

GCE



Revised GCE
History

Student Guidance

A22 Student guidance for Question 1(b)

For first teaching from September 2016
For first award of AS Level in Summer 2017
For first award of A Level in Summer 2018



A22 Student guidance for Question 1(b)

You should spend approximately **5 minutes** reading the sources and 30 minutes writing your answer. As you are looking at each source you should:

- Consider **each** of the sources in turn and assess how far they support the proposition in the question. Do they strongly, partially or only slightly support the proposition? Or do either of the sources disagree with the proposition? Look for key points made in each source and highlight where these points link to the question;
- Identify **'clips'** from the sources to support or reinforce what you are saying. Scribble down what you know from your own knowledge to develop the points made in these 'clips';
- You must ensure that you also bring in your **own knowledge** to support or challenge the proposition; this can be factual detail you know about the topic which is not included in the sources. You should also elaborate on the information given in the sources by setting it in the context of the time; and
- This question requires you to **assess or evaluate a statement**. Make sure that you stick closely to the question and argue with clarity and relevance. Make sure you refer to the proposition throughout your answer as this keeps you focussed and keeps your answer relevant.

Remember that you do not assess the value of the sources in this question.

Do not be alarmed by the detail in the example below. The example is deliberately more detailed than you could write in the examination. This has been done in an effort to show you how you can structure your answer, by using 'clips' from the sources and developing these with your own knowledge.

Source 1

Extract from an article in a local newspaper, published on 18 December 1913, showing that an application to drill had been granted to the Second Battalion of the South Down regiment of the UVF.

The Magistrate for the district of South Down has recently signed a declaration giving permission to the Second Battalion UVF to gather and drill tomorrow evening in the Square. This very positive move surely shows that the judges agree with the actions of our noble friends. Mr. Hall, the Commander of the 2nd Battalion South Down Regiment UVF, has been authorised on behalf of the members to hold meetings for the purpose of training and drilling themselves. They are permitted to be trained in the use of weapons for the purpose of practising military exercises, movements and defence. It was made clear to the Magistrate that the UVF are lawful citizens of the Empire and faithful subjects of His Majesty the King and, as such, intend to defend Ulster and the Empire from the perils of the Church of Rome.

Source 2

Extract from a letter written to Bonar Law by Colonel Frederick Crawford, a staunch Ulster loyalist. Crawford is most notable for organising the Larne gun-running.

Thanks to our determination we now possess the power to prevent a devolved parliament in Dublin exercising power throughout Ireland. We have some 100,000 men, organised and trained – legally, of course, under warrants granted by local magistrates. We stand ready to carry out the orders of a provisional government, set up by Sir Edward Carson. By the Spring we will be equipped with rifles and ammunition procured in the Kaiser's Germany. At our recent gathering at Balmoral it was great to see thousands of men singing the hymn 'O God our help in ages past'. It was wonderful to see old men and boys, rich men and poor men, side by side, all ready to sacrifice themselves for the cause we hold so dear. We are determined to stop Home Rule, at all costs, and in the coming days we will issue over six million Ulster Unionist pamphlets across Great Britain. Nothing like this has happened before – and I am confident that no similar demonstration of Unionist unity will ever occur again.

Sample Answer:

1(b) Use Source 1 and Source 2 and other evidence you have studied. How far do the sources support the view that Ulster resistance to Home Rule was just 'bluster'?

The first two Home Rule bills had been defeated in the late nineteenth century, however, the Parliament Act of 1911 completely changed the situation in Ireland. It was now certain that Home Rule would become law two years after it was introduced in 1912. This changed the landscape in Ireland and changed the attitude of the Unionist population who made it clear that they would not accept Home Rule – seeing it as 'Rome Rule'. The two sources do not suggest that Ulster resistance was 'bluster' with no real threat to stability in Ireland.

Source 1 could be seen as 'bluster', perhaps to give the impression that some UVF battalions were planning a major show of resistance against Home Rule, but they did not have the resources to do anything more than drill. This could well be an example of Unionist propaganda designed to create fear that the Unionists would rise if the Liberal government under Asquith pushed ahead with Home Rule. Asquith relied on Redmond's IPP to keep the Liberals in office and described Unionist claims to fight Home Rule as 'Orangeade'. Redmond too believed that the Unionist campaign was one of 'bluff and blackmail'. However, the source implies that there was support for the actions of the UVF, and that they were getting ready for something more than 'bluster' and this therefore challenges the view in the proposition. The source suggests that there was significant support for the actions of the UVF seeing the granting of permission for the UVF to gather as a 'very positive move' and that 'the judges agree with the actions of our noble friends'. Carson was a key figure in managing to bring together Unionism's different strands and the formation of the UVF in January 1913 suggests that Home Rule was being taken seriously. Carson had many wealthy British donors sending money, speakers and (after 1913) guns across the Irish Sea. This source is very significant in suggesting that the UVF campaign was more than 'bluster' as it comes following the creation of the Ulster Covenant in September 1912, which was seen as a call to arms. The source shows that the UVF was preparing for more than 'bluster' and shows the call by Carson had been taken seriously by the men in South Down who were 'authorised on behalf of the members to hold meetings for the purpose of training and

drilling'. The source is clearly intended to motivate and encourage others to support the UVF who are described as 'lawful' and 'loyal citizens' whose purpose was to defend 'Ulster and the Empire from the perils of the Church of Rome'. The fact that they were willing to be 'trained in the use of weapons for the purpose of practising military exercises, movements and defence', would also suggest that their actions were much more than 'bluster'.

Source 2 on the other hand goes much further and does suggest that Ulster resistance was much more than 'bluster'. Colonel Frederick Crawford was writing to Bonar Law in the aftermath of the large gathering at Balmoral on 9th April 1913. Bonar Law, the Conservative leader was present and addressed the crowd after reviewing 100,000 men marching past his platform. He pledged his party's unflinching support and assured them of the help of the British people. Bonar Law was accused of inciting civil war by his actions, words and deeds during the Home Rule Crisis when in July 1913, Bonar Law threw caution to the wind by declaring: "I can imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I should not be prepared to support them." Colonel Crawford states 'we now possess the power to prevent a devolved parliament in Dublin exercising power throughout Ireland' and this would suggest that this would be action more than just words or 'bluster'. More significant, however, is the fact that Crawford states 'By the Spring we will be equipped with rifles and ammunition procured in the Kaiser's Germany' which certainly suggests that the UVF would be transformed from a volunteer organisation practising with dummy rifles into a well-armed military force. He also claims 'We are determined to stop Home Rule' which again would suggest they were prepared to take significant action. In fact, on the night of April 24, 1914, thousands of German and Austrian rifles and millions of rounds of ammunition were unloaded from a coal boat at the ports of Larne, Donaghadee and Bangor. Working under cover of darkness, 12 to 14,000 'Ulster Volunteers' were involved in the subterfuge. These actions and preparations, which Crawford hints at in his letter to Bonar Law show that Ulster resistance went well beyond 'bluster'

Asquith continued to doubt the reality of the threat posed by the Unionists and Redmond too saw their tactics as a 'gigantic game of bluff'. Perhaps this best explains why the Liberals were determined to push ahead with Home Rule despite the determination of the Unionists. However, the two sources go some way to showing that Unionist resistance through their actions and words amounted to more than 'bluster'. Both Asquith and Redmond were wrong to underestimate their determination or the support behind them.

You will see in the answer above that I have:

- Structured my answer like a mini essay
- Referred to the view in the question throughout my answer – challenging it where I can or accepting it where it is relevant (highlighted in red)
- Made extensive use of the two sources by taking 'clips' from them and using my own knowledge to develop these 'clips'
- I have brought in my own knowledge to add more depth to my arguments and to challenge the view in the question
- I have used some quotations from my knowledge – these are **NOT** a requirement but a way to show what I know about this topic.
- Finally, in the conclusion I have reinforced the thread of my argument by coming back to the question.