

**Question 6**

The battle of the Four Courts marked the beginning of the Irish Civil War. In the grounds of the Four Courts, the Public Record Office (PRO) contained state records going back to the 1100s.



**Photograph 1**



**Photograph 2**



**Photograph 3**



**Photograph 4**

(a) Look at the photographs and match each one to the correct caption.

Caption	Photograph
Staff at work in the Public Record Office (PRO) in 1914.	
A huge explosion and fire destroy the PRO, 30 June 1922.	
Fragments of documents outside the GPO, a kilometre away.	
The ruins of the PRO after the fighting ended.	

Archivist Catriona Crowe gave a talk on the destruction of the Public Record Office. Read this extract and answer the questions which follow.

In April 1922, an armed force of anti-Treaty IRA occupied the Four Courts. The government assault on the Four Courts began on 28 June. At 12.30 on 30 June, there was an enormous explosion, and fire spread to the Public Record Office.

Among the records lost in the fire were the census records of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851. Other records included church records dating back to 1174, court records, military records, and records dealing with the huge land transfers of the 17th century. Church of Ireland parish records and many wills dating back to the 16th century were also lost.

It was one of the greatest cultural disasters ever to befall any country, and we did it to ourselves. What damage was done to writing Irish history based on primary sources we will never know.

**(b)** On what date was the Public Record Office (PRO) destroyed?

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**(c)** What were **three** different types of records destroyed in the fire at the PRO?


**(d)** Select **one** opinion from the extract above and explain whether you agree or disagree with that opinion.

Opinion:
Agree/disagree:

