

## The All-Island 'Decade of Centenaries' History competition 2016

The 'Decade of Centenaries' all-island schools history competition for primary and post primary schools is sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Education in Northern Ireland (DENI), Mercier Press and University College Cork School of History. It is also supported by 'History Ireland'.

This year, at both primary and post-primary levels, there will be specific categories for projects on:

- **the 1916 Rising** – a study of the event itself, an aspect of it, or an individual or group/organisation associated with it.
- **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 or a consideration of the entire 1914-1918 period.
- **women's history in Ireland in the revolutionary period** – a study of a notable individual/group/organisation/movement striving to improve the quality of women's lives in Ireland in the 1912-1922 period.
- **a local/regional studies theme from a century ago** – a study of a particular historical event that affected your local or regional area in the 1912-1922 period.

The competition is open to all primary and post-primary schools across the island. The project can be submitted by a class, a group of students, or an individual student. The template cover sheet for projects, is at the end of this document. The closing date will be **4<sup>th</sup> March 2016**, and prizes will be awarded in May that year. Further queries can also be sent to [historyaward@mercierpress.ie](mailto:historyaward@mercierpress.ie).

The all-island schools history competition is intended to complement the history curriculum at primary and post-primary level. The competition is entirely optional and is not intended to place any additional burden on schools.

### 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 an individual student).

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 degree to which the significance of the selected event/s or person is/are understood.
- Assessment of the selected individual, event or development: The extent to which the impact of the selected event/s or person on the local area is/are examined.
- 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. 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 and inserted wholesale 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 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 and from Mercier Press.

#### **4. Prizes**

There will be 8 prizes in total. This will comprise the following:

- 1916 category: 1 primary and 1 post primary winner
- World War I category: 1 primary and 1 post primary winner
- Women in the revolutionary period category: 1 primary and 1 post primary winner
- Local or regional category: 1 primary and 1 post primary winner

Prizes will consist of the following:

- a History trophy to be awarded to each winner
- a mini library comprising titles from the Mercier press website ([www.mercierpress.ie](http://www.mercierpress.ie)), to the overall value of €200 (exact funding TBC)
- a year's subscription to *History Ireland* for the 'Decade of Centenaries' winners
- all winning entries will be digitised on [www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie) and also on the Mercier press website
- one of the winners, or an edited selection of winners, will be considered for publication in *History Ireland* ([www.historyireland.ie](http://www.historyireland.ie))

#### **5. Submission of projects and announcement of winners**

The deadline for receipt of completed projects is **4<sup>th</sup> March 2016** with the winners being announced, and prizes awarded, before the end of May 2016.

Projects must be submitted online to the following email address: [historyaward@mercierpress.ie](mailto:historyaward@mercierpress.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 [www.education.ie/historycompetition](http://www.education.ie/historycompetition)) and a bibliography listing the sources consulted.

## **6. A final important clarification**

**It should be noted that success All-Island 'Decade of Centenaries' History competition 2016 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.**

**On the other hand, should a student or group of students wish to use material uncovered during research for this competition, and submit it under other elements of the Department of Education and Skills' Ireland 2016 programme, there is no difficulty. Students may, for example, enter the Education Centres competition in autumn 2015, and use material from that entry for the Decade of Centenaries competition too, provided it is their own original work and that it comes under one of the categories of the Decade competition.**

**There is also nothing to prevent submission of some of this material to form part of either the Ancestry Project or Schools' Collection, detailed elsewhere in the Department of Education and Skills programme (Circular 47/2016), provided it relates to an ancestor or to local history, as required under those collections.**

**The template cover sheet for entries to the 2016 Decade of Centenaries History competition is on the next page, and also available as a separate file.**

**Template cover sheet which must be included at the front of all 2016 Decade of Centenaries History competition entries**

**Title of project:**

**Category for which you wish to be entered (i.e. 1916, World War 1; Women in the Revolutionary Period, local/regional category):**

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

**School roll number (this should be provided if possible):**

**School 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 even for projects submitted by a group of pupils or an individual pupil):**

**Contact phone number:**

**Contact email address:**