



## Unit 6:

### *The Rise of Sinn Féin and the First Dáil*

#### *Part 1*

SENIOR CYCLE WORKSHEETS

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## UNIT 6:

### THE RISE OF SINN FÉIN AND THE FIRST DAIL

From the beginning, the 1916 Rising was referred to by the media and the authorities as 'the Sinn Féin Rebellion'. While some individual members of the Sinn Féin party took part, neither the organisation nor Griffith himself was involved in the Rising. This mistaken association catapulted the Sinn Féin party from relative obscurity to center stage in the pursuit of Irish independence.

#### **ARTHUR GRIFFITH (1871-1922) AND THE ORIGINS OF SINN FÉIN**

Journalist and politician, Arthur Griffith was born into a working-class Dublin family on 31 March 1871. He attended the Christian Brothers' schools in the north inner city, but left before he was thirteen to take up an apprenticeship with a Dublin printing firm. Working initially as a typesetter and copywriter with the *Nation* and the *Irish Daily Independent*, Griffith slowly carved out a career as a journalist. His hunger for personal development, led him into Dublin's literary and debating societies. Griffith was also active in the Gaelic League and a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) until 1910 when he rejected the use of physical force for political ends.



Following a period in South Africa, Griffith returned to Dublin in 1899 to take up the editorship of the new radical nationalist newspaper, the *United Irishman*. Writing under the pen name *Cuguan*, he frequently challenged the complacency of the Irish Parliamentary Party and used the newspaper to express what he called the 'urgent need' to deAnglicise Ireland. In September 1900 Arthur Griffith and William Rooney established Cumann na nGaedheal - an umbrella body designed to co-ordinate the activities of the various groups committed to counteracting the continuing anglicisation of the country. In the early years of the twentieth century Arthur Griffith envisioned a separate Irish state that would retain a tenuous link with Britain through a dual monarchy based on the Austro-Hungarian model. In a pamphlet entitled *The Resurrection of Hungary* published in 1904, Griffith argued that Irish MPs should follow the Hungarian example of the 1860s, withdraw from Westminster and establish an Irish parliament in Dublin. The idea of economic nationalism and the industrial development of the island were central to his political vision.

When the *United Irishman* folded in 1906, Griffith began editing his influential daily newspaper *Sinn Féin*. Its name became synonymous with his separatist politics, and was adopted by the new political party created in 1907. The Sinn Féin League represented an amalgamation of the National Council (established in 1903 to protest the visit of King Edward VII to Ireland), the Dungannon clubs, Inghinidhe na hÉireann and Cumann na nGaedheal. Sinn Féin policy was one of national economic, cultural and political self-reliance. The party drew its membership from the ranks of cultural nationalism and the IRB. Despite growth in branch numbers - 1906 (21), 1907 (57) and 1909 (132) - the party remained on the fringes of nationalist politics and had all but disappeared by 1914.



## A POLITICAL REVOLUTION: SINN FÉIN AFTER THE 1916 RISING

The Rising succeeded in transforming the Irish political landscape - over the next two or three years, events both in Ireland and internationally would end any prospect of a moderate Home Rule-style solution. The actions of the British government in Ireland and the continuing decline of the Home Rule Party after the 1916 Rising paved the way for the growth of more extreme nationalism represented by two organisations – the revived Irish Volunteers and a new Sinn Féin.

### HARSH PUNISHMENT

Within weeks of the Rising, Lieutenant General Maxwell had extended martial law, overseen the executions of the leaders and supervised the round-up and deportation of thousands of 'Sinn Féiners'. Many who had previously been hostile to the 'Sinn Féin Rebellion' became sympathisers with the rebels. Dublin shops were full of 'Rising memorabilia: postcards, Mass cards, song sheets, badges, flags and pamphlets. Many of these items were mass produced by Sinn Féin. The executed rebel leaders were recast as martyrs and memorial masses attracted crowds of people who applauded the relatives as they came out of the churches. The trial and execution of Roger Casement in Pentonville prison in August 1916 increased the sense of public outrage, as did the publication of a report of inquiry into the execution of pacifist journalist Francis Sheehy Skeffington during Easter Week.

### WIDESPREAD ARRESTS

Over 3,400 people were arrested - many wrongfully - for their part in what was called the 'Sinn Féin Rebellion'. Although some were released, almost 2,000 were sent to internment camps such as Frongoch in Wales. The remote Welsh prison camp - known as 'the University of Revolution' - was

a training ground for many would go on to play important roles in the War of Independence.

Organisations such as Irish National Aid Society and the Irish Volunteers Dependants Fund helped to financially support the families of the prisoners and aroused public sympathy and interest. These organisations also maintained the links between the IRB and the Volunteers who had avoided arrest and gone underground after the Rising.



[Source: National Library of Ireland, Ke 125]

In December 1916, new Prime Minister, David Lloyd George ordered the release over 1,800 internees - including Arthur Griffith - who had not been put on trial. The returning prisoners were greeted by great public demonstrations.

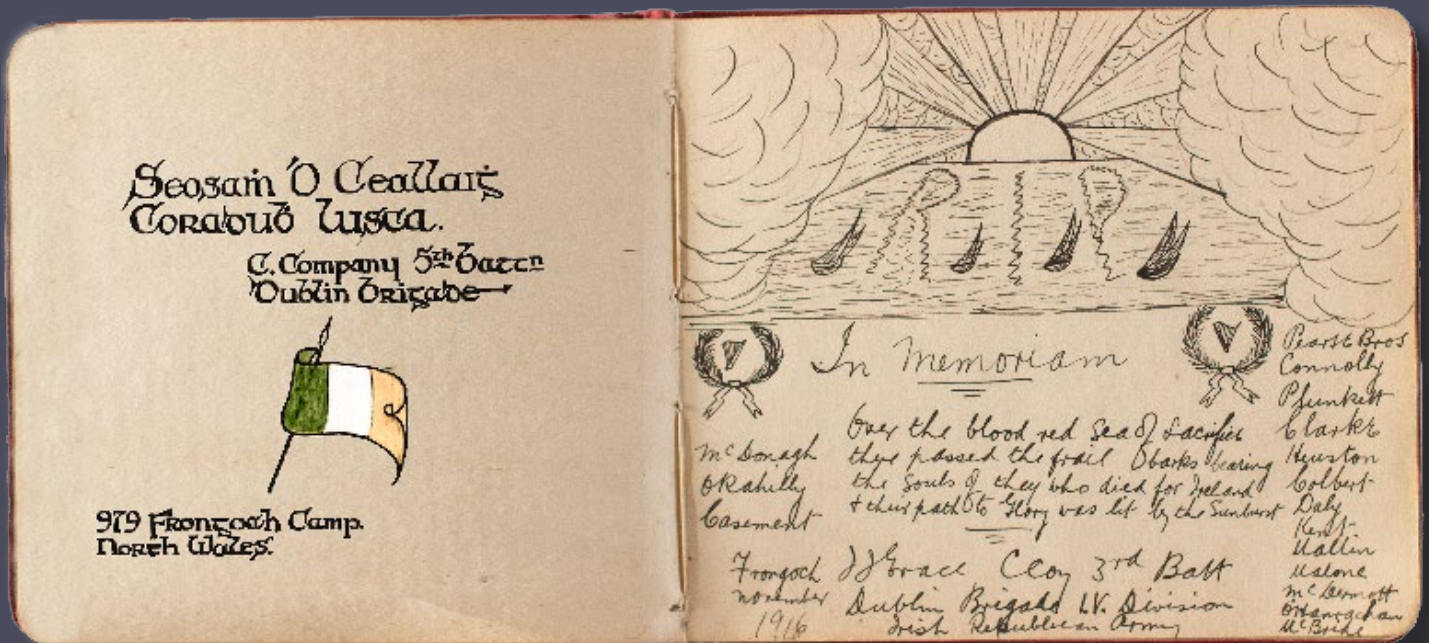
Griffith remained as leader of the newly popular Sinn Féin through many successful by-elections in the months ahead. The party was swelled by an influx of recently released young radicals - many of whom were also members of the revived Irish Volunteers.



- Document A-

Pages from an autograph book belonging Joseph Kelly, a prisoner in Frongoch in 1916

The entry by James Joseph Grace of "C" Company 3rd Battalion Dublin Brigade, was typical of the patriotic sentiments expressed in these autograph books. Grace fought at the Battle of Mount Street Bridge in 1916. After the Rising he was held in Richmond Barracks before being transported to Wakefield Jail in Yorkshire. After three weeks he was transferred to Frongoch where he remained until Christmas 1916.



Autograph book courtesy of the Kelly family. See further examples <http://www.kilmainhamgaolautographbooks.ie/books/>

- Document B-



Crowds in Westland Row, Dublin waiting to meet prisoners released in June 1917

[Photo: National Library of Ireland, Ke 125]



Edited extract from an Irish Independent report on the release of the prisoners in December 1916

# Irish Independent

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1916

## BACK FROM THEIR INTERNMENT

Prisoners numbering 146, mostly from Athenry and Oranmore districts, who had been detained in Frongoch Prison Camp were released on Friday evening, and reached Ireland on Sat. morning. The remaining Frongoch prisoners, to the number of over 300, arrived by boat at the North Wall (Dublin) at 8.40 a.m. on Sunday morning ... About 100 additional men arrived by the mail boat at Kingstown. The majority of those were from the South and West; There were only about half a dozen Dublin men among them.

### FRIENDS' ALL-NIGHT VIGIL.

Numbers of relatives and friends kept an all-night vigil at the North Wall to welcome back the released men. The spectacle of the anxious groups of people in the early morning, with wind and rain following frost, was strikingly pathetic. They stood outside the gates of the L. and N.W. Railway greeting their friends as they passed through the portals. It was a touching scene...

A number of members of the National Aid Association met the boat on its arrival, and gave instructions to those who were in need of funds to call at the offices in Exchequer St. during the afternoon ... The majority of the Frongoch men were quite cheerful, and made no complaints about the hardships they had undergone ... All the prisoners looked in robust health. Many of them wore beards ...

### WELL KNOWN NAMES.

The last batch of prisoners arrived (on Monday) morning at Westland Row. They had been confined in Reading (Jail), and included many well-known people, such as:- Sean T. O'Kelly, ... Arthur Griffith, ex-Alderman W. Cole, P. J. Doris, editor "Western News"; Terence McSweeney, Cork and Jes, McCormick of the Irish Citizen Army. The majority looked wan and sickly, and quite bore out, in their physical appearance, the accounts which they gave as to their treatment. "We had four months of porridge for breakfast and dinner," remarked one gentleman, "and if it were not for the parcels which arrived some must have died from hunger."

For the past three weeks, our representative was informed, the prison was stricken by an epidemic resembling influenza. Numbers of the prisoners were affected, and it is feared that the effects in some cases may be lasting ...

Extract from the memoir of poet and revolutionary, Ella Young (1867-1956) She recalls the return of the 1916 prisoners released in June 1917.

## A Prisoner's Return

One morning, in the coldness before dawn, the streets of Dublin heard the patter of running feet. Somehow from the port of Dunleary miles away, word had filtered through that the prisoners taken in the Rising and lodged in English prisons had been landed: landed at that early hour and without warning, to prevent a reception of any kind. But there was going to be a reception. Newsboys, young men, sympathisers of every kind, running on foot brought the news to Dublin. The citizens were trooping to Dunleary on foot. There were no cars at that hour of the morning, no railway trains and only a few people had autos. But the people were there. They formed a cheering procession and escorted the released prisoners into Dublin. The news spread; folk threw up their windows, flags appeared, from house to house the occupants tumbled into the street, eager for news, eager for the sight of the returned heroes. De Valera was there.

'Where is the Countess Markievicz?' was the cry. 'We want the Countess!' ... Next day, towards evening, the Countess entered Dublin in the midst of a long procession, with banner after banner and brass band after brass band; with riders on horseback; with running boys waving branches; with lumbering floats drawn by big slow-footed, good-natured Clydesdale horses; ...

Upon a float piled high with flowers and greenery the Countess stood, very fair to look on, radiant and slender. Towering beside her was a large Sinn Féin flag: green and orange and white. From a window, I could see the River Liffey, curving between its wharfs and tall narrow-fronted houses, spanned by bridge upon bridge till lost in the distance. When the Countess crossed the bridge nearest to me, every bridge behind her was a-toss with red flags, and the people were singing *The International*...



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

### Documents A - D

1. When, where and for what purpose was Document A created? (*Doc A*)

When----- Where -----

Why-----

2. Based on your reading of Document A, what was Grace's opinion of the 1916 Rising? (*Doc A*)

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3. When was the photograph taken? (*Doc B*)

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4. Using evidence from the photograph, can you describe the atmosphere in Westland Row?

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5. According to the writer of Document, C how many Frongoch prisoners *in total* arrived in Dublin on the weekend before Christmas 1916? (*Doc C*)

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6. How does the journalist describe the attitude and the appearance of the released Frongoch prisoners? (*Doc C*)

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7. Based on Doc C, how were the Reading Jail prisoners different to those returning from Frongoch?

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8. The *Independent* article is quite factual, but is there any evidence of opinion? (*Doc C*)

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9. According to Ella Young, how did the news of the prisoners' return reach Dublin city? (*Doc D*)

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10. Why do you think Ella Young might have mentioned Eamon de Valera in particular? (*Doc D*)

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11. Is there any evidence that Ella Young was biased towards Countess Markievicz? (*Doc D*)

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12. When do you think are the main strengths and weaknesses of a memoir as a historical source?

Strengths: -----

Weaknesses: -----

13. Which of the four sources (A-D) did you find most informative about the change in public opinion about the 1916 Rising between April 1916 and June 1917? Explain your answer.

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## YOUR TASK

14a. Imagine that you are James Joseph Grace and you have just been released from prison. Using sources A-D as inspiration, write a short letter to a friend describing:

- a) The events of the day you arrived in Ireland
- b) Your feelings about those events
- c) Your hopes for the future

**OR**

14b. Research the story of a person from your own area who was interned in Frongoch after the 1916 Rising. Write a brief account of

- a) Their early life
- b) Their involvement, if any, in the events of 1912-1916
- c) Any details of their time in Frongoch
- d) Their activities after their release from Frongoch





## 1917 BY-ELECTIONS

In early 1917 a group of separatists in north Roscommon under the leadership of Fr Michael O'Flanagan decided to challenge the Home Rule party in an upcoming by-election. Their candidate was Count George Noble Plunkett, former director of the National Museum of Ireland and the father of executed rebel leader Joseph Plunkett. His campaign encouraged the various separatist elements (such as the old Sinn Féin, the IRB, Cumann na mBan, the Gaelic League and the Volunteers) to come together for the purposes of electioneering.

The discipline, energy and enthusiasm of the election campaign led to a resounding victory for Plunkett who received 3,022 of the 5,403 votes cast - more than the other two candidates, Jasper Tully (Independent) and T.J. Devine (Home Rule party), combined. Although he stood as an Independent candidate, Plunkett was the first elected representative to implement the Sinn Féin policy by refusing to take his seat at Westminster (abstention).

The Sinn Féin party spread rapidly throughout the country benefiting from its association with the 1916 Rising, the Volunteers, Count Plunkett's victory and Arthur Griffith's journalism.

When another by-election campaign took place in South Longford in May 1917, the separatists felt sufficiently confident to select a more radical candidate, Joe McGuinness, who was still in prison for his role in the 1916 Rising. McGuinness' victory (by thirty-seven votes) further energised the Sinn Féin party which continued to expand. It was supported by young people in particular who were attracted to the youthful and dynamic party.

In June 1917 all the remaining prisoners were released from English jails and soon afterwards Eamon de Valera - the sole surviving commandant

of the 1916 Rising - was chosen to contest the next parliamentary vacancy in East Clare. De Valera benefited from the support of the Catholic Church and was portrayed as one of the "Easter heroes" during the election campaign. The result was an overwhelming, two-to-one victory on 10 July 1917. This was followed by yet another triumph when W.T. Cosgrave - another 1916 veteran - was elected for the urban seat of Kilkenny in August.

*Sinn Féin tended to flourish in areas which were distant from Dublin, had a recent tradition of agrarian unrest or political confrontation, and had a high percentage of the population working on farms.*

*- Atlas of the Irish Revolution, Cork, 2017 -*

The by-elections proved that politics could produce results and that in the new circumstances created by the 1916 Rising and its aftermath - the Home Rule party could be defeated. The election contests also trained young men in the skills of politics and provided the revived Sinn Féin party with much-needed publicity and an air of excitement. In the months that followed branches of Sinn Féin were formed in almost every town and village in nationalist Ireland. By the end of 1917 Sinn Féin's rapid expansion was reflected in its membership of c. 120,000.



[Photo: National Library of Ireland, Ke 141]

- Document E-



**W.T. Cosgrave and Laurence Ginnell, M.P., in motor car during election campaign in Kilkenny, surrounded by Sinn Féin supporters**

[Photo: National Library of Ireland, Ke 141]

- Document F-



**Éamon de Valera in Volunteer uniform addressing Sinn Féin supporters from the steps of Ennis Court House Co. Clare, 11 July 1917**

[Photo: National Library of Ireland, Ke 131]



# Photograph Analysis Worksheet

## 1. THE BASICS

**Photograph Type:** *tick any boxes that apply*

	Doc A	Doc B
Portrait	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Doc A	Doc B
Posed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selfie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Doc A	Doc B
Colour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black & White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Close-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panoramic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

### Document 1

### Document 2

Where and when was the photograph taken?		
List the people/ groups, objects in the photograph		
What actions / activities (if any) are taking place?		
What body language/ facial expressions, are captured on film?		
Three words that sum up your first impression		

## 3. ANALYSE

### Document 1

### Document 2

Why do you think this photograph was taken?		
What does the angle/ frame/ perspective of suggest about the photographer's point of view about the subject?		
What 3 adjectives best describe the viewpoint of the photographer?		
Do you have any unanswered questions about the photograph?		

G (1)

## Is Conscription Coming ?

John Redmond said that if England could shew that Conscription in Ireland could be shewn to be necessary for the winning of the war he would agree to its enforcement.

England is now crying aloud that Conscription in Ireland is necessary.

Why then is Conscription not enforced? Not because of John Redmond, who, according to his own words is now willing that it should be enforced. Why then? Because firstly, of Easter Week, and the spirit it showed of the stubborn resolution of Irishmen. Secondly, because North Roscommon and South Longford showed that this stubborn resolution has spread through the whole country.

East Clare must keep the Flag flying, and defy John Redmond and the English Government.

Therefore, Vote for  
**EAMONN DE VALERA**

<https://irishelectionliterature.com/2011/09/01/leaflets-from-eamon-de-valera-1917-east-clare-by-election/>

G (2)

## Ballad of East Clare

Are you giving Patrick Lynch a vote? He's fat with English pay,  
For he sat at home in comfort while Valera was away,  
And he robbed us for the tyrant that he might get his share,  
While Valera lay in prison for the sake of County Clare.

Oh, he dwelt in shoneen circles, where the Castle gold abounds,  
In the company of Unionists and dirty kahaki hounds,  
And as Chief Crown Prosecutor he bid the boys beware  
Lest they'd land - like De Valera - in the jail for County Clare.

Oh, there's joy and hope in Ireland now; the prisoners are out  
The young men laugh at England, and they raise the Sinn Féin shout,  
And Ireland hails Valera now, who fought and suffered there  
For the freedom of the country - for the poor of County Clare.

Tis my grief that any Redmondite should show his face again,  
With their jobbing and recruiting and their slanders on Sinn Féin.  
Faith we want no lying speechmakers, but men to fight and dare,  
And the hero De Valera is the man for County Clare.

Reproduction. [Original Source: National Library of Ireland, EPH A323]

G (4)

G (3)



**VOTE FOR  
McGUINNESS  
THE MAN IN JAIL  
FOR**

Gaelic Press, Dublin



**EAMONN DE VALERA**

G (6)

G (5)

## THE WEST'S AWAKE! MEN OF NORTH ROSCOMMON Ireland Expects You **TO STRIKE A BLOW FOR OUR SMALL NATIONALITY AND RETURN COUNT PLUNKETT**

As YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, and FREE HIM from  
EXILE, and his CHILDREN and your Countrymen from

**Prison Chains.**

Will **North Roscommon**  
**Loosen their Bonds** or set us as  
**Gaolers over Irishmen.**

The EYES of IRELAND are ON YOU!

The eyes of your sons and daughters beyond the seas, and of your  
countrymen scattered all over the world are on you

ALL true LOVERS of IRELAND TRUST  
ROSCOMMON, and WELL THEY MAY,

To Return **COUNT PLUNKETT**

[Reproduction. Original Source: National Library of Ireland, EPH E239]

**DR. O'DWYER,**  
At Limerick, 14th Sept., 1916:  
"There has not been much poetry  
in the history of England in Ireland.  
The gratitude of Conquerors is not  
worth much. **Sinn Féin is, in my  
judgment, the true principle,**  
and alliance with English politicians is  
the alliance of the Lamb and the Wolf,  
and it is at this point precisely that I  
differ from the present political leaders,  
and believe they have led, and are  
leading, the National Cause to disaster."

**LYNCH STANDS FOR THAT  
ALLIANCE.  
DE VALERA STANDS FOR  
IRELAND.**

**VOTE FOR  
DE VALERA**

Issued for Edward De Valera by his authorised Election Agent, M. B. O'Brien Moran,  
Limerick, and printed at the Gaelic Press, 30 Upper Liffey Street, Dublin.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, EPH A319]



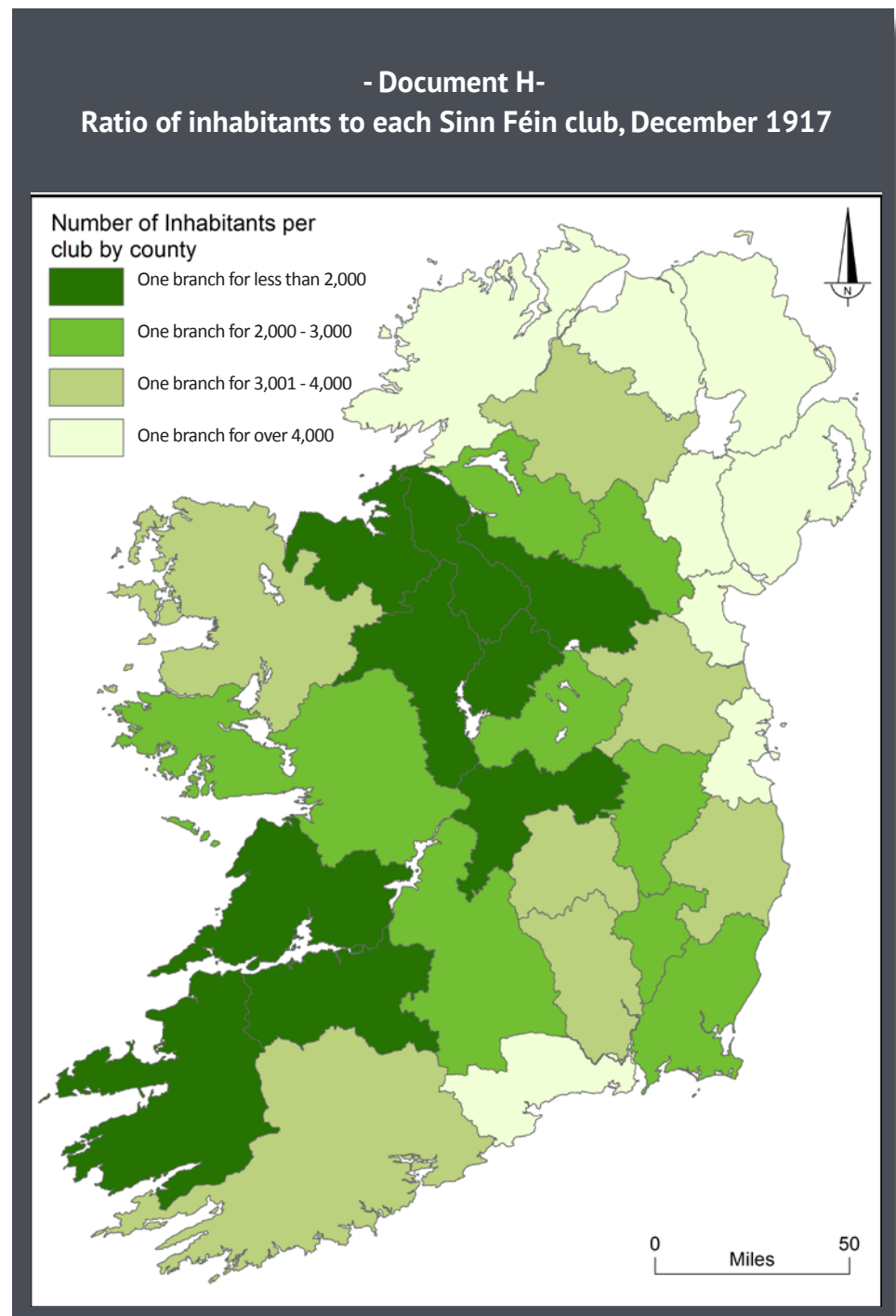
## SINN FÉIN ORGANISATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

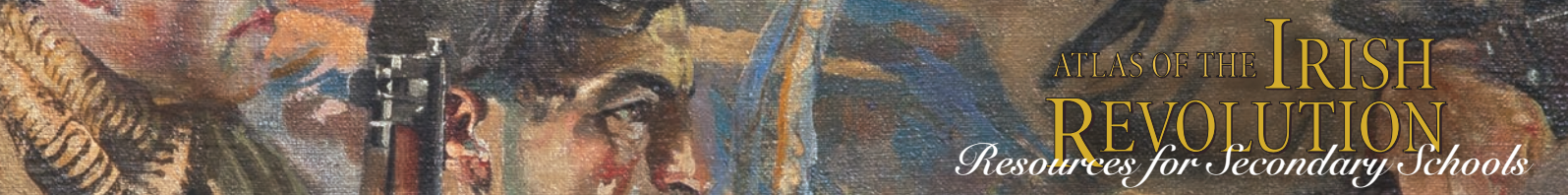
The Sinn Féin movement grew rapidly at grass-roots (local) level. In the list of clubs compiled by the Sinn Féin executive in December 1917 the figures for the provinces were:

Munster	(435)
Leinster	(293)
Connacht	(267)
Ulster	(245)

Kilkenny came twentieth out of the thirty-two counties but W.T. Cosgrave's by-election campaign there was brief and confined to the city. The ten counties where the ratio was lowest were all in Ulster or on the east coast. The figure for Dublin is probably misleading because such a high density of population would require fewer clubs than in rural districts.

Cork's low total can be explained by the fact that it was the only area outside of unionist Ulster where the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) had faced serious opposition in the recent past. At the last general election, in December 1910, William O'Brien's All-for-Ireland League won eight out of ten seats in Cork city and county. Sinn Féiners in Cork encountered a Home Rule Party opponent whose efficiency had been improved by the recent competition.





## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

### Documents G - H

1. What effective advertising/persuasive techniques can you identify in doc G1?

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2. What comparisons does the ballad (Doc G2) make between de Valera and his opponent Patrick Lynch?

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3. What, according to Document G5, are the main reasons to vote for Count Plunkett?

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5. Which of the 6 pieces of electioneering material (G1-G6) would prove most effective/ persuasive if you were a voter in 1917? Give three reasons for your answer.

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6. Which province in Ireland had the highest number of Sinn Féin clubs in December 1917? (*Doc H*)

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7. Can you make any connections between what you know about the 1917 by-elections and the data depicted in the map? (*Doc H*)

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8. Based on the data provided in the map, how would you describe the level of support for Sinn Féin in your own county in December 1917? (*Doc H*)

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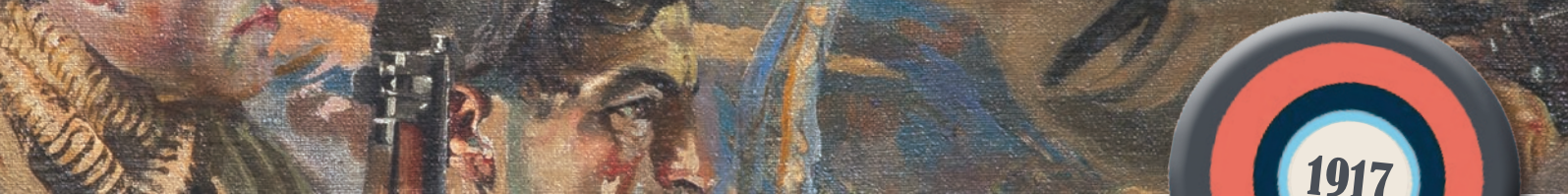
9. Give three reasons for the increased support for Sinn Féin between April 1916 and December 1917.

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## YOUR TASK: RUNNING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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The 1917 by-election campaigns revolutionised the political landscape in Ireland. During this task you will work in groups to examine the issues involved, learn about the candidates, prepare a campaign strategy and put it into action.

### PART 1. THE PLANNING STAGES

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*Step 1:* Your teacher will organise the class into groups of four. Each group will be assigned one of the following candidates:

- (a) **Count George Noble Plunkett**,  
Independent, North Roscommon by election, Feb 1917
- (b) **Thomas Devine**  
Irish Parliamentary Party candidate, North Roscommon by election, Feb 1917
- (c) **Jasper Tully**  
Independent, North Roscommon by election, Feb 1917
- (d) **Joseph McGuinness**  
Sinn Féin candidate, South Longford, by election, May 1917
- (e) **Paddy McKenna**  
Irish Parliamentary Party candidate, South Longford by election, May 1917
- (f) **Éamon de Valera**  
Sinn Féin candidate, East Clare by election, July 1917
- (g) **Patrick Lynch**  
Irish Parliamentary Party candidate, East Clare by election, July 1917

*Step 2:* Each student should consult the relevant profile sheet on the pages that follow and individually

- (a) List 3 reasons why should people vote for your candidate
- (b) List 3 reasons why people might vote for the opposition candidate(s)

*Step 3:* The groups should meet to discuss their initial ideas and begin to plan the campaign strategies. Before the class finishes the students in each group should divide the research tasks in parts (1) and (2) of the **Campaign Planning Worksheet** evenly between them.

*Step 4:* At the beginning of the next class, the groups should come together to present the results of their research and finalise their plans for the campaign. Based on these discussions, the group should also decide on their campaign slogan and allocate roles for part (3) of the **Campaign Planning Worksheet**.

## PART 2: PUTTING THE CAMPAIGN INTO ACTION

**Step 5:** The next step is to put your campaign into action. The strategy teams for the North Roscommon Election should begin.

Two students will display the electioneering material for the rest of the class, while the third student briefly outlines the significant aspects of the poster and leaflet. The fourth member of the team will act as the candidate and deliver the campaign speech to the rest of the class.

**Step 6:** The remaining teams for the North Roscommon election will repeat the steps above until all of the candidates have delivered their speeches.

**Step 7:** The class will be given time to complete the voting ballot for the North Roscommon by-election below. Place **No. 1** in the box beside your favorite candidate

**Consider the following when casting your vote:**



- ☐ The quality of the electioneering material (poster & leaflet)
- ☐ The level of preparation and effort in the election campaign
- ☐ The extent to which the campaign speech proved persuasive
- ☐ How well the poster, leaflet and speech outlined the candidate's policies
- ☐ How well the poster, leaflet and speech undermined the opposition

**Step 8:** The candidates for the North Longford and East Clare by-elections should next present to the class in the same way as the Roscommon teams. After the candidates for each by-election have spoken, the class will be given time to complete the ballot.

### North Roscommon, By-Election February 1917

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTE
IPP	DEVINE THOMAS	
IND	PLUNKETT, GEORGE	
IND	JASPER TULLY	

### South Longford, By-Election May 1917

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTE
IPP	McKenna, Patrick	
SF	McGuinness, Joseph	

### East Clare, By-Election July 1917

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTE
IPP	LYNCH, PATRICK	
SF	DE VALERA, EAMON	



NORTH ROSCOMMON

**VOTE!**

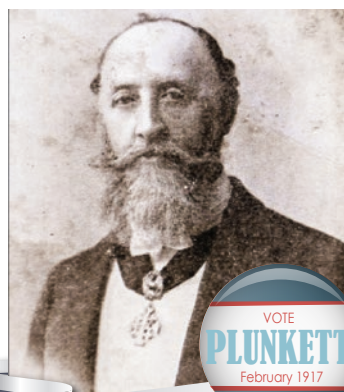
February 1917

The by-election in Roscommon was called following the death of J. J. O'Kelly, Irish Party MP, who had held the seat unopposed since 1895. The three candidates were Thomas Devine of the Irish Parliamentary Party; Jasper Tully, owner and editor of the Roscommon Herald, who ran as an Independent, and Count George Noble Plunkett, father of executed 1916 leader, who also ran as an Independent. Arthur

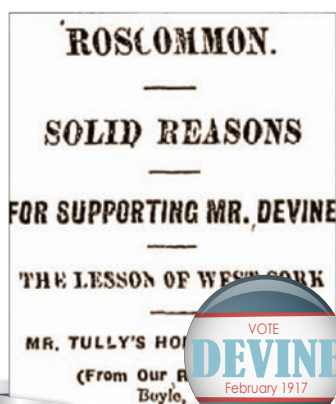
Griffith, Michael Collins, members of Cumann na mBan, the Gaelic League and the Volunteers travelled to Roscommon for the purposes of electioneering. The Roscommon by-election became known as 'the election of the snows' as canvassers braved snowdrifts and Irish Volunteers cleared the roads for voters.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEMyazMyFf4&feature=youtu.be>

## FEBRUARY 1917: THE CANDIDATES



VOTE  
**PLUNKETT**  
February 1917



VOTE  
**DEVINE**  
February 1917



VOTE  
**TULLY**  
February 1917

### COUNT GEORGE NOBLE PLUNKETT

Independent candidate

#### Election Platform:

**A VOTE FOR PLUNKETT IS**

A vote for the living embodiment of the spirit of the 1916 Rising

A vote against Partition and Conscription

A vote a man of dignity and learning (ex-Director of the National Museum of Ireland).

A vote for a man who is not tied to any political party

A vote for a man whose suffering and the suffering of his family in the cause of Irish nationality entitle him to sympathy and support

### THOMAS DEVINE

Home Rule Party candidate

#### Election Platform:

**A VOTE FOR DEVINE IS**

A vote for consistency- a man who 'will honestly and loyally follow in the footsteps' of J.J. O'Kelly

A vote for a man with a long and proven record of political activity in the national cause (Home Rule)

A vote for a strong, disciplined, united party of Nationalists (The Home Rule Party)

A vote against the Count and Tully who seem to stand 'for nothing but themselves'

### JASPER TULLY

Independent candidate

#### Election Platform:

**A VOTE FOR TULLY IS**

A vote for a local man with his finger on the pulse of local issues

A vote for a man who fought against high taxation while he was a member of the Roscommon County Council

A vote against the 'feeble and delicate' Count Plunkett who is nearly 70 years old

A vote against the Count who was imprisoned in England after 1916, but who continually denied any involvement in the Rising



The death of Irish Parliamentary Party MP John Phillips in April 1917 led to a by-election in South Longford in May. The Irish Parliamentary Party Candidate, Paddy McKenna was a long-standing Home Rule MP and very popular in Longford. His opponent, Joseph McGuinness, was a native of County Roscommon who helped to establish a Gaelic League branch in Longford town in 1902 before settling in Dublin. He fought with the Four Courts garrison in 1916 and was sentenced three years penal servitude in Lewes

Prison in England. While still in prison he was selected as Sinn Féin candidate for the Longford South by-election. While the older clergymen supported the Home Rule candidate, the younger clergy were behind McGuinness. The energy and activity of the canvassers characterised the Sinn Féin campaign from the beginning and prominent Sinn Féiners including Arthur Griffith, Count and Countess Plunkett, Mrs Pearse, Kathleen Clarke and Darrell Figgis travelled to Longford to assist in the election effort.

## MAY 1917: THE CANDIDATES



### JOSEPH MCGUINNESS

Sinn Féin candidate

#### Election Platform:

**A VOTE FOR MCGUINNESS IS**

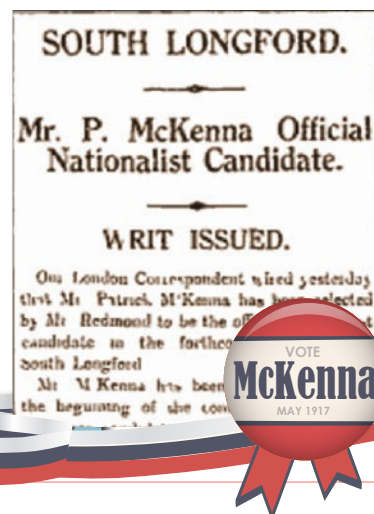
A vote for 'the man in Jail for Ireland' - 'Put him in to get him out'

A vote for the man who fought in the Four Courts with Ned Daly, a martyr of 1916

A vote in protest against the continued imprisonment and harsh treatment of the 1916 rebels

A vote against McKenna whose party will see Conscription extended to Ireland

A vote to prevent the Partition of Ireland



### PADDY MCKENNA

Home Rule Party Candidate

#### Election Platform:

**A VOTE FOR MCKENNA IS**

A vote for the party which has actively opposed conscription for Ireland

A vote for a party which will maintain peace and stability in Ireland

A vote for the man who has always been an earnest and active worker in the constitutional movement

A vote for a native of Longford who has loyally served the interests of his county

A vote for the man who lost to John Phillips by only 6 votes in 1907





Lynch, would have stood a good chance of winning. He came from a respected Clare family with a long tradition of nationalism. He served as a barrister and was appointed senior crown prosecutor for Kerry in 1908. The RIC reported “great unrest due to the flooding of the county with Sinn Féiners, released rebel prisoners and canvassers for de Valera”. The election, which brought out the Volunteers in full uniform for the first time since the Rising, was fought on the issue of self-government within the empire versus an independent Irish republic.

## JULY 1917: THE CANDIDATES



# EAMON DE VALERA

Sinn Féin candidate

### Election Platform:

A VOTE FOR DE VALERA IS

## A vote for the only surviving commandant of the 1916 Rising

## A vote for Ireland, an Independent Republic

## A vote for the man who has the backing of the Catholic Church

## A vote against Conscription

### A vote against Partition

## A vote for Ireland's native language and customs



## PATRICK LYNCH

Home Rule Party Candidate

### Election Platform:

## A VOTE FOR LYNCH IS

A vote for the obvious successor to the very popular Willie Redmond

A vote for the Irish Party which drove the Land Purchase Acts in Parliament to the benefit of predominately agricultural County Clare.

A vote for the Irish Party whose strenuous opposition in Parliament is the only thing that prevented conscription in Ireland - The 1916 Rising only strengthened the argument that conscription was necessary

A vote against Sinn Féin whose intended policy of abstention from Parliament would allow conscription to be passed by default

# Planning your Election Campaign



Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Slogan: \_\_\_\_\_

Task	Description	Student(s) Assigned to Task
<b>1. Campaign Research</b>	<p>Team members conduct deeper research into</p> <p><b>(a)</b> Your candidate's background and his main strengths and weaknesses</p> <p><b>(b)</b> The opposition candidate(s), his background and key policies</p> <p><b>(c)</b> The opposition's main weaknesses</p> <p><b>(d)</b> Who your potential voters are and how to best engage with them</p>	<p>(a) _____</p> <p>(b) _____</p> <p>(c) _____</p> <p>(d) _____</p>
<b>2. Plan your Electioneering Tactics</b>	<p><b>(a)</b> List some prominent personalities from 1917 who might be willing to campaign for your candidate</p> <p><b>(b)</b> List some activities that your candidate could engage in to drum up support</p> <p><b>(c)</b> List some ways that your candidate could get some much-needed publicity</p>	<p>(a) _____</p> <p>(b) _____</p> <p>(c) _____</p>
<b>3. Develop your key campaign materials</b>	<p>These include:</p> <p><b>(a) An Electioneering Poster:</b> eye-catching and memorable with a strong central message</p> <p><b>(b) An Electioneering Leaflet:</b> Written using persuasive language, it should provide details of the candidate and reasons to vote for him.</p> <p><b>(c) A Campaign Speech:</b> Write a three minute persuasive campaign speech to be delivered by your candidate</p>	<p>(a) _____</p> <p>(b, 1) _____</p> <p>(b, 2) _____</p> <p>(c) _____</p>





Front

Campaign Logo Here

Relevant Image Here

Relevant Image Here

Back

Bullet point  
reasons to vote for your candidate

Celebrity  
Endorsement here

Image of Prominent person who would  
be likely to support your candidate

Three reasons why this recognisable figure  
would support your candidate here



List of Reasons why the Opposition  
Candidate(s) is the wrong choice!

Inside Centre

Short Biography of your candidate  
here with an appropriate image

Side Panel

any other relevant material here