

GCSE

# History B

91453 The Changing Role and Status of Women in Britain from 1900  
Controlled Assessment Sources (Specimen Only)

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9145

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Specimen for June 2015 examinations

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**Source A** From a modern history book about women's lives in twentieth century Britain.

The Labour Government's 1970 Equal Pay Act stated that an employee was entitled to equal pay if the work she did was the same or broadly similar to that of a man in the same establishment or the job evaluation rated their work as equivalent. Although it is difficult to distinguish the Act's impact on women's wages from other factors, between 1970 and 1977 women's hourly earnings, excluding overtime, rose from 63.1 to 75.7 per cent of men's earnings. But in the following decade women's earnings, relative to men's, declined slightly as employers found ways to maintain sex-differentiated pay.

From I ZWEINIGER-BARGIELOWSKA, *Women in the Twentieth Century Britain*, published in 2001

**Source B** From a guide to golf courses. This article called 'On Course for Equality', was written in 1981 by one of the few women golf professionals.

Many women golfers are now housewives with control of the family budget and a big say in what it buys. When new golf clubs are set up their members play their own part in helping encourage women golfers, with many clubs offering, equal playing rights. Some clubs still refuse to change their ways, and the 'No Dogs, No Women signs are not yet being removed. Some golf clubs may never let women join or even let them into the clubhouse.

**Source C** A photograph taken of women MPs of the Labour Party elected in 1997.



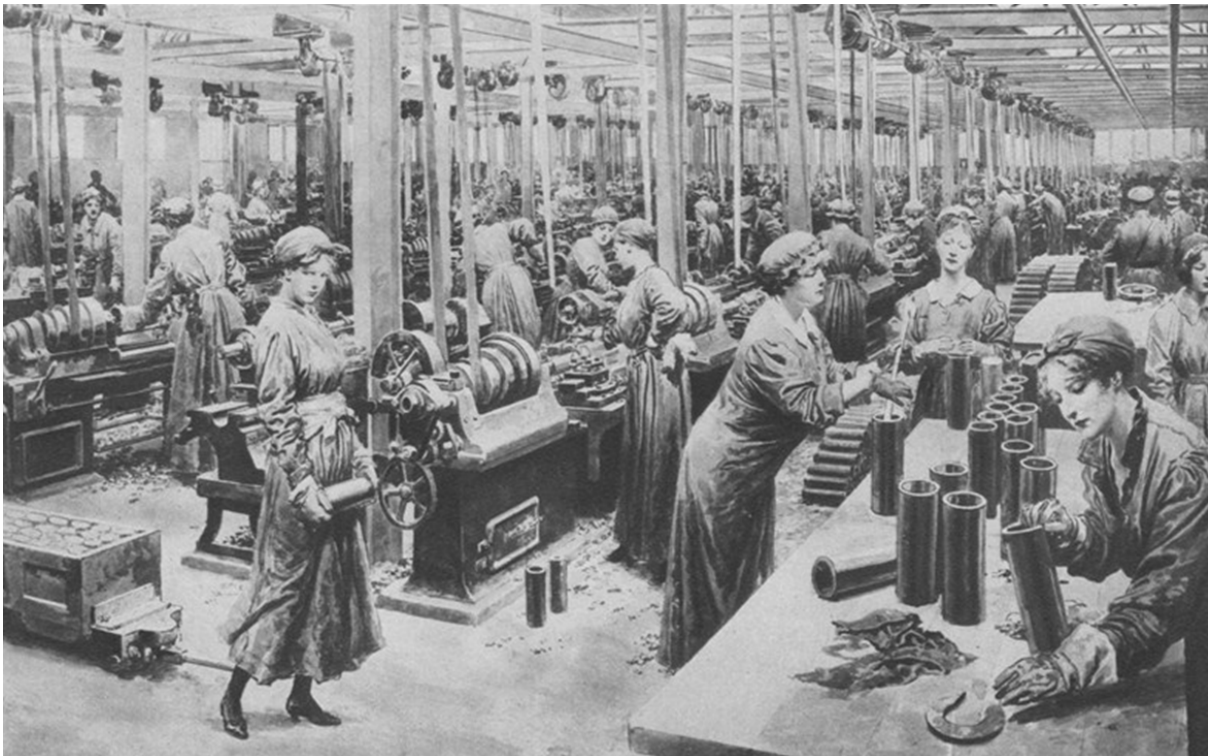
**Source D** From Germaine Greer's book, *The Whole Woman*, published in 1999.

*The Whole Woman* was Greer's sequel to her famous book on women's rights, *The Female Eunuch*, which was published in the 1970s. In the opening chapter to *The Whole Woman*, Greer says 'It's time to get angry again.'

In the last thirty years women have come a long, long way; our lives are nobler and richer than they ever were, but they are also fiendishly difficult.

The Wilson government of 1975 that brought in the Sex Discrimination Act along with the Equal Opportunities Commission was made up of businessmen and lawyers. The Sex Discrimination Act was designed to give more progressive people the illusion that women's oppression had been recognised and that something was being done about it and at the same time to reassure less progressive MPs on both sides of the House of Commons that no great changes were likely to happen – business would go on as it had done so before the Act. There was never any chance that employers would find themselves facing expensive adjustments to women's wages.

**Source E** Official war painting of women working in a munitions factory, 1915



**Source F** An assessment of the importance of the First World War in achieving the vote for women in 1918

The First World War has usually been taken as marking a turning-point both in the acquisition of the right to vote and in wider opportunities for women. However, it is clear that the war was not so much the reason for growing female emancipation but the occasion for it. Even before the war, women were moving into commerce and the professions. At the outbreak of the war, just over three million women were employed in commerce and industry. By 1907 women had acquired the right to both vote and to be elected to positions in local government.

The growing national movement for women's suffrage before 1914 had put women's rights on the agenda for future action as one of the most prominent political issues of the early years of the twentieth century.

From *British Society, 1914–45*, by J STEPHENSON, published in 1984

**Source G** Former Prime Minister Asquith comments on the issue of votes for women. It is from a speech in the House of Commons in 1917

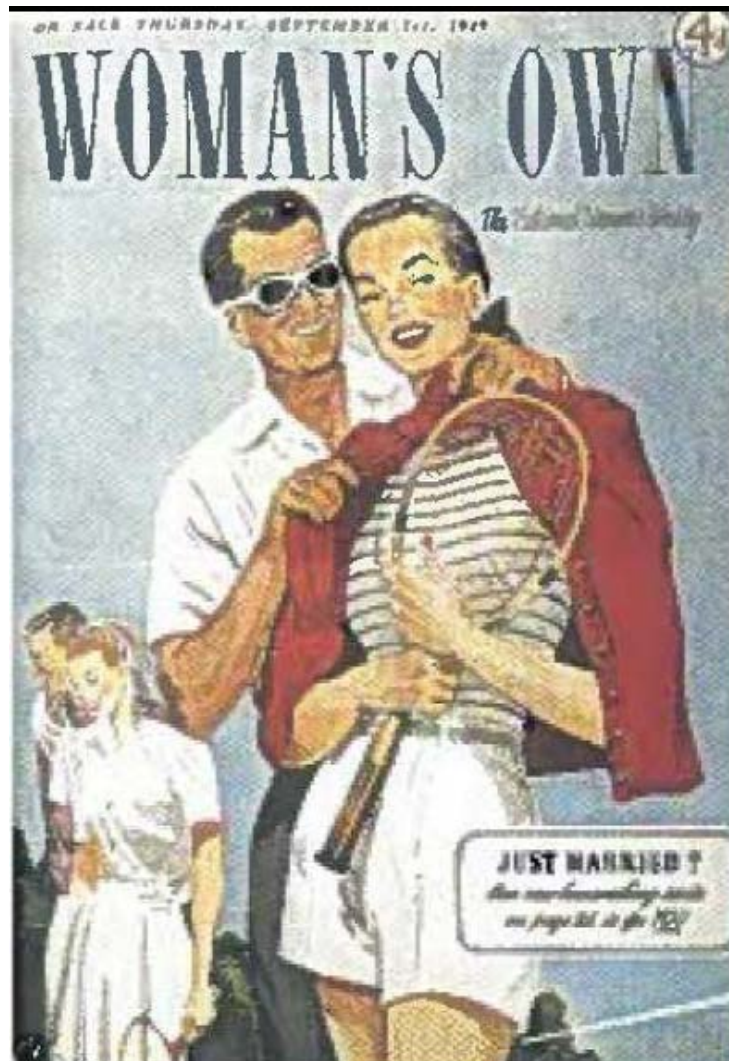
How could we have carried on the war without women? There is hardly a service in which women have not been at least as active as men. But what moves me more in this matter is the problem of reconstruction when the War is over. The questions which will arise with regard to women's labour and women's functions are questions in which I find it impossible to withhold from women the power and the right of making their voices heard. And let me add that, since the war began, now nearly three years ago, we have had no recurrence of that detestable campaign. No one can now say that we are yielding to violence.

**Source H** A photograph of women of the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) on duty as anti-aircraft observers. They were often targeted by enemy aircraft.



**Source J** The front cover of *Woman's Own* magazine, 1949

The role women had won in the Second World War, with more freedom and opportunities in a wider range of employment, as well as a new found confidence, seemed to be evaporating. This popular magazine seemed to be suggesting that a women's real role was home maker and her husband's tennis partner.



**Source K** One view of how much the Second World War had affected women.

Anne Valery had been a member of the ATS. She remembered many years later how she was treated by a man in 1947.

I have the bitter memory of being a passenger in a car that had broken down, and of suggesting that...there was dirt in the carburettor. The driver chose not to hear me, fetching a mechanic who took half an hour to discover that the fault was just that. Biting back 'I told you so', I kept quiet, for two years of peace had taught me my place.

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