



A-level

HISTORY

Component 2M

**Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition,
1906–1957**

7042/2M

Friday 7 June 2024

Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

MATERIALS

For this paper you must have:

- **an AQA 16-page answer book.**

[Turn over]

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7042/2M.**
- **Answer THREE questions.**
In SECTION A answer Question 01.
In SECTION B answer TWO questions.

INFORMATION

- **The marks for questions are shown in brackets.**
- **The maximum mark for this paper is 80.**
- **You will be marked on your ability to:**
 - **use good English**
 - **organise information clearly**
 - **use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.**

ADVICE

- **You are advised to spend about:**
 - **1 hour on Question 01 from SECTION A**
 - **45 minutes on each of the TWO questions answered from SECTION B.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Answer Question 01.

SOURCE A

From a speech in the House of Commons by Sir Edward Carson, Ulster Unionist, 15 February 1911. This was before the Liberal government introduced its Home Rule Bill for Ireland.

I freely admit, that upon the question of Home Rule for Ireland, I am bitter. I loathe the idea because, in my opinion, it would be of no possible advantage to my country. I have never heard of any single financial or civil benefit that Home Rule can offer. When you have given us our separate

**Parliament I should like to know
where you are going to get the taxes 10
that are to run that Parliament, and
where you are going to get the money
which will enable you to implement
those great reforms which we are
always told can only be granted 15
under a separate Parliament in
Ireland. I prefer to depend for my
liberties and my rights on the Imperial
Parliament of a great United
Kingdom. No civilised state in the 20
world enjoys greater liberty than we
have already. Home Rule is an issue
that reaches to the very heart of the
constitution, yet it is being sneaked
through without being put to a 25
people's vote.**

[Turn over]

SOURCE B

From a public speech by Andrew Bonar Law, 27 July 1912. Bonar Law was speaking at a Unionist rally attended by 13 000 people at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire.

**The government is attempting to force through Home Rule at the bidding of Mr Redmond, against the will of the British people. The Conservative Party does not
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acknowledge the Liberals' right to carry through a revolution by such means. We regard the government as a revolutionary committee, which has seized autocratic power by fraud. In
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our opposition to the government, we shall use any means to force them to face the people whom they have**

deceived. Even if the Home Rule Bill passes through the House of Commons, what then? I said in the House of Commons, and I repeat here, that there are things stronger than parliamentary majorities. I doubt that the government would ever attempt to impose its will on the people of Ulster by force of arms, but if the attempt were made they would succeed only in lighting the fires of civil war. I can imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster will go in which I shall not be ready to support them.

[Turn over]

SOURCE C

From recollections submitted to the Irish National Archives by Kevin O'Shiel, March 1959. O'Shiel joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and later became a leading member of Sinn Féin.

In 1912, we Irish Nationalists were full of optimism. We were all Home Rulers in Ireland in those days. Redmond's prestige was never higher. We regarded him as a kind of prophet, leading his people out of slavery towards freedom. Yet, it was a strange contradiction that as we turned our back on violence, the Unionists wholeheartedly began to embrace it. At first, our general attitude to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was one of contempt. We felt it

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would soon fizzle out and that, if it
became serious, the Liberal 15
government would promptly
suppress it. The ridicule was
understandable, for I confess it was
rather amusing to see adult men
tramping along the Ulster roads 20
dressed in bowler hats and suits
carrying ridiculous wooden guns
across their shoulders. However, the
UVF continued to expand, acquiring
considerable supplies of arms and 25
ammunition, and the Liberals
increasingly began searching for
compromises with the Unionists. By
1914 Redmond seemed to be losing
what little we had achieved. 30

[Turn over]

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Irish Home Rule crisis. [30 marks]

[Turn over]

SECTION B

Answer TWO questions.

0 2

‘The 1924 Labour government was responsible for its own downfall.’

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

0 3

To what extent did Britain experience economic growth in the years 1931 to 1939? [25 marks]

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**To what extent did British society change during the Second World War?
[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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