

WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

Read these 2 documents and answer the 3 questions corresponding to the 3 columns.

Give **the nature** of each document.

1/ **Present the context of the 2 documents : people, places, time period.** Thanks to your knowledge of the subject (you can make suppositions), comment on people, places and time period. Then in one or two sentences : compare and contrast the 2 documents.

2/ **Subject and meaning :** What is the subject of each document ? What is happening in document A (explain by highlighting the cause and consequences of the character's action) ? What is happening in document B (explain what has happened to the people highlighting causes and consequences). In one or two sentences : compare and/or contrast the 2 documents.

3/ **The documents' point of view :** Explain the **point of view, the opinion or the message** given by the people who wrote each document. Are they neutral, biased ? What tone is used in each document ? In one sentence compare and/or contrast the 2 documents.

DOCUMENT A

Dolours Price¹ was walking through Belfast with her mother, Chrissie, one day in 1971 when they rounded a corner and saw a British Army check point. Pedestrians were being questioned and searched. Chrissie slowed her pace² and murmured, 'Are you carrying anything?'

5 'No,' Dolours said.

'Are you carrying anything?' Chrissie asked again, more forcefully. In the distance, Dolours could see young men being thrown up against armoured vehicles and ordered by the soldiers to take off their jackets.

'Give it to me,' Chrissie said.

10 Dolours produced the pistol she had been carrying and discreetly handed it to her mother, who concealed it under her own coat. When they reached the checkpoint, Dolours was forced to take off her jacket, while Chrissie, being older, was waved through. Back at the house on Slievegallion Drive, Chrissie meticulously cleaned the gun, oiling each metal component. Then
15 she wrapped it in some socks and buried it in the garden. Later, a quartermaster³ from the IRA stopped by to exhume the weapon.

'Would your ma join?' he asked Dolours, only half in jest. 'She's terrific at storing weapons.' [...]

Chrissie Price knew the risks, and for all her devotion to the cause, she
20 worried about her daughter. 'Would you not finish your education?' she implored.

'Like the revolution's going to wait until I finish my education,' Dolours replied.

Most nights, when Dolours came home from operations, Chrissie would
25 silently take her clothes and put them in the washer without asking any questions. But on one occasion, Dolours returned late at night to find her mother crying, because news had reached Chrissie of
30 a bomb going off somewhere and she had been seized by a fear that it might have killed her daughter.

Patrick RADDEN KEEFE, *Say Nothing*, 2018



1. Dolours Price (1950-2013), famous IRA volunteer
2. walking speed 3. rank in the army

DOCUMENT B

Reliving the nightmare: the Troubles survivors sharing their stories on Victims Day

By Claire O'Boyle, Belfast Telegraph, 14 March 2017.

Standing before a packed chamber at Stormont, three men yesterday recalled the devastating days their lives were torn apart by terrorism. On the 13th annual European Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Terrorism, families from across Northern Ireland, the Republic and Britain who were affected by loyalist and republican terrorists gathered to remember the dead and injured of the Troubles - and to call for truth and justice.

Noel Downey was 26 when he lost his leg in an IRA under-car booby trap bomb in Lisnaskea in 1990. "I remember the white flash. I was blind and deaf for a period which seemed to be ages," said the father-of-two.

"I reached over in my blindness and opened the door. I got out of the car and attempted to walk. I kept falling, falling down and falling down. I couldn't understand why. I kept getting up and trying to walk and I kept falling down again. It was only later I realised why. My left leg was gone... it was lying in the back seat of the car. "

Holding back tears, Mr Downey (now 53) talked about the huge impact his ordeal had on him psychologically, as well as physically.

"I have a prosthetic leg and I walk with a limp but I have had nightmares, flashbacks, anger and depression too," said Mr Downey, who was a member of the UDR at the time (the Ulster Defence Regiment was an infantry regiment of the British Army established in 1970).

Joining Mr Downey was Ken Funston, whose brother Ronnie was shot dead on the family farm in Pettigo, Co Fermanagh, exactly 33 years ago yesterday. "He was the quiet one in our house," said Mr Funston. "On the day he was shot he did the same as he did every other day - he went out to feed the cattle at 7.45am. "Gunmen were sitting in wait for him and he was riddled with bullets. My mother Florence heard the shots from the house and she always remembered how she saw two men running away cheering. Ronnie's death destroyed her, and within a few years she had cancer. My parents were from Donegal and moved to Fermanagh," said Mr Funston, who now works as an advocate for victims' rights.

"They'd always known and got along with their Catholic neighbours, so there was a real hurt there. The IRA wanted our family away from the border area. And sadly, because my parents were too old and devastated by what happened to carry on at the farm, they succeeded."