NORTHERN IRELAND (1)

I. Historical Background

1. From British rule to Partition.
2. The Northern Irish “troubles”

INTRODUCTION

Rappel : conventions typographiques :

- *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras. Il existe de nombreux ouvrages de vocabulaire thématique dans le commerce. Il est important d’en faire usage tout au long de l’année pour enrichir votre lexique. Ceci est très important pour la richesse de votre expression à l’écrit comme à l’oral et pour le thème également.*
- *Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d’où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*
- *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*
- *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc). Pensez à noter et à utiliser les formulations que j’utilise ; j’emploie notamment de nombreux mots-outils comme « to foster, to trigger, to qualify». Apprenez-les et « testez » les dans vos copies ; il faut les employer régulièrement pour être sûr de bien les maîtriser.*

Les notes de bas de page :

- *les notes en rouge concernent le vocabulaire et la civilisation*
- *les notes en vert concernent les questions de langue, la grammaire*

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NORTHERN IRELAND

INTRODUCTION

Before I move on to the conflict –generally called "the troubles"- I'd like to make sure you are aware of the geopolitical facts about Northern Ireland. There should be no confusion in your mind between Northern Ireland, or **Ulster**, which is currently part of the United Kingdom *on the one hand*, and Ireland, that is to say **the Republic of Ireland**, also known as **Eire**, on *the other hand*. Eire is an independent country.
Be careful: **Dublin** is the capital of Eire, **Belfast** that of Ulster –hence the place where most of the violence takes place.

As far as the protagonists *are concerned*, you must be able to use the proper vocabulary.

The **Unionists** are quite logically those who[1] wish to remain included within the United Kingdom –*in other words*, within the union; they are the **Protestants**.

The term "**loyalist**" is also used for the Protestants –who wish to remain "loyal" to the Crown.

The **Republicans** are those who seek independence[2] from the United Kingdom, they want Northern Ireland to become part of the Republic of Ireland. They are the **Catholics**. I will explain this with further details in Section 2.

What follows is a rather detailed reminder of history, protagonists and current developments. This may seem a frightening amount of information to you. But bear in mind that the Northern Irish issue is still of great importance in British politics. You must be comfortable with the timeline that led[3] to such violence and with the actors because a British text will often only allude to them: it is then your job to understand and explain these allusions. I can assure you that many candidates who have insufficient knowledge about the issue completely miss the meaning and *fallouts*[4] of a text. The question is also relevant to the Americans who have been very much involved in trying to solve the conflict as there is a numerous Irish-American community. Finally, consider that the presentation will provide a nice set of examples for your essays or oral exams. Indeed I find that candidates often lack typically British or American examples.

[1] « Those who » et non pas « the ones who"

[2] Attention à l'orthographe : dependence, independence as in « Independence Day » (la fête nationale américaine, le 4 juillet, on the fourth of July).

[3] To lead, led, led . Ce verbe est fréquemment mal conjugué. Pensez à réviser vos verbes irréguliers.

[4] The fallouts: les conséquences, les "suites"

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