



The GPO Quiz Sheet

Introduction: Pupils are asked to read the following extract from www.anpost.ie and answer the questions on the GPO Quiz Sheet attached. The word bank contains words that pupils may not have come across before.

The General Post Office (GPO), headquarters of the Irish postal service, moved several times before finding its current place at the centre of Dublin's O'Connell Street. At first the offices were located in buildings around College Green, but in August 1814, construction of a purpose-built headquarters began. The building was completed in January 1818, at a cost of £50,000.

The building was designed by Francis Johnston, an architect with the Board of Works, in Greek revival style. The main section was made with Wicklow granite. The portico and the roof structure over the entrance were crafted using Portland stone.

The statues on the roof, by sculptor John Smyth, are of Hibernia, a classical representation of the island of Ireland, personified in female form, with Fidelity to one side and Mercury (the messenger of the gods) to the other.

During the 1916 Rising, the GPO was one of three Dublin landmarks - the others being the Four Courts and the Custom House - to be destroyed in the fighting. The GPO was rebuilt and reopened in 1929.

My Word Bank:

Headquarters	General	Several
Located	Construction	Purpose
Completed	Building	Representation
Designed	Structure	Messenger
Destroyed	Landmarks	





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Quiz Sheet

In addition to its architectural significance and as the headquarters of the Irish Post office, Dublin's GPO holds a place of particular symbolic importance for Irish people.

It was the headquarters of the men and women who took part in the Easter Rising of April 1916. While that rebellion ended in failure with most Irish people lamenting the death and destruction caused, it led to Irish independence and the creation of a new State.

Easter Monday, 1916:

Inside the Post Office, a reduced staff was on duty keeping essential services open for the public. Just after mid-day, a contingent of men who had assembled at Liberty Hall a short distance away entered the building and ordered staff and customers to leave.

Upstairs, a number of Post Office telegraph staff and some unarmed soldiers barricaded the doors and refused to leave, only doing so when shots were fired at them. The rebels, led by Pádraig Pearse and James Connolly were motivated by various ideals but with the common belief that only an armed revolt could bring about the independence of Ireland. They chose the GPO, the communications heart of the country, and the centre of Dublin city, as the building on which to hoist the flag of an Irish republic.

Smouldering Ruins:

For nearly a week, the rebels held the GPO. The fighting here and in other parts of the city was intense, with civilians bearing the greatest hardship. With the building on fire and crumbling, they tried to break through the surrounding army cordon. Pearse, realising the futility of further fighting, finally took the decision to surrender.





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In what year did the building begin on the GPO on O'Connell Street?

How much did it cost?

What two types of stone were used for building the GPO?

Name the three statues on the roof of the GPO?

In what year was the GPO destroyed?

When did it reopen?

My Word Bank:

Lamenting	Destruction	Independence
Creation	Essential	Continent
Motivated	Surrounding	Futility
		Surrender





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The GPO and the 1916 Rising

Where was the headquarters of the men and women who took part in the Easter Rising of April 1916?

On what day did the Easter Rising begin?

What were the names of the two men who led the rebellion?

How long did the fighting continue at the GPO?

Who ordered the rebels soldiers to surrender?

My Word Bank: Architectural Significance Symbolic

