Headings	Notes				
WILLIAM WHITELAW AND	William Whitelaw was the first Secretary of State for Northern Ireland under direct rule. A				
THE IMPACT OF 'DIRECT RULE'	leading English Conservative, he knew little about Northern Ireland but he learned quickly.				
WILLIAM WHITELAW'S AIMS	Whitelaw hoped to win the trust of the Catholic community by restraining the British army,				
	ending internment and getting the IRA to stop its violence.				
	But to keep the trust of the Protestants, he had to restore order and send the police into the				
	'no-go' areas from which the IRA launched most of its attacks.				
	Once peace was restored he hoped to organise a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland				
	and end direct rule.				
THE ULSTER UNIONIST	The loss of Stormont badly damaged the once mighty Ulster Unionist Party. For 50 years it				
PARTY (UUP) AFTER DIRECT RULE	had won every election in Northern Ireland without effort, so it had not modernised its				
	organisation.				
	• Party leaders did not control its governing body, the Ulster Unionist Council, and in elections,				
	each constituency could pick any candidate it wished without consulting the leaders.				
	As the violence got worse, the UUP lost moderate members to the Alliance Party and hardline				
	unionists to William Craig's Vanguard and Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.				
WILLIAM CRAIG AND	• After direct rule began, one of Faulkner's ministers, William Craig, left the UUP and set up the				
ULSTER VANGUARD	Vanguard Party to campaign against it.				
	At first Craig looked powerful but he was not a clever politician.				
	His close links with loyalist paramilitaries frightened off moderate unionists.				
	And working-class unionists did not like his idea that Northern Ireland should become				
	independent of Britain because they feared losing British subsidies.				
	Although Vanguard helped to destroy the Sunningdale Agreement, Vanguard disappeared soon				
	afterwards.				
IAN PAISLEY AND THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST	• In 1972, Ian Paisley seemed less important than Craig but he was a shrewder politician. When				
PARTY (DUP)	he saw that voters did not like his views he changed them.				
Keywords	Summary				

Headings	Notes				
IAN PAISLEY AND THE	At first he formed the Protestant Unionist Party and became an MP at Stormont and				
DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY (DUP)	Westminster. But many unionists disliked his strident anti- Catholicism and he gradually toned				
	it down.				
	 He also began to appeal to working-class Protestants who felt that the UUP had neglected them. 				
	• This led to the foundation of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in 1971. It was a tightly				
	disciplined party, with one undisputed leader and a band of devoted followers, many drawn				
	from Paisley's own Free Presbyterian Church.				
	• After direct rule, Paisley first suggested that Northern Ireland be integrated with Britain. But this				
	was never popular and he soon replaced it with a demand for the restoration of Stormont.				
DIRECT RULE AND THE	Most nationalists welcomed the end of Stormont:				
NATIONALIST COMMUNITY	 Moderates like the SDLP hoped for peace and power-sharing. 				
	Both wings of the IRA saw it as a victory for their violence. One more push, they believed,				
	could drive out the British and bring about Irish unity. Declaring 'the war goes on', they stepped				
	up their bombing and shooting.				
VIOLENCE INTENSIFIES	Rioting continued, mainly in Belfast and Derry. People died in crossfire between the army or				
	loyalists and the IRA. IRA car bombs killed innocent passersby from both communities. On				
	14 April alone, the Provisionals set off 30 bombs across the North.				
	Loyalists retaliated with bombs but also tortured and killed individual Catholics who crossed				
	their path.				
	This led to a demand for peace. In Belfast 50,000 people signed a petition calling on both				
	wings of the IRA to put aside their arms.				
	On 29 May the Official IRA called a ceasefire but the Provisionals would not agree because				
	they thought a truce would undermine the will to go on fighting.				
WHITELAW'S REFORMS	Whitelaw hoped that ending internment would bring peace. He freed hundreds of internees and				
	gave 'special category status' to those who remained. That meant they could wear their own				
	clothes and did not have to work.				
Keywords	Summary				

Headings	Notes				
WHITELAW'S REFORMS	• He replaced the old and discredited Special Powers Act with the Northern Ireland (Emergency				
	Provisions) Act. It introduced the Diplock Courts in which one judge, sitting without a jury,				
	tried political cases. This was necessary as terrorist groups could easily intimidate jury members				
TALKS WITH THE PROVISIONALS FAIL	Whitelaw also made contact with the Provisionals. On 26 June they called a ceasefire and six Leading Provisionals, including Course Adams, most Whitelaw acceptable in Landage.				
	leading Provisionals, including Gerry Adams, met Whitelaw secretly in London.				
	• They asked Whitelaw to promise that the British would leave Northern Ireland within three years				
	He said that was impossible because the British could not abandon the unionists against their				
	wishes.				
	Some Provisionals wanted to continue the ceasefire but others, including Adams, did not. They				
	were afraid it would let the British army gain the upper hand.				
BLOODY FRIDAY,	On 9 July, during riots in Belfast, Provisionals opened fire and violence resumed. Ten people				
OPERATION MOTORMAN AND BOMBS IN CLAUDY	died over the next few days.				
	On the afternoon of Friday 21 July, as people were out shopping, the Provisionals set off 18				
	bombs in Belfast as well as three in Derry and 16 in other areas. They killed nine people and				
	seriously injured hundreds of others.				
	Meanwhile, five more people died during fierce gun battles between the Provisionals and the				
	British army.				
	People across Ireland were horrified at the scale of the slaughter on Bloody Friday.				
	This allowed Whitelaw to launch Operation Motorman on 30 July. The army took over the				
	'no-go' areas in Belfast and Derry which had been largely controlled by the IRA. After this it was				
	harder for the Provisionals to build bombs or attack the army.				
	On 31 July the Provisionals retaliated by leaving three car bombs in the mixed and peaceful				
	village of Claudy, near Derry. Nine people died, five Protestants and four Catholics, and thirty				
	were horribly injured.				
	July 1972, when 92 people died, was the worst month of the Troubles				
Keywords	Summary				

Headings	Notes					
LOYALIST VIOLENCE	Loyalist violence also increased, especially as they heard that Whitelaw had talked to the					
	Provisionals. They petrol bombed Catholic homes and killed Catholics who crossed their path.					
	• In December 1972 they set off bombs in the republic, killing two people in Dublin and two more					
	more in Cavan.					
	 Overall, 467 people died violently in 1972, which was the worst year of the Troubles. 					
THE IMPACT OF THE	. Defere the Traubles began many people in the Couth know little about Northern Ireland but					
TROUBLES ON THE	Before the Troubles began, many people in the South knew little about Northern Ireland but they had plonty of projudices.					
SOUTH	they had plenty of prejudices.					
	They did not understand that unionists felt British and wanted to be part of the United Kingdom.					
	They knew about discrimination against Catholics and backed the civil rights movement.					
	At first southerners even sympathised with the IRA and believed they were continuing the					
	struggle that won independence for the rest of the country in 1921.					
	But from 1972 attitudes changed. The aims of the civil rights campaign had been achieved.					
	Even the Stormont government was no more. And still republican violence continued.					
	Many in the South were sickened when IRA car bombs killed innocent men, women and					
	children. Was a united Ireland worth such slaughter?					
DEALING WITH THE IRA	These changing views made it easier for southern governments to take a tougher line against					
	the IRA.					
	They strengthened the Offences Against the State Act which had been used against the IRA					
	since 1939. They also set up the 'Special Criminal Court'. In it, three judges, acting without a					
	a jury, tried people accused of IRA activity.					
	They closed down the Sinn Féin offices in Dublin and stopped RTÉ broadcasting interviews					
	with IRA leaders.					
	• Irish army and Garda patrols were stepped up along the border, though it was far too long and					
	winding to be closed completely.					
leywords	Summary -					

Headings	Notes				
THE REPUBLIC CHANGES	As southerners became better informed about Northern Ireland, they began to understand the				
AS A RESULT OF NORTHERN	unionists' fear of Irish unity and their desire to preserve their British identity.				
DEVELOPMENTS	They also became aware of the things about the South that the unionists disliked. These included				
	the power of the Catholic Church and the ban on contraception and divorce.				
	This led to a debate:				
	Should these things be changed?				
	And if so, was that because they were obstacles to unity or because they were bad in themselves?				
	• In 1972 a large majority voted in a referendum to remove the 'special status' that the Constitution				
	gave to the Roman Catholic Church.				
	• Later the law against contraception was eased. A referendum to remove the ban on divorce in				
	the Constitution failed in 1986 but a second one succeeded in 1996.				
	• People also began to look again at the idea of Irish unity. Some even suggested that it would be				
	better to encourage the two communities in the North to share power and live as good				
	neighbours with the South.				
CASE STUDY: THE FAILURE OF THE	• In 1972 the British thought direct rule was only temporary. They hoped to end it as soon as the				
SUNNINGDALE	constitutional politicians in Northern Ireland agreed to share power.				
SEEKING PEACE	 All through 1972 Whitelaw talked to them behind the scenes. By 1973 he was ready to act. 				
THE 'BORDER POLL' AND	● To reassure unionists, Whitelaw organised a referendum on the border (known as the 'border				
THE WHITE PAPER	poll') in March 1973.				
	 Nationalists, who were still protesting about internment, did not vote. Of the people who did, 				
	99% voted to keep Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom.				
	• Whitelaw then produced a White Paper called Northern Ireland Constitutional Proposals. It said:				
	Northern Ireland would remain part of the United Kingdom as long as the majority wanted that.				
	It would have an Assembly, elected by PR.				
	The Assembly would elect a Northern Ireland Executive (government) but it must contain				
	representatives from both communities within Northern Ireland (i.e. power-sharing).				
Keywords	Summary				

Headings	Notes								
THE 'BORDER POLL' AND	• Londo	n would the	en hand ove	er control o	f health, ed	ucation and	l local gove	rnment. Co	ntrol over
THE WHITE PAPER	the police and courts could be handed over later if the Executive was successful.								
	• To sat	isfy nationa	alists, a Co	uncil of Ire	land would	be set up t	o encouraç	ge co-opera	tion with
	the rep	oublic.							
RESPONSES TO THE	• The SD	LP welcom	ed the Whi	te Paper be	ecause it su	pported pov	wer-sharing	j.	
WHITE PAPER	Republicans rejected it because it accepted partition.								
	• Faulkne	er and mod	erate union	ists gave it	a cautious v	welcome bu	ut in the Uls	ster Unionis	t Party
	(UUP) a	a minority le	ed by Harry	West opp	osed power	-sharing.			
	• Craig, F	aisley and	the Orange	e Order cor	ndemned it d	completely.			
THE ASSEMBLY	• Election	s to the ne	w Assembl	y were held	d on 28 June	e. They sho	wed up the	divisions o	n the
ELECTION: 28 JUNE 1973	unionist	side.							
	• While P	aisley and	Craig were	united aga	inst power-	sharing, Fa	ulkner's UL	JP was divid	ded. He
	asked c	andidates	to sign a ple	edge to follo	ow him but	some const	ituencies p	icked candi	dates who
	sided w	ith West ar	nd refused t	o sign the p	oledge.				
	 Faulkner tried to reassure doubters by promising not to share power with people 'whose 								
	primary objective is to break the union with Great Britain'. He later claimed this only meant								
	Sinn Féin but some unionists thought he meant SDLP too.								
	The election results disappointed Whitelaw.								
	1. The 'neutral' parties, Alliance and the NILP, won only nine seats								
	2. Faulkner only won 24 seats compared with 26 for the combined anti power- sharing unionists								
	Later two of the 24 changed sides.								
	3. The SDLP did well but republicans boycotted the election, so it was impossible to say how								
	much support they had among nationalists.								
	Party	SDLP	Alliance	NILP	UUP (Faulkner, pledged)	UUP (West, unpledged)	DUP (Paisley)	Vanguard (Craig)	Loyalists
	No. seats	19	8	1	24	8	8	7	3
	% of vote	22%	10.5%	2%	29%	10%	10%	11.5%	4.2%
Keywords	Summa	ary							

Headings	Notes				
AGREEING TO TALK	When the Assembly met, DUP and Vanguard members attacked other unionists, often				
	physically.				
	But a majority favoured talks. It was agreed to have them in two phases:				
	1. First the Northern Irish parties would agree among themselves to set up an Executive and				
	accept a Council of Ireland.				
	2. Then they would meet with the British and Irish governments to decide how much power the				
	Council of Ireland would have.				
TALKING ABOUT AN	Whitelaw chaired the first phase of talks. They began on 5 October and ended on 21 November				
EXECUTIVE	1973.				
	Six unionists led by Faulkner, six SDLP members led by Gerry Fitt and three members of the				
	Alliance Party took part.				
	The issues before them were:				
	Forming an Executive (government)				
	The powers of a Council of Ireland.				
	On the Executive, the main problem was how many ministries each party should get. In the end				
	it was agreed that there would be six ministers from the UUP, four from the SDLP and one from				
	Alliance.				
	There was disagreement about how much power a Council of Ireland should have.				
	Faulkner wanted it to contain only members of the two Irish governments and to deal with				
	uncontroversial issues like tourism.				
	John Hume and the SDLP wanted it to contain members of the Dáil and the Assembly and				
	deal with important issues like the police.				
	Whitelaw backed the SDLP, hoping this would undermine support for the IRA. Reluctantly,				
	Faulkner gave way.				
	The SDLP agreed to end the rent and rate strike which had begun after internment.				
Vormonda	Company				
Keywords	Summary				

Headings	Notes					
STARTING TALKS AT	The second phase of the negotiations took place in England. The British and Irish governments					
SUNNINGDALE: 6–9 DECEMBER 1973	governments and the Northern parties met at Sunningdale between 6 and 9 December. Here					
	the main issue was the Council of Ireland.					
	Shortly before it began, Prime Minister Edward Heath replaced Whitelaw with Francis Pym. This replaced the talks of Whitelaw's possibilities skill and experience. Pym know little about.					
	This robbed the talks of Whitelaw's negotiating skill and experience. Pym knew little about					
	Northern Ireland and played no part in the talks.					
	Heath presided over the negotiations. He was impatient with the unionists and admired John					
	Hume. He backed his line on the Council of Ireland.					
	The Irish delegation was led by the Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave, whose Fine Gael/ Labour					
	coalition government was formed in February. They too supported John Hume's views.					
THE SUNNINGDALE	Faulkner was forced to agree to a Council of Ireland with strong powers but he hoped for					
AGREEMENT	something in return. He wanted Cosgrave to promise to:					
	Extradite IRA people to Northern Ireland to stand trial there.					
	2. Remove Articles 2 and 3 from the Irish Constitution. These articles offended unionists					
	because they claimed that the Dublin government had the right to rule the whole island of					
	Ireland.					
	But Cosgrave could not do either of these things. He pointed out that:					
	It was the courts, not the government, that could order a person to be extradited.					
	2. Articles 2 and 3 could only be changed by a referendum. Fianna Fáil was bound to oppose					
	the change so it would not pass. Anyway, he assured Faulkner that the two articles were					
	only words and had no practical meaning.					
	In the end all Faulkner got was:					
	1. A promise that Cosgrave would acknowledge the right of Northern Ireland to exist as long as					
	2. the unionist majority wanted it.					
	3. A promise to do more about policing.					
	The lack of concessions made it very difficult for Faulkner to sell the Agreement to a sceptical					
	unionist community.					
Keywords	Summary					
1009000						

Headings	Notes				
OPPOSITION TO POWER- SHARING	• On 6 December, as the talks began in Sunningdale, the DUP, Vanguard, Harry West's followers				
	and the Orange Order formed the United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC) to oppose power-				
	sharing.				
	 After the Agreement was signed, the Ulster Unionist Council (the governing body of Faulkner's 				
	party) met to discuss it. By 427 votes to 374 they voted to reject a Council of Ireland.				
	After this defeat, Faulkner resigned as party leader and was replaced by Harry West. With his				
	remaining pro-Agreement followers, he set up the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland.				
POWER-SHARING	In the North, the Provisionals believed they were on the way to victory and they continued to				
DECINO	bomb and kill.				
	 In the republic a former Fianna Fáil minister, Kevin Boland, went to the Supreme Court claiming 				
	the Agreement was against the Constitution because it accepted partition. Although Boland lost,				
	the case damaged Faulkner because:				
	In court Cosgrave's lawyers had to claim that Articles 2 and 3 were important even though				
	he had tried to persuade unionists that they were not.				
	Cosgrave could not make the statement on the existence of Northern Ireland which he had				
	promised until it was over. When he finally issued it on 13 March, it was too late.				
	But the worst blow to the Executive was Edward Heath's decision on 28 February to call a				
	general election in the United Kingdom.				
	The United Ulster Unionist Council treated the election like a referendum on the Agreement.				
	They put up just one anti-Agreement candidate in each of the North's 12 Westminster				
	constituencies, while all the pro-Agreement parties competed with each other.				
	• The result undermined Faulkner's credibility. The UUUC won 11 of the 12 seats and 51% of the				
	votes. Paisley, Craig and West were all elected, with only Gerry Fitt winning on the pro-				
	Agreement side.				
	Agreement side.				
A LABOUR GOVERNMENT	 In Britain, Heath lost the election and Harold Wilson returned to power. He appointed Merlyn 				
A LABOUR GOVERNMENT	Rees to be Northern Secretary.				
	Rees, a hesitant and indecisive man, promised to support the Sunningdale Agreement				
<u> </u>	Summary				
Regive the					

Headings	Notes				
THE ULSTER WORKERS'	Although weakened by these blows, the Executive continued to work.				
COUNCIL (UWC)	• This infuriated some loyalist workers who formed the Ulster Workers' Council (UWC). Many of				
	them worked in electric power stations where past discrimination against Catholics meant that				
	almost all the workers were Protestants.				
	On 15 May, after the Assembly passed a vote of confidence in the Executive, they called a				
	strike.				
THE UWC STRIKE: MAY	The strikers controlled the power stations. Within days they had cut electricity output by 60%.				
1974	As a result, people could not cook, factories closed, sewerage plants did not work and in				
	hospitals, life support systems began to break down.				
	Loyalist paramilitaries supported the strikers. They formed 'tartan gangs' who blocked roads				
	and 'persuaded' workers not to go to work.				
	 They were probably also responsible for bombs that went off in Dublin and Monaghan on 17 May, 				
	killing 32 people.				
	• The RUC did not interfere in the strike and Rees failed to order the British army to dismantle the				
	barricades. This was partly because it was soon clear that many Protestants supported the				
	strikers.				
	 Their support grew even stronger after Wilson, in a badly judged broadcast on 25 May, accused 				
	Northern Irish people of 'sponging' on the British taxpayer.				
THE EXECUTIVE FALLS	Hoping to buy time, Faulkner begged the SDLP and the Dublin government to reduce the				
	powers of the Council of Ireland. They agreed but it was too late.				
	When the strikers heard of a plan to use the army to protect petrol supplies, they cut electricity				
	supplies even more.				
	Fearing a breakdown in society, the Executive resigned.				
WIIV DID THE					
WHY DID THE SUNNINGDALE	The main reason for the failure was that a clear majority of unionists opposed the Agreement				
EXPERIMENT FAIL?	and supported the UWC strike.				
Keywords	Summary Summary				

Headings	Notes				
WHY DID THE SUNNINGDALE	• They feared the Council of Ireland would force them into a united Ireland. The Boland case in				
EXPERIMENT FAIL?	Dublin strengthened these fears as did unwise speeches about Irish reunification from some				
	nationalist politicians.				
	Some unionists also opposed it because of power-sharing. They could not accept men like				
	Gerry Fitt, whom they blamed for the fall of Stormont, being part of their government.				
	 Nationalists blamed Merlyn Rees for not using the police and army against the strikers. This 				
	might have worked if he had acted quickly but he hesitated and once the strike was fully under				
	way it is unlikely it would have been any good.				
	He hesitated for several reasons:				
	• The result of the general election showed a majority of unionists were against the Agreement.				
	 Army commanders did not want to take on the loyalists while they were still fighting the IRA. 				
	• The fact that the Agreement was put in place by the Conservatives made Labour leaders less				
	concerned about its fate.				
THE 'DOUBLE VETO'	 Rees made another attempt to get power-sharing in 1975. He held elections to a Constitutiona 				
LEADS TO STALEMATE	Convention in which anti power-sharing unionists, including Craig and Paisley, won a clear				
	majority.				
	The SDLP boycotted the Convention and the unionists demanded a return to the Stormont				
	system. The British turned this down.				
	The failure of the Sunningdale Agreement and the Convention showed what people called				
	'the double veto'.				
	 Nationalists could stop unionists getting the majority rule they wanted. 				
	 Unionists could stop nationalists getting the power-sharing they wanted. 				
	• As a result, the rest of the 1970s was a period of stalemate. Direct rule, which the British hoped				
	would be temporary, continued and there was little political action.				
EXAM QUESTIONS	 What led to the Sunningdale Agreement in 1973 and why did it fail? 				
	 Account for the fall of Stormont and the collapse of the power-sharing Executive 1973–1974. 				
Keywords	Gummary				

Gunningdale Agreement 1973

Background

- 1. 1972- Whitelaw (N.I. Secretary) calls a meeting for all parties
- 2. Border Poll to ease Unionist worries: boycotted by Nationalists but Unionists vote 99% support for remaining part of the UK
- 3. White paper from Whitelaw has 4 key components:
- a) Assembly
- b) Executive
- c) Council of Ireland
- Guarantee that Northern Ireland remains part of UK as long as majority want it.

plits in Unionism

Split in Unionists: Faulkner and moderate Unionists agree to White Paper and pledge their support - called "Pledged" Unionists"

- 2. Those Unionist against: Paisley and DUP, Craig and his Vanguard Party, Orange Order and the "Unpledged" Unionists led by Harry West.
- 3. The SDLP welcome White Paper with cautious support
- 4. Republicans reject it as it reinforces partition
- 5. Election 64% in favour of Power-Sharing, 36% against
- 6. All factions of Unionists results: 26 seats for anti-White Paper 24 seats for pro-White Paper
- 7. Faulkner in difficulty trying to unite Unionists within his own party and the more extreme Unionists.

Talks Begin

- 1. Whitelaw has great skill and patience as a negotiator
- 2. Faulkner wants a Unionist majority in the Executive
- 3. Council of Ireland agreed on and would have influence on policing and representatives from the Dail.
- 4. SDLP agree to end rate strike against internment
- 5. During Talks Whitelaw called back to London and replaced by Francis Pym (no experience)

The Agreement

- 1. 6th Dec. meet in Sunningdale, Berkshire
- 2. Liam Cosgrave, Taoiseach along with Garret Fitzgerald and Conor Cruise O Brien attend
- 3. John Hume from SDLP chief negotiator for Nationalists gets real power for the Council of Ireland which could open doors for a United Ireland at a later date
- 4. Prime Minister Heath chairs the meeting and quickly gets impatient with Unionists.
- 5. Irish Government agrees to give a verbal agreement on Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK as long as the majority wanted it.
- 6. Conference ends 9th Dec with Sunningdale Agreement

Power-Sharing Executive

- 1. 1st Jan 1974, Faulkner as Chief Minister and Gerry Fitt (SDLP) as Deputy, Power-Sharing Executive begins
- 2. Orange Order, DUP, Vanguard and Unpledged Unionists led by Harry West unite to form the United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC)
- 3. UUUC is created to resist power-sharing and a Council of Ireland.
- 4. Faulkner resigns as leader of the Unionist party after a motion on the Council of Ireland fails to pass at a meeting. He is replaced as leader by Harry West.
- 5. Faulkner sets up the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland
- 6. Unionists now deeply split and Faulkner becoming isolated
- 7. IRA and Lovalist attacks continue

British General Election

- 1. Election called by Heath against the advice of the Executive who said it was bad timing
- 2. UUUC use election as a referendum on Sunningdale and put forward one anti-Agreement candidate in each constituency
- 3. UUUC win 11 out of 12 of the Westminster seats (Paisley, Craig and West all win)
- 4. Gerry Fitt the only pro-agreement candidate to win a seat.
- 5. In Britain, Heath (Conservative) loses the election and Wilson becomes PM (Labour)

Pym replaced by Meryln Rees as Northern Ireland Secretary (indecisive and not as committed a party)

6. Assembly remained despite violent and abusive behaviour from anti-agreement members

Ulster Workers Council Strike

- 1. Many Northern Ireland industries employed predominantly Protestant workers.
- 2. The Ulster Workers' Council was a group of loyalist workers who worked in shipbuilding, engineering and electricity generation.
- 3. 15th May 1974, the UWC called a strike
- 4. Loyalist paramilitaries became involved and workers were 'persuaded' not to return to work.
- 5. Road blockades were established and youths armed with clubs turned back lorries delivering milk, groceries or petrol.
- 6. Strikers managed to cut electricity out-put by 60% and more factories were forced to close.
- 7. The British Army and Police stood by and did nothing.
- 8. Many Protestants supported the strike.
- 9. The UWC made sure needed supplies got through to Protestant areas in order to keep support for the strike in Protestant areas.
- 10. Loyalists were strongly suspected of bomb attacks in Dublin and Monaghan in May.
- 11. The Executive was isolated and had no control.
- 12. Rees the Northern Ireland Secretary failed to stop the strikes.
- 13. Faulkner tried to get the Dublin government to reduce the powers of the Council of Ireland and despite them agreeing to hold off implementing it was too late.
- 14. Hospitals were about to close and the Executive resigned.
- 15. The Power-Sharing Executive had ended in failure.

Why Did The Sunningdale Agreement Fail?

- 1. Northern Ireland Secretary Rees was unwilling to use the police and army to stop the strike.
- 2. The Labour party under Wilson who were in power were not as keen as the Conservatives about the Agreement.
- 3. The UWC strike brought the North to a halt.
- 4. The Council of Ireland was greatly feared by the Unionists as they believed it would lead to a United Ireland.