

## Homework 1, Term 5-

### Reading and Question on whether or not women should have the right to vote

Women haven't always had the right to vote (to have a say) on what happens in Britain and society. Women didn't get the right to vote until 1918, and even then it was only for women over 30 who owned a house. By 1928 ideas had begun to change whereby all women, regardless of class were given the right to vote at 21 years.

#### Reasons why women were not allowed to vote:

Many men believed that women were simply not capable of carrying out two roles, that of being a mother and having vote, therefore, they shouldn't be allowed to vote as women needed to concentrate on raising a family. Many men believed that women were not clever enough to make important decisions, or even worse, were far too hysterical to be allowed to vote. One argument put forward by men went on to say that women didn't actually want the vote which was not the truth. Furthermore, arguments also suggested that men were far more capable than women, which meant as men had the vote women were represented by their husbands, sons or fathers.

#### Arguments for women having the vote:

Many women argued that if they worked in roles such as doctors and school teachers then they should be allowed a say in how Britain was run, furthermore, women also suggested that as other countries had given women the vote, such as Australia, then women in all countries should have the vote. IF a woman worked she also had to pay taxes, just like a man, so argued that if this was the case, that men and women were equal with regards to tax, then both should have the same right to vote.

**Questions: Please write full sentence answers**

- 1: At what age were women the right to vote in 1918 and what did women have to own?
- 2: How did the voting rights change in 1918?
- 3: Why did men believe that women were simple not capable of having the vote?
- 4: Why do you think men said women didn't want the vote?
- 5: How did men argue that women were represented with the vote, even though they couldn't actually vote themselves?
- 6: Why did women argue that having a job should give them the right to vote?
- 7: Which country gave women the right to vote before Britain? How did this influence British women saying they should have the right to vote?

**Challenge Yourself:**

What do you believe was the biggest argument against women having the right to vote and why?

What do you believe was the biggest argument for women having the right to vote and why?