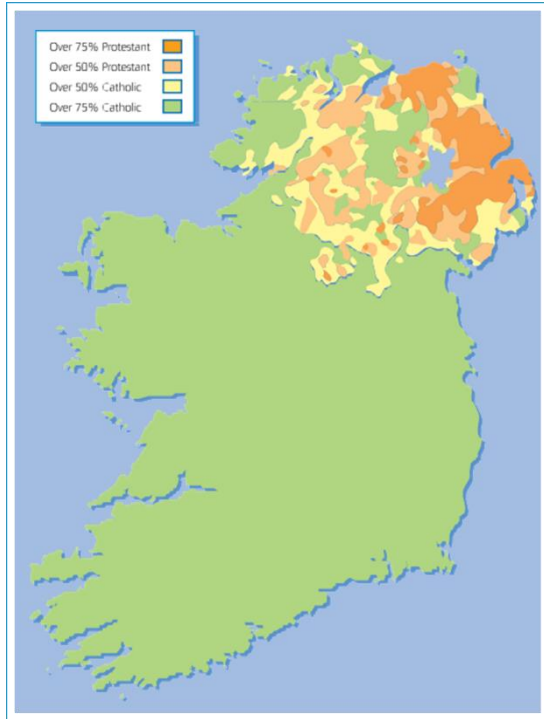


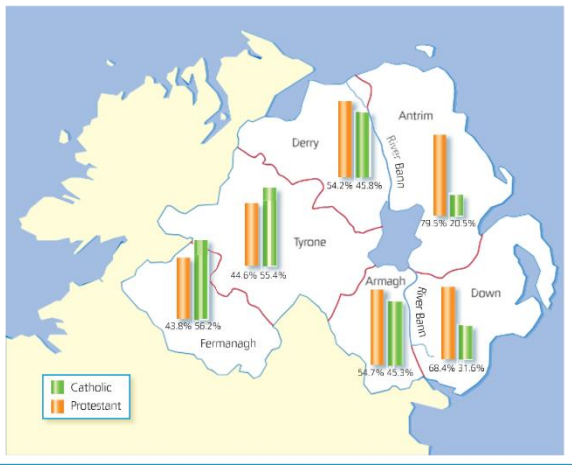
The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes
WHY IRELAND WAS PARTITIONED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 1920 the whole island of Ireland was united with Britain, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (the UK).
IRELAND IN THE UNITED KINGDOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laws and taxes for Ireland were decided in the Westminster parliament in London.• Irish voters elected 105 MPs to represent their interests there.
NATIONALISTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some Irish people disliked being part of the United Kingdom. They were called Nationalists.• They wanted Irish people to control Irish affairs.• Most nationalists were Catholics. They made up 75% of the population. They did not feel the British had treated them fairly.• Nationalists also believed that the Irish economy had suffered from being part of the UK. They thought Irish people would manage it better.
	<div data-bbox="423 827 963 1541"></div> <div data-bbox="1036 1003 1560 1339"><p><i>Irish religion and politics in 1911</i></p><p><i>This map is based on the census taken in 1911. In an official document like a census it was not possible to ask people what their political views were but they could be asked about their religion. And since almost all Protestants were unionist and almost all Catholics were nationalists, the religious census also reflected the political divide across the island.</i></p></div>
Keywords	Summary

The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes
UNIONISTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irish people who thought that union with Britain was good for Ireland were called unionists.• Most unionists were Protestants. They were only 25% of the population in Ireland but were a majority in the northeast of Ulster.• That part of Ireland was prosperous in the 19th century. It sold linen and ships to Britain and its empire. Ulster unionists feared they would lose the British market if Ireland left the UK.• Many Protestants also felt that they were British as well as Irish because their ancestors had come from Britain to Ireland during the 17th-century plantations. They were loyal to the British monarch and because of that were sometimes called loyalists. They felt at home in the UK and wanted to remain in part of it.• Protestants also feared that they would suffer discrimination in jobs and education if Ireland was ruled by the Catholic majority
THE PARTITION OF IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When nationalists demanded an Irish parliament, unionists said they would resist it by force if necessary.• In 1918 a majority of nationalists voted for the Sinn Féin Party which wanted to cut all ties with Britain and make Ireland a republic. Their army, the IRA, began to fight the British forces in Ireland.• This made the unionists more determined than ever to resist Irish independence. In 1920, they got the British government to pass the Government of Ireland Act. It partitioned (divided) the island of Ireland into two parts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Southern Ireland' had 26 counties. In it, 93% of the population were Catholic.• Northern Ireland had six counties. In it, 66% were Protestant and 33% were Catholic.• Nationalists refused to agree to this. Their war continued until 1921 when they made the Anglo-Irish Treaty with Britain. This turned 'Southern Ireland' into the Irish Free State. In 1949 it became a republic, completely independent of Britain.
Keywords	Summary

The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes																					
THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom, though it had its own locally elected parliament and government.The Northern parliament controlled industry, transport, agriculture, education and health and had a limited power to raise taxes.There were 52 MPs in the Northern Ireland House of Commons. They elected a Prime Minister and a Cabinet which contained ministers responsible for Finance, Home Affairs, Education, etc.The first Prime Minister was Sir James Craig (later Lord Craigavon) who remained in office he died in 1940.																					
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Because Northern Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom, the Westminster parliament was still supreme over it. Because of this, Northern Ireland voters elected 13 MPs to represent their interests in Westminster.Westminster decided on most of the taxes Northern Irish people paid. The British then handed the money raised to the Northern government to spend.Although the Westminster parliament was supposed to control Northern Ireland, in reality it refused to discuss anything happening in the North. The British said this was because Northern Ireland had its own parliament to look after its affairs.																					
	 <p>Religious division within Northern Ireland <i>The Bann river, which flows through Lough Neagh, divides Northern Ireland into two halves. East of the Bann, Protestants are in a clear majority. West of the Bann there are Catholic majorities in many areas.</i></p> <table border="1"><caption>Religious Demographics by County</caption><thead><tr><th>County</th><th>Catholic (%)</th><th>Protestant (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Fermanagh</td><td>43.8%</td><td>56.2%</td></tr><tr><td>Tyrone</td><td>44.6%</td><td>55.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Derry</td><td>54.7%</td><td>45.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Armagh</td><td>54.7%</td><td>45.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Down</td><td>68.4%</td><td>31.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Antrim</td><td>79.5%</td><td>20.5%</td></tr></tbody></table>	County	Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	Fermanagh	43.8%	56.2%	Tyrone	44.6%	55.4%	Derry	54.7%	45.8%	Armagh	54.7%	45.3%	Down	68.4%	31.6%	Antrim	79.5%	20.5%
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Keywords

Summary

The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes
NATIONALISTS AND NORTHERN IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalists throughout Ireland refused to accept partition. They believed that the whole of Ireland should be united under one government. • Within Northern Ireland nationalists (almost all Catholics) were a third of the population. They wanted to be part of the Free State but the British made them part of Northern Ireland without any consultation. • In areas west of the Bann, like Fermanagh, Tyrone, south Down, south Armagh and Derry city, nationalists formed a local majority. In 1920 they elected local councils which supported the government rather than the Unionist government in Belfast. • To stop this, the Unionist government changed the method of voting for local councils from PR to 'first past the post'. • They also reorganised the constituency boundaries to ensure that unionists would control most of these councils in the future. This is called 'gerrymandering'. • These changes meant that up to 1970, the Unionist Party controlled most local councils in Northern Ireland, even in areas where Catholics were in a majority.
NORTHERN IRELAND 1920–1949: A DIVIDED STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Northern Ireland was set up, the Unionist government formed its own police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).
THE RUC, THE 'B SPECIALS' AND THE 'SPECIAL POWERS ACT'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IRA attacked it even after there was peace in the South. • To combat the IRA, especially near the border, the Unionist government appointed 'Special Constables' to assist the RUC. They were heavily armed part-time policemen, all of Protestant.. • They patrolled the areas where they lived. By 1923 their local knowledge had helped to defeat the IRA. • The 'Specials' were supposed to be temporary but the Unionist government kept the part-time B unit in existence up to 1970. 'B Specials' patrolled country areas and their often undisciplined behaviour earned the hatred of Catholics. • To combat the IRA, the Belfast parliament also passed the Special Powers Act in 1922. It gave the Northern government the right to intern (imprison) suspected IRA men without trial. • Like the 'B Specials' the Special Powers Act began as an emergency response to IRA activity but was made permanent in 1933. It was used almost exclusively against nationalists.
Keywords	Summary

The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes
HOW NATIONALISTS FARED IN NORTHERN IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These developments did nothing to win Catholic support for Northern Ireland.• Its police force, the RUC, was mainly Protestant and the few Catholics in it did not get promotion.• The 'B Specials' and the Special Powers Act were used mainly against the Catholic community.• The political system, especially at local level, was rigged against them by gerrymandering and the use of 'first past the post' voting, so that they could not win power even where they were in a majority.
THE NATIONALIST PARTY, SINN FÉIN AND THE IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After 1925 most nationalists reluctantly accepted that Northern Ireland existed. They voted for the moderate Nationalist Party.• It won seats in the Stormont parliament but was unable to achieve much for its voters.• A small minority of Northern nationalists were republicans. Their party was Sinn Féin, but it usually refused to take part in elections.• A few republicans joined the IRA and occasionally attacked the RUC. These attacks achieved nothing but gave unionists an excuse to keep the 'B Specials' and the Special Powers Act.• From 1922 until the 1960s, many Northern Catholics bitterly resented Unionist government policies but, apart from occasional IRA violence, did little about them.
SECTARIAN POLITICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From 1921 to 1972 the Unionist Party formed the government of Northern Ireland. It was exclusively Protestant.• At first Protestants of all classes, who feared Catholic rule, voted for it. But in the late 1920s, when peace returned and the economy declined, some working- class Protestants began to vote for the Northern Ireland Labour Party (NILP).• Craig feared this would weaken unionist power. To stop it he changed the method of electing MPs to Stormont from PR to 'first past the post'.• The result was that every election in Northern Ireland became a straight fight between Protestant unionists and Catholic nationalists. That kept sectarian differences at the centre of Northern politics and made it almost impossible for non- sectarian parties like Labour to Emerge.
Keywords	Summary

The origin of Northern Ireland

Headings	Notes
UNIONISTS FEEL UNDER SIEGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After 1923 unionists were firmly in control of Northern Ireland but they never felt secure.• They knew that in Ireland as a whole they were a small minority. They grew nervous when southern politicians like de Valera demanded that Northern Ireland be forced to united with the South.• They feared that northern Catholics supported this idea and resented the way they refused to get involved in Northern Ireland affairs.• Catholics had bigger families than Protestants and 40% of school children were Catholics. Unionists feared that eventually that might lead to a Catholic majority within Northern Ireland.
DISCRIMINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This insecurity made unionists discriminate against Catholics:• They refused to give them important jobs in the civil service because they did not think a Catholic would be loyal to Northern Ireland.• Catholics were not encouraged to join the RUC and those who did were not promoted to the higher ranks.• Although there were many qualified Catholic lawyers, very few became judges.• Unionists reorganised local government so that even in areas where Catholics were in a majority, the Unionist Party controlled local councils. These councils controlled many jobs but they seldom gave them to Catholics.
EXAM QUESTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the Unionist government treat the nationalist minority within Northern Ireland up to the 1960s and how do you account for their attitude?
Keywords	Summary

