

Candidate 1 evidence

History Higher Resource Sheet	
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Evidence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - women → respect → Asquith → David Lloyd George - Representation Act 1918 → 13 million men → 8 women - Emmeline Pankhurst, Christabel, Sylvia - 'deeds not words' - cat and mouse act - divisive - 15% total electorate - conservative Party Prime League 1883 - 97% in 1900 - "too stupid for politics" - 53,000 1914 → trade unions, Labour Party - pro-suffrage MPs - 4 attempts - 1912 coalition Bill, 203 MPs, 222 against - Asquith respected - Queen Victoria - intelligent, trustworthy - Millicent Fawcett → 1897 local women suffrage - meetings, pamphlets 	
References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. J. P. Taylor "war smoothed the way for democracy" - English History 1914-1945 - M. Mackenzie "The WSPU revitalized the question of votes for women with its tactics of political confrontations and the immense publicity that ensued." - should do to should do - Martin Pugh "women's active participation in the above made it increasingly difficult to justify their exclusion from national elections." - State and Scotland - John Kerr "the campaigning of peaceful persuasion used by the WSPU had created a situation where many if not most MPs had accepted the principle of women's suffrage." http://spartacus.educational.com/wspu.htm 	

To what extent was women's war work the most important reason for women gaining the vote?

During the mid-19th century it was a widely held view that women occupied and men occupied in 'separate spheres'. By 1918 women were granted the vote. The most important reason for women gaining greater political equality was war work, the work of the Suffragettes, changing attitudes and the work of the Suffragists.

The most important reason for women gaining greater political equality was war work. ~~When the war had started the Suffragists and Suffragettes quickly turned into a patriotic, pro-war organisation.~~ Once the war started the non-militant Suffragists and the militant Suffragettes began to support the war effort. The WSPU quickly turned into a patriotic, pro-war organisation which was committed to supporting the war effort through encouraging both women to do war work and men to enlist. The new war brought new employment opportunities for women of all classes such as filling vacant jobs left by men, secretaries, conductors on trams and buses, police and over 700,000 women were employed making munitions. This is important to women gaining greater political equality because both of the Suffrage campaigns gained support and respect because of their willingness to get behind the war effort and much in return than potentially

sabotaging the war campaign. ~~His~~ A.S.P Taylor highlights this by stating "war smoothed the way for democracy". In December, the prime minister Asquith who had been the main opponent of the Suffragettes was replaced by David Lloyd George, who was more willing to accept change. By 1917/18 there was plans to change the rules about voting as they applied to men. This is important in highlighting the importance of the Great War in women gaining the vote as it suggested that some measure of women's suffrage should be conferred. The Representation of the People Act 1918 gave the vote to another 13 million men and 8 million women. However, the importance of the Great War was not fully important as only women over 30 who owned property had the vote, which wasn't an accurate representation of women who done the work. In evaluation, women's work was the most important factor to women gaining greater political equality as it led to many men gaining respect for women who had proved that they could work just as hard as men, which is supported by Asquith who was a main opponent of women's suffrage, he admitted the war couldn't have been won without the work of women.

Another important reason for women gaining greater political equality was the work of the WSPU. It was led by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia. It was created out of frustration with the lack of progress achieved by

the NUWSS. They adopted the motto 'deeds not words', which shows their intent clearly which is to breathe new life into the campaign for women's suffrage. This is important as the Suffragettes and their methods gained publicity for the campaign. M. Mackenzie states "The WSPU revitalized the question of voted for women with its tactics of political confrontations and the immense publicity that ensued." They gained more publicity than the NUWSS because they used dramatic tactics such as the heckling of ministers at public meetings, interventions in by-elections to encourage electors to vote against the Liberal Candidates which is more dramatic tactics than the NUWSS. The government introduced the Temporary Discharge for Ill Health Act also known as the Cat and Mouse Act. Women who were sent to prison went on a hunger strike to embarrass the government when a Suffragette died in ~~prison~~ custody. This flipped the balance and women began to gain sympathy and the government were then seen as the "bad guys." Emily Davidson who was a Suffragette, at Epsom Derby, stood purposely in front of a horse and tried to attach a scarf to it but ended up dying. This drew attention to women and was one of the biggest reasons that women got the vote. However, women were often seen as terrorists due to their extreme actions which hindered the vote for women. In evaluation, the Suffragettes were important to women gaining greater political equality as the Suffragettes were extremely divisive and turned many supporters away and gave women a violent

reputation whereas we work proved women could be trusted and led to many respecting the efforts of women and supporting their cause for the vote.

A less important reason for women gaining greater political equality was the change in attitudes towards women. Throughout the 19th century women were gaining greater political equality in terms of political changes as in 1869 single female ratepayers were given the right to vote in council elections which was 1.5% of total electorate. By 1907 women could stand as candidates in county council elections which gave them a voice within politics. This is important to women gaining greater political equality, the fact that Mrs joined political parties such as the Conservative Primrose League 1883, this made politicians rely on them for canvassing and other matters. North Pugh States "~~to be~~ women's active participation in the above made it increasingly difficult to justify their exclusion from national elections." Men saw how valuable women were in this sphere. Also more women than ever were attending school with their literacy rates increasing to 97% in 1900. This helped destroy the image of women being "too stupid for politics." However, women were still not seen as equal to men as they still weren't able to vote. This didn't change until the Representation of the People Act 1928 which gave women the vote at age 21. In evaluation, changing attitudes was of lesser importance towards women gaining greater

greater political equality as although women were gaining more respect legally, for example the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act which allowed for easier divorce, these were usually aimed at middle and upper class women. On the other hand, women's work was the most important reason as there was a united front for women which broke down barriers that women could handle a job, family and child care at the same time which ultimately led to the vote.

The least important reason for women gaining greater political equality was the work of the NUWSS. The leader of the suffragists was Millicent Fawcett, they started in 1857 after several local women's suffrage societies joined together to form one united organisation. They used a ~~massive~~ campaign of meetings, pamphlets, parliamentary bills which were introduced by sympathetic backbench MPs. This is important as the suffragists impressed many British people, this showed that they were capable and trustworthy of organising a successful nationwide campaign. John Kerr highlights this by stating "The campaigning of peaceful persuasion used by the NUWSS had created a situation where many if not most MPs had accepted the principle of women's suffrage". The membership of the NUWSS grew largely to 53,000 by 1914 and they gained support from trade unions and the new Labour Party. The NUWSS also sped up the vote for women as many pro-suffrage MPs held influential places in the government. However, it can be argued that

they still didn't win the vote despite no less than 4 attempts to introduce women's suffrage in parliament and there was still a lot of anti-suffrage feelings ~~in parliament~~, for example Queen Victoria was an outspoken, opposition figure to women's enfranchisement. In evaluation, the work of the suffragists was the least important reason for women gaining greater political equality as they were too slow in making change happen in Britain and by 1918 it was only some women over 30 who owned property that were given the vote. On the other hand, the work was more important as the 1912 Coalition Bill, 208 MPs voted for women's suffrage and 222 against. By 1917, 307 voted for women's suffrage and 57 against. They also won the admiration and respect ~~for~~ from men, even Asquith.

In conclusion, women's work was the most important reason for women gaining greater political equality. On one hand we were proved that women could handle extra responsibilities given to them without men. A less important reason for women gaining greater political equality was the custody of infants act, this allowed women who had a divorce from their husband the right to ~~to~~ apply for custody if the child was under 7 years old. On the other hand, the work of the suffragists was the least important as although they helped gain respect for women, it was a slow process and only aimed at middle & upper class women. A less important reason for women gaining greater political equality was the work of the

Suffragettes, they made women look irresponsible during their wild period and hindered the vote for women. Overall, women gained the vote due to their WW work which made the most impact towards women's suffrage.