

GCSE



CCEA GCSE TEACHER GUIDANCE

History

Unit 1 Section B Option 2:
Changing Relations: Northern Ireland
and its Neighbours, 1965–98

Resource Pack:
The Good Friday Agreement, 1998

Option 2: Changing Relations – Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98

Introduction to Resource Pack

This pack has been developed to help support the teaching and learning of ‘*Changing Relations – Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98*’ and, in particular, content new to this option – ‘*The Good Friday Agreement, 1998*’. The specification content for this topic is:

The Good Friday Agreement, 1998	The key terms and responses to the Agreement, including the referendum; the significance of the Agreement for relations between Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
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For each activity, there is a ‘*teacher guidance*’ section as well as ‘*instructions for students*’. Some brief background information for each activity is also provided. Each activity provides opportunities to develop the statutory skills requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 4 as well as the skills students will be expected to demonstrate in the examination for this option:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the period studied (AO1);
- explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second- order historical concepts including continuity, change, cause, consequence, significance, similarity and difference (AO2); and
- analyse, evaluate and use sources (contemporary to the period) to make substantiated judgements, in the context of historical events studied (AO3).

Background to the topic

The Good Friday Agreement was signed on 10 April, 1998. It brought to an end 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. A peace agreement had not seemed likely at the beginning of 1998, in spite of the fact that progress had been made towards political talks since the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 and paramilitary ceasefires of 1994. Former US Senator, George Mitchell, who had been appointed head of the international committee assigned with bringing about peace in Northern Ireland, now concluded that a strict deadline should be set in order to put pressure on all sides to secure a settlement. He set the deadline for the stroke of midnight on Thursday 9 April, 1998, and persuaded all the participants to agree to this. After frantic talks during the final week of negotiations in April 1998, during which the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, joined in directly, agreement was finally reached.

On Good Friday, 10 April 1998, George Mitchell stated, “I am pleased to announce that the two governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland have reached agreement.”

A copy of The Belfast Agreement (or Good Friday Agreement, as it would become known) was posted to every household in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and then put to a referendum in May. The result of the referendum was a majority of 71.1% in favour in Northern Ireland and 94.4% in favour in the Republic of Ireland. By the end of 1998, the people of Northern Ireland had elected a new assembly which would sit at Parliament Buildings at Stormont.

Activity One

Title: The Key Terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

Key Question: What were the key terms of the Good Friday Agreement and how did people in Northern Ireland respond to these?

Instructions for Students

*Your teacher will give you a brief overview of how the Good Friday Agreement came about in April 1998.

*You will be given a copy of the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. Your teacher will place you into one of two groups: a) Unionist/Loyalist; b) Nationalist/Republican.

*You will be asked to discuss which terms your group finds acceptable or difficult to accept in 1998, and explain why.

*You will feedback responses to the rest of the class and listen to the other group's feedback, making notes on a note-making table your teacher gives you.

*You will nominate one member of your group to be a spokesperson for your views. This person will face questioning from the other group on their attitudes to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 as part of a 'hot-seat' activity. The other group will do the same, and your group will ask their spokesperson similar questions to find out their responses to the Good Friday Agreement.

Teacher Guidance

*Give students a brief recap/overview on how the Good Friday Agreement came about in 1998.

*Give students the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. Split the class into two groups – Unionist/Loyalist and Nationalist/Republican.

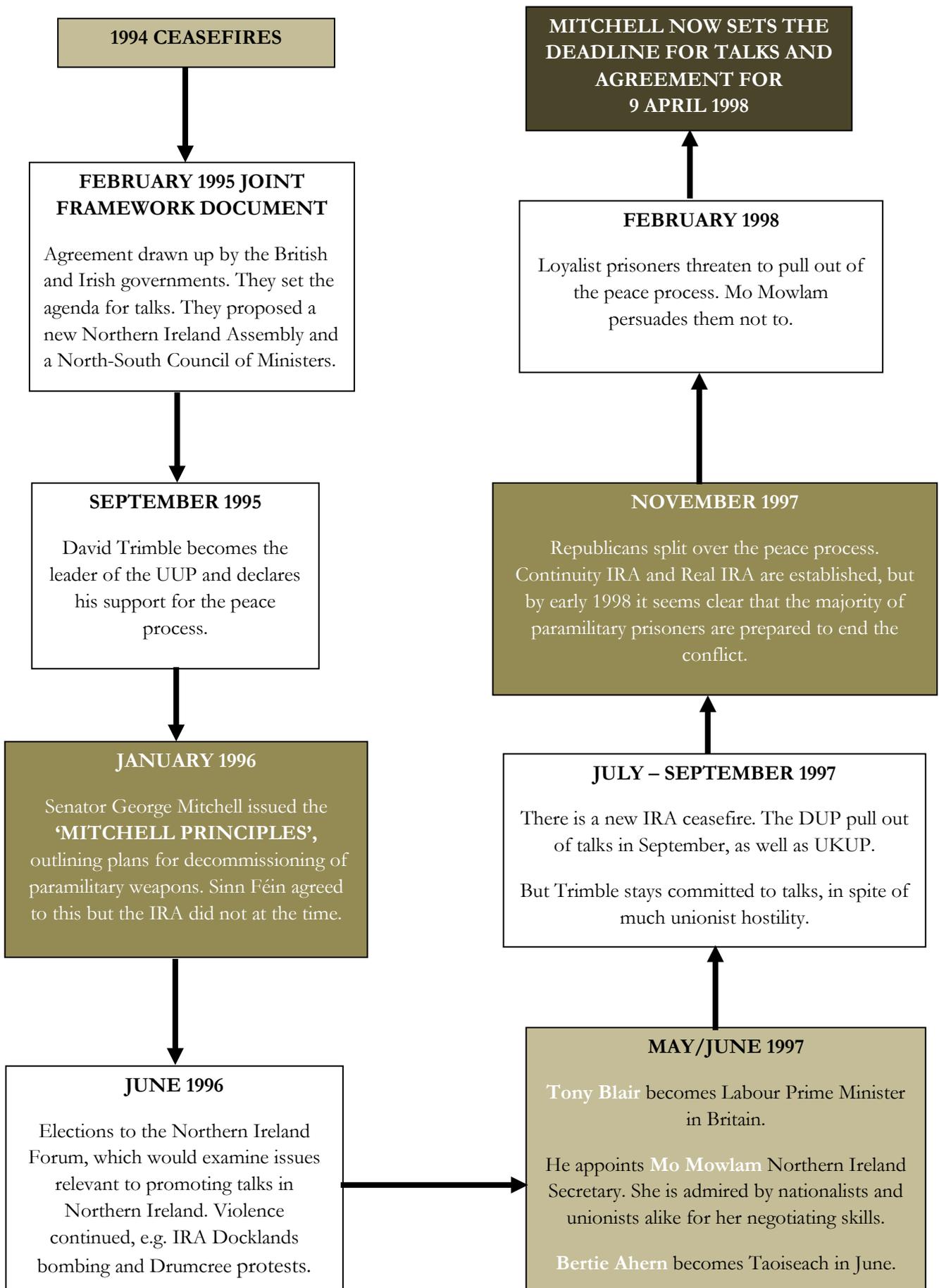
*Ask students to discuss the terms from their group's perspective in 1998, explaining which terms they find acceptable or difficult to accept.

*Group feedback. Students complete summative note-making table during this exercise.

*Tell students in each group to nominate one member of their group to face questioning on their reaction to the terms of the Good Friday Agreement from the opposing group as part of a whole class 'hot-seating' exercise.

*Ask students to complete source-based exercise for this topic.

Background: From Ceasefires to The Good Friday Agreement



The Key Terms of the Good Friday Agreement, 1998

- *A new Assembly for Northern Ireland would be established. It would have 108 members and decisions made by it would need the agreement (or consent) of both communities in Northern Ireland.*
- *The Republic of Ireland government would remove Articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which claimed ownership of Northern Ireland.*
- *A North-South Council of Members would be established. Its members would come from the new Northern Ireland Assembly and ministers from the Republic.*
- *Policing would be reviewed in Northern Ireland.*
- *The early release of paramilitary prisoners was agreed.*

Work in four groups: Unionist, Loyalist, Nationalist and Republican.

Each group, decide which of the terms of the Good Friday Agreement your group would have agreed with or would have found difficulty accepting.

A member of the group should be nominated to make brief notes – the note-making table can be used to help structure the group discussion and the recording of information and feedback to the rest of the class.

Note-making table

Tick the relevant boxes below and provide a written explanation in each case:

Term of The Agreement	Acceptable to Unionists? Why?	Difficult for Unionists? Why?	Acceptable to Loyalists? Why?	Difficult for Loyalists? Why?	Acceptable for Nationalists? Why?	Difficult for Nationalists? Why?	Acceptable for Republicans? Why?	Difficult for Republicans? Why?
New Assembly								
North-South Council of Members								
Articles 2 and 3 removed from Republic Of Ireland's Constitution								
Review of policing in Northern Ireland								
Early release of paramilitary prisoners								

Hot-Seat Activity

Nominate a spokesperson for your group to answer questions from members of the other groups about your group's reactions to the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. Repeat until representatives from all four groups have been 'hot seated'.

Task: Source – based questions

Responses to the Terms of the Good Friday Agreement

Articles 2 and 3 of the 1937 Free State Constitution stated the following:

ARTICLE 2:

“The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas”.

ARTICLE 3:

Stated that the government of Éire had a right: “to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory”.

Why would it have been important for some groups in Northern Ireland to see the removal of these Articles by the Republic of Ireland as part of the Good Friday Agreement? Explain which groups, and why, in your response?

Source-based question

Source A: Former IRA activist Gabriel Megahey, interviewed on BBC TV in 1998.

“I’m prepared as a Republican to settle. My hopes are for the reunification of this country, but I have to accept in the long-run that it’s not going to happen. The Brits are not going to sail away in the sunlight. Go back to war? What are we going to do? It would only cause more misery, more suffering and mostly to our own people and to ourselves.”

©‘The Struggle for Peace in Northern Ireland’ by Ben Walsh, John Murray Publishers Ltd, 2000

Using Source A and your contextual knowledge, give **two** reasons that explain why Republicans were prepared to accept the terms of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

1 _____

2 _____

_____ (4 marks)

Activity Two

Title: The Good Friday Agreement Referendum, May 1998

Key Questions: Why was a referendum held? What was the result of the referendum?

Instructions for Students

- *Your teacher will give you a brief overview of the context of the 1998 referendum on the Good Friday Agreement, noting which parties were for and against a YES vote.
- *Your teacher will split the class into two groups: one will represent the NO side in the referendum, the other, the YES side.
- *Each group will produce a campaign leaflet for their side in the run-up to the referendum.
- *Your teacher will then tell you the results of the referendum. The class will be split into several groups now. Each group must write a script for a 10 minute-long radio programme about the results and implications of the 1998 referendum in Northern Ireland.
- *You may be asked to record your programme and play it back to the rest of your class.
- *You will then complete some source-based questions on this topic.

Teacher Guidance

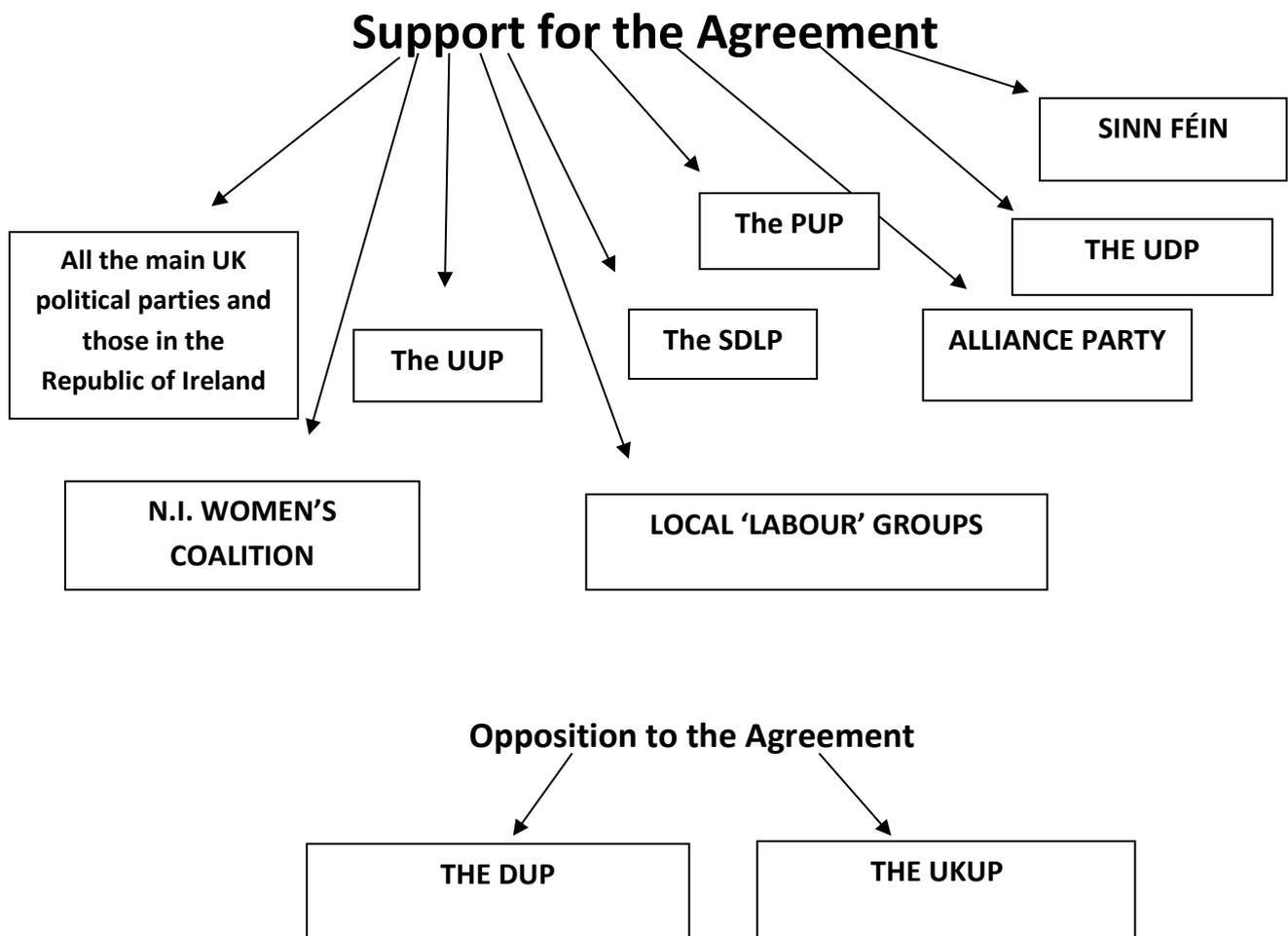
- *Give students an overview of the context of the 1998 referendum.
- *Split the class into two groups – the ‘NO’ and ‘YES’ sides in the referendum campaign.
- *Ask each group to plan, design and produce a campaign leaflet for their side.
- *Tell the students the results of the referendum. Split the class into a number of groups. Ask each group to prepare a script for a 10 minute-long radio programme on the results and implications of the 1998 referendum in Northern Ireland. Students could be asked to record and present their programme to the rest of the class.
- *Ask students to complete the source-based questions.

Activity Two

Background information - The Referendum

The Good Friday Agreement was just the beginning of a long process to eventual peace.

To begin with, a REFERENDUM had to be held on 22 May 1998, where the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland were asked whether they accepted the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. This result would indicate if the people of Ireland as a whole wanted the peace process to move forward along the lines of the Good Friday Agreement. All sides agreed that a significant majority was needed if the deal was to survive.



In a famous moment at a rock concert for 2,000 Northern Irish Sixth Form students at Belfast's Waterfront Hall, on 19 May 1998 (three days before the referendum), U2 lead singer, Bono, convinced David Trimble of the UUP and John Hume of the SDLP to appear with him on stage, the three men linking arms as the crowd applauded loudly.

Bono said the concert was held to persuade people, "who have genuine concerns about the political agreement" to vote in favour of the Good Friday Agreement, and he commended both Trimble and Hume, "who had put a lot aside to make this happen."

The DUP and UKUP condemned the concert as a publicity stunt and said that it would not sway people to vote YES.

TASK

Research the arguments for and against the Good Friday Agreement in the May 1998 referendum.

The class should split into two groups. One group should represent the NO side in the referendum, and the other, the YES side.

Each group now needs to plan and make a campaign leaflet which will be posted through doors in the run-up to the 1998 referendum. Each group must clearly outline in their leaflet why the people of Northern Ireland should vote for your particular side in the referendum.

You could produce your leaflet using ICT.

<p>THE GOOD FRIDAY REFERENDUM</p> <p>22 MAY 1998</p> <p>VOTE NO!</p>
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<p>THE GOOD FRIDAY REFERENDUM</p> <p>22 MAY 1998</p> <p>VOTE YES!</p>

<p>BALLOT PAPER</p> <p>THE GOOD FRIDAY REFERENDUM 1998</p> <p><i>Do you support the agreement reached at the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883?</i></p> <p>YES?</p> <p>NO?</p>
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Referendum results

There was a large YES majority.

Turnout in Northern Ireland was very high (at 81.1%).

71.1% of voters voted YES in Northern Ireland, while 94.4% of voters in the Republic of Ireland also voted YES.

What happened next?

Elections to a new 108-person assembly, which would sit at Parliament buildings at Stormont, followed on 25 June 1998. This assembly would elect a new power-sharing Executive.

No party would be able to control the assembly. Decisions would be made on the principle of parallel consent, needing the agreement of a majority of unionists and nationalists.

The first assembly's make-up was as follows:

UUP	28
SDLP	24
DUP	20
SF	18
Alliance	6
UKUP	5
Independent (anti-agreement) Unionists	3
PUP	2
Women's Coalition	2

With 58 seats on the Unionist side, David Trimble became First Minister, with the SDLP's Seamus Mallon as Deputy First Minister.

The Good Friday Agreement came into force in December 1998 when Northern Ireland's politicians took their seats at Stormont.

Many disagreements would still lie ahead, however.

Task

In groups, plan a 10 minute-long radio programme about the results of the 1998 referendum in Northern Ireland just after these have been announced.

Your broadcast should include:

- turnout at the referendum – North and South
- the results
- reactions to the results (pro and anti-agreement sides)
- what will happen next in Northern Ireland (e.g. new assembly elections, potential future relations for Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland and Britain)

Your teacher will split the class into groups for this task.

Decide in your group how much time you will give to each topic.

Write a script for each topic – remembering that you will likely allocate different time lengths for each section.

You could record your script using appropriate ICT software and play it back to the rest of your class.

**As part of your research for this activity, you could research the newspaper coverage of the days following the referendum result in May 1998.*

Task: Source-based examination questions practice

Responses to events in Northern Ireland in 1998

Read the sources and answer the questions that follow:

Source A: Leader of the DUP, Ian Paisley, writing in *The Revivalist* (Free Presbyterian Church magazine), January 1998

“This year will be a crisis year for our province. The British government, in cahoots with Dublin, Washington, the Vatican and the IRA, are intent to destroy the province. The so-called talks process is but a front. Behind it the scene is set and the programme in position to demolish the province as the last bastion of Protestantism in Europe.”

©The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2010/mar/02/ian-paisley-in-quotes>

Source B: Leader of the SDLP, John Hume, 10 December 1998, Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech

“Our Agreement, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people, creates institutions which respect diversity but ensure that we work together in our common interest. There will also be institutions between both parts of Ireland and between Britain and Ireland that will also respect diversity and work the common ground.”

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1. **Using Source A and your contextual knowledge**, give **one** reason that explains why Ian Paisley disagreed with the talks process in Northern Ireland. (2 marks)

2. Using **Source B** and your **contextual knowledge**, give **two** reasons that explain why John Hume was in favour of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. (4 marks)

1 _____

2 _____

3. Study Source A. How **useful** is **Source A** for an historian studying the reactions of politicians from Northern Ireland to the talks process in Northern Ireland, including the Good Friday Agreement, of 1998? (5 marks)

Explain your answer, using **Source A** and your **contextual knowledge**.

Sample Question – Teacher Guidance

Please note: Below are sample responses and individual students will be able to provide more/less developed responses depending on ability levels and time management. A candidate does not need to include ALL the points below to achieve a top level response. This should be taken into consideration when using these sample responses.

Students ONLY need to use the source to answer source utility and reliability questions. They do not need to bring in additional evidence or factors outside the source. The question asks for “contextual knowledge” this simply means a candidate’s own knowledge of the information in the source.

Question 3

Study Source A. How **useful** is **Source A** for an historian studying the reactions of politicians from Northern Ireland to the talks process in Northern Ireland, including the Good Friday Agreement, of 1998? (5 marks)

Explain your answer, using **Source A and your contextual knowledge**.

Target AO3: Analysis and evaluation of source utility to make substantiated judgements.

Response should include some of the following:

The source is useful because:

Author - Ian Paisley was leader of the DUP in 1998, and a prominent spokesperson for unionism. He was an elected MP and represented the views of those who voted for him and his party.

Date – Useful as it is a speech at the beginning of 1998, when talks had been on-going. Loyalist paramilitaries were also threatening to pull out of the peace process around this time.

Content – It tells us the views of a prominent unionist leader towards the talks process at a crucial time. Paisley talks about Northern Ireland facing a ‘crisis’. He feels that there is an on-going conspiracy against Protestantism in Northern Ireland on the part of the British government, IRA, the Vatican and Washington. He clearly mistrusts the process and feels others are out to ‘destroy’ Northern Ireland. Paisley’s Party, the DUP, voted ‘NO’ in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement. He states his reasons why very clearly here.

Limitations – Paisley only represents one section of unionism, albeit a significant section. Some unionists, like David Trimble, UPP leader, were prepared to accept the talks process and favoured the Good Friday Agreement. Many other unionists supported the agreement – including the PUP and UDP. Other parties in Northern Ireland also supported the Good Friday Agreement – like John Hume’s SDLP, the Alliance Party, the Women’s Coalition and Sinn Féin. Paisley therefore only gives us one perspective of politicians’ beliefs in Northern Ireland in 1998.

Question 4

Study Source B. How **reliable** is **Source B** for an historian studying the reactions of Northern Ireland's politicians to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement? (6 marks)

Explain your answer, using **Source B** and your contextual knowledge.

Target AO3: Analysis and evaluation of source reliability to make substantiated judgements.

Response should include some of the following:

The source may be reliable because:

Author – John Hume was an elected MP. He is a nationalist and leader of the largest nationalist party in Northern Ireland in 1998, at the time of the Good Friday Agreement, the referendum and the setting up of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Hume represents the views of those who voted for him and supported his party. This makes him a very reliable source of information as we would expect this opinion to be held by those who voted for him and by others in his party.

Date – it is a speech made when Hume was receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace in December 1998, which he was awarded jointly with David Trimble for achieving a settlement in Northern Ireland in 1998. It is a primary contemporary source and Hume had direct insight into these events and first-hand knowledge of how many of his supporters felt at the time in relation to the Good Friday Agreement.

Content – This speech focuses on all the positives Hume believes the Agreement has brought for Northern Ireland. He emphasises that the Agreement was 'overwhelmingly endorsed' by the people of Northern Ireland. Hume talks about it respecting 'diversity' and 'common interest'. He looks forward to Northern Ireland working well with the Republic of Ireland and Britain in the years ahead. His tone is one of great hope for the future.

Limitations – Reliability might be open to question as this speech was delivered when Hume was receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Hume could only have focused on the positives of the Good Friday Agreement on this occasion. He does not, therefore, mention that Northern Ireland still faced many obstacles to peace – such as some unionist hostility to the Agreement (e.g. the DUP) and arguments over issues like decommissioning of weapons. The source's reliability can also be questioned as it only gives the nationalist perspective.