

Paper 2: Source A

An article by Flo Henry in a women's magazine explores the issues surrounding women voters. The article was published in the lead up to the May 2015 election in the U.K.

From Suffragettes to Political Apathy: why it is essential that women exercise their votes

1 In 1928, after years of peaceful campaigning and militant tactics alike, a group of now-famous, inspirational women called The Suffragettes achieved their goals: women in the UK over the age of 21 were granted the right to vote. For women everywhere this was a remarkable step: they had the opportunity to change society. Emmeline Pankhurst* once
5 stated that the only way to create equality is “through giving women political power”, which shows the way that these revolutionary feminists expected patriarchal society* to change. They saw giving women the power to vote for the political leaders who decided the policies which dramatically affected their lives as fundamental. Today, we still live in a society where men dominate much of the public and political spheres, but women also have
10 the power to change some of the policies that hold them back.

In the 2010 Election, only 64% of women exercised their right to vote, compared to 66% of men, highlighting that although lower voter turnout is a problem facing the UK as a whole, it affects females more greatly. With the May 2015 General Election fast approaching, in a time when politicians and citizens alike are concerned about voter apathy*, and celebrity Russell Brand – who encourages people not to vote because politics is ‘corrupt’ – gaining
15 support, it is time to reflect on the values that these important women stood for. Despite public perceptions, voting is the most powerful tool we have to change society, and it is vital that we exercise our right to vote, in order to challenge the dominant power structures which currently influence all of our lives. This is especially true for women. Despite the common assumption that feminism has ‘served its time’ and is ‘no longer relevant’ in
20 today’s society, there are a number of political issues which purely affect women, and this is something that cannot change unless women go to polling stations*. For instance, today, women’s sanitary products are taxed as luxury items – providing evidence for the argument that women are grossly underrepresented, and possibly linked to the fact that Parliament is made up of only 22.7% women.

25 For both genders, it is important to remember that in our current international political system, voting is increasingly making a difference. Things such as the recent Greek election of anti-austerity party Syriza, and the rise of UKIP, The SNP and The Green Party in the UK, show that the amazing thing about politics is that in our democracy, we hold the power to change the political environment. For instance, blind surveys by the website
30 voteforpolicies.org.uk show that 50,000 people polled were unaware of the positions held by each party, highlighting the lack of enthusiasm for politics’ power to instigate change.

We need to stop our obsession with petty aspects of political leaders, and decide to ignore which politician once smoked Marijuana, or which politician was once was photographed eating a bacon sandwich. There are more serious issues that need our attention.

Ultimately, we need to fight for feminism, and against voter apathy in society. The
35 suffragettes were so enthusiastic about the way that politics could change their lives that they spent their lives campaigning for it, some even sacrificing their lives for it. Today, all we

have to do is walk to a polling station. Politics affects every aspect of our lives, and we hold the power to influence it. It is crucial we use this vital power to shape our lives and the direction of society as a whole.

40 Want to restore some of the suffragette enthusiasm for the power of politics? Register to vote in the May 2015 General Election now!

Glossary

- * Emmeline Pankhurst – a leader of the Suffragettes movement
- * patriarchal society – a society run and controlled by men
- * apathy – lack of interest or enthusiasm
- * feminism- a movement concerned with ensuring women have equal rights in all areas of their lives.
- * polling stations – a building where voting takes place

Paper Two: Source B

In 1915, the House of Representatives in America denied women the right to vote for the last time. Here is an extract from a speech made by one of the Congressman, who voted against giving women the vote.

“Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to woman suffrage, but I am not opposed to woman. I am unwilling, as a southern man, to force upon her any burden which will distract this loving queen from her sacred, God-imposed duties. I am unwilling to force her into the vortex of politics, where her sensitiveness and her modesty will often be offended.”

“Women; have they a mission? Yes; it is to rule in the world of love and affection—in the home. It is not to rule in the State. They have a function to perform which prevents them partaking in the rule of the state. Man is king of this universe; woman is queen. The queen rules when the king is dead, or becomes a pampered baby, and the American man is not that yet.” [Applause]

The women of this smart Capital are beautiful, indeed, their beauty is positively disturbing to business, but they are not interested in politics. My lovely, loyal wife and beautiful, devoted sister have pleaded the case for suffrage, so to pacify them I conducted an experiment. I counted the number of women who were reading newspapers on street cars over several days and found the number lacking. It is thus evident that women generally are not interested in politics — for which the saints be forever praised — for I do not like to think of the day when papa’s purse will be called upon to contribute to this foolish idea of women entering an arena they are not equipped to deal with.

No; there is not one single honest argument to be advanced against the sharing of responsibilities of government, of social adjustment, with our women, except such as is founded on the belief of their inherent* inferiority and their proper subservience* to our great, good, our sober, intelligent, clean, and righteous male selves.

I still adhere to the old-fashioned belief that the hand that rocks the cradle wields a better and a stronger influence upon the Nation than the hand that writes the ballot. A nation that has good mothers to mould the boys will never want for good men to make the ballots. The great cry is that woman should be allowed to vote in order to protect themselves. Against what? Do men oppress them? Do we act toward them as though they were not American citizens or entitled to the protection of our laws? On the contrary, we show them every consideration, provide for their safety, and protect their interest always and everywhere. If, therefore, they could vote, they could not improve their condition, but might place themselves in a position that men would not be as tolerant and patient and chivalrous toward them as they are now.

*suffrage-*the right to vote in political elections*

*vortex-*whirlwind/storm*

*street cars-*carriages in 19th Century*

*inherent-*in built*

*subservience-*less important/must obey another*

Paper 2- Section A: Women & Voting Sources

Q1. Read again **Source A**, from **lines 1 to 10**.

Choose **four** statements below that are TRUE. Choose a maximum of four.

The writer believes that:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| A | In 1928, all women were allowed to vote | [] |
| B | Women over the age of 21 were allowed to vote in 1928 | [] |
| C | Emmeline Pankhurst only campaigned peacefully | [] |
| D | The Suffragettes used military tactics | [] |
| E | The writer admired the achievements of the Suffragettes | [] |
| F | Men were unhappy that women were granted the right to vote | [] |
| G | The writer feels that the society we live in is still favoured towards men | [] |
| H | Emmeline Pankhurst was elected in 1928 | [] |

[4 marks]

Q2. You need to refer to Source A and Source B for this question.

Use details from both sources. Write a summary of the differences between women's rights in each of the sources.

[8 marks]

Q3. You now need to refer only to Source B.

How does the writer use language to persuade his audience that women should not have the right to vote?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms

[12 marks]

Q4. For this question, you need to refer to the whole of **Source A** together with **Source B**.

Compare how the two writers convey their different attitudes to women being able to vote.

In your answer, you should:

- compare their attitudes
- compare the methods they use to convey their attitudes
- support your ideas with quotations from both texts

[16 marks]

Section B: Writing

You should spend about 45 minutes answering the question in this section. You are advised to plan your answer.

“Young people are now more engaged politically. It is deeply unfair that they have no say in the decisions that will affect their future. The voting age should be lowered to 16 so young people can vote in general elections.

Write a letter to your local MP in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

(24 marks for content and organisation

16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]