



Women and the Vote



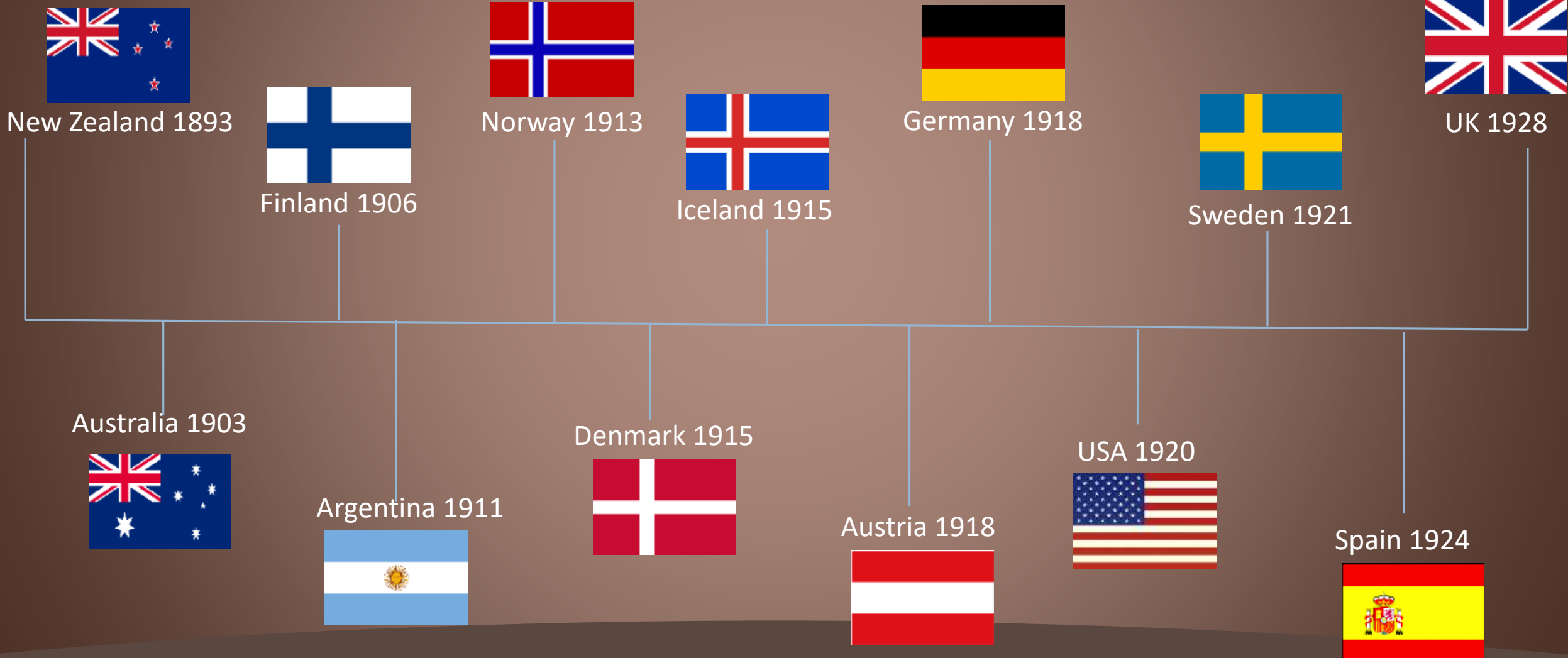
" I am most anxious to enlist everyone who can speak or write to join in checking this mad, wicked folly of 'Women's Rights', with all its attendant horrors, on which her poor feeble sex is bent, forgetting every sense of womanly feelings and propriety. Feminists ought to get a good whipping. Were woman to 'unsex' themselves by claiming equality with men, they would become the most hateful, heathen and disgusting of beings and would surely perish without male protection. "

Queen Victoria, 1870

Women: the inferior sex?



United Kingdom “The Mother of Democracy” ??



The Four Main Contributory Factors to Women's Political Equality by 1928

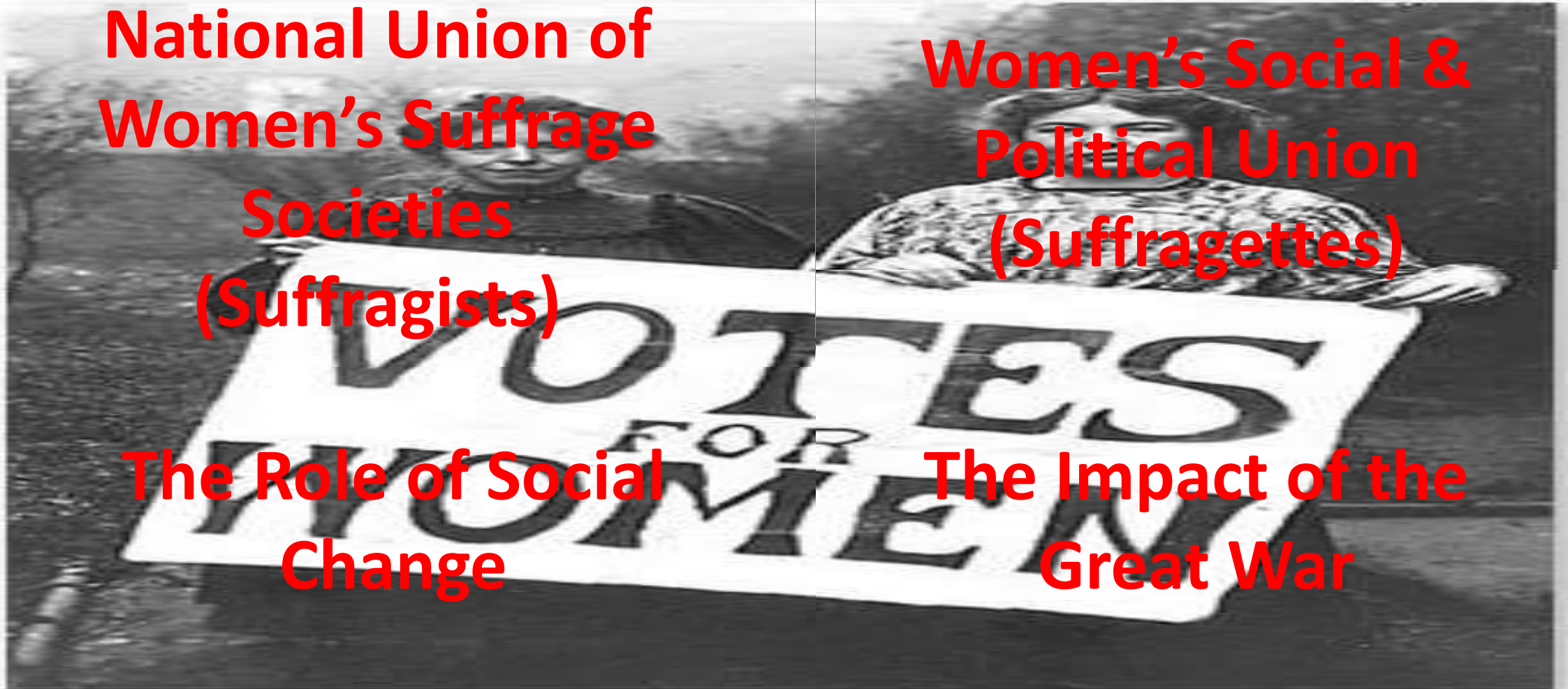


**National Union of
Women's Suffrage
Societies
(Suffragists)**

**Women's Social &
Political Union
(Suffragettes)**

**The Role of Social
Change**

**The Impact of the
Great War**



Watch the video clip



LISTEN

The Key Figures in Women's Political Equality



Use the iPads (or library PCs) to complete *short* bios on the following key figures in women's political equality

Millicent
Fawcett



Herbert
Asquith



Emmeline
Pankhurst



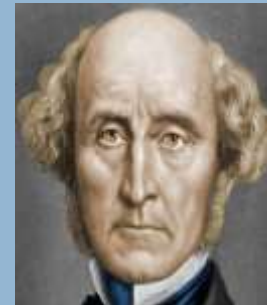
Marion
Dunlop



Emily
Davison



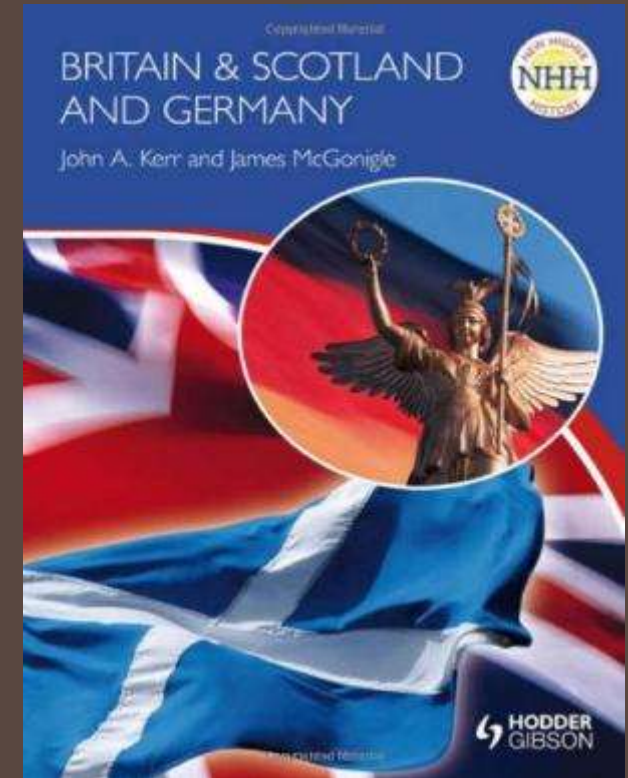
John Stuart
Mill



Emily Davies



Collect a copy of
textbook and read
pages 27 and 28.
Summarise the pages
into a mind map or
bullet points





**A WOMAN'S MIND
MAGNIFIED**

Second class
citizen?



Collect a copy of
this image and write
a short paragraph
explaining how it
summarises the
perception of 19th
century women.

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/doc/gender-equality-timeline.pdf>



Use the iPads (or library PCs) to visit the web page opposite to complete your own timeline of British women's suffrage history

(1867 to 1928 only)

Why Did Women Not Have the Vote by 1914?



- Male prejudice still existed despite the arguments put forward by women's groups
- No political party totally supported women's suffrage. Although the Labour Party were in favour they wanted universal male suffrage first.
- Political party leaders were not prepared to risk a split in their ranks over the issue of women's suffrage
- Prime Minister Asquith was opposed to women getting the vote despite other senior figures in the Liberal Party being more sympathetic (David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill)
- Some Liberal MPs refused to support a Bill that gave only property owning women the vote since they believed this would favour the Conservatives

Why Did Women Not Have the Vote by 1914?



- Most Bills aimed at getting women the vote were Private Members Bills which had little chance of success
- The women's movement was too middle class and failed to win the support of sufficient numbers of working class women
- The violent tactics of the Suffragettes lost support. The government would never be seen to give in to violence because this would encourage other pressure groups to adopt violence
- The anti-suffrage campaign used effective propaganda to persuade people that most women did not want change and were happy as they were
- The government had more pressing issues to deal with such as major difficulties in Ireland, widespread violent industrial unrest and the impending reality of war breaking out. Compared to these issues, women's suffrage seemed less important.

Why Did Women Want the Vote?



The National Union of Women's Suffrage Society put forward the following arguments to convince the public of their right to vote

- It is a basic fact of political liberty that those who obey the law should have a say in who makes the law
- Parliament should reflect the wishes of the people. This cannot be the case if the wishes of women are ignored.
- Most laws affect women as much as men and some affect women more.

Why Did Women Want the Vote?



- Laws concerning women are passed without women being consulted.
- Laws affecting children should be looked at from a women's point of view as well as a man's.
- Parliament is always debating issues that affect the home and women play the most important role in the home
- Women have experience which should be brought to bear on domestic legislation.
- Depriving women of the right to vote devalued society itself.

Collect a copy of textbook and create 4 pages for each of the main four factors that contributed to women gaining equal voting rights in the UK



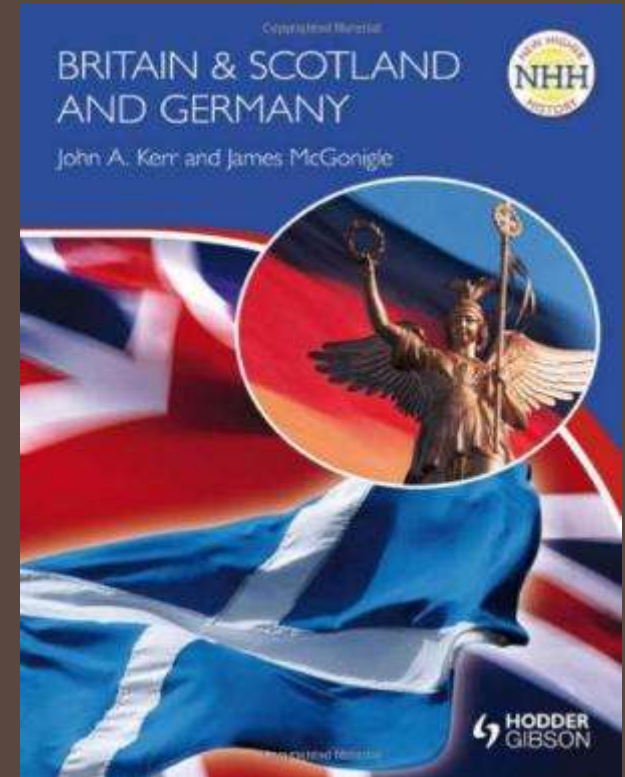
Heading 1: Suffragists (info on page 33)

Heading 2: Suffragettes (info on pages 34 to 37)

Heading 3: Changing Society (info on pages 29 to 32)

Heading 4: Impact of the Great War (info on pages 38 to 39 and 20 to 22)

Read the relevant pages and summarise the information into bullet points or mind maps





LISTEN

The next four slides detail the key factual information about each of the four factors – as you copy* the information try to analyse each fact in terms of how it helped women gain the vote

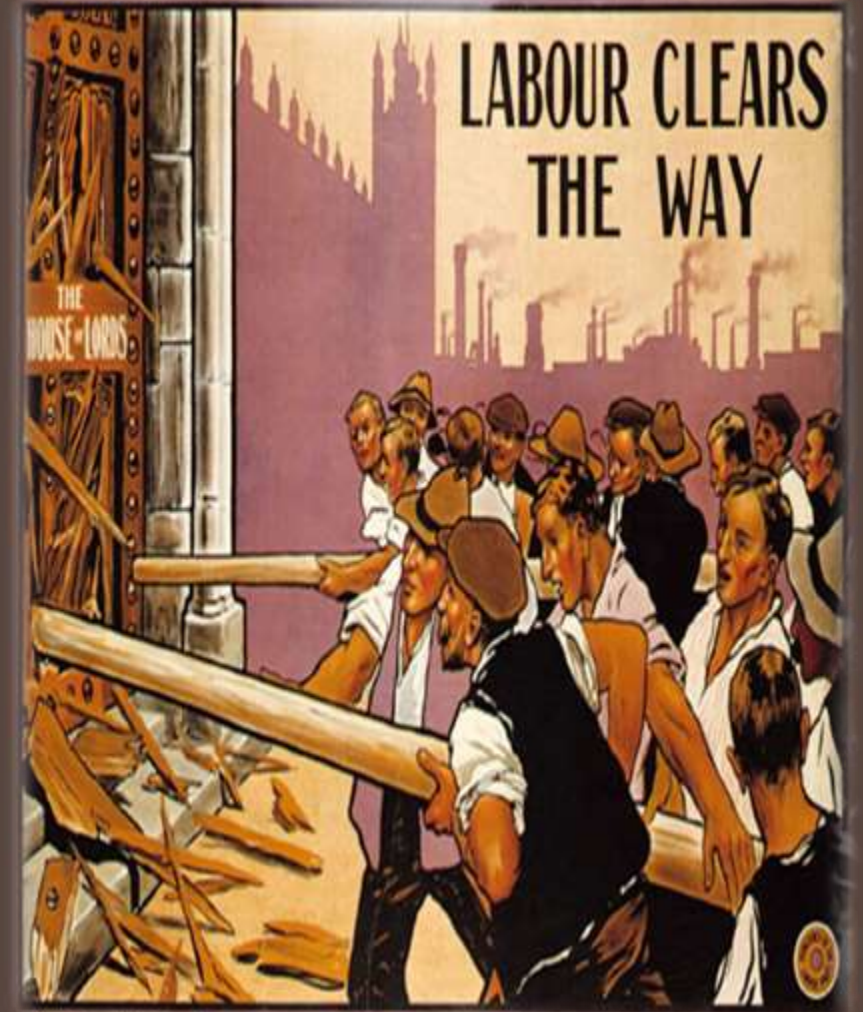
*obviously do not copy information you already have

•Millicent Fawcett, 1897, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

•Peaceful tactics – letter writing, leaflets, pamphlets, appointments with MPs

•Publicity – not front page but 53,000 members by 1914 (from 6,000 in 1910) considerably more than Suffragettes

•Effect – lots of support from back-bench MPs, some trade union support and the Labour Party (scared Liberals), provided 'home' for suffragettes turned off by violence, more public sympathy, quiet reform was working (women could vote in local elections), middle class respectability but easy to ignore



SUFFRAGISTS

Emmeline Pankhurst, 1903, Women's Social and Political Union, 'Deeds Not Words'

Militancy - violent tactics, arson, assault, hunger strikes, Cat & Mouse Act, Emily Davison, Marion Dunlop

Publicity – good and bad, kept movement in newspapers, government determined not to give in?, stopped campaign in 1914, 20,000 newspapers per week, branches all over UK, over 100 paid office staff (impact)

Effect – membership fell between 1910 and 1914 when most violent, lost sympathy with some MPs, violence confirmed argument that they should not vote, however serious discussions at Gov. level before outbreak of war, hunger strike sympathy

Mistakes – did not link with Labour Party for united working class campaign for men and women



SUFFRAGETTES



- Home front reward?, excuse for MPs, 700,000 in munitions, factories, Land Army public empathy, 'doing their bit' (policemen, bus conductors)
- Other reasons – conscription, returning heroes (room for women), residency concerns, war time coalition (no party division) Lloyd George replacing Asquith
- Prominent MPs now in parliament, Balfour, Bonar Law (pro suffragists)
- 1918 Act – over 30s (mostly single girls in factories), pacify women, prevent movement momentum, revolution in Russia, French women?

GF094352

IMPACT OF THE WAR



Industrial revolution – brought full time employment for women which created opportunities for organisation

Women better educated – 1870s universal education, university acceptance, Emily Davies

Law – improvements to legal status - 1873 Infant Custody Act , 1882 Women's Property Act, 1894 Local Government Act (stand for local election)

Second class citizen image fading – jobs, office workers, teaching, nursing, men more accepting of women in the 'male' world

Female suffrage inevitable? Women more involved in public spheres of life (town councils, joining political parties), 1910 Committee

Female attitudes – women want the vote, reasons for vote

Liberal fear of losing working class vote to Labour

Progress – other countries gave women vote New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Canada ('mother of democracy')

However as almost 1/3 of men could still not vote by 1918 perhaps society was not ready to accept female suffrage until all men had the vote



New Zealand women marching for suffrage

**1ST COUNTRY
TO GIVE
WOMAN THE
RIGHT VOTE
IN 1893.**

CHANGING SOCIETY

Acrostic Crazy!



Get your creative juices flowing by making an acrostic statement for each of the following headings (I have generously completed one for you) – SUFFRAGIST or SUFFRAGETTE, SOCIETY and GREAT WAR

Status of women in legal terms improved through changes in the law such as Married Women's Property Act

Other countries (New Zealand, Canada) had given women the vote
pressurising the 'Mother of Democracy' tag

Changing attitudes were eroding male prejudices

Inevitable aspect of female suffrage following participation in local politics

Education, such as university acceptance, changed perception of women

Teaching, office jobs, nursing were opening up to women helping them lose the second class citizen image

Yes I couldn't think of a 'Y' but I've got my Higher History*

*(albeit a 'C')



Watch the
summary video
opposite and add
any notes to your
four factors as
appropriate



Listen to the
summary podcast
and add any
notes to your
four factors as
appropriate

Historiography



LISTEN

Read the following quotations from historians and complete these tasks to help your understanding:

- Read the quote!
- Decide which of the four factors the quote is referring to
- Copy the quote onto that page of your summary notes
- In your own words write down what you think the historian is saying
- After you have copied the quote put in brackets whether you think the quote will help you with factual information, analysis or analysis plus plus



Martin Pugh

“Suffragists would probably have done better to have common cause with all unenfranchised men and women from the start and thereby they might have extended their appeal.”



Arthur Marwick

“It is difficult to see how women could have achieved so much in anything like a similar time span without the unique circumstances arising from the war”.

Midge MacKenzie

‘Prior to 1914 it was the militant vanguard, the WSPU, that revitalised the question of votes for women with its tactics of political confrontations and the immense publicity that ensued’.

Martin Pugh

“The Pankhursts proved a highly divisive force within the women’s movement. They inflicted a catalogue of splits among militant forces. There are no grounds for the view that the WSPU shifted public opinion in its favour, rather the reverse.”



Martin Pugh

“Careful study tends to show how little change resulted from the war, not how much”.




Angela Holdsworth

“The early Suffragists were a well connected group of women who used their influence to try and persuade powerful men to take up their cause.”



Winston Churchill

*“Their cause has
marched backwards”*



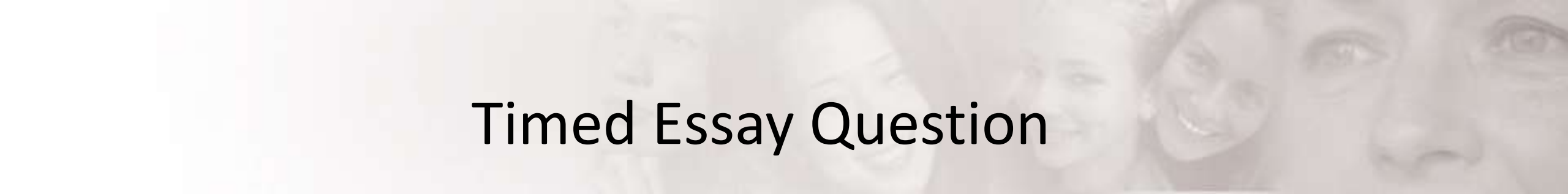
John Ray

“Women proved by their work that they deserved the vote equally with men. Thus their war efforts succeeded where the Suffragette campaign had failed.”



Queen Victoria

Were woman to 'unsex' themselves by claiming equality with men, they would become the most hateful, heathen and disgusting of beings and would surely perish without male protection."



Timed Essay Question

Although the Suffragettes gained more news headlines, the Suffragists actually contributed most to women gaining the vote.

How accurate is this statement?