

Welfare State

Task 1: Recap

1. What were the three main components of Welfare State?

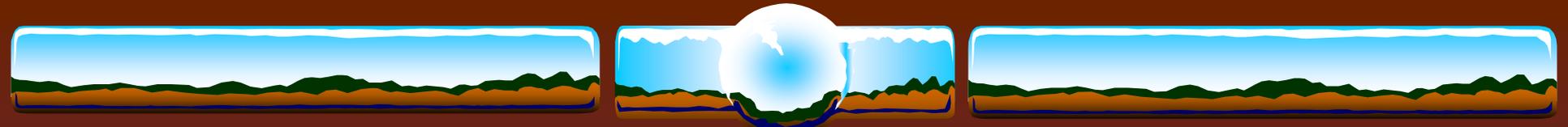
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Education

2. How did the working class benefit?

- ❖ The Welfare State tried to ensure greater social equality and opportunity
- ❖ Better housing conditions
- ❖ Access to University
- ❖ Unemployment benefit
- ❖ Free healthcare

3. Why was there opposition to the Welfare State in Northern Ireland?

- ❖ Some people saw it as being too expensive to run.
- ❖ Others were concerned about too much state control in the lives of ordinary people.
- ❖ Wealthy people were worried about the higher taxation that would be required to pay for it.
- ❖ Businessmen were opposed to the idea of nationalisation.
- ❖ Doctors were worried about losing their and professional independence and not being able to take on private patients. They were worried that they would just become like civil servants.
- ❖ Unionist politicians opposed the Welfare State because they thought that the Stormont government would have to pay the cost of the Welfare State.
- ❖ They also opposed it because they were suspicious of the Labour government (it had traditionally supported the idea of a united Ireland).



Task 2

The Impact of the Welfare State in Northern Ireland

1939	Northern Ireland's death toll highest in the UK
1944	Brooke's report estimated that 37% of homes were unsuitable for living in and more than 100,000 homes were required.
1945	Northern Ireland Housing Trust was established. Industrial Development Act provided land and incentives for building new factories.
1947	Education Act raised school age to 15 and pupils who passed 11+ exam could attend grammar schools without payment.
1948	Introduction of the NHS Introduction of welfare incentives e.g. family allowance, national assistance and pensions Under The Health Services Act, a General Health Services Board and a Hospitals Authority were established
1955	Number of pupils in post primary schools had doubled.
1962	Northern Ireland's death toll lowest in UK

Task 4: How did the Welfare State affect the lives of people in Northern Ireland by 1962?

(12 marks)

Health

- ❖ The National Health Service was established in July 1948. Free prescriptions, medical, dental and optical treatment led to an improvement in health standards
- ❖ the majority benefited from the introduction of the National Health Service and National Assistance
- ❖ By 1962 Northern Ireland had the lowest death rate in the United Kingdom by 1962, having had the worst in 1939
- ❖ Diseases such as tuberculosis and polio were almost totally eradicated
- ❖ Improved benefits such as family allowance and sickness benefits improved the quality of life for the poorest groups

Housing

- ❖ Northern Ireland had a serious housing shortage following the Second World War
- ❖ A report in 1944 stated that 37% of homes in Belfast were unfit to live in and recommended that Northern Ireland needed over 100 000 new homes (43 000 houses were classed as unfit to live in)
- ❖ over 50 000 houses in Belfast had been damaged or destroyed in the Belfast Blitz
- ❖ the Stormont government and local councils spent little on building houses before 1945.
- ❖ the Northern Ireland Housing Trust was set up in 1945 to build houses using central government money. Orbits and Housing Trust estates e.g., the Woodlands at Gilford were built. As were prefabs

Education

- ❖ in Britain, the 1944 Education Act introduced the principle of free secondary education for all, with transfer at the age of eleven. The 1947 Education Act in NI corresponded to this.
- ❖ transfer to secondary and grammar schools would now occur at the age of 11 with the introduction of the 11+ examination
- ❖ Free grammar school education was made available to all students who passed the 11+ examination
- ❖ the total number of pupils in secondary education doubled between 1947 and 1955
- ❖ Attendance at school was compulsory until 15 which was the school leaving age
- ❖ the Minister of Education in Northern Ireland increased funding for Catholic voluntary schools from 50% to 65%, much higher than was available in England
- ❖ local education authorities were obliged to provide free services to all schools including medical treatment, transport, milk, meals, books and stationery