Headings	Notes
THE EARLY YEARS: 1920- 1939	Northern Ireland, set up by the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, was part of the United
	Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The king was represented by the Governor.
THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND	• It had a parliament consisting of a Senate and a House of Commons, with 52 MPs, elected by
	proportional representation (PR).
	• It had a government with a Prime Minister and six Ministers. They controlled internal affairs
	like health and education.
	 But most taxation and all foreign policy and trade remained under the control of the Westminste
	parliament.
	Northern Ireland elected 13 MPs to Westminster.
	• In the 1921 election, 40 Unionist MPs were elected. Their leader, Sir James Craig, became the
	first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. His Home Affairs Minister was Richard Dawson Bates.
1921-1923: A VIOLENT	About two-thirds of the people in Northern Ireland were unionists and one-third were nationalists
BEGINNING	Nationalists refused to recognise the new state and the IRA attacked it. Riots and sectarian
	killings were common in border areas and Belfast in 1920-1922. About 400 people were killed -
	over 60% of them were Catholics.
	To defeat the IRA, Craig and Dawson Bates introduced the Special Powers Act which allowed
	them to intern IRA men. Over 500 were imprisoned without trial.
	They formed the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) as an armed police force and allowed the
	re-establishment of the UVF to counter the IRA in border areas .
	Dawson Bates created 'Special Constables' to assist the RUC. Exclusively Protestant and
	often ex-members of the UVF, the 'Specials' were used against the Catholic community until
	they were disbanded in the 1970s.
	By 1923, peace was restored but the violence left a legacy of bitterness
	- By 1626, peace was restored but the violence left a legacy of bitterniese
NATIONALIST DIVISIONS	Nationalists were divided in their attitude to Northern Ireland:
	Moderates, led by Joseph Devlin, belonged to the Nationalist Party,
	They hoped the Boundary Commission would reunite many of thorn with the south. When it
	failed, they entered the Northern Ireland parliament in 1928.
Keywords	Summary
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Headings	Notes
NATIONALIST DIVISIONS	But unionists excluded them from all power and influence and they left again after Devlin's
	death.
	 Republicans in the IRA and Sinn Féin refused to have anything to do with Northern institutions
	Nationalists kept to themselves, with their own newspapers, schools, hospitals, etc.
UNIONISTS' ATTITUDES TO CATHOLICS	Craig promised fair treatment to Catholics, but most unionists resented their attitude to the new state. They saw it as proof that they were disloyal and not to be trusted.
	Unionists were also uncomfortably aware that there was a huge majority of Catholics on the
	island of Ireland and that southern political leaders talked a great deal about ending partition.
	• These feelings made it easy for political leaders like Dawson Bates, who disliked Catholics, to
	discriminate against them.
ENSURING UNIONIST	To protect the Catholic minority, Lloyd George introduced the proportional representation
CONTROL	(PR) system of voting for local councils and the Northern Ireland parliament.
	The 1920, local elections produced many nationalist-controlled local councils. Dawson Bates
	suspended them, then changed the method of electing councils to the less fair 'first past the
	post' system.
	• Later he re-drew election boundaries to ensure that unionists always won (gerrymandering).
	When divisions appeared among unionists during the 1925 election to the Belfast Parliament,
	Craig blamed PR and abolished it in 1929.
	'First past the post' voting encouraged 'tribal politics'. All elections became straight fights
	between unionists and nationalists. Other parties like Labour were squeezed out.
	The Orange Order, which excluded Catholics, encouraged unity among unionists. All classes
	met in their local Orange hall and no man could hope to lead the Unionist Party if he did not
	belong to it.
	Craig (known as Lord Craigavon from 1927) won every election with a comfortable majority and
	remained Prime Minister until he died in 1940.
Keywords	Gummary

Headings	Notes
THE FAILURE OF EDUCATION REFORM	• Lord Londonderry was the first Education Minister. An enquiry he set up found serious
	weaknesses in education.
	This led to the 1923 Education Act. Schools that transferred from Church to state control
	would get generous building grants. But 'transferred schools':
	Had to accept children from all religions
	Could not teach religion in school hours
	• Catholic bishops objected and would not transfer their schools, even though it meant a loss of
	grants.
	Protestant clergy also objected, but since Catholics were not involved, they transferred their
	schools. Later they got the rules about religious education changed, so that Protestantism could
	be taught in 'transferred' state schools.
	 After that, state schools were really Protestant schools. They had better resources than Catholic
	schools and Catholics resented this.
RICHARD DAWSON	• Born in Belfast in 1873, he studied law and became a solicitor. An active member of the Orange
BATES (1873-1949)	Order, he was appointed secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council in 1906.
	• In this post he had played an important part in unionist opposition to Home Rule from 1910, and
	in the 1912 signing of the Solemn League and Covenant.
	When Northern Ireland was set up, Craig appointed him Minister for Home Affairs. His most
	important task was to defeat the IRA.
	• He achieved this with the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act which allowed him to intern
	anyone, by having an armed police, the RUC and by forming units of Special Constables to
	assist them. Many of the 'B Specials' were former members of Carson's UVF and this
	exclusively Protestant force became a permanent feature of northern life.
	Bates also ensured unionist dominance by ending proportional representation (PR) in local
	government elections in 1922 and redrawing the constituency boundaries to ensure that
	unionists won even in areas like Derry and Fermanagh where there was a clear nationalist
	majority.
leywords	Gummary

Headings	Notes
RICHARD DAWSON BATES (1873-1949)	 In 1929, he abolished PR for elections to the Northern Ireland parliament.
	Bates was a religious bigot who refused to employ Catholics in the civil service and encouraged
	businesses to do the same.
	When Craig died in 1940, his successor J.M. Andrews kept Bates on as Minister for Home
	Affairs.
	When Belfast was bombed in 1941, his lack of preparation became clear and was blamed for
	the high loss of life. This made Andrew's government unpopular
	When Sir Basil Brooke became Prime Minister in 1943, Bates finally retired.
	The Newthern recommends and antiques 2007 of toward and in Newthern Indianal. The next wa
THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY 1920-1939	The Northern government could only raise 20% of taxes spent in Northern Ireland. The rest was
	set by Westminster.
TAXATION AND WELFARE	• In the 1920s, enough money came from London to keep social services in Northern Ireland at
	the same level as in Britain.
	• The 1930s Depression hit Britain severely, so little money flowed into Northern Ireland. As a
	result, pensions and dole payments were lower than in Britain or the South.
INDUSTRY AND	After the First World War the North's big industries, linen and shipbuilding, declined due to
EMPLOYMENT	falling demand.
	This decline increased greatly in 1930s Depression. Many industries closed and Harland and
	Wolff needed government aid to survive.
	 Unemployment was over 30% from 1930 to 1940. Very low dole payments led to hunger and
	malnutrition.
	 In 1932, Catholic and Protestants workers protested jointly against their conditions.
	The Unionist government improved welfare, but Craig and other Unionist leaders encouraged
	Protestant businessmen to employ only Protestants
	This divided the workers and there were sectarian riots in Belfast in 1935.
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Keywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
AGRICULTURE	 Agriculture was an important part of the Northern economy, employing over 25% of workers
	and earning more than shipbuilding.
	The 1925 Land Act completed land purchase
	 To hold British markets, the government encouraged new farming methods and imposed quality
	control.
	 In the 1930s, northern farms had protected access to British markets while southern farmers
	were excluded by the economic war. This gave them a modest prosperity.
	• Sir Basil Brooke, as Minister for Agriculture, encouraged specialization in poultry farming and
	pig-rearing.
CASE STUDY: NORTHERN	 When Britain declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939, Lord Craigavon announced that
IRELAND AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR	Northern Ireland would loyally support the war effort.
CRAIGAVON AND THE	He wanted to impose conscription, but had to drop the idea after nationalist protests were
START OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR	backed by Churchill.
	• He was very shocked in May 1940, when Churchill offered de Valera reunification in return for
	for the South's involvement in the war.
NATIONALISTS AND THE	Many nationalists saw it as 'England's war', which was not their business. Until Belfast was
WAR	bombed, some even hoped for a German victory.
	• The IRA got support, especially in Belfast. The government interned over 700 of them and any
	who escaped to the South were interned there.
THE BELFAST BLITZ	Northern leaders believed Belfast was too far from Germany to be bombed, so did little to
	protect it until late in 1940.
	• There were few anti-aircraft guns, barrage balloons or bomb shelters. Only 3,000 people were
	evacuated from the city.
	German bombers came three times in April and May 1941.
Keywords	Gummary
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Headings	Notes
THE BELFAST BLITZ	• The worst raid was on the night of 15/16 April. Ninety bombers dropped thousands of tonnes of
	high explosives, which missed the shipyards and fell on tightly packed workers' houses.
	Bombs also knocked out telephone cables and water mains, making it difficult for rescue
	workers and firemen.
	 After an appeal for help, de Valera sent fire brigades from the South, but they could do little.
	 At least 900 people died. Many were never identified, and were buried in mass graves.
	Another raid on b May killed fewer people but badly damaged the Harland and Wolff shipyard.
	Thousands of refugees fled south or to nearby towns and villages.
	For months, about 100,000 left the city each night and slept in barns or fields.
THE ECONOMY AND THE	The economy in Northern Ireland (unlike the South) benefited from the war.
WAR	 Food, fuel and clothing were rationed, though not as tightly as in Britain.
THE IMPACT OF WAR ON	The war revived the North's main industries, linen and shipbuilding:
INDUSTRY	Northern farmers grew flax and linen mills made it into uniforms, tents, parachutes, etc.
	Demand for ships grew as U-boats sank so many. Over 700 ships were built.
	Engineering firms produced guns and tanks.
	• Shorts aircraft factory, set up in 1938, made 1,500 bombers.
	Large numbers of British and American troops were stationed in Northern Ireland. Building
	barracks and providing services for them created work.
	Wages rose and unemployment fell to 5%.
	Workers from the South went to work in Northern Ireland. Fearing an increase in nationalist
	numbers, the Unionist government insisted on work permits, limiting the time they could spend i
	the North.
THE IMPACT ON	Government controlled what farmers grew through compulsory tillage orders.
AGRICULTURE	Farm production trebled, with most of it going to Britain.
	 But northern farmers got the same guaranteed prices for their produce as British farmers, which
	saved them the cost of transport.
Keywords	Gummary

Headings	Notes
NORTHERN POLITICS DURING THE WAR	Unionist leaders made no attempt to involve nationalists directly in the war effort.
	Official recruiting was mainly through unionist organisations.
	J.M. Andrews became Prime Minister in 1940 when Craigavon died but kept all the old
	Ministers, including Dawson Bates.
	• In 1943, discontent inside the Unionist Party led to him being replaced by the younger, more
	energetic Sir Basil Brooke (later Lord Brookeborough).
	He included a Labour MP in his government, but made no attempt to win over nationalists.
NORTHERN IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE	Northern Ireland made a significant contribution to the Allied victory over Germany.
WAR EFFORT	Food from Northern Ireland helped Britain to avoid starvation.
	About 38,000 people joined the British forces in Northern Ireland. About half came from the
	South.
	From Northern Ireland:
	The RAF patrolled the Atlantic searching for U-Boats.
	The Royal Navy sent convoys to protect ships carrying food and munitions from America
	to Britain.
	British and, from 1942, American troops trained in Northern Ireland for the North African
	campaign and for the D-Day landings
THE IMPACT OF THE	The war widened the gap between Northern Ireland and the South.
SECOND WORLD WAR	The North prospered, while the South grew poorer.
	After the war Britain set up the Welfare State. It gave northern people of both communities
	social welfare benefits that the South could not afford for its people.
	British leaders saw the Unionist government as their allies in contrast to neutral de Valera.
	The gap increased when the South left the Commonwealth in 1949 and declared a republic.
	 As a result, in 1949 the British passed the Ireland Act, which guaranteed that Northern Ireland
	could not be reunited with the South without the consent of its parliament.
Leywords	Summary

Headings	Notes
EXAM QUESTIONS	How did the Unionist Party in power respond to the challenges posed by the existence of a
	substantial nationalist minority within Northern Ireland? (HL 2010)
	What were the main social and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland from 1920-1945?
	(HL 2009)
	How did the government of Northern Ireland deal with economic problems and/or threats to
	security between 1920 and 1945? (HL 2012)
	How well did the Unionist Party manage the affairs of Northern Ireland between 1920 and 1939
	(HL 2008)
	How was cultural identity promoted in Ireland North and South between 1920 and 1949?
	(HL 2007)
	What was the impact of World War II on Ireland, North and South? (HI 2013)
	• Following the experience of war, to what extent was the Belfast of 194% different from that of
	1939? (HL 2007)
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Belfast Blitz 1941

N. Ireland during World War 2

- 1. Unionists happy to be able to show loyalty
- 2. Turned to shock at Churchill's offer of unity
- 3. Conscription not extended to NI
- 4. Nationalists joined up as there were no jobs
- 5. 700 IRA interned IRA killed 5 RUC
- 6. 1940 100,000 British troops stationed in NI in case of a German invasion
- 7. Rationing and Blackouts
- 8. James Craig died in 1940 replaced by JM Andrews 70 years old nothing changed

Industry

- 1. H and W produced 140 warships
- 2. Short's built 1200 Stirling bombers
- 3. Linen industry boomed
- 4. Lots of engineering parts supplied from Northern Ireland
- 5. Agriculture did well

Belfast Blitz - Introduction

- 1. The government of NI did little to prepare
- 2. Air raid shelters were eventually built
- 3. There was not enough and were above ground
- 4. Not enough anti-aircraft guns and few barrage balloons
- 5. Hospitals and fire service unprepared
- 6. False alarms caused complacency

Strategic Importance

- 1. Germans controlled the sea, south of Ireland, so the northern route to the US important
- 2. A naval and air base in Derry patrolled for German U-boats
- 3. After 1941 Americans were based in NI to prepare for the North African campaign
- 4. 250,000 arrived for D-Day
- 5. The German U-boat fleet were made surrender in Derry in recognition of it's role in the war

Events of the Blitz 1941

7th and 8th of April 1941

- 1. Harbour area hit
- 2. 13 killed and not much damage. Only 3000 responded to government calls for evacuation

15th and 16th April

- 1. 90 Junkers and Heinkels came in waves.
- 2. Flares dropped first. Then high explosives, incendiaries and parachute mines
- 3. Smoke screens in the docklands led to the Germans missing their targets and hitting working class areas such as New Lodge, Lower Shankill and Antrim Road
- 4. At least 900 died. Many not identified
- 5. Attempt made to bury Catholics and Protestants separately
- 6. DeValera sent 70 fire-fighters north but the water mains had been cut
- 7. Half the cities population left, many sleeping in ditches

5th May

- 1. Clear night
- 2. H and W destroyed and did not resume production for 6 months
- 3. Not as many casualties

Results of Blitz

- 1. Most severe except for London
- 2. Stopped as the Germans turned their attention to USSR
- 3. 1100 dead
- 4. People outside the city who offered refuge were shocked at the poverty of the people

Partition Consolidated

- 1. By being part of the war, NI strengthened its position in the UK
- 2. Neutrality had distanced the South further from the UK

1945 British General Election

- 1. Clement Atlee and Labour came to power
- 2. Wartime leader Churchill defeated
- 3. The Beverage Report and the Welfare State brought a flow of money to N. Ireland
- 4. Catholics benefited, as they were poorer.
- 5. In 1947 free secondary education and generous third level grants
- 6. Catholics made good use of this as many could not get jobs anyway