1.Complete the text with an appropriate word.

Historically, British identity is a relatively recent construct and was gradually superimposed _____ 1 earlier national identities of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish. For all of its (relatively short) history, Britain has therefore _____ 2 a multi-nation state and a British identity has had to coexist with separate national identities. First Wales was formally incorporated with England by the 1536 Act of Union. Next came the 1707 Act of Union between England/Wales and Scotland, which _____ 3 usually taken as the formal constitutional beginning of Great Britain, while the 1801 Act of Union created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1922 the twenty six counties of southern and western Ireland formed the Free State, leaving ____ 4 United Kingdom composed of Great Britain and the six counties of the Province of Ulster that became formally known as Northern Ireland.

Before 400 AD

When the Romans arrived in England in 43AD, they found Britain populated ____ 5 many different tribes, all speaking the Common Brittonic language, and Ireland with tribes speaking Archaic Irish. They also describe a group of tribes in northern Scotland called the Picti, but we can't ____ 6 sure if their language was separate from Common Brittonic yet. They then colonised the region, and British Latin became a minority language, spoken by the rulers and settlers from the mainland empire.

By 500 AD

The Roman rule of Britain ended in 410 AD, and many Latin speakers were summoned back ____ 7 defend Rome. British Latin, already a minority language, was eclipsed by the native Brittonic language, although it may have remained a minority language in some areas until

LIVEWORKSHEETS

as late as 700 AD.
With the Romans gone, a new group ___ 8 their sights on Britain: the Anglo-Saxons. They came from Denmark and northern Germany, and colonised the south and east coasts of Britain, and spoke Old English. Meanwhile an Irish kingdom, the Dál Riata, invaded western Scotland, spreading Old Irish

By 600 AD

By 600 AD, Old English ___ 9 spread further into England and south east of Scotland. The Dál Riata expanded deeper into western Scotland. Pictish was very probably a different language ___ 10 Common Brittonic by this point.
Irish settlement of the Isle of Man was probably underway by this time.

2.Complete the text with one of the given words. There are 2 extra words you do not need to use

By 700 AD

By this time Old English had spread so far into Britain that Common Brittonic was divided into three ___ 1 regions, each with a different dialect of the language. Primitive Irish had evolved into Old Irish, and spread yet further into Scotland. Pictish was confirmed as a separate language by scholars of this time.

By 800 AD

By this time, Brittonic had diverged into 3 distinct forms: Old Cornish, Old Welsh, and Cumbric. The Vikings ___ 2 The Kingdom of the Isles, ruling over the Mann and the Hebrides of Scotland, and Kingdom of The Northern Isles, ruling Orkney and Shetland. Vikings may have founded the Irish city of Wexford by this time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

By 900 AD

The spread of Old Irish replaced Pictish in most of Scotland. The Vikings reached their peak, and the Danish ruled most of Northern England. They _____ 3 many towns, and the Norse language left a major impact on English, especially in northern English dialects. The Vikings also founded Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork and Limerick, which became the first large _____ 4 in Ireland. Cumbria was not directly ruled by the Danish, but many Vikings settled there.

By 1000 AD

The Vikings were finally ____ 5 out of England. Old Irish evolved into Middle Irish, and may have totally replaced Pictish in Scotland by this time. Vikings have settled parts of southern Wales. The Normans ____ 6 the Channel islands, and whatever language was spoken there (probably some dialect of Brittonic) began to be replaced with Norman French.

By 1100 AD

Pictish was gone, and Cumbric was on its way out. The Norman ____ 7 of England in 1066 brought a new minority language, Anglo-Norman, used by the elite.

By 1200 AD

The Anglo-Norman influence on Old English caused it to ____ 8 into Middle English, which has many borrowed words of Old French origin. The Normans also ____ 9 Ireland and Wales, spreading Middle English and Anglo-Norman into those regions. Cornish was still ____ 10 forced further west.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A) FOUNDED B) INVADED C) ANNEXED D) BEING
E) EVOLVE F) CITY G) SEPARATE H) SEPARATELY
I) CONQUEST J) DRIVEN K) TOWNS L) FORMED

3. Complete the text with the right form of the verbs in brackets.

By 1300 AD

Middle Irish evolved into three distinct forms: Early Modern Irish, Early Scottish Gaelic, and Manx, although they used a standard form called "Classical Irish" in writing.
The Western Isles and the Isle of Man came under Scottish rule, and Norse was _____ 1 (grade) replaced with Gaelic.

By 1400 AD

The Black Death struck Britain and Ireland in the mid 1300s. This was devastating for the Anglo-Norman _____ 2 (colony) of Ireland, as they mainly lived in towns, while the native Irish were more rural. This caused Norman rule of Ireland to collapse, and Middle English became confined to 2 areas: around Dublin, and Wexford.
English spread further up into Scotland, causing the Galwegian dialect of Gaelic to diverge.

By 1500 AD

Middle English has _____3 (go) so many changes that it is now classified as a new language: Early Modern English. In Scotland, the far north of England, and Ireland (Wexford, Fingal), many of these changes didn't happen, so these dialects diverge a lot from the English of southern England. Thus Scots, Yola, and Fingalian were born.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

By 1600 AD

The plantations of Ireland had begun (although they remain small scale), and many _____ 4 (set) arrived from Scotland and England.
Scots has moved further into Scotland, and into the Northern isles.

By 1700 AD

The plantations of Ireland increased in scale, with huge areas of land being confiscated from the Irish by the British government, and granted to British settlers.
Cornish was only spoken by a few thousand people in the far west of the county.
Scots _____5 (place) Norn as the main language of most people in Orkney and Shetland. English speakers become more a minority on the Channel Islands.

By 1800 AD

The English language was becoming more common in Ireland, but Irish still remained a majority language. English was beginning to _____ 6 (take) Manx as the main language of the Isle of Man. The last native speakers of the Cornish language were dead.
Wales remained the spoken language of most of Wales.
Scots continued to spread, causing the Galwegian dialect of Gaelic to die out.

By 1900 AD

The 1800s was a dark century for British and Irish languages, and English came to dominate in most regions.

Exacerbated by the horrendous and wilful negligence by the British government, the Great Famine devastated Ireland, causing the death and _____ 7 (immigrate) of so many people that the population of Ireland dropped by a quarter. This century also saw the

LIVEWORKSHEETS

_____ 8 (introduce) of schools in which students were forbidden from speaking Irish, and a general stigma created around the language by the British and the Catholic church. All these factors combined caused the Irish language to be largely replaced with English.

Yola and Fingalian, those strange _____ 9 (descend) of 12th century Middle English spoken in Ireland, were totally replaced with modern English by 1850, although left a few words in the local dialects of their regions.

Meanwhile, Scotland suffered its own horrors. The Highland Clearances were the eviction of many mainly Gaelic speaking people from their land in the Scottish highlands, forcing many of them to emigrate to the west coast, to the lowlands, and even to America and Canada. The Highland Potato Famine also struck, further _____ 10 (courage) emigration. Meanwhile in the Lowlands of Scotland, Scots became seen as _____ 11 (fashion) by many of the gentry, and English became increasingly common. Dialects in England likely saw a similar phenomenon, as "Standard English" became the language of education and the higher classes in every region.

In Wales, the Welsh language was banned in schools, as the British government attempted to _____ 12 (sure) every Welsh person could speak English.

By this time, less than 10% of Manx people could speak Manx, and the last Norn speaker died in 1850.

By 2000 AD

Despite attempts at reviving the language by an independent Ireland, the Irish language became _____ 13 (increase) rare as a native language throughout the 1900s. The number of people who speak Irish as a second language has increased, however.
Scottish Gaelic as a first language is now primarily localised to the

LIVEWORKSHEETS

outer Hebrides. Scots has seen a steep decline too, with the Scottish _____ 14 (govern) pushing English as the more useful language.
English has overtaken Norman as the main language on every Channel Island.
In Wales, the English language is spoken by _____ 15 (virtue) everyone, although recent efforts have seen the Welsh language revived somewhat.
The last native speakers of Manx died in 1974.
By 2000, the English language was a first language of nearly every native of Britain and Ireland.

LIVEWORKSHEETS