RADLEY

Scholarship Examination

HISTORY

March 2016

Time allowed – 45 minutes

This question is about the role played by women in Britain during the First World War.

You do not need any prior knowledge of this topic but we suggest that you look at the 'Useful Definitions' before reading the sources.

Answer the following questions.

1. **Study Source A.**

   What can you learn from Source A about the role played by women in Britain during the First World War?

   3 marks

2. **Study Sources B and C.**

   Does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the role played by women in Britain during the First World War?

   7 marks

3. **Study ALL of the sources.**

   'The First World War did not change attitudes in Britain to the role of women.'

   Use the sources to explain whether you agree with this view.

   15 marks

TOTAL: 25 marks

Useful definitions:

Munitions:	Military weapons, ammunition, equipment, and stores.
Patriotism:	Having or expressing devotion to one's country.
Suffragette:	A woman who demanded that women be given the right to vote in all public elections. (Women were denied the right to vote in Britain until 1918.)

Sources

Source A: An Appeal for Land Workers made by The Daily News and Leader, a national newspaper, 15 February 1916.

The country has raised an army, still growing, of 250,000 women for munitions factories. There now remains the problem of mobilising another army of 400,000 women for work on the land. This is the most difficult problem of all. Work on the land is not popular among those women most able to do it. No woman can be expected to enjoy milking cows at four a.m. on a winter morning, or spreading manure, or cleaning a pigsty. Much of the most necessary work is hard and unpleasant and by no means well paid. That is why the appeal is aimed at the patriotism of women.

Source B: This painting called For King and Country is a representation of women working in a munitions factory. It was painted in 1916 by an official government war artist.



Source C: From a speech made in September 1914 by Christabel Pankhurst, a leading suffragette.

Our position with regard to women fighting is this. If we are needed in the fighting line, we shall be there. If we are needed to take care of the economic prosperity of the country, we shall be there. Women will do whatever is in the best interests of the state. The country is not yet making best use of the activities of women.

Source D: A government poster produced during the First World War encouraging women to enlist as nurses in the New Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs).
These had been set up in 1909 to help with medical aid in war time.



Source E: From an article in a weekly newspaper called The Sphere, published in May 1918.

'THE NEW WOMAN'

She has entered practically all the professions. She will get the vote next month. A postwoman brings you the letters and a girl brings you the milk for your morning tea. There are girls, uniformed or not, at the wheels of half the cars that pass. If you go by train, women will handle your luggage. If you choose a bus or tram, the conductress in her smart uniform has long become a familiar figure. You can even be shaved by a woman.

Source F: From a book by R Strachey, published in 1928, called The Cause. Strachey was a suffragette. Here she is writing about the situation just after the war ended.

After the war, thousands upon thousands of women workers were dismissed and found no work to do. Everyone assumed, of course, that they would go quietly back to their homes, and that everything would be as it was before the war. Public opinion assumed that all women could still be financially supported by the man of the house and that if they went on working it was from a sort of deliberate wickedness. The tone of the press swung from extravagant praise of women to the opposite extreme. The very same people who had been heroines and saviours were now called 'hangers on'. The press, which had campaigned during the war to persuade employers to use women, now campaigned just as passionately to have them dismissed.