**ST. ANNE’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE KILLALOE.**

SOLUTIONS TO CHECKPOINT QUESTIONS 2R2 HISTORY. MR.B. O’ BRIEN.

Page 218 Q. 1 to Q.5

1. The Famine occurred between 1845 and 1850.
2. The rise in population was so damaging for Ireland because the potato crop failed and without other crops to feed themselves, people died of starvation and disease or were forced to emigrate.
3. The potato was the main crop in Ireland because it was suited to Ireland’s damp climate, it was easy to grow and harvest, and it stored well, unlike grain. Just one acre of land could grow enough potatoes to feed a family for six months.
4. Potato blight is a fungus that spreads in damp and humid weather and destroys potato crops.
5. For this answer you may cite any of the 6 causes listed in the box in the text but you must give a reasonable answer based on the evidence in the text or reach a conclusion that makes sense in relation to the cause you cite.

Example:

I think the subdivision of land, leading to ever smaller farms was the most important because the people could not grow enough potatoes or crops to feed their families and when the Famine came they could not survive.

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Page 219 Q.1 to Q.6

1. Ireland was affected by the blight more seriously than other countries because it was so reliant on farming whereas the other European countries weren’t and had other food available.
2. The diseases that affected people during the Famine were tuberculosis, measles and scarlet fever. Disease spread as immune systems were weakened. Typhus and cholera killed many people due to bad living conditions and dirty water. They spread easily because people moving to towns to find work brought disease with them.
3. Eviction is when someone is forced out of their home.
4. People evicted from their homes were forced to emigrate, became homeless, entered the workhouse or died from starvation or disease.
5. The worst affected areas were mostly in the West of Ireland because these were the poorest areas of the country.
6. The populations in Dublin and Cork rose because these are where the people from the surrounding areas came to find work and relief from the Famine.