**Brexit and the Irish Border. Answers**

**General Understanding**

How long did the violence last? **30 years**

During the violence was the border open or closed? **Closed**

How long is the border? **310 miles**

Approximately how many people cross the border every day? **Around 30,000 people**

**Specific understanding**

Is the border open or closed today? **Open.**

What do we call the 30 year period of violence? **The Troubles.**

What are the advantages of having an open border?

**It allows people to identify as British Irish or both.**

Why was the border closed during the 30 years of violence?

**To stop terrorist groups like the IRA moving between the two countries.**

What do we mean by sectarian violence?

**Violence between Catholics and Protestants.**

What did the Good Friday Agreement allow?

**It allows people and goods to move freely across the island of Ireland.**

What risk could Brexit have for the border between the two Irelands?

**Brexit could lead to the return of a hard border and immigration and customs checks would need to take place between the two countries.**

With Brexit where would the new EU external border be?

**Where Northern Ireland meets the Republic of Ireland.**

What is the Backstop and what consequences would it have?

**A back up plan while politicians (UK, EU, Irish) decide what to do next. The UK would remain in a customs Union with the EU. Northern Ireland would have to follow EU rules and regulations to keep the Irish border frictionless.**

What objections are there to Backstop?

**The Backstop would effectively trap the UK in a customs union with the EU. This wasn’t the aim of Brexit.**