Summer Examinations 2015

HIS100415N

Module Title: Introduction to Women’s History
Level: Four
Time Allowed: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to students:

• Please enter your student number not your name on all answer books.

• Answer three questions: one from Section A and comment on two sources from Section B.

• Both sections are equally weighted.

• Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.

• Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

• The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.

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Section A (45 minutes)

Answer one question from Section A.

1. Why does women’s history place so much emphasis on rescuing women from historical ‘invisibility’?

2. To what extent was women’s position in nineteenth-century society defined in terms of their biology?

3. What role did men play in the fight for women’s suffrage and how decisive was their contribution?

4. During the First World War, to what extent did class determine the nature of British women’s participation in the war effort?

End of Section A
Section B follows overleaf
Section B (45 minutes)

Comment on two of the following sources from Section B:

5. ‘Happy Though Wounded’, Northampton Independent, 17 April 1915:

Amid the restful surroundings of Cottesbrooke Hall forty wounded soldiers are being nursed back to health and strength with a tenderness and thoroughness that fills one with intense admiration of the sacrifices Mrs Brassey and her devoted staff of helpers are making for our gallant boys broken in the war. Yet this benevolent lady modesty disclaims any idea of sacrifice – she accounts it an elemental duty and privilege to give up so much of her beautiful home and time and money to soothe and strengthen our stricken soldiers. Would that there were more ladies like her in this hour of the nation’s need! The gratitude of the soldiers is too deep for words. One of them said to an Independent representative, ‘It’s like coming from hell to heaven to be here,’ and one could well believe it, for a more complete contrast between the horrors of the war and the quiet pastoral beauty of Cottesbrooke could not be conceived.

6. David Lloyd George, Message to mass meeting of Allied women war workers held in Paris, 22 August 1918:

I extremely regret that it is impossible for me to fulfil my undertaking to address the great gathering of women war workers in Paris. I regret it all the more because I was very anxious to bear testimony to the tremendous part which women have played in this vital epoch in human history. They have not only borne their burden of sorrow and separation with unflinching fortitude and patience; they have assumed an enormous share of the burdens necessary to the practical conduct of the war...

In the past I have heard it said that women were not fit for the vote because they would be weak when it came to understanding the issues and bearing the strains of a great war. My recent experience in South Wales confirmed me in the conviction that the women there understand perfectly what is at stake in this war. I believe that they recognise as clearly as any that there can be no peace, no progress, no happiness in the world so long as the monster of militarism is able to stalk unbridled and unashamed among the weaker peoples.

Section B continues overleaf

End of Section B
End of Paper