
A-level HISTORY

Challenge and Transformation: Britain, c1851–1964

Paper 1G

Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1G**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Home Rule, it was hoped, would give expression to Irish nationality and reconcile Ireland to the Union. But by 1914 not only the future status of Ireland was uncertain but the future of the United Kingdom as well. In the case of Ireland, the historic injustices handed out by England meant that it was only through a new constitutional arrangement that Irish grievances could be reconciled with the sovereign parliament of the UK and be contained within the British nation. But how many nations were there in Ireland, one or two? Religion was a central element in Irish nationalism. But among the nine counties of Ulster, four counties contained clear majorities of Scots-Protestant descent. From the 1890s Irish nationalism was increasingly infused with cultural as well as political goals. The Gaelic Athletic Association and the Gaelic League rejected Anglicisation and promoted programmes aimed to preserve and develop Irish national identity. Ulster Protestants wanted no part of this Catholic, Gaelic national identity. They proclaimed their right to remain British subjects.

Adapted from David Feldman, *Nationality and Ethnicity* in P Johnson, (ed), *20th Century Britain*, 1994

Extract B

Opposition to Home Rule was the political manifestation of fundamental differences between the Catholic and Protestant traditions. The Tory espousal of the Unionist cause also introduced a different approach by the Conservatives. The 'playing the Orange card' strategy had the twin results of enshrining a fundamentally anti-democratic strain in Conservative thinking on Ulster and giving to the Unionist cause the incalculable benefit of the support of one of the great political parties of England in their efforts to negate the returns from the ballot boxes in Ireland. The outcome was to be amply demonstrated in 1912 during the third major effort to introduce a Home Rule measure for Ireland. The Liberals, under Herbert Asquith, echoed Gladstone's arguments and pointed out that over the previous twenty-five years four-fifths of the Irish electorate had consistently returned Home Rule candidates. To no avail: the near treasonous behaviour of the Conservatives overpowered all rational political arguments on the issue.

Adapted from Tim Pat Coogan, *The Troubles: Ireland's Ordeal, 1966–1996 and the Search for Peace*, 1996

Extract C

As Asquith's Home Rule Bill began its progress through parliament, Ulstermen, whose own uncrowned king was the charismatic Sir Edward Carson, pioneered a course that would be followed by other menaced minorities within the Empire. They threatened rebellion for the sake of loyalty and plotted treason in the name of the King. They pledged, mobilised, drilled and armed. The Ulster Volunteers seemed to intimidate the government and the Secretary of State for War capitulated entirely to the so-called 'Curragh Volunteers'. These were fifty-eight officers of the British Army who extracted an assurance from him that there would be no military coercion of Ulster. Southern volunteers could do no more than respond with their own mailed fist. These Irish Volunteers also equipped themselves by gun-running as, on the eve of the First World War, party leaders in London reached deadlock over the Ulster problem. Like Parnell and Redmond before him, Patrick Pearse completely under-estimated the intransigence of the Protestant north.

Adapted from Piers Brendon, *The Decline and Fall of the British Empire, 1781–1997*, 2008

0	1
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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the issue of the Home Rule for Ireland in the years 1886 to 1914?

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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‘The key to all the triumphs and disasters of the Liberal Party in the years 1906 to 1924 was David Lloyd George.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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‘Labour’s landslide victory in 1945 was due to long-term trends in British society.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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To what extent was there a ‘post-war consensus’ in Britain in the years 1945 to 1964?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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