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

**2R2 HISTORY. MR. B. O’ BRIEN.**

**UNDERSTANDING HISTORY QUESTIONS P.228**

**Q.1 TO Q.8**

1. **The impact the Agricultural Revolution had on Britain was that due to major changes in agriculture when more food was made available, the population increased, farm machinery improved, farming methods changed, enclosure of the land was introduced and selective breeding of animals took place. The larger population created greater demand for goods, factories were built and Britain became more industrialised.**
2. **The Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions did not affect Ireland to the same extent as in Britain because Ireland did not have the raw materials for industry and unlike Britain most Irish people were dependent on farming. With the steep rise in population in Ireland, people had smaller plots of land to live on so that when the Famine came it was devastating.**
3. **Life in rural Ireland in the 1840’s was difficult unless you were a rich landlord or large tenant farmer. The land was owned by landlords who were descendants of the planters. Most farmers in Ireland were tenant farmers. Large farmers were farmers who rented more than 30 acres of land. Small farmers were farmers who rented between 5 and 30 acres. Labourers were called cottiers who rented 1 acre from a farmer. They usually paid rent by working for the farmer. The large farmers’ diet consisted of meat, milk, potatoes and other vegetables. Small farmers’ diet consisted of milk and potatoes and the cottiers survived on potatoes.**
4. **Timeline of the events of the Great Famine 1845 to 1850.**

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1847

The year the workhouse population reached 200,000.

1847

The year there was no blight, but farmers had few seeds to plant.

Late 1846

The year the Quakers set up soup kitchens.

1846

The year farmers lost two-thirds of their crop.

1845

The first year the crops failed.

**5. The public works schemes were set up for people to earn money by building roads, walls and bridges. They were not an appropriate way to help the Irish people at the time because the work was hard physical work for people who were weak and starving at the time. A lot of the public works schemes served no real infrastructural purpose, such as the Green Roads we see marked out on ordinance survey maps today.**

**6. I agree with the belief at the time that the British government was to blame for the Great Famine because it was slow to act when the potato blight hit. When help came it was unsuitable and arrived too late to have any impact. Also, food was being exported from Ireland as cash crops when it could have been used to feed people.**

**7. The difficulties faced by the Irish people when they emigrated were that they ended up living in the slums, had to survive on handouts and begging, died of diseases such as typhoid, cholera due to unsanitary and overcrowded living conditions. The arrival of emigrants in the U.S. for example was not always welcome because of their religion and they suffered discrimination when the economy was slow.**

**8. The Famine had a long term impact on Ireland in the following ways:**

* **A steep drop in population. – The 1841 Census showed there was over 8 million people on the island of Ireland. Ireland’s population has never regained its pre-Famine levels.**
* **The decline of the Irish language. – The predominantly Irish-speaking areas of the west and south-west of Ireland were the worst hit by both death and emigration. Over time people favoured English over Irish because it would help them to find work elsewhere if they needed to emigrate.**
* **The Irish Diaspora. – The scattering of Irish migrants and their descendants across the world is such that today up to 6 million people in the United Kingdom have an Irish-born grandparent and over 41 million Americans claim Irish ancestry.**