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## Exam focus

# AQA: Home Rule in Ireland

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This resource presents a sample answer introduction and commentary to an AQA-style question for 2M: Wars and welfare: Britain in transition, 1906–1957.

## Question

**'It was the Ulster Unionists that were responsible for the failure of Home Rule in Ireland.'**  
Explain how far you agree or disagree with this statement. (25 marks)

It would be crucial to begin this essay by looking at the role of the Ulster Unionists in bringing about the failure of Home Rule in Ireland. You should then look at some other reasons for the failure, such as the First World War, the issue of enforcement for the British government and the increasing possibility of civil war in Ireland.

Answers must demonstrate:

- a good understanding of the question and make clear links to it
- a judgement linked to the question
- organisation and effective communication
- a range and depth of knowledge

## Answer with commentary

It could be argued that the role of the Ulster Unionists was responsible for the failure of Home Rule for Ireland. The Home Rule Bill was not accepted by everyone, despite its passing into the statute books. The Ulster Unionists had made it clear that they would oppose Home Rule by 'any means necessary' in the 1912 'Solemn League and Covenant' and Andrew Bonar Law had offered Conservative support to this position. This shows the government would not have the bill easily accepted.

This paragraph would need some improvement to demonstrate the characteristics of the four bullet points above. See if you can add to it to make the necessary improvements.

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