

A STATE APART

Task Sheet 1

Programme 1

SEPERATE GOVERNMENT

In June 1921, a new Northern Ireland Parliament was opened by King George V. How did the following groups of people living then, feel about the partition of Ireland?

Your Task – complete the boxes below, giving as much information as you can on each group.

NORTHERN NATIONALISTS

We feel

We want

NORTHERN UNIONISTS

We feel

We want

SOUTHERN NATIONALISTS

We feel

We want

BRITISH GOVERNMENT

We feel

We want

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Task Sheet 1

Programme 2

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1. Examine the list of reasons for Civil Rights protests in Northern Ireland and complete the tasks below:

REASONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PROTEST

- Since 1920, Northern Ireland had a permanent Unionist majority
 - Catholics had not recognised the Government of Northern Ireland as a proper Government
 - Since the 1920s and 1930s, Catholics found it more difficult than Protestants to find jobs
 - Gerrymandering of election boundaries ensured Unionist control of Councils
 - The allocation of housing was based on an unfair system
 - Many businessmen had more than one vote in elections
 - Television showed pictures of protest from around the world
 - The Civil Rights Movement in the USA had been campaigning during the 1960s
 - More young Catholics were attending university than ever before
 - Prime Minister O'Neill had been encouraging reform in Northern Ireland
- a) List the above reasons under the appropriate headings below:
Economic
Political
Social
Religious
 - b) Which of the reasons would you consider to be:
2. Write an explanation outlining why people came out onto the streets demanding Civil Rights.
 3. Why do you think many Protestants were opposed to the Civil Rights Movement?
 4. Why did some Protestants join the Civil Rights Movement?
 5. a) Explain how violence increased in 1969.
b) Do you think that this was the outcome Civil Rights leaders had wanted?

CIVIL RIGHTS – MYTH AND REALITY

Often in history, people make simple comments about a movement or a period which can become myths. In this worksheet, we will examine two views often held about the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) using evidence to establish whether or not these are myths or reality.

VIEW NUMBER ONE: NICRA organised all the protests in 1968 and 1969

Source A The Organisation of NICRA

NICRA had an executive committee of thirteen; a regional council of 240 members; and local civil rights committees. The regional council was made up from delegates who were to pass on the decisions of the executive committee to the ordinary members.

Source B An historian's view, 1992

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association was formed in Belfast on 29th January 1967... the Association made very little impact. This organisation was by no means as all-embracing as its title suggested or as it, briefly, later became.
(Jonathan Bardon, A History of Ulster, 1992)

Source C An article in Fortnight Magazine, October 1988

NICRA often played no major role in the main demonstrations... In the crucial Derry march on October 5th, the role of NICRA was almost non-existent. Thus, only indirect links existed between NICRA and the protest movement on the streets. It was local committees that organised the bulk of the marches and protests.

1. Select evidence from the sources which proves that NICRA was not in control of all civil rights protests.
2. Sources B and C were both written long after the events of the 1960s. Explain whether you think this makes them more reliable or less reliable.

VIEW NUMBER TWO: NICRA was controlled by the IRA

In the 1960s, many people in the Unionist community believed that the IRA was really behind the Civil Rights Movement and that the real objective was not to win civil rights but to overthrow the state of Northern Ireland.

Source A William Craig, a Unionist Minister, speaking to a rally in 1968

This Civil Rights movement is completely bogus (false); it has two aspects. You have, on the one side, a lot of misguided, ill-informed radicals; on the other side, you have a Republican movement who are seeking an opportunity to undermine this country. The IRA use civil unrest as an opportunity to resume the campaign of violence.

(William Craig was the Minister of Home Affairs who banned the October march in Derry. He was also a critic of O'Neill's reforms.)

Source B The Cameron Commission – a British Enquiry into events in 1968 and 1969

We have investigated this matter with particular care. While there is evidence that members of the IRA are active in the organisation, there is no sign that they are in any sense in a position to control or direct policy of the Civil Rights Association.

Source C Fortnight Magazine, 1988

Throughout most of the 1960s, the very existence of the IRA was in doubt. In August 1969, the 'Battle of the Bogside' was fought by local teenagers; and in Belfast, almost no IRA resistance was recorded. The IRA 'threat' failed to materialise. Many individual republicans were caught up in the Civil Rights Movement but there is no evidence of organised IRA involvement.

(Fortnight is a magazine which is an independent review for Northern Ireland.)

1. Look at Source A.
 - a) Do you think the views of William Craig are fact or opinion?
 - b) What sort of audience do you think William Craig was addressing in his speech?
 - c) For what reasons might he want his audience to feel that the IRA were behind the demand for civil rights?

2. Look at Sources B and C. In what ways do these sources disagree with Craig's view of IRA involvement in Civil Rights?

3. Compare all three sources.

Do you think Sources B and C provide more reliable evidence of IRA involvement than William Craig's speech? In your answer, think about:

- Who produced each source
- The type of audience for whom the sources were intended
- When the sources were written

4. If William Craig's speech is based only on his opinions, does that mean it is useless as evidence of this period in history?

'INTERPRETING THE EVIDENCE' – October 5th, 1968

The film footage of the RUC batoning Civil Rights marchers in Derry on October 5th, 1968 was shown on television screens around the world.

Film can be interpreted in many ways depending on:

- a) how it is cut or edited;
- b) the commentary that is used with the film.

Look carefully at the section of the programme which shows this famous piece of film.

1. In a group, choose one of the following viewpoints and write a short commentary to explain events shown in the film.

- A Civil Rights marcher
- A young RUC officer
- A visiting journalist

Consider also which sections of the film you might edit-out and explain your reasons.

Discuss each other's commentaries and edits.

2. Sources A and B are the views of two people who were involved with the October 5th march. Look at each source and answer the questions below.

Source A William Craig, Minister of Home Affairs in 1968 (Belfast Telegraph, 30th September 1993)

I thought the way the police acted was fair enough. I would have intensified it. The police had no alternative but to draw their batons. On BBC, I saw a marcher using a placard to hit a policeman, but the incident was only shown once. When we asked for all the film, the BBC said there had been an accident and we had to fall back on RTE. I was furious.

Source B Paddy Doherty, one of the marchers (Belfast Telegraph, 30th September 1993)

The police just batoned their way through the crowd. Over one hundred people were injured. It was obvious their main aim was not to disperse the crowd... No, they were intent on retribution and I am sure they were doing so on instructions. But the important thing was that, amid all this, the TV cameras continued to roll and, for the first time, the world could see what was happening in Northern Ireland.

1. In what ways do the two sources differ in their opinions about:
 - a) the role of the police?
 - b) the role of television?
2. Why do the authors have such different opinions about the October 5th march?
3. Write an explanation, giving as many reasons as you can, outlining why there might be different accounts of the same events.

A STATE APART**Task Sheet 1****Programme 3****ULSTER WORKER'S COUNCIL STRIKE****REPORTING THE VIOLENCE**

Here are two local newspaper versions of the same events in Belfast in August 1972.

Extract 1

Wednesday 15th August

LENADOON CATHOLICS ATTACKED

Catholic residents of the big Lenadoon Housing Estate on the outskirts of Belfast, fought hand-to-hand battles last night with Protestant extremist mobs who invaded the area in an attempt to burn people out of their homes. The attackers, armed with cudgels and bottles, and many carrying pistols, swarmed into the estate from the Suffolk district. They were spotted by two women who raised the alarm. A warning siren was sounded and brought hundreds of residents onto the streets. In the initial attack, involving a forty-strong mob, windows in houses in Doon Road and Horn Drive were smashed. At least two shots were fired.

Extract 2

Wednesday 15th August

PROTESTANTS FLEE LENADOON HOMES

Protestants fled their homes in Belfast's Suffolk area last night when it was invaded by up to 500 Roman Catholics. The trouble started about 11pm following an 'Eve of August 15th' bonfire in the Lenadoon Avenue area. There were conflicting reports of what happened. Residents maintained that the invaders smashed the windows of Protestant homes; and that Protestants who gathered to protect their families, came under attack. An army spokesman said 100 Roman Catholics came down from the top of Lenadoon Estate and troops drove a wedge between them and 50 Protestants at Lenadoon Avenue / Stewartstown Road.

1. Complete the table below, giving examples of fact or opinion found in these extracts.

FACTS – information which can be checked and proved right or wrong

OPINION – the author expressing his own views by using approving or disapproving words, exaggerated phrases, or showing prejudice

<u>Extract 1</u>	
FACTS	OPINIONS

<u>Extract 2</u>	
FACTS	OPINIONS

- 2a. In what ways do these accounts differ?

- 2b. What similarities are there in the stories?

3. Do you think the authors' own political views could have influenced their writing? Explain your answer.

4. Suggest which local Belfast newspapers printed these stories.

5. Write a paragraph, giving as many reasons as you can, to explain why these accounts of the same incident are so different.

6. Write your own version of the events in an objective or neutral style.

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Task Sheet 2

Programme 3

ULSTER WORKER'S COUNCIL STRIKE

The sources below are taken from newspapers at the time of the strike. Read them carefully and answer the questions which follow.

Source A THE GUARDIAN, 19th April 1974

SAMPLE ULSTER POLL SHOWS A MAJORITY FOR POWER-SHARING

A large majority of people in Northern Ireland are in favour of power-sharing and want the Assembly and the Executive to work, according to a survey commissioned by the BBC. The survey found that 69% of the sample thought that the Assembly and the Executive should be given a chance – and 74% approved power-sharing.

The largest division of opinion concerned proposals for a Council of Ireland as set out in the Sunningdale Agreement. 41% were in favour, 37% were against, and 22% didn't know. Three quarters of the Catholics approved of a Council of Ireland, but only one quarter of the Protestants were in favour.

Source B THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, 26th May 1974

What led to the present crisis was the Council of Ireland which seemed – and rightly so – to be a step towards the merger of Ulster into the Republic. If the proposed Council of Ireland had been modified earlier, the strike would have never begun.

Source C THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, 28th May 1974

Mr Brian Faulkner announces in the Assembly, agreement among the Executive to postpone the major part of the Sunningdale Agreement: the giving of powers to an All Ireland Council – until after the next Assembly elections in 1977-78.

Source D THE GUARDIAN, 24th May 1974

WHY THE WARLORDS WON

The Ulster Loyalist leaders have lost a golden opportunity to discredit Mr Faulkner and have underlined their current alarming dependence on the paramilitary extremists. Had they accepted the plan (to postpone the Council of Ireland) they would have isolated the real activists and forced them to call off the strike.

This, in turn, would have restored the confidence of tens of thousands of Loyalist voters who are angry about being denied the right to work, alarmed at the prospects of dwindling food and petrol supplies; and horrified at the damage being done to the economy of their Province.

- 1a. Using the figures in Source A, draw two pie charts to show the responses to
 - power sharing
 - the Council of Ireland.
- 1b. How reliable do you think this type of opinion poll is, as evidence of people's views?
2. What does the author of Source B see as the main cause of the Ulster Workers' Council Strike?
3. Look at Source C. Why do you think the Executive decided to postpone giving powers to a Council of Ireland?
4. Using the information in Source D, explain how Loyalists reacted to Brian Faulkner's postponement of a Council of Ireland?
5. How useful are newspapers as evidence to a historian studying the strike?

You are a TELEVISION RESEARCH TEAM preparing for a mock debate on the Power-Sharing Executive of 1974. Each group must first choose ONE of the following viewpoints:-

- The Executive
- The Ulster Workers' Council
- The London Government
- The Dublin Government

In your group, prepare a speech to be given by an actor, chosen by the group. Find out from the programme and any other resources available:

- **the attitude to power-sharing**
- **your views on the Council of Ireland**
- **reaction to the strike**
- **your thoughts on the fall of the Executive**

Present your speeches to the rest of the class.

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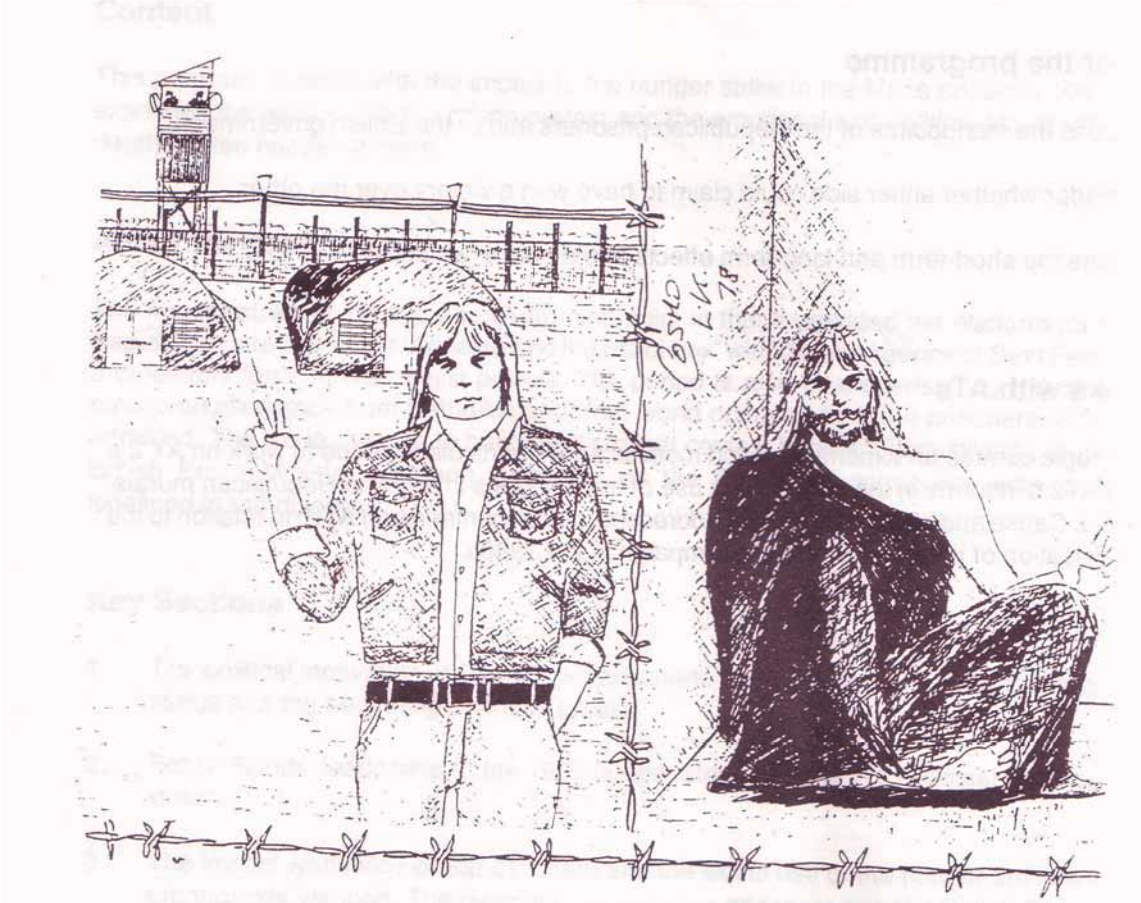
Task Sheet 1

Programme 4

HUNGER STRIKE

CHANGES IN THE PRISON SYSTEM

Source A



- 1a. Describe what is shown in the sketch.
- 1b. List the differences in prison conditions you can find in the sketch.
2. Do you think the artist was trying to gain support for a point of view?
3. Is the sketch a PRIMARY or a SECONDARY source?
4. Do you consider this source to be propaganda? Give your reasons.
5. Describe the changes in prison policy introduced in Northern Ireland after the hunger strike.

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Task Sheet 2

Programme 4

HUNGER STRIKE

PERSPECTIVES

“There is no such thing as political bombing or political violence. We will not compromise on this. There will be no political status. Crime is crime is crime. It is not political. It is crime and there can be no question of granting political status.”

Margaret Thatcher, March 1981

“There were people on the marches against the Government’s treatment of the hunger strikers who had never been on a march before. Never was there such a determination among the mass of people to have done with the British Government.”

Des Wilson, a Catholic Priest speaking in October 1981

“We were led to believe that only a minority of Catholics supported violence. To Protestants, the hunger strike showed that Catholics were prepared to support the gunmen who murdered their fellow citizens.”

Frank Millar, Official Unionist speaking in May 1983

“It’s nice to be tough but it would be better to be tough about issues other than this. There are special courts and special laws, so why can’t there be special prisoners?”

Andy Tyrie, a UDA Leader, Fortnight Magazine, July 1981

“I think the issues of the hunger strike were very simple and clear.... Who was going to govern the country? Was it going to be the elected Government or were the IRA going to be able – by blackmail and by a hunger strike – to make the British Government surrender?”

Ian Paisley, Timewatch, October 1993

“Is there such a thing as a political prisoner? If you go out and you shoot someone or you blow them up, it’s murder and I don’t see anything political about murder.”

Mrs Marlene Wilson, an RUC widow, Timewatch, October 1993

1. Using the list of quotations offered in **Task Sheet 2**, try to work out how the following groups of people might have felt about the hunger strike of 1981:
 - Catholics who did not support the IRA
 - Protestants living in Northern Ireland
 - Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister
 - Loyalist paramilitaries
2. Why is the hunger strike seen as a turning point for Nationalist voters in Northern Ireland?
3. Explain why the hunger strike further divided Catholics and Protestants during the 1980s.

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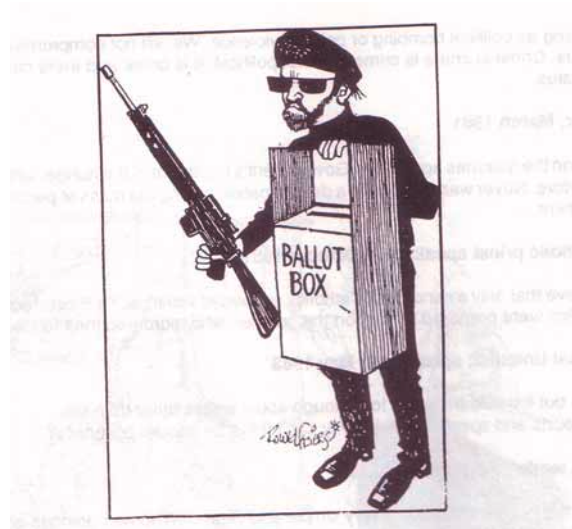
Task Sheet 3

Programme 4

HUNGER STRIKE

INTERPRETING THE PAST

Source A



Source B



Both pictures attempt to make a political point about Sinn Fein. SOURCE A dates from 1982 and SOURCE B was painted sometime after the hunger strike on the gable wall of the Sinn Fein Office in Belfast.

1. Describe what is shown in each of the pictures.
2. What point is the artist in SOURCE A making about Sinn Fein?
3. What point is the wall mural trying to make about Sinn Fein?
4. Give reasons for the different messages put across by these pictures.
5. In what way has the wall mural used the history of the hunger strike to gain support for Sinn Fein?

SOLUTIONS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Here is a list of attempts to govern Northern Ireland which have been tried in the past twenty-five years:

- Northern Ireland part of the UK with its own Parliament and Government in Belfast
- Northern Ireland ruled by Britain – Direct Rule
- Northern Ireland ruled by a Power-Sharing Executive

1. Write a paragraph for each type of Government, describing:
 - a) When each attempt was tried
 - b) The reasons for the failure of each attempt
2.
 - a) Describe the main points of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985.
 - b) In what way was the Agreement a new approach to working out a solution in Northern Ireland?
3. Write a brief description showing how each of the following events have changed the situation in Northern Ireland:
 - a) The Downing Street Declaration, December 1993
 - b) The IRA Ceasefire, September 1994
 - c) The Loyalist Ceasefire, October 1994

KEY POINTS CONTAINED IN THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT, 1985**THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT**

- recognised the Irish Government's right to make proposals relating to Northern Ireland

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT

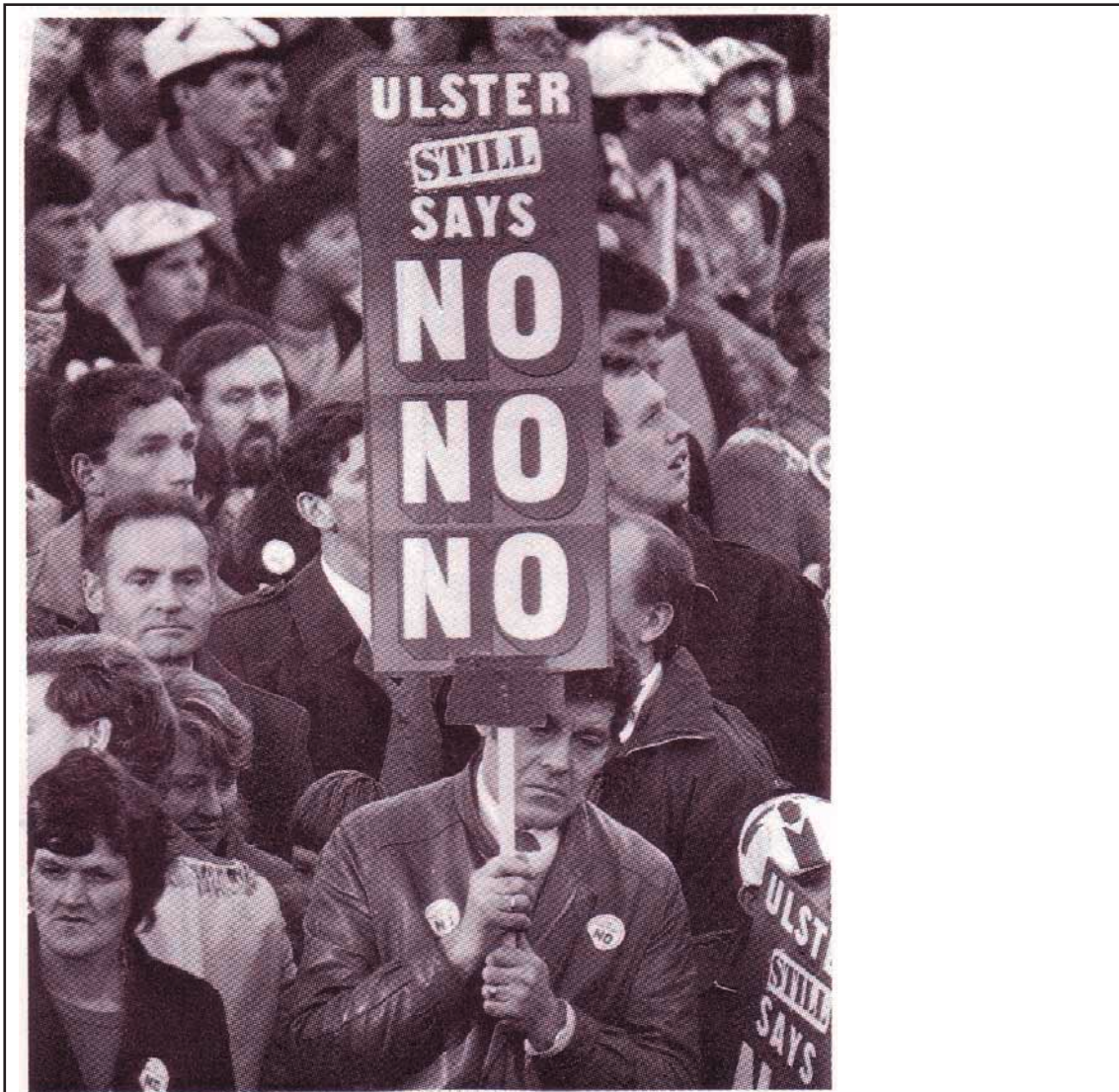
- recognised that a United Ireland could only come about with the consent of the majority in Northern Ireland

BOTH GOVERNMENTS

- agreed that any new form of Government set up in Northern Ireland must be acceptable to both communities and be based on power sharing
- agreed to an inter-Governmental conference of ministers to meet regularly
- agreed to set up a joint British-Irish Civil Service Secretariat based in Belfast
- agreed to cooperate more closely on security matters

1. Which of the points in the Agreement would have angered Unionists?
2. Explain why each of the following groups also opposed the Anglo-Irish Agreement:
 - a) Sinn Fein
 - b) Some Conservative MPs
 - c) Charles Haughey and the Fianna Fail party in the Irish Republic

Source A ULSTER SAYS NO RALLY



3. Look at Source A

You are a member of the crowd at this rally. Write a letter to a relative living abroad, describing the atmosphere at the rally and your reasons for attending.

PUPIL VIEWING LOG

Name:	Class:	Topic:
IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS		CAUSES AND EFFECTS
		ATTITUDES
		CHANGES

TEACHER VIEWING LOG

Programme No.	Title:		
CONTENTS	COUNTER	TIME	

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

This series of programmes attempts to tell us about events in the past, by reconstructing events using a variety of evidence and a presenter who describes what happened.

The activities below will help us to find out if the programme – or the whole series – is a good interpretation of the events from the past.

1. Watch again any programme from the series – but this time think about how the programme has been put together. Use the checklist to help you to note the evidence presented in the programme.

You may add any other types of evidence not already on the checklist.

TYPE OF EVIDENCE USED	TICK EACH TIME IT APPEARS	COMMENTS ABOUT THE EVIDENCE
Still Pictures		
Presenter on screen		
Old film		
Buildings		
Newspapers		
Interviews		
Speeches		
Maps / Diagrams		
Posters		

2. Which type of evidence is used most often?
3. Which type of evidence do you find most valuable in telling the story?
4. Study the role of the presenter.
 - a) Does he give us facts or a mixture of facts and opinions? Give some examples.
 - b) Does he back up his story by using other types of evidence? Give examples.
5. Which of these statements do you think are strong points of the programme – and which do you think are weak points? Explain your reasons for choosing.
 - It shows evidence from the time of the events
 - The presenter is only giving his opinion
 - It uses ‘trick’ camera work
 - It is made for schools to use
 - It uses lots of different types of evidence
 - It leaves out lots of evidence
6. You are a television producer preparing a history programme. Describe the difficulties you might face in putting together such a programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Photograph of Ulster Says No Rally reprinted with kind permission of Pacemaker Press International
2. Cartoon of ‘The Armalite and the Ballot Box’ reprinted with kind permission of the artist, Rowel Friers
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