



Politics and Society in Northern Ireland

History Past Exam Questions

Ordinary Level

2013

Section 2—question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract from *The Irish Times* (14/12/1966) relates to the Apprentice Boys of Derry. Study it and answer the questions that follow.

The Northern Ireland Minister for Commerce, Mr Brian Faulkner, was initiated into the Apprentice Boys of Derry Order last night in Derry city.

This ceremony can only be performed within the walls of Derry, and Mr. Faulkner made a special journey for the purpose.

Among the members of the Order is the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Captain Terence O'Neill, who was initiated not long after he became Prime Minister.

1. What organisation did Brian Faulkner join?
2. Why did Faulkner have to travel to Derry?
3. What office was held by Brian Faulkner at the time?
4. What office was held by Captain Terence O'Neill?
5. Why were the activities of the Apprentice Boys of Derry considered controversial?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Society and economy in Northern Ireland, 1949-1969.
2. Seamus Heaney.
3. The Anglo-Irish Agreement, 1985.
4. The impact of the "Troubles" on the economy of Northern Ireland.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Terence O'Neill attempt to bring about change in Northern Ireland?
2. Why was it decided not to locate a university in Derry and how was Derry affected by that decision?
3. Why did the power-sharing executive, 1973-1974, end in failure?
4. What part did Bernadette Devlin and/or Ian Paisley play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?

2012

Section 1 question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract Paddy Devlin reflects on events relating to Northern Ireland in September, 1971. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

Shocked by the rise of violence in 1971, the British and Irish governments began to consider the way ahead at a two-day conference at Chequers on 6-7 September. Both the British Prime Minister Edward Heath and the Irish Taoiseach Jack Lynch attended.

I do not think that Jack Lynch ever received the credit for successfully persuading Edward Heath to adopt a major change of policy on Northern Ireland. Until then, Heath had listened only to Brian Faulkner who told him that internment would solve the IRA problem, halt the violence, and restore everything to normal.

After Chequers, Heath challenged Faulkner and told him that a political solution was needed, not military oppression.

Source: Paddy Devlin, *Straight Left: An Autobiography*

1. What leaders attended the conference at Chequers?
2. According to the author, what credit should be given to Jack Lynch?
3. What was Faulkner's solution to violence in Northern Ireland?
4. After the meeting at Chequers, what did Heath tell Faulkner in relation to violence in Northern Ireland?
5. Why did Heath suspend Stormont and introduce direct rule in 1972?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The welfare state in Northern Ireland.
2. Bernadette Devlin.
3. Republican and Loyalist terrorism.
4. Cultural responses to the "Troubles".

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. For what reasons was Coleraine, and not Derry, chosen as the site for a new university in Northern Ireland?
2. What part did Terence O'Neill play in the politics of Northern Ireland?
3. How did the Apprentice Boys of Derry cause such controversy in Northern Ireland?
4. What was agreed at Sunningdale, and why did the power-sharing executive fail, 1973-1974?

2009

Section 1-question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

The cartoon below shows an event during the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland. Study it and answer the questions which follow.



1. What event has taken place in this cartoon?
2. Did this event take place during the day or the night? Give a reason for your answer.
3. Why will this couple not write to their MP about the event?
4. The MP in question was Bernadette Devlin. Was she a Unionist/Loyalist MP or a Republican/Nationalist MP?
5. Give one reason why the “Troubles” came to an end after 1993.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The welfare state in Northern Ireland.
2. Seamus Heaney.
3. The impact of the “Troubles” on everyday life in Northern Ireland.
4. Ian Paisley.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Why were the activities of the Apprentice Boys a source of tension in Derry?
2. What part did John Hume play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?
3. As British Prime Minister, what policies did Margaret Thatcher follow with regard to Northern Ireland?
4. What was proposed by one or more of the following: the Sunningdale Agreement, 1973; the Anglo-Irish Agreement, 1985; the Downing Street Declaration, 1993?

Section 2-question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

This is an edited extract from an account given by Bernadette Devlin of her experiences of the police at the civil rights march in Derry city on 5 October, 1968. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

I went to Derry on 5 October 1968... Ordinarily Derry is a dead city; about one in five of the men are unemployed and the whole feeling of the place is depressed. But it was electric that day...

My friends and I didn't know where the march was beginning, and we were afraid to ask in case we asked the wrong person and got clobbered for our trouble... The police took our banners away and knocked a few people over the head ...

Then Eamonn McCann got up on the chair ... He put it to the marchers that they had two choices: they could go home, or they could walk into the police cordon until each successive row was beaten into the ground...

I'd been watching the police and I'd seen them filter down both sides of the march so that now they encircled us... they just moved in on all four sides, with truncheons and heels and boots and beat everyone off the street.

Source: Bernadette Devlin, 'The Price of my Soul', Deutsch, (London, 1969).

1. What was the unemployment level among men in Derry city?
2. Why was Bernadette Devlin afraid to ask where the march was to begin?
3. Apart from going home, what choice did Eamonn McCann give to the marchers?
4. Having encircled the marchers, what did the police do next?
5. Mention one demand of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA).

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Sir Basil Brooke (Lord Brookeborough).
2. Why the power-sharing executive, 1973-1974, ended in failure.
3. The impact of the "Troubles" on the Northern Ireland economy.
4. The Downing Street Declaration, 1993.

2007

Section 2-question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This extract is taken from the opening speech of Terence O'Neill as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. In it he sets out his programme for development. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

It is a new motorway driving deeper into the province. It is a new airport which will match our position as the busiest air centre in Britain outside London.

It is a new hospital in Londonderry – the most modern in the British Isles. It is new laboratories and research facilities at Queen's (University) to carry us to the edge of existing knowledge, and beyond.

It is replacement of slums by modern housing estates. It is the steady containment of tuberculosis (TB). It is our new national museum and folk museum.

Terence O'Neill, 'Ulster at the Crossroads', London, 1969.

1. What will be the importance of a new airport for Northern Ireland?
2. What will be established in Londonderry?
3. What development will take place at Queen's University?
4. What will replace the slums?
5. To which political party did Prime Minister Terence O'Neill belong?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The impact of the welfare state.
2. Conn and Patricia McCluskey.
3. Bernadette Devlin.
4. Brian Faulkner.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the significance of the Sunningdale Agreement and the power-sharing executive, 1973-1974?
2. Why were the activities of the Apprentice Boys a source of tension in Derry city?
3. What were the arguments for and against siting the new university at Coleraine?
4. What part did John Hume play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?

Section 2-Question 5

Ireland: Topic 5
Politics and society in Northern Ireland, 1949-1993

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This extract is from Margaret Thatcher's account of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, 1985. Study it and answer the questions below.

At 2 o' clock on the afternoon of Friday 15 November Garret FitzGerald (Irish Taoiseach) and I signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement at Hillsborough Castle.

It was not perfect from either side's point of view. Article 1 of the agreement stated that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, and recognised that the present wish of the majority was for no change in the status of the province.

I believed that this major concession by the Irish would reassure the Unionists that the Union itself was not in doubt. I thought that, given my well-known attitude towards Irish terrorism, they (the Unionists) would have confidence in my intentions. I was wrong about that.

But the Unionists miscalculated too. The tactics which they used to oppose the agreement worsened the situation and weakened their standing in the eyes of the rest of the United Kingdom.

The agreement allowed the Irish Government to put forward views and proposals on matters relating to Northern Ireland in a wide range of areas, including security. Margaret Thatcher, 'The Downing Street Years', Harper Collins, 1993.

1. When and where was the Anglo- Irish Agreement signed?
2. What did Article 1 of the agreement state with regard to the status of Northern Ireland?
3. Why does Margaret Thatcher claim that the Unionists' reaction was a miscalculation?
4. What did the Anglo-Irish Agreement allow the Irish Government to do in relation to Northern Ireland?
5. Do you think that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was a success or a failure? Give a reason for your answer.

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Sunningdale Agreement, 1973.
2. Terence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.
3. The impact of the 'Troubles' on the economy and society of Northern Ireland.
4. Responses to the 'Troubles' in the poetry of Seamus Heaney.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Bernadette Devlin play in the politics of Northern Ireland?
2. Why was there a controversy because of the choice of Coleraine as the site of a new university?
3. What part did the Apprentice Boys of Derry play in the affairs of Northern Ireland?
4. How important was one or more of the following in the politics of Northern Ireland: gerrymandering; sectarianism; ecumenism; cultural identity?

