Headings	Notes
IRELAND IN THE UNITED	The Act of Union, which made Ireland part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
KINGDOM	Ireland (UK), was passed in parliament on 28 March 1800, received royal assent on 1st August
The Act of Union of 4000	1800 and came into effect on 1 January 1801.
The Act of Union of 1800	There was no longer a parliament in Dublin.
	Decisions for Ireland concerning taxes, trade, education and social welfarewere decided in the
	Westminster parliament in London.
The United Kingdom	The House of Lords
Parliament at Westminster	A seat in the House of Lords was hereditary. It passed from father to son.
	A lord had his seat for life; therefore, the Lords was not influenced by elections or public opinion.
	Most members of the House of Lords were wealthy and saw little reason for change.
	The Conservative Party had a majority in the House of Lords.
	Sometimes, politicians, judges or others who had served the state were given a lifetime
	peerage. This seat was not hereditary – their son would not inherit it.
	The House of Commons
	Members of Parliament (MPs) in the House of Commons were elected by limited suffrage in
	England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
	The leader of the biggest part in the Commons became Prime Minister of the UK. He
	appointed his followers as Ministers.
	Only men over 21 who were the heads of a household could vote.
	By the 1900s, Irish voters elected 103 MPs to the House of Commons.
	Ireland had more than its fair share of MPs but British MPs always outnumbered the Irish MPs
	That meant that Irish interests always had to take second place to British interests.
	The House of Commons was dominated by two large political parties: the Liberal Party and
	the Conservative Party.
	The Irish MPs joined either the Home Rule Party (also known as the Irish Parliamentary Party)
	or IPP) or, later, the <b>Unionist Party</b> .
	The two Ministers for Ireland were the Lord Lieutenant and the Chief Secretary. They were
	responsible for the Royal Irish Constabulary (RUC/police), the civil service, the courts,
	education, transport, etc.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
UNIONISTS AND NATIONALISTS	• Since the 1870s, Irish people had been divided about whether it was good or bad for Ireland to
	be part of the UK.
	Unionists thought Ireland gained from being in the United Kingdom, which was then the
	greatest power in the world. They wanted to keep the union between Britain and Ireland.
	Nationalists thought it would be better for Ireland to have its own parliament that could make
	laws suited to Irish conditions.
WHO WERE THE	<ul> <li>About 25% of Irish people were unionists. Although in a small minority over the whole of Ireland.</li> </ul>
UNIONISTS?	they formed a majority in the four north eastern counties (Antrim, Down, Armagh and Derry).
	There were several reasons why a person might be a unionists
	• Religious: Most Irish Protestants were unionists. In the whole UK, Protestants were a majority
	but in Ireland, they were only 25% of the population. If Ireland had its own parliament,
	Protestants would be heavily outnumbered and they feared they would suffer discrimination
	or persecution. They felt safer in the UK where they were part of the majority.
	• Ethnic: Many unionists were descended of British people who had settled in Ireland during the
	Irish plantations of the 16th and 17th Centuries. They felt British as well as Irish and wanted to
	remain part of the British state where they felt at home.
	Economic/social:
	Most of the big businesses (e.g. Guinness, Jacob's and Harland and Wolff) were unionists.
	They sold what they produced to Ireland and feared an Irish parliament would interfere with
	trade between the two countries.
	• In the northeast of Ulster, the economy prospered after 1860, while other parts of Ireland
	such as Dublin declined. There were many jobs in the linen and shipbuilding industries.
	Protestants, who were in a majority in the northeast, did especially well. They feared that
	would change if Ireland left the United Kingdom.
	<u> </u>
THE UNIONIST PARTY: CARSON AND CRAIG	• In the 1910 general election most unionists voted for the Unionist Party, led by Edward Carson
	and James Craig. It won 18 seats in Westminster. Two MPs were elected for Trinity College in
	Dublin and the rest for northeast Ulster.
	Their aim was to keep Ireland in the United Kingdom
Keywords	Summary
<i>.</i>	

Headings	Notes
WHO WERE THE	About 75% of Irish people were nationalists. They wanted Ireland to have a parliament that
NATIONALISTS?	would decide on Irish laws and taxes.
	There were several reasons why a person might be a nationalist:
	• Religious: Most nationalists were Catholics, who made up 75% of the population. They felt th
	predominately Protestant UK discriminated against them. They wanted to run their own affairs
	• Ethnic: Most nationalists felt Irish, not British. They wanted Ireland to be run by Irish people
	not by British people.
	<ul> <li>Economic/social: Outside east Ulster, the Irish economy had declined since the Act of Union</li> </ul>
	1800. Through the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century, Ireland experienced famine, poverty, and emigration.
	Nationalists felt they could do a better job of managing the Irish economy than the British had.
MODERATE/	Most nationalists were moderate or constitutional.
CONSTITUTIONAL NATIONALISTS (HOME	• They aimed to persuade the British to give Ireland a parliament with power over local issues
RULERS)	like health and transport. But the Westminster parliament would still control international affairs lik
	trade or war. This limited form of independence was called Home Rule.
	Constitutional nationalists disliked violence. They hoped to win Home Rule by peaceful and
	lawful means (i.e. by winning elections and votes in parliament).
	• In the 1910 general election, constitutional nationalists voted for the Irish Party (also known as
	the Home Rule Party). It was led by <b>John Redmond</b> and <b>John Dillon</b> . The Home Rulers won
	85 of the 103 Irish seats in Westminster.
EXTREME NATIONALISTS	
(REPUBLICANS/	A small minority of nationalists wanted to cut all ties between Ireland and Britain and have a
SEPARATISTS)	completely separate and independent Irish state, perhaps a republic. They were called
	'separatists' or 'republicans'.
	• Separatists believed that Britain would never listen to the moderate requests for Home Rule. On
	violence, they thought, would force the British to give Ireland independence.
	• Some of them belonged to a secret society, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), whose
	members took an oath to fight for an Irish republic. The IRB was led by an elected Supreme
	Council.
	<ul> <li>After 1900, extreme nationalism gained increased support. An important reason for this was the</li> </ul>
	development of cultural nationalism.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
CULTURAL NATIONALISM	<ul> <li>All through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Irish population had become anglicised (like the English). By</li> </ul>
	the 1890s, most Irish people spoke English, read English books and newspapers and played
	English games. This undermined their claim to be different from the other people of the UK.
	• Cultural nationalists tried to reverse anglicisation by developing aspects of Irish life where the
	Irish were different from the English. They set up:
	• The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), which aimed to develop distinctively Irish sports and
	games played according to Irish rules. The IRB used GAA clubs as a cover for recruiting and
	drilling. The RIC always spied on them.
	The Gaelic League, which wanted to reverse the decline of the Irish language. Many of the
	people who joined it (e.g. Padraig Pearse and Éamon de Valera) were drawn towards
	republicanism because they believed only an Irish government could protect and revive Irish.
	In 1915, republicans changed the League's constitution to make it support complete independence.
CULTURAL NATIONALISM	• The Anglo-Irish literary movement tried to develop a distinctively Irish literature in the English
	language. Poets (e.g. W.B Yeats) and playwrights (e.g. Lady Gregory and J.M. Synge)
	included Irish myths, place names and folklore in their work. Many of the leading people in the
	movements were Protestants, which made other nationalists suspicious of them. It had far less
	impact on Irish nationalists than the Gaelic League and the GAA at the time.
THE REVIVAL OF THE IRB	Between the 1880s and 1900, the IRB declined. It was revived after 1900 due to:
	<ul> <li>A new interest in republicanism after 1898 (the centenary of the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion)</li> </ul>
	and Wolfe Tone, the first Irish republican.
	The impact of cultural revival.
	The activities of a number of enthusiastic young men who joined after 1900, e.g Bulmer
	Hobson, a Belfast Quaker, and <b>Seán MacDiarmada</b> from Leitrim, who used his job as
	organiser for the Gaelic League to recruit young men into the IRB.
	• In 1907, Thomas Clarke, who had been in the IRB since the 1880s, returned to Ireland from the
	US. He joined the younger men in taking control of the IRB Supreme Council.
	• Fearing spies and leaks, they kept the new IRB small. To compensate for that, they infiltrated
	other organisations like the GAA and the Gaelic League with the aim of making them support republicanism
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
THE REVIVAL OF THE IRB	• The Home Rule Crisis of 1910-1914 gave them their chance to acquire an army by setting up
	the Irish Volunteers.
A NEW NATIONALIST	• Cultural nationalism also influenced Arthur Griffith. He started a small newspaper called The
PARTY: SINN FÉIN	United Irishman in 1898. In it, he published articles on politics and economics, as well as
	supporting the GAA and the Gaelic League.
	● In 1905, Griffith set up a new political movement called Sinn Féin. Its aims were
	• Elect MPs who would not go to Westminster. Instead they would set up an Irish parliament
	and government to replace the British government peacefully.
	<ul> <li>To satisfy unionists who wanted a link with Britain, Griffith said Sinn Féin would look for a dua</li> </ul>
	monarchy like in Austria-Hungary (i.e. the king would be Head of State in both Ireland and
	Britain, although the two countries would be otherwise separate).
A NEW NATIONALIST	Develop Irish industry behind tariff barriers.
PARTY: SINN FÉIN	Griffith changed the name of his paper to Sinn Féin and used it to spread his ideas.
1905-1916: THE 'FIRST'	• At first, Sinn Féin attracted cultural nationalists and Home Rulers who were fed up because the
SINN FÉIN PARTY	British government would not give Home Rule.
	• However, most of them went back to the Home Rule Party after a political crisis in Britain in 1910
	suddenly made Home Rule possible.
	• Griffith went on preaching his ideas. He won few followers, but gradually the name Sinn Féin ha
	became associated with extreme nationalists.
	• When IRB men staged the 1916 rising, many people called it a 'Sinn Féin Rising', even though
	Sinn Féin had nothing to do with it. This led to a second and very different Sinn Féin Party
	appearing in 1917.
THE HOME RULE CRISIS 1910-1914	• In 1891, the Home Rule Party split over the divorce of Parnell's lover, Katherine O'Shea. After
	ten years of infighting it reunited in 1900 under the leadership of John Redmond and John Dillon.
HOME RULE DELAYED 1900-1910	• They had an alliance with the British Liberal Party, but up to 1905 the pro-unionist Conservatives
	were in power so there was no chance of Home Rule.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
HOME RULE DELAYED 1900-1910	<ul> <li>Nationalist hopes rose when the Liberals won a huge victory in 1906. But the Liberal leaders</li> </ul>
	told Redmond they would not bring in a Home Rule Bill because the Conservatives-dominated
	House of Lords would veto (reject) it. Instead, the Liberals concentrated on social reforms like
	old age pensions. Redmond could do nothing about this because the Liberals did not need his
	votes.
	Events between 1909 and 1911 opened the way for Home Rule:
	<ul> <li>In 1909, the Lords defeated a budget for the first time in 200 years.</li> </ul>
	This caused a constitutional crisis in Britain.
	• In 1911, the Parliament Act replaced the Lords' veto with a delaying power of two years.
	<ul> <li>In two general elections in 1910 the Liberals lost seats. After that they had to depend on the</li> </ul>
	votes of Redmond's MPs to stay in power. To secure these votes, the Liberal Prime Minister
	Herberth Asquith promised Home Rule.
	• 1912: Asquith introduced the third Home Rule Bill. It offered Ireland a very limited measure of
	self-government. It passed the Commons but was defeated in the Lords. However, under the
	Parliament Act of 1911, it was due to pass in 1914.
UNIONISTS OPPOSE	• The prospect of Home Rule horrified unionists. Led by Edward Carson and James Craig, they
HOME RULE	planned to stop it.
	They organised public meetings and demonstrations all over Ulster and Britain to rally
	opposition to Home Rule. The biggest was the mass signing of the Solemn League and
	Covenant on 28th September 1912. Over 400,000 men promised to use 'any means' to stop
	Home Rule.
	<ul> <li>In 1911, groups of unionists began to arm and drill. Fearing that they would discredit the</li> </ul>
	unionist cause by uncontrolled violence, Carson organised them into the Ulster Volunteer
	Force (UVF) in 1913. By 1914 they numbered about 100,000. With many wealthy supporters,
	they collected £1 million to buy arms in Germany. A large shipment was smuggled in at Larne
	in April 1914.
	• Carson and Craig also set up a 'Provisional government' to take control in Ulster when Home
	Rule passed.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes	
UNIONISTS OPPOSE HOME RULE	<ul> <li>Although the last actions were illegal, the Conse</li> </ul>	ervative leader, <b>Bonar Law</b> , and many in the
	British ruling class, enthusiastically supported th	ne unionists.
	<ul> <li>Many officers in the British army were also union</li> </ul>	nists. In March 1914, some of them resigned
	rather than obey an order to disarm the UVF (th	e 'Curragh mutiny'). After that it was impossible
	for Asquith to use the British army against the U	JVF.
1913-1914: DISCUSSING	<ul> <li>At first Asquith and Redmond believed the union</li> </ul>	nists were bluffing. They pointed out that only 18
PARTITION	Irish MPs were unionists compared with 85 Hon	ne Rulers.
	But as unionist opposition became clearer and as	the UVF gained strength, leading British Liberals
	David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill ir	nsisted that they negotiate with Carson.
	<ul> <li>Secret talks went on through 1913 and 1914 about</li> </ul>	out 'special treatment' for the northeast of Ireland
	where unionists were in a majority.	
	<ul> <li>First Redmond offered them a Belfast parliamer</li> </ul>	nt under Dublin control. Carson rejected this. He
	wrote that there was: 'A desire to settle on the to	erms of leaving "Ulster" out .
	This pointed to partition. Ireland would be divided (partitioned) into two parts:	
	Most of the island would have Home Rule/	
	Part of Ulster would remain in the UK, under British rule.	
	The question then emerged of how much of Ulster would remain in the United Kingdom?	
	• Traditional Ulster has nine counties. They were divided almost equally (49% Catholic and 51%	
	Protestant). Carson did not want all nine coun	ties became a small change in population would
	mean that the unionists losing control.	
	• Four counties – Antrim, Derry, Down and.	and the same of th
	Armagh – had large Protestant majorities	Trolland in 1914  Divided Nationalist Mojority Denegal
	Early on, Redmond accepted that he would	Unionist Majority
	have to give these up.	Sigo Down
	Three counties – Donegal, Cavan and	Mayo
	Monaghan – had large Catholic majorities.	Galway Westmoath Dublin
	Early on in the negotiations, Carson made it	Clare
	clear that he did not want the counties.	Limerick Toporary Knamm Wextord
	But two counties – Fermanagh and Tyrone	Kery
	were more evenly divided, with small	
	Catholic majorities. Each side wanted them.	and the second second
Keywords	Gummary	

Headings	Notes
NATIONALISTS SET UP	Nationalists were angry when they heard that partition was being discussed. They thought the
THE IRISH NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS	government was giving in to the threat of violence.
	The IRB saw an opportunity to create an army like the UVF.
	Bulmer Hobson suggested that Eoin MacNeill (one of the founders of the Gaelic League) write
	an article, 'The North Began', for the League's paper, An Claidheamh Solius.
	MacNeill said that if the unionists could form an army to stop Home Rule, then nationalists must
	do the same to defend it.
	• In November 1913, the Irish National Volunteers were set up at a meeting in Dublin. MacNeill
	was elected Commander-in-Chief, but many other officers were members of the IRB.
	By June 1914, the Irish Volunteers had enrolled 200,000 men.
	• Redmond was alarmed at the growth of a nationalist movement he did not control. He demanded
	the right to nominate 25 members of the government council. Rather than split the Volunteers,
	MacNeill agreed.
	In July, the IRB landed guns from Germany at Howth.
THREAT OF CIVIL WAR	There were now two large private armies in Ireland and civil war seemed likely.
	• In July 1914, King George V called the Buckingham Palace Conference to look for a solution.
	It broke down over which side would get <b>Tyrone</b> and <b>Fermanagh</b> .
SUSPENDING HOME RULE	A week later, Germany invaded Belgium and Britain declared war. Both Carson and Redmond
KOLL	supported Britian's action. At that time everyone thought the war would be 'over by Christmas'.
	Carson immediately told the UVF to join the British army. He also reluctantly agreed to let Home
	Rule pass in September, provided it was suspended until the war ended and the issue of Ulster
	was sorted out.
	William II and the Control of the Co
REDMOND, THE WAR AND THE VOLUNTEERS	When the war started, Redmond said the Irish Volunteers would defend Ireland. But once Home  Puls accord to a read of the line of the read of the line of the
	Rule passed he needed to be in a strong position when talks with Carson resumed 'after
	Christmas'.
	• In a speech at <b>Woodenbridge</b> , he called on Irish Volunteers to join the British army too. This
Keywords	was because:  Gummary
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Headings	Notes
REDMOND, THE WAR AND THE VOLUNTEERS	He believed it was right to defend Belgium.
	He wanted to show the British that Irish nationalists would support them against a foreign
	enemy.
IRELAND AND THE FIRST	• When the war began there were already 50,000 Irish men serving in the British forces. Between
WORLD WAR	1914 and 1918, 150,000 more joined up.
IRISH SOLDIERS IN THE	• About 30,000 UVF men joined the army. The British War Office formed them into the 36 <sup>th</sup> Ulster
WAR	Division. Led by UVF officers, it was allowed to use Ulster unionist emblems. They suffered
	heavy casualties at the Battle of the Somme in France in 1916.
	• About 32,000 National Volunteers also joined up. The War Office refused Redmond's request
	to form them into an 'Irish brigade'. Most Nationalists served in the 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Divisions which
	contained regiments such as the Irish Guards, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Munster
	Fusiliers. They suffered heavy casualties at Passchendaele in Belgium and Gallipoli in Turkey.
	• In 1914, 1915, many men volunteered to fight as reports of conditions in the trenches reached
	home, recruitment dried up. In Britain conscription was imposed at the start of 1916 but Redmond
	persuaded the British not to extend it to Ireland.
	Around 30,000 Irishmen were killed in the war.
THE WAR AND THE	The war brought prosperity to farmers because prices for agricultural produce increased.
ECONOMY	Demand for ships and for linen tents, uniforms, etc. created a boom in the north, but there was
	not much war industry elsewhere.
	• The wives and children of soldiers benefitted from the 'separation allowances' they received as
	part of the soldiers' pay.
	But higher prices also made life difficult for the poorest people. This caused considerable unrest
	in rural areas in 1917 and contributed to the rise of Sinn Féin.
HOW THE WAR	Redmond was at the height of his success in 1914, but his influence declined after that.
AFFECTED REDMOND'S POSITION	He had won Home Rule, but it was not in force and his Party was left with nothing to do.
Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
HOW THE WAR AFFECTED REDMOND'S	His most active followers were fighting in France.
POSITION	<ul> <li>In 1915, the British parties formed a coalition to fight the war. Asquith offered ministerial jobs</li> </ul>
	to both Redmond and Carson. Carson accepted but Redmond refused. This was popular in
	Ireland, but it left Redmond on the outside when decisions were made.
Keywords	Summary
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#### **Political Crisis in Britain**

- 1. In 1909 the British government was plunged into crisis as a result of the House of Lords rejecting the budget proposed by the Liberals. 2. Two general elections took place in 1910. Both led to a stalemate with the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) holding the balance of power.
- 3. The Liberal Party, supported by the IPP decided to prevent the House of Lords stopping legislation proposed by the British Government. 4. They passed a law that removed the veto the House of Lords. In future the House of Lords could only hold up legislation for two years.

#### What was the effect of this change?

- 1. Every time the British Government attempted to introduce Home Rule for Ireland the House of Lords stopped it.
- 2. When the British Government introduced a Bill in 1912 that would grant Home Rule to Ireland, the House of Lords could only delay it for two years.

#### How did Nationalists respond to the establishment of the UVF?

- 1. The establishment of the UVF posed a threat to Nationalists and to Home Rule.
- 2. Despite this many Nationalists welcomed the establishment of the UVF.
- 3. The Irish Republican Brotherhood argued that it would allow Nationalists to also establish an armed group to fight for Home Rule for the whole island.
- 4. It became inevitable that Nationalists would have to respond to developments.

#### What was the reaction in Ireland?

- 1. The Irish Parliamentary Party were very popular in Ireland. All over the country supporters of Home Rule praised the IPP and it's leader, John Redmond, for achieving Home Rule for Ireland.
- 2. Among Unionists, however, there was utter dismay that they could be betrayed by a British government.
- 3. In response Unionists, under the leadership of Edward Carson, established the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) as an armed group, to resist Home Rule.
- 4. Under pressure from the UVF and the Conservative Party in Britain, the Liberal Government proposed that Ulster would be excluded from Home Rule.

#### How were the Irish Volunteers established?

- 1. With the support of the IRB, Eoin Mac Neill, a leading figure in Nationalist circles, called a meeting in Dublin on 25 November 1913 to establish the Irish Volunteers.
- 2. The IRB had already begun military training and organisations like the GAA and the Gaelic League were actively supporting the initiative.
- 3. Hundreds attended the meeting in Dublin and meetings followed all over the country.
- 4. Within weeks thousands had joined the Irish Volunteers and by the middle of 1914 they had over 110,000 members.

#### Why was Home Rule not introduced in 1914?

- 1. The First World War started before Home Rule could be introduced and the British Government postponed Home Rule until the war was over.
- 2. Leader of the IPP, John Redmond, called on all members of the Irish Volunteers to join the British Army, but Eoin MacNeill opposed Redmond.
- 3. The Irish Volunteers split.
- 4. Over 100,000 supported Redmond who formed the National Volunteers.
- 5. About 10,000 rejected the call to fight and remained with MacNeill in the Irish Volunteers.