

## **READING** **PART 3**

### **Questions 11-20**

*Look at the sentences below about a historical overview of Ireland.*

*Read the text on the opposite page to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.*

*If it is correct, mark A on your answer sheet.*

*If it is not correct, mark B on your answer sheet.*

### **From dominion to self-determination**

Long under English or British rule, Ireland lost half its population in the decades following the Great Potato Famine of the 1840s, becoming a nation of emigrants.

For centuries British dominion in Ireland gave rise to unrest which finally erupted into violence with the Easter Rising of 1916, when independence was proclaimed. The rising was crushed and many of its leaders executed, but the campaign for independence carried on through a bloody Anglo-Irish War of 1919-1921.

It was in 1922 that 26 counties of Ireland gained independence from London following negotiations which led to the other six counties, part of the province of Ulster, remaining in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Partition was followed by a year of civil war.

Relations between Dublin and London remained strained for many years afterwards. Northern Ireland saw decades of violent conflict between those campaigning for a united Ireland and those wishing to stay in the United Kingdom. After the country joined the European Community in 1973, it was transformed from a largely agricultural society into a modern, high-technology economy.

In an unprecedented and concerted effort to resolve the situation, the Irish and UK governments worked closely together in negotiations which led to the Good Friday Agreement on the future of Northern Ireland in 1998.

### **Boom to bust**

Ireland's economy began to grow rapidly in the 1990s, fuelled by foreign investment. This attracted a wave of incomers to a country where, traditionally, mass emigration had been the norm.

The boom that earned Ireland the nickname of "Celtic Tiger" faltered when the country fell into recession in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008.

The property boom had been fuelled by massive lending from the banks, and when this collapsed - and lenders were unable to repay - the Irish banking system was plunged into crisis.

The Irish economy underwent one of the deepest recessions in the eurozone, with its economy shrinking by 10% in 2009.

In November 2010, Ireland and the EU agreed a financial rescue package for the republic worth 85bn euros, ending weeks of speculation about a bail-out.

- 11- For hundreds of years Ireland was not a free country.
- 12- A great part of its inhabitants left it in the XXth century.
- 13- There were many fights between English people and Irish people.
- 14- Independence led to more riots (street fights).
- 15- Nowadays Ireland is still behind because of its centuries of foreign rules.
- 16- The main reason is that Ireland refused to sign the European treaty to be a member of the Union.
- 17- Many countries invested in Ireland.
- 18- Ireland has always been a nation of immigrants.
- 19- Thanks to foreign investments Ireland avoided the world crisis.
- 20- So Ireland did not need help from Europe, like other countries.