2

BACKGROUND

Recent historical research has shown that almost 90% of Irish immigrants to Scotland came from the North of Ireland (Ulster). Around 25% of all Irish immigrants were Protestant. Ulster was one of the richest provinces in Ireland with good farmland and a healthy mix of arable (crops) and pastoral (animals) farming. During the famine years of the 1840s the worst hit areas were in the south and west of Ireland where people were almost totally dependent on the potato crop for survival. This was not the situation in Ulster where mixed farming meant that the potato blight had much less effect on the people living there. Most Irish immigrants who left to escape the famine sailed from ports in the south of Ireland and went to Liverpool which was closer and cheaper to get to. In Glasgow, where most Irish immigrants to Scotland settled, Census returns show that the Irish population of the city increased from 16% in 1841 to only 18% in 1851. Although there were many who came to Scotland to escape poverty, this is not the whole story. Many thousands settled in Scotland because they believed they would have more opportunity to improve their standard of living and make a better life for themselves and their families. Scottish industries were growing and there were many job opportunities for Irish immigrants particularly in unskilled low paid jobs.

- There was a tradition of Irish workers coming to Scotland as seasonal farm labourers and navvies who built the canal system. Many Irish people already had relatives/friends in Scotland who could help them settle.
- Scotland was close to Ireland and the journey time was very short. The cost of getting to Scotland was very low with some ships offering a sixpence deck fare.
- Wages in Scotland were up to six times higher than in Ireland. Irish immigrants were prepared to accept lower wages than Scots and do jobs Scots did not like. Poor relief was easier to get in Scotland than in Ireland for those who had difficulty finding work.
- Some Irish immigrants were skilled spinners and weavers who came to work in the cotton industry when the Irish linen industry collapsed. Whole families could find work in cotton mills, which employed many women and children. These jobs provided more regular work and more security for families.
- The owners of the Jute mills in Dundee encouraged Irish immigrants to settle and even paid their fares and provided housing. Mining was expanding in the central belt and there was a shortage of Scots people who were willing to work in coal mines.
- Irish immigrants could find seasonal work on Scottish farms or in the building of canals, railways, roads, and harbours. Irish labourers also found work in the building of factories for industry and housing for the growing population of Scottish cities and towns.
- Housing was available in cities such as Glasgow and Dundee. Although living conditions for Irish immigrants were amongst the worst in Scotland in many cases the overcrowded tenements that they lived in were better than the hovels they had left behind in Ireland.
- After 1870 the number of Irish immigrants to Scotland began to decline as more Irish began to move overseas to America, Australia, Canada etc. By 1900 many Irish settlers were Protestants from Ulster who were often skilled industrial workers from Belfast.

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IRISH IMMIGRANTS: LIVING CONDITIONS

KP3

BACKGROUND

Irish immigrants in Scotland were most commonly found in the West of Scotland, particularly on Clydeside and in the city of Glasgow. Some did move to other towns such as Stirling, Perth Edinburgh and Dundee where the owners of the Jute mills encouraged Irish settlers. The attractions of the West of Scotland were many. This area was at the center of the Scottish industrial revolution and the new industries – cotton mills, the Lanarkshire coalfields, ironworks, shipbuilding, engineering transport and construction developments provided – thousands of jobs. Even without Irish immigration the population of Glasgow was growing rapidly as farming changes forced people from farming areas and the Highlands to come to the city in search of work. The demand for housing was far greater than the supply and landowners and builders threw up cheap tenements with no amenities as quickly as they could to rent out for profit. This sort of unregulated building led to street after street of overcrowded tenements that soon turned large parts of the city into disease infested slum districts. Irish settlers were unfortunate to arrive at the height of the city's growth and were often seen as the cause of filthy living conditions rather than the victims.

- Irish immigrants often moved in with relatives when they arrived. Scots who did not want to live near them did not make them welcome and treated with hostility. Many Scots landlords would not rent their property to Irish families. As a result they wanted to be close to relatives and other Irish families. Rents were usually lower in the Irish districts.
- Irish immigrants had little money and low wages so could only afford the cheapest housing. Even so rents were high and many families had to share a house or take in lodgers to help pay the rent -overcrowding was a serious problem. Most Irish immigrants had to live in slum areas such as the Gorbals in Glasgow.
- Buildings were badly made of cheap materials. There were no building regulations and tenements were built very close together. The narrow streets and alleys meant many houses had no natural light and ventilation.
- Tenements had no water supply making it difficult to keep homes clean. There were no toilets or sewers and waste was thrown into the backcourts or into gutters in the streets. Houses were damp, dark and dirty and the poorest tenants lived in cellars below street level.
- Evidence from government reports suggests that most Irish families often had no furniture other than a table and a few stools. Many had no beds or blankets and slept on the hard floor. It was often commented that the Irish had a habit of keeping animals in their houses.
- As a result of overcrowding and poor sanitation, epidemic disease killed thousands in Scottish cities. Outbreaks of cholera, typhus, typhoid and TB became a regular occurrence. Irish immigrants were blamed for the filth and disease caused by overcrowded slums even though many Scots lived in identical conditions.
- Many Irish immigrants worked as farm labourers and had to live in huts or sheds with an earth floor, no windows, no water supply or toilet and often nothing more than straw to sleep on.
- Thousands of Irishmen worked as navvies and had no fixed home because they were constantly on the move from one part of the country to another. They had to build themselves huts using turf and stick. They were small and damp because they were built quickly and only used for a short time.

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BACKGROUND

The majority of Irish immigrants were uneducated and unskilled. Most had been small farmers or farm labourers. In the first half of the nineteenth century there were some skilled weavers who came to Scotland work in the cotton industry after the Irish linen industry collapsed. Later industrial workers from the Belfast shipyards and engineering trades moved to Scotland. Irish Catholic immigrants, because of their lack of education and skills had to take whatever work they could get. This was often in the type of job that Scots did not want to do. Many employers at the time complained that Scots would not take labouring work or factory work and would not allow their children to do so. These same employers hired large numbers of Irish immigrants and often commented that they were good workers and that they could not do without them. There is no doubt that the Scottish economy needed cheap labour or it could not have grown so quickly. Low wages made businesses more profitable and therefore provided money for investment and growth.

- For many years there had been Irish workers in Scotland. 'Gangs' of Irish farm labourers began to come to Scotland for seasonal work on Scottish farms during the late eighteenth century. Irish navvies had also done much of the digging and labouring work for the building of the Scottish canal network. These workers usually returned to Ireland when their work was finished or when they had made enough money to buy a farm in Ireland.
- Irish immigrants often arrived with little or no money and had to take any job they could get. Most were small farmers; they had no education and could not get skilled work. Most of the better-paid skilled jobs went to Scots.
- Many Irish immigrants often had no contacts in Scotland to help them find work. Information about jobs was usually by word of mouth and Scots would only tell other Scots about jobs. The Irish faced discrimination in employment because they were Catholic and could only get work in low paid labouring jobs or as servants.
- Factories, mines and railway construction etc, needed large numbers of unskilled workers. Employers were often pleased to employ Irish immigrants whom they could pay less because they were desperate for work and were willing to work for lower wages than the Scots. Irish immigrants often did labouring jobs that Scots would not do.
- Many Irish immigrants worked in coalmines, cotton factories and as farm labourers. Irish immigrants worked as handloom weavers. Large numbers of Irish labourers were employed in the building trade. Many Irish women worked as domestic servants.
- Irish navvies were an important group of workers. They built canals, railways, roads, bridges, and harbours. Navvies were prepared to work anywhere and could be brought in when needed. They were good workers and willing to do a lot of hard labour. Navvies built much of the Scottish transport system. Industrial development could not have taken place so quickly without the transport links that they built.
- By the twentieth century many second and third generation Scots of Irish extraction were educated and had moved out of traditional unskilled work and became tradesmen. Some even entered the professions or became successful businessmen.
- Although much progress was made Scots Catholics of Irish extraction still faced discrimination in many skilled occupations in the shipyards and engineering works on Clydeside.

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IRISH-SCOTTISH RELATIONS

KP5

BACKGROUND

The large number of Irish immigrants who came to Scotland during the nineteenth century worried many Scots. This was particularly true in the West of Scotland where the immigrant population was concentrated. Irish Catholics were especially disliked by many Scots who saw the Catholic faith as a threat to the Protestant religion and Irish immigration as a plot to bring Scotland under the power of Rome. Suspicion was increased by the tendency of Irish immigrants to live in separate communities. During this period anti-Irish and anti-Catholic feelings were stirred up by articles and letters in newspapers, books and by many Protestant ministers. Some even claimed that the Irish were an inferior 'race'. The situation was made worse because Protestant immigrants from Ulster began to expand the Orange Order and set up branches all over Scotland. Scots workers feared that Irish immigrants would take jobs and houses. Despite these protests there was little that could be done – Ireland was part of Britain and Irish people had a right to live wherever they chose. By the 1920s Irish immigration was greatly reduced and Catholics of Irish extraction had integrated in many ways. In 1922 the Irish Free State was set up. Ireland was now a foreign country. The Church of Scotland began a campaign to have unemployed Irish Catholics sent back to Ireland. There was some support for this because of Sinn Fein-IRA violence, which even reached Scotland, and because of the depression and unemployment.

- Many Irish arrived in Scotland filthy and dressed in rags, which created a bad impression. The Irish were often claimed to be lazy scroungers and thieves who only came to claim poor relief. Low levels of education led to Irish being seen as less intelligent and inferior to Scots.
- Irish immigrants would work for lower wages than Scots. Scots feared that competition from cheap Irish labour would lead to job losses and lower wages for Scots. Employers often used Irish immigrants to break strikes by Scottish workers. Scots also worried that Irish were taking houses and increasing housing costs.
- Irish immigration was thought to be the cause of many of Scotland's social problems. Slums and disease were blamed on Irish immigrants. Increases in epidemic disease such as cholera and typhus were blamed on Irish immigrants. They were also blamed for increasing crime and drunkenness.
- Protestant Immigrants from Northern Ireland spread sectarian prejudices to Scotland. Newspapers, influential churchmen, and political leaders often stirred up anti-Irish feelings.
- By 1930s Catholics of Irish extraction were accepted as part of Scottish society. They regarded themselves as Scots rather than Irish. There was no longer a language problem and all spoke with the same local accent. Catholics of Irish descent frequently married Scots Protestants.
- Catholics became active in Trade Unions alongside Scots Protestants. The Labour party brought Catholics and Protestants with common political beliefs together. The 1918 Education Act brought Catholic schools under local council control. During World War One, Catholics and Protestants served in the army together and often became close friends.
- Catholics of Irish descent formed football clubs – Celtic, Hibernian. Housing became mixed especially after council housing schemes were started in the 1930s. By the 1930s Scots and Catholics of Irish descent had much in common - Participation in mass culture – cinema, football etc, working together.

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BACKGROUND

Irish Catholic immigrants in Scotland often faced hostility, discrimination and even violence when they came to Scotland. It was only natural that they wanted to stick together for safety and mutual support. The Catholic Church played a central role in the lives of Irish immigrants. It helped them to settle, it met their religious needs and provided practical assistance in their day-to-day lives. Most Catholics wanted to live close to a chapel and were encouraged in this by some priests who preferred the Catholic community to remain apart from the predominantly Protestant Scottish society in which they lived. In most towns and cities where the Irish settled they tended to form separate communities – the Glasgow Gorbals, Dundee Lochee, Coatbridge and Leith. Irish immigrants were often insulted or even attacked by Scots who did not want to live near them. They felt safer in their own communities where they had the support of neighbours and relatives. Some immigrants spoke only Irish Gaelic and the language barrier prevented them moving. Rents were usually lower in the Irish districts and immigrants wanted to be close to a Catholic Church, which was usually in the Catholic district.

- Church provided a meeting place for Irish immigrants. Church provided religious services that were important to Catholic immigrants – mass, confession, baptism, marriage, and funerals.
- Priests, many of whom were Irish, had a great deal of power and authority. They helped immigrants to settle in and find housing, jobs, wrote letters for them. Priests also provided social work services – marriage guidance, settled disputes tried to curb crime and drunkenness, spoke in court for those charged with offences
- Irish immigrants often had problems in finding suitable schools for their children. Parish and Council schools were usually Protestant and did not teach in accordance with the Catholic faith. Many immigrant families could not afford school fees. The Catholic Church collected money to build schools for the children of immigrants. These were usually managed and taught in by priests.
- Many Protestants believed that Catholic schools were simply interested in teaching religion but most reports by independent inspectors praised the schools for the broad education they provided. In 1918 Catholic schools were brought under council control but the Catholic Church kept control of the curriculum and the appointment of teachers.
- The Catholic Church also set up social activities for Catholics. These included sports clubs and societies. Catholic priests founded football clubs such as Celtic and Hibernian.
- Ulster Protestants found it much easier to be accepted. They originally came from Scotland, had the same religious beliefs as Scots and many had family connections in Scotland. Their children went to the same schools as Scottish children and they did not face discrimination – they lived and worked amongst the Scots population.
- Many of the traditions and customs of the Irish continued when they moved to Scotland. Irish songs, dance, music and St Patrick's Day celebrations were brought to Scotland. Many Irish immigrants continued to take an interest in Irish political affairs and remained strong supporters of Irish independence
- Protestant Irish immigrants expanded the Orange Order in Scotland by setting up branches and recruiting members all over the country. Orange marches and bands also became an annual event in many Scottish towns and were often the cause of sectarian violence.

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PROBLEMS IN THE HIGHLANDS

KP7

BACKGROUND

The Highlands are very different from the Central Belt and the Lowlands. The soil is thin and acidic. This together with the harsh climate made farming difficult. There were very few areas suitable for growing crops. The remoteness of the region and the difficulties of travel prevented the development of industries. For centuries most Highlanders lived in clans, spoke only Gaelic, and made a living by raising cattle and growing oats and barley. In hard times the clan chief would support his people using his own money. After the failure of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion the old Highland way of life was destroyed. Many Highland Chiefs who had rebelled had their land taken over by the government and others lost their powers when the government passed laws to destroy the clan system. In 1784 Highland estates were returned to the descendants of the clan chiefs. Many of these people did not live in the Highlands and had no wish to return. Unlike the old clan chiefs who looked after their people the new of lairds simply wanted to make as much money as possible out of their estates - they had no concern for the people.

- Highland landowners saw the opportunity of renting out vast areas of grazing land to lowland sheep farmers. This would bring in more rent than poor tenant farmers. The tenants had no legal rights and were evicted from their land. Often they were given less than a days notice.
- The evictions were often cruelly carried out. People were given as little as one hour's notice to remove their belongings and their cottages would be burnt to prevent them returning. Many were turned out with nowhere to go and they wandered aimlessly without food or shelter. Some were tied up and thrown on to ships sailing for Glasgow or even Canada.
- Some landowners provided small patches of land (crofts) near the coast. These were usually too small to support a family and as in Ireland more and more people became dependent on potatoes as their main source of food.
- Landowners tried to encourage the linen and fishing industries. Others employed people collecting kelp (a type of seaweed) used to make chemicals. These attempts to establish new industries failed. Linen production in the Highlands was too expensive because of transport costs. Fishing suffered when the shoals of herring moved away. Cheaper artificial chemicals replaced kelp.
- In 1847 the potato blight, which caused the famine in Ireland, spread to Scotland and thousands of Highlanders came close to starvation. Large numbers of deaths were only avoided because landowners and the government provided assistance.
- In spite of the clearances the population of the Highlands increased from 200,000 in 1750 to 300,000 in 1850. Most families lived in small filthy cottages with no amenities. Wages were very low and the only work available was hard, dirty agricultural labour.
- From the 1860s onwards large areas of the Highlands were turned into deer forests or grouse moors. This led to more evictions. Landowners now wanted to be rid of their poorer tenants and would often pay their fares if they agreed to emigrate
- As a result of poverty, hunger and unemployment many people left the Highlands. However not all highlanders left because they were forced to. Many left to join relatives overseas or were attracted by the promise of cheap land and the hope of a better life.

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SCOTTISH EMIGRATION

KP8

BACKGROUND

Between 1830 and 1930 it has been estimated that over two million people left Scotland. For most of this time the Scottish economy was growing rapidly and historians have questioned why so many people left Scotland. The reasons can be divided into two main headings. Some people were 'pushed' – they left because life in Scotland was so bad they did not want to stay. Others were 'pulled' – they left not because they were poor but because they believed their lives would be improved by moving to another country. Emigration from the Highlands has received most attention but it is important to remember that the majority of Scots who emigrated came from the Lowlands. The British Empire was growing and there were many opportunities for Scots. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and America needed workers to develop their economies. Scots immigrants had a good reputation and were valued for their education and skills.

PUSH FACTORS: the things that made life in Scotland hard and difficult.

- The 'clearances' left thousands of Highlanders without land or a home to live in.
- The failure of fishing, linen and kelp industries led to high unemployment in the Highlands.
- The potato famine of 1847 led to starvation and poverty in the Highlands.
- Emigration was seen as the best solution to the problem of over population poor living conditions and unemployment.
- Many Highlanders spoke only Gaelic and found it difficult to settle in industrial areas.
- They did not have industrial skills and were thought to be unsuited to factory work.
- In the lowlands, farming changes and new machines led to evictions and unemployment.
- Industrial changes and new machines caused high unemployment among some groups of skilled workers such as handloom weavers.
- Throughout the period 1830-1930 there were trade slumps that affected both agriculture and industry in Scotland. When unemployment was high emigration usually increased.

PULL FACTORS: the things that made other countries attractive to Scots

- Canada, Australia, New Zealand and America offered free or cheap land to immigrants.
- Landowners often paid the fares of people who were willing to emigrate.
- Other countries offered higher wages and more job opportunities than Scotland.
- The government provided assistance with fares and resettlement to encourage emigration.
- Adverts from shipping companies offered cheap fares and promised a better life to emigrants.
- Agents from the colonies travelled around Scotland persuading people to emigrate.
- Letters from relatives about higher wages, cheap land etc encouraged people to emigrate.
- Newspaper stories and letters about the success of emigrants persuaded many to emigrate.
- Emigration societies were set up to help and encourage emigrants.
- By the 1880s steamship cut the long journey times and fares paid by emigrants.

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THE SCOTS ABROAD

KP9

BACKGROUND

The main areas of Scottish settlement overseas were Canada, Australia, New Zealand and America. Whatever the reasons they immigrated, many Scots were able to build a better life for themselves and their families and few chose to return to Scotland. Scots immigrants often received favourable treatment in their new homelands. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were British colonies and often assisted Scottish immigrants with the cost of travel and provided free or cheap land and start up loans. Scots had a reputation as good workers and many employers stated that they preferred to employ Scottish immigrants than those of any other nationality. Most Scots had a good basic education and could read and write. They also spoke English, the main language in the countries where they settled. Emigration usually involved whole families but shipping records show that the largest groups of emigrants from Scotland were young, skilled men aged 16-30 years of age.

- In the first few years life for Scots immigrants could be difficult. The work of clearing land for crops, building houses in isolated places etc., could be hard and there were some who gave up and returned to Scotland but most survived and prospered.
- Many immigrant Scots had a strong work ethic and were determined to succeed. They wanted to live independent lives and this was a powerful motive to work hard.
- Scots adapted well to harsh climates and rugged lands, which they had experienced at home. They often formed communities that supported and helped each other.
- A large number of Scots who emigrated were farmers who were able to become independent landowners. For the first time in their lives they were free from paying rent and could use their knowledge of new farming methods and skills to create profitable farms.
- In America Scots were heavily involved in cattle ranching and in Australia and New Zealand Scots had a leading role in sheep farming.
- A large number of immigrant Scots were industrial workers, and tradesmen whose skills matched the economic needs of America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Professional people from Scotland also immigrated. Teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, architects etc found that their skills and services were greatly needed in other countries.
- Scots who had experience in commerce, trade, banking and industry businessmen emigrated to take advantage of the business opportunities in the new lands. Often they had access to Scottish investment funds.
- Immigrant Scots did not forget their culture and traditions. Scottish religious and educational traditions continued to play an important part in the lives of immigrants. Scots communities in remote areas used the Gaelic language. Scottish music, songs, and literature remained important to immigrants. New Year and St Andrews day celebrations continued.
- Scottish place names were given to the areas where Scots settled. In every country where Scots settled they set up Caledonian Societies, pipe bands, highland dress, highland games, Burns clubs etc.

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THE SCOTTISH CONTRIBUTION

KP10

BACKGROUND

There is no doubt that Scots had an important role in developing the new lands where they settled. Scots soldiers and explorers played a part in opening up the new lands and making them safe for settlers. Scottish farmers helped to turn forests and prairies into fertile farmlands. Thousands of skilled Scots provided the workforce for the growing industries of the new world. Scots helped to shape and often became leaders in trade, industry, government, banking law and education. Any search of the Internet for famous Scots-Americans or Scots Canadians will return hundreds of names. The list below is only a very small sample of the work of immigrant Scots who were very successful in their new homelands.

- **AMERICA –** Eleven US Presidents of have been of Scots descent
Alexander Graham Bell inventor of the telephone was born in Edinburgh.
John Muir was born in Dunbar and founded the first American national park
Andrew Carnegie (see below).
- **CANADA -** The first two Canadian Prime Ministers were Scots born.
Scots founded Dalhousie University, McGill University, the University of Toronto, Queen's University, St. Francis Xavier and the University of New Brunswick.
Sandford Fleming—engineer who built the Canadian Pacific Railway
- **NEW - ZEALAND** Four Prime Ministers have been Scots or of Scottish descent.
Alexander Brown Marine engineer, foundry and shipping company manager.
Dr.John Ewart, Superintendent of Hospitals and Chief Medical Officer 1916
- **AUSTRALIA** Andrew Fisher of Crosshouse in Ayrshire became Prime Minister three times.
John Macarthur introduced merino sheep, which made Australia the world's biggest producer of wool.
Robert McCracken was the founder of Australia's brewing industry.
- **ANDREW CARNEGIE-** Probably the most successful of all Scottish emigrants. He was the son of unemployed weaver from Dunfermline his family emigrated to the USA in 1848. Aged 13 he started work in a cotton factory. Carnegie educated himself at free libraries. In 1853, he worked for Pennsylvania Railway and became its manager. Carnegie invested in railways, iron bridges, steel mills, and oil companies. In 1883, Carnegie bought the Homestead Steel Mill in Pittsburgh – biggest in world. In 1901 he sold his steel business for \$480 making him the world's richest man. Carnegie gave away most of his money before he died for schools, libraries, scholarships, museums, and city parks. The Carnegie trust has paid the fees of thousands of Scottish and American. University students
- Scots immigrants also did many things that we would now see as wrong. They often forced native people out of their lands and killed them if they resisted. Scots played a part in the destruction of the North American Indians and tried to impose their religion and culture on native peoples. Scots settlers often brought diseases which native people had no resistance to and many died. Some Scots settlers in America became slave owners and fought to prevent the abolition of slavery.

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JEWISH IMIGRATION

KP11

BACKGROUND

The first Jewish community in Scotland was established in Edinburgh in 1816, then Glasgow in 1823. Later in the 19th century, Jews also settled in Aberdeen, Dundee Ayr, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Greenock and Inverness. The Jewish population of Scotland increased substantially between 1881 and 1911. Jews in Scotland mostly lived in an atmosphere of tolerance and were respected by the Presbyterian Scots as the 'People of the Bible'. Scotland is one of the few countries with no record of organised anti-Semitism. Most Jewish immigrants to Scotland came from the Russian empire, especially the Baltic countries - Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Many hoped to use Scotland as a stop off point to America which is why Glasgow was their favoured location. Those who could not earn enough to afford the transatlantic voyage ended up settling in the city. The main reason many Jews left Russia was to escape persecution, discrimination and poverty. Jews in Russia were forced to live in what was known as the 'Pale Settlement' which had the poorest farmland. They were forced to pay special taxes, they could not move without permission, and were banned from many jobs. Worst of all Jews suffered attacks on their property, and sometimes physical violence in the form of 'pogroms'. These pogroms were organised by the government and the police often joined in the attacks on Jewish villages. Steamships made long-range travel easier and Jews from Eastern Europe began to emigrate. Most Jewish Glaswegians arrived in England, and then came north because Jews were encouraged to go to Glasgow to help ease congestion in East London.

- The main area of Jewish settlement was the Gorbals in Glasgow. There were estimated to be 6,500 Jews living in the Gorbals in 1901 and 18 years later there were 9,000.
- The Gorbals was attractive to immigrant Jews because of its cheap housing, but once they began to earn money there was a movement towards Garnethill and Pollokshields.
- Many of these immigrants were involved in the tailoring trade were also important in the development of the cigarette industry in Glasgow.
- The Jewish community began to establish organizations that were based around religion, culture, charity, and education as well as a socializing.
- The increased numbers of Jews led to the production of the Jewish Times newspaper and then in 1927 the Jewish Echo
- Unlike Irish immigrants Jews did not compete directly with Scots for jobs in the shipyards and heavy industry and so there was little resentment against them.
- However Jews could have difficulty in gaining skilled employment. Jews were not employed in banks or in government offices. This continued into the 1930s and led to many Jews establishing their own businesses, such as travelling sales.
- Hawking and peddling (selling goods in the street or door to door was) also popular among Jews in Glasgow and Edinburgh, where 10% were involved in this occupation.
- Free from persecution, the Jewish community in Scotland prospered and made a substantial contribution to Scottish society, particularly in the legal profession.
- Jewish intellectuals were also involved in the development of the labour movement in Scotland. Manny Shinwell was a leading figure in the Labour Party for more than sixty years. His father was a tailor of Polish Jewish origin. Other well known Scottish Jews include -

Mark Knopfler – musician

Muriel Spark – author

Muriel Grey – TV presenter

Malcolm Rifkind – politician

Jerry Sadowitz – comedian

Jeremy Isaacs – broadcaster

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ITALIAN IMMIGRATION TO SCOTLAND

KPXX

BACKGROUND

There are many famous Scots of Italian descent – Charlene Spitterri, Daniella Nardini and Paolo Nuttini are names we all know. Most of today's Scots Italians can trace their roots back to the early 1850's. The first settlers were mostly Religious Statue Sellers (figurinai), who sold their goods to the growing Irish Catholic population. In Italy poverty was widespread and living conditions were hard, with famine and sometimes droughts. Italy had a mainly farming economy and there was little Industry to provide jobs. Many Italians decided to go elsewhere to earn a living and left in order to earn money to support their families back home. For some, Scotland was a stopping point where they could earn money to pay the fare to America. In the 1880s economic conditions grew worse in Italy and more people left the country to seek a better life. Many Italians were brought to Britain as cheap labour. Their fare was paid and work was arranged for them by 'padrones'. Many were sent North to Scotland where they were then given a barrow and became ice cream sellers or 'hokey pokey' men as they were known. Italian immigration to Scotland increased when America changed its immigration policy and closed the door on many of the poorest Europeans. Many Italian immigrants hoped to return to Italy to retire one day and viewed Scotland as a temporary home.

- From selling ice cream on the streets the majority of Italians saved what they could and borrowed from 'padrones' to set up in business for themselves. Many of them opened cafes and fish or fish and chip shops. These were hugely popular with Scots and can still be seen in most Scottish towns to this day.
- Once the cafes were up and running, it was expected that all the family members would work in them. This meant long, anti-social hours every day of the week. As a result many Italian families had very little social contact with people from out-with the Italian community.
- As businesses increased so the need for new employees began to grow. The head of the business would often recruit young Italians, often from his home village. These Italians in turn would eventually own their own businesses in time.
- In their homes Italian was spoken, Italian food was cooked and usually all the family ate together. Religious festivals were strictly observed.
- Although education was very important to Italian families when they finished secondary school the children were expected to go into the family business.
- Many Italians were skilled barbers and hairdressers and were so popular that in 1928 college of Italian hairdressers opened up in Glasgow.
- During the early part of the 20th century, Italians were expected to marry only Italians and it wasn't until the 1950's that these attitudes changed and intermarriage with Scots became more common
- Glasgow today has the third largest population of people of Italian descent in Britain after London and Manchester. Many of them have made a big contribution to Scottish life – some well known examples are listed below

Sir Eduardo Paolozzi – artist (Leith)

Armando Iannucci – TV/Film writer and director

Richard Demarco – artist and promoter (Edinburgh)

Dario Franchetti – Formula 1 driver (Edinburgh)

Tom Conti – actor (Paisley)

Peter Capaldi – actor (Glasgow)

Elish Angiolini – First female Solicitor General (Glasgow)

Lou Macari/Peter Marinello/ Joe Tortellano/ Domenic Matteo – Football players

HOMEWORK HELPSHEET / REVISION FILE

LITHUANIAN IMMIGRATION

KP13

BACKGROUND

Lithuania is a Baltic state which was part of the Russian Empire until the revolution of 1917. Under the rule of the Russian Tsars Lithuanians were badly treated. Their language and literature was forbidden in schools and they were forced to pay heavy taxes. Most Lithuanians were Roman Catholics and the Russian government tried to force them to accept the Russian Orthodox Church. There were many different reasons why they left their homeland: some were escaping conscription into the Russian army; some were freedom fighters opposed to Russian rule ; some were Jews fleeing persecution; most were simply desperate to escape the terrible poverty at home and would go anywhere in search of a better life. From the early 1890s a severe famine caused around a quarter of the population of Lithuania (650,000) to emigrate. Many were headed for America to start a new life. Most arrived at the port of Leith in Edinburgh and found that they simply could not afford the fare to America and were forced to settle here. Others were tricked into thinking they had arrived in America when in fact they were in Scotland. Most Lithuanian immigrants were Catholic but there were also many Jews too. Jewish Lithuanians settled in the Gorbals area of Glasgow while the Catholic Lithuanians went to coal mining areas such as Lanarkshire. Many Scots had no idea where Lithuania was and usually referred to Lithuanians as Poles.

- Around 5,000 -6,000 Lithuanians settled in Scotland in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Mostly in the Lanarkshire coal fields which employed many Lithuanians in the mines and ironworks. Bellshill and Coatbridge had a large number of Lithuanian immigrants.
- At first Lithuanian workers were not welcomed as the Scottish people saw them as unwanted competition for jobs and they were willing to work for lower wages than the Scottish workers.
- Scottish iron and steel companies such as Bairds and Dixons recruited Lithuanians as cheap labour to come to Scotland to work in company owned coal mines. Employers also used them as strike breakers which caused great hostility.
- The Ayrshire Miners Union, led by Keir Hardie, demanded that Lithuanian coal miners be sacked because they could not speak English which was dangerous when working underground. They also said Lithuanians were being used to reduce wages. Most Lithuanians were Catholic and this increased the bad feeling towards them since most Scottish miners were Protestant.
- Over time relations improved and many of the Lithuanian coal miners joined the Scottish miners in fighting for improved conditions and were eventually allowed to join the Miners Union.
- Lithuanian priests in Catholic churches helped to preserve a sense of Lithuanian identity. In the home the language, culture, food and even furnishings were all Lithuanian. National dress was worn on special occasions. In some communities there were Lithuanian clubs and societies and even a Lithuanian orchestra. From 1904 to 1911 a Lithuanian newspaper was published in Scotland
- When WWI broke out some Lithuanians refused to fight for the British Army and around 900 men left to join the Russian army. Many never returned to Scotland at the end of the war. During wartime under the 1914 Aliens Restrictions Act immigration from Lithuania ended.
- After the war the shortage of jobs in the 1920s and 1930s again led to hostility towards immigrants and many Lithuanians changed their names to Scottish names in order to hide their Lithuanian identity and improve their chances of getting work.
- Today there are few traces of Lithuanian culture remaining in Scotland. The old mining communities broke up and communities moved to new housing. Marriage with Scots became common. Children attended local schools and the Lithuanian language died out.