

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## LESSON 1 // WHY DID IT TAKE PLACE?

### QUESTIONS

**1. What event led Britain to finally declare war with Germany?**

Germany's invasion of Belgium.

**2. Why were Britons initially keen to enlist in the British Army?**

Many believed it would be a short conflict that would be finished by Christmas 1914.

**3. Why did both unionists and nationalists in Ireland join the British Army?**

Both sides thought that showing their loyalty to Britain could help them in their fight for or against Home Rule.

**4. The name of which senior army officer was attributed to the new armies?**

Lord Horatio Kitchener.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Complete the below table, selecting five countries that apply to each category.

ENTENTE POWERS	CENTRAL POWERS	NEUTRAL POWERS
British Empire	Germany	Argentina
France	Austria-Hungary	Denmark
Russia	Bulgaria	Mexico
Italy	Ottoman Empire	Norway
United States	Bosnia	Spain
Serbia		
Belgium		

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

Answers will vary dependent of pupil's research.



## LESSON 2 // WHO WERE THE IRISH THAT FOUGHT?

### QUESTIONS

**1. A majority of the Irish soldiers who fought at the Somme were from which two Divisions?**

36th (Ulster Division) and 16th (Irish) Division

**2. Within what age group did men have to be to qualify for conscription?**

18-45

**3. Under what conditions could men be exempt from conscription?**

Men could be exempt if they were married, widowed with children or worked in specific occupations that contributed to the war effort

**4. Approximately how many men from Ireland were part of the British Army before war broke out?**

58,000

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 1

**Provide three different reasons why Irish nationalists might have felt compelled to join the war effort.**

There were a number of reasons Irish nationalists joined, including a sense of adventure, in order to have a steady paid job, to show loyalty to Britain in the hope of having Home Rule enacted, to protect Belgium (which was seen as a Catholic country) and to follow the words of their peers, such as John Redmond.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

**Looking at Perspective 1, why do you think Edward Carson was so keen for Ulster Volunteer Members to enlist and what did he hope to achieve?**

The answer should take into consideration Carson's work to keep Home Rule from being enacted in Ireland and his desire to protect the rights of Irish unionists. Students should also be able to reference the signing of the Ulster Covenant and what Edward Carson had previously tried to achieve. With the outbreak of war he encouraged unionists to enlist and show their loyalty to Britain in the hope Home Rule would be quashed.



## LESSON 3 // WHO WERE THE IRISH THAT FOUGHT?

### QUESTIONS

**1. Approximately how many soldiers are believed to have died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme?**

60,000.

**2. Why did the week-long artillery bombardment on German positions fail to work?**

The wrong kind of shells were used and failed to destroy the wire spread across no-man's-land.

**3. Approximately how many miles were the British forces able to advance across no-man's-land?**

Seven miles.

**4. What led to the introduction of tanks during the Battle of the Somme?**

Trench warfare and the large number of casualties sustained in the opening months of the war led to an increased demand for the development of tanks which came into force at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 1

**Belfast man William McFadzean (McFadden) was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery for his role at the Battle of the Somme. Research his actions and complete a short one paragraph profile.**

Pupils should display a knowledge of Billy McFadzean's background including his membership with the UVF. As a bomber, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme he was preparing grenades to go over the top of the trenches when the pins fell from two grenades which landed on a box of grenades in the trench. Sensing that it would almost certainly kill some of his fellow soldiers, he sacrificed his life by diving on the box. Only one other soldier was injured as a result.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

**Look at Perspectives 3, 4 & 5, why do you think the 36th Ulster Division were so heavily praised for their actions on 1st July, 1916?**

Pupils should be able to display how the Ulster Division were one of the first to go over the top and one of the only divisions to reach some of their targets during the battle.



## LESSON 4 // THE IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

### QUESTIONS

**1. Approximately how many men were engaged in fighting at the Battle of the Somme?**

Three million people.

**2. What name was given to groups of soldiers who enlisted and fought together?**

Pals Battalions.

**3. How many members of the 36th (Ulster) Division were killed on the first day of battle?**

Approximately 2,000.

**4. Which medal was awarded to nine members of the 36th (Ulster) Division for bravery?**

Victoria Cross.

**5. How many soldiers and officers of the 16th (Irish) Division were killed from 1st – 10th September, 1916?**

4,313.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

**Provide three different ways members of the 36th (Ulster) Division were awarded or have been remembered for their bravery.**

Men have been awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery, they have been remembered in song, on memorials and on murals.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Complete the following table based on information provided in the death toll map above:

	ULSTER	LEINSTER	MUNSTER	CONNAUGHT
Number of dead in First World War	12,763	9,483	5,547	2,452



## LESSON 5 // REACTION TO THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME IN IRELAND

### QUESTIONS

**1. What factor is believed to have contributed to diminishing enlistment numbers in Ireland?**

The realisation that the war was costing large scale loss of life is one of the main reasons enlistment fell in Ireland.

**2. Why did unionists in Belfast not take part in the one-day strike organised against conscription?**

Unionists saw the strike as being organised by nationalists and did not agree with its aims.

**3. Which two leaders shared a stage at an anti-conscription rally in Roscommon?**

John Dillon, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party and Eamon de Valera, leader of Sinn Féin.

**4. What political party in Ireland gained an increased reputation following their opposition to conscription?**

Sinn Féin.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 1

**Research the events of the German Plot in May 1918, which led to the arrest of 73 Sinn Féin members, and complete a short paragraph on what the Dublin Castle administration had hoped to achieve. What methods were they trying to employ? Were their actions based on facts? Explain your answer and stage a class discussion based on your findings.**

Pupils should explore the events surrounding the 'German Plot' and discuss how the British government, believing that Sinn Féin were responsible for the anti-conscription movement, claimed to have evidence that Sinn Féin were plotting treason with Germany. 73 members of Sinn Féin were arrested on 17th May, 1918 with the arrests doing little else but galvanise support for the party. Pupils should decide if the government's actions were based on fact or on a desire to disrupt the work of Sinn Féin and explain their reasoning.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

**State three of the different groups who were opposed to conscription in Ireland and provide a short description why.**

Catholic Bishops – Believed that the introduction of conscription to Ireland was unjust and encouraged members of the church to oppose it.

Irish Labour Movement – Organised a one day strike to halt work on public transport, at shipyards, shops, docks and factories.

Anti-Conscription Committee – Comprised members such as Arthur Griffith and Eamon de Valera who worked with the catholic church to compile an anti-conscription pledge which was available to sign at church on 21st April, 1918.



## LESSON 6 // THE LEGACY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

### QUESTIONS

**1. Where in Dublin did the Irish government build memorial gardens to its war dead? Why wasn't it located more centrally?**

Islandbridge, County Dublin. It was built outside of the city centre because commemorating the First World War was still a contentious issue at the time.

**2. The Ulster Tower at Thiepval commemorates the 36th (Ulster) Division and which other group?**

There is also a dedication to the Orange Order and the role members played during the battle.

**3. Murals depicting the Battle of the Somme are typically located in what areas of Protestant communities? Why is this?**

Murals of the Battle of the Somme are usually found in working class Protestant areas. Paramilitaries are believed to have erected a large number of war murals linking the actions of the past with the present.

**4. Why did republicans attack commemorative parades in the 1920s?**

Some Republicans believed those who attended these parades were supporters of British imperialism contrary to that of Republicans who wanted an Ireland free from Britain.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 1

**Imagine you are a nationalist soldier who has returned to Ireland following the war. As the 10th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme approaches, write a letter to a unionist soldier who you fought alongside, detailing your feelings and emotions. Do you feel a sense of pride in what you helped to achieve or are you afraid to take part in commemorations?**

Pupils will have a different response to this task but should explore how nationalist soldiers would have been treated in Ireland on their return from war and what emotions they would have felt on, in some cases, hiding or ignoring their part in the war.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

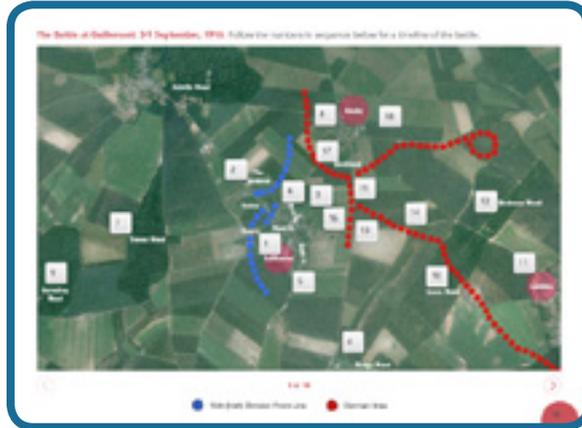
**Imagine you are writing a newspaper article detailing the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to the memorial gardens at Islandbridge in Dublin in 2011. Research the events of the visit and complete a short newspaper story on what took place.**

Pupils should recall the events of the Queen's visit to Islandbridge in 2011 and how, along with President Mary McAleese, she laid a wreath. Pupils may further explore the reaction to the Queen's visit and her laying of the wreath at the garden.



## 1916: A YEAR THAT SHAPED IRELAND iBook

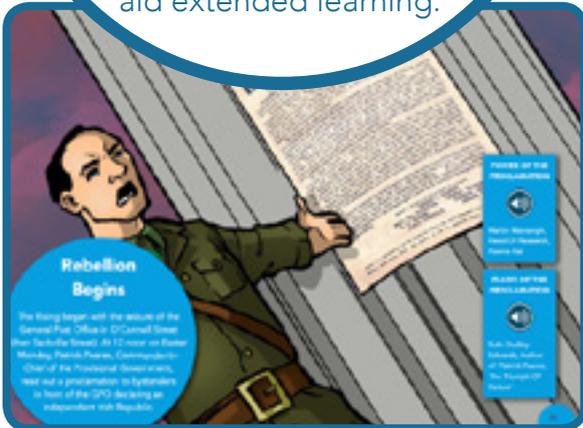
The 1916 period is further explored in the Nerve Centre's free iBook **1916: A Year That Shaped Ireland**. The innovative resource builds upon the award-winning content from the Nerve Centre's Symbols CD-ROM, developing an interactive experience that explores Ireland and its people as it approached 1916 and how the events of that year shaped the future of the island. The new resource has been developed in conjunction with Creative Centenaries, a new initiative led by the Nerve Centre which explores creative and cultural approaches to events in Ireland 100 years ago.



The iBook includes easy to understand text, interactive pictures, galleries and maps, audio content from a range of historians and commentators and exclusive video content from the time. It also includes interactive learning aids to test the reader's knowledge throughout as well as suggested creative tasks to aid extended learning.

The iBook explores key events of 1916 and their legacy through chapters including:

- >> An Island Divided
- >> The Easter Rising
- >> The Battle of the Somme
- >> Ireland Post-1916



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