



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# A Level History A

## Unit Y316

### Britain and Ireland 1791–1921

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

## Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



**OCR supplied materials:**

- 12 page Answer Booklet

**Other materials required:**

- None



<b>First name</b>											
<b>Last name</b>											
<b>Centre number</b>							<b>Candidate number</b>				

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

## Section A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is the more convincing explanation of Ulster's position during the Home Rule crisis of 1912–1914.

[30]

### Passage A

The immediate exclusion of part of the north from the operation of the Home Rule Bill might have defused Unionist opposition and opened the way to successful enactment. The senior Tory and Unionist politician Walter Long wrote in his memoirs: 'To this day I marvel that the government did not take some steps in this direction'. Yet the third reading of the Bill was carried by 367 votes to 257 in January 1913. The language of threat in mainstream politics, embodied in the Ulster Volunteer Force, was just an extreme form of the politics of theatre and the danger of civil war was always more apparent than real. Asquith gave his consent to a plan proposed by Churchill and Seely to overawe the Ulster Volunteers by swift and decisive military action. Not intended to be a direct attack, military manoeuvres were employed to emphasize a crackdown was possible. Carson was nervous, aware that some in the government favoured decisive action. General Paget, although wrong on this, declared that if ordered north, the British army would act without question. The outbreak of war with Germany showed Redmond keen to support the British war effort and he hoped to lessen unionist–nationalist divisions in Ireland and prevent Ulster Unionists gaining all the benefits of their professed loyalty to Britain. Despite angry Unionist objections, Home Rule became law in September 1914, suspended until the end of the war with an undertaking to bring in an amending bill before implementation. Redmond hoped that common wartime effort would create emotional unity in Ireland with an acceptance of Home Rule for all Ireland.

Adapted from: Bew, P. (2009) *Ireland: The Politics of Enmity 1789–2006*. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press, UK. Reproduced with permission from Oxford University Press through PLS Clear.

### Passage B

The third Home Rule Bill had conjured up rival military formations and brought Ireland to the brink of civil war. For Ulster the proposed Bill was a 'threatening and fearful spectacle' that presaged catastrophe for them. Ulster's interpretations of Home Rule necessitated the creation of an army to resist them. The very term 'Home Rule' was deemed by the vast majority of Ulster Protestants to be quite simply an engine for their destruction that must be resisted at any price. One solution was partition but no one was enthusiastic. Even Ulster Unionists were cool on the idea as it brought to light their guilty secret: there was no such thing as a completely 'Protestant province of Ulster'. Yet by 1913 it seems clear that some idea of exclusion had been accepted reluctantly by both Carson and Redmond with only the details to be addressed. By 1914 there was no alternative: the British army was not about to coerce the Ulster Protestants; the Irish Volunteers were incapable of doing so; and, crucially, the Ulster Volunteers were not bluffing – their gunrunning had effectively decided the matter. Partition would be permanent and 6 counties, where Protestants were in a majority, would be hived off. Southern Unionists and Ulster outliers would have to fend for themselves.

Adapted from: T. Bartlett, *Ireland: A History*, published in 2010

**Section B**

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2\*** 'Governments up to 1867 were more successful in pacifying Ireland than those from 1868 to 1921.' How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1798 to 1921? **[25]**
- 3\*** How effective was the leadership of Irish constitutional nationalism in the period from 1798 to 1921? **[25]**
- 4\*** How far was land reform the most important factor in the decline of the Protestant Ascendancy in the period from 1798 to 1921? **[25]**

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**Passage B:** Thomas Bartlett, Ireland, A History © Thomas Bartlett 2010, published by Cambridge University Press. Reproduced with permission from Cambridge University Press.

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