

# A STATE APART

## Teachers Notes

### Programme 5

### AGREEMENT

#### CONTENT

The programme deals with the Anglo-Irish Agreement 1985 as a renewed effort to reconcile the two communities and to provide a framework for North / South relations. The Unionist viewpoint and the history of the constitutional guarantee are considered, as is Unionist reaction to Dublin involvement in Northern Ireland's affairs.

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Of necessity, the programme contains much in the way of constitutional argument and is therefore dealing with difficult concepts.

#### KEY SECTIONS

1. The main points of the Agreement and a review of the previous attempt to introduce an all-Ireland involvement in Northern Ireland  
The lack of consultation with Unionist representatives is identified.
2. Failure of initiatives since power-sharing in 1974  
Reaction from Unionists, Nationalists and Republicans to the Anglo-Irish Agreement
3. The New Ireland Forum recommendations rejected by Mrs Thatcher  
The impact of the Brighton bomb  
The priority given to negotiations with the Dublin Government
4. Mrs Thatcher's motives and her hopes for the Agreement  
Unionist campaign against the Agreement  
The historical context of the Unionist position  
The Agreement is seen as a betrayal
5. Unionist isolation  
The failures and achievements of the Agreement considered  
Nationalist views on the Unionist veto  
The renewal of talks  
The Downing Street Declaration 1993 and the effort to end political violence for good

#### BEFORE THE PROGRAMME

- Point out the political pressure on the British Government of continuing violence; and the emergence of Sinn Fein after 1981.
- Review the feelings of Unionists towards any involvement of the Dublin Government.
- Consider Unionist views on the British Government.

**DURING THE PROGRAMME**

- Use the Pupil Log to record the sequence of events 1981-1993.
- Find out the key points that were agreed in 1985.
- Note the reactions of Unionists, Nationalists and Republicans to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

**AFTER THE PROGRAMME**

- Discuss the Unionist campaign against the Agreement. Was it a success or a failure?
- Why did Loyalists feel they had been betrayed by the British Government?
- Why did so few Unionists oppose the Downing Street Declaration in the same way as they did the Anglo-Irish Agreement?

**HISTORICAL SKILLS/ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES**

Programme 5 clearly describes and analyses a key historical event (the signing of the Anglo Irish Agreement and provides opportunities to view this event from a range of perspectives.

Cause and Consequence and experiences and perspectives.  
(Assessment Objective AO1 CCEA GCSE History Specification)