



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. **National Irish History Contest Historian Role and Responsibilities** **2025-2026 School Year**

ORGANIZED IN 1894

LAOH IRISH HISTORIAN – IRISH HISTORY CONTEST RULES

The **National Irish Historian** is responsible for submitting the Irish History Topics, Student Rules, and Judging Criteria to the State Irish Historians by April 1, 2025. This information will be sent electronically and posted on the National Website, www.ladiesaoh.com.

State Irish Historians must distribute the information to County Boards, Division Historians, and Presidents by April 15, 2025. This information should be sent electronically and may be posted on websites and social media sites.

The Division Irish Historian is tasked with providing the LAOH Irish History Contest information to local division members and sending the National Irish History Contest information to local schools. Efforts should be made to inform home-schooled students about the contest. Students do not need to be Irish to enter the contest. Publicity for the contest should commence when materials are received. The revised timeline is to encourage participation during the summer months to increase participation. Students should be directed to the website for guideline and judging criteria information. Entries should be submitted electronically to the local LAOH Division Irish Historian by October 30, 2025.

LAOH IRISH HISTORIAN JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

The Division Irish Historian should begin the judging process once entries are received. Entries are judged blindly, with each submission assigned a number on the Title Page and First Page. The Title Page is removed before evaluation.

A minimum of three judges are required at all levels. Judges should have knowledge of Irish History and English grammar. They will use the LAOH National Irish History Contest Rules and Judging Criteria to determine winners. The Irish Historian at each level will set the recommended score for advancing submissions.

Entries are evaluated on Comprehension, Writing Skill, Organization, Conclusion Drawn, and Creativity, with a total of 100 points available. Here is a summary of each category:

- **Comprehension (1-35 points):** Demonstrates knowledge of the topic with evidence from references⁸.
- **Writing (1-20 points):** Free of spelling and punctuation errors, with effective sentence structure⁹.
- **Organization (1-15 points):** Clear beginning, middle, and ending¹⁰.
- **Conclusion (1-15 points):** Chronological and clear, leading to a sound ending¹¹.
- **Creativity (1-15 points):** Shows original thought and presentation¹².

Judges should not advance submissions that do not meet criteria, speak on the incorrect topic, or are not in the correct format. No markings should appear on entries during blind judging.

The Irish Historian will provide judges with the Contest Judging Criteria to aid in recording scores. The criteria questions are suggested and not limiting.

Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place should be determined prior to sending contest material to students or posting information. Additional recognition awards may be publicized for submissions sent to the next level.

Calendar for Sending Student Submissions Electronically

- Division Level to State Board by November 30, 2025.
- NY and PA Divisions to County Board by November 20, 2025
- County Board Level (NY and PA only) to State Board Level by December 30, 2025.
- State Board Level to National Board by January 30, 2026.

The National Board will judge a maximum of seven submissions for each Level from each State, with winners announced by March 10, 2026. Monetary awards are as follows:

- **Level 1: Grades 6-8:** 1st Place \$1,000, 2nd Place \$500, 3rd Place \$250.
- **Level 2: Grades 9-12:** 1st Place \$1,500, 2nd Place \$1,000, 3rd Place \$500.