

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Level Examination



## **HISTORY**

### **Unit 6W**

**Alternative U: Britain and Ireland, 1969–1998**

**HS6U**

Thursday 12 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### **Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS6U.
- Answer **all** questions.

### **Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### **Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on part (c).

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Answer **all** questions.

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- 1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

A brief text extract adapted from C KENNEDY-PIPE, *The Origins of the Present Troubles in Northern Ireland*, 1997, outlining the key components of the Sinn Féin peace initiative document entitled 'Towards a lasting peace in Ireland'. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

**Source B**

- Intensive lobbying from Dublin in 1995 failed to dislodge John Major from his unionist perch. The peace process might or might not be going down, but the Conservative majority in the House of Commons certainly was. After strenuous diplomatic efforts the Mitchell Commission was set up. Its report, in November,
- 5 having dealt at length with the decommissioning process, recommended that the RUC could 'contribute to the building of trust' by overhauling the use of plastic bullets, getting more Catholics into the Police Force and, significantly, reviewing the situation of legally-held weapons. Part of the republicans' fear of handing in weapons derived from the fact of there possibly being as many as 150 000
- 10 legally held weapons in the hands of unionists, because of the leniency displayed by both the police and the judiciary towards Protestant arsenals. However, Major ignored its recommendations. John Hume, the SDLP leader, rose as soon as Major had finished speaking in the Commons and accused the British Prime Minister of putting at risk the lives of women and children in Northern Ireland.
- 15 The initial reaction of both Dublin and the Irish-Americans was similar.

Adapted from T P COOGAN, *The Troubles, Ireland's Ordeal 1966–1996 and the Search for Peace*, 1995

**Source C**

A brief text extract adapted from A AUGHEY, *A Farewell to Arms? From Long War to Long Peace in Northern Ireland*, 2000, explaining that the policy change allowing Sinn Féin to join the peace talks without disarmament caused the DUP to walk away from the talks. Contrary to their intentions this did not halt the talks but instead increased the chance of the more moderate UUP reaching an agreement with Sinn Féin. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Use **Source C** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the view in **Source C** about unionist attitudes towards the prospects for peace. *(10 marks)*

- (b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence of the actions of John Major in 1995 in relation to the peace process? *(10 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B and C** and your own knowledge.

‘The key reason for the apparent success of the peace process in the years 1994 to 1998 was that the unionists were persuaded to negotiate with people they had previously condemned as terrorists.’

Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Source C: A AUGHEY, *A Farewell to Arms? From Long War to Long Peace in Northern Ireland*, Manchester University Press, 2000