Summer Examinations 2016

HIS100416N

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

Instructions to students:

- Enter your student number **not** your name on all answer books.
- Answer one question from Section A and two questions from Section B.
- Each section is equally weighted.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.
- Begin each section in a separate answer book; label each answer clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.

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SECTION A

(45 minutes)

Answer one of the following questions:

1. How far is the concept of ‘separate spheres’ a useful concept for British women’s history?

2. To what extent were nineteenth-century ideas about femininity defined in terms of religion?

3. ‘Men got the vote, not by persuading but by alarming the legislators. Similar vigorous measures must be adopted by women.’ (Christabel Pankhurst, 1908.) Discuss.

4. ‘The experience of war between 1914 and 1918 led to extensive changes in the lives of British women.’ Discuss.

End of Section A
Section B follows overleaf
SECTION B

(45 minutes)

Comment on two of the following sources:

1. David Lloyd George, War Memoirs (1933).

The first systematic attempt to enrol women for replacement of male labour was made by the Board of Trade on 16th March 1915. In two-and-a-half months, to 4th June 1915, some 78,946 women were enrolled on the Special War Register for women for work connected with munitions, but only 1,816 of these were actually given jobs. The subsequent history of women’s work in the production of munitions is one of the brightest chapters in the story...

It was one of the many curious revolutions effected by the War that the lead in organising women and girls for national service was taken by the very people who, prior to the War had been, in the cause of women’s suffrage, the thorniest opponents of the Government. Mrs Pankhurst and her daughter Christabel, Miss Annie Kenney, Mrs Drummond and other prominent suffragettes were prime movers in this new crusade.

2. Letter from the London and Provincial Union of Licenced Vehicle Workers to the Home Secretary, 13 February 1917.

I would point out to you that already a very serious dispute has taken place at Croydon a few months back when two women were being taught to drive tramcars resulting in cessation from work for many weeks, also upon women being appointed as mail drivers the men ceased work immediately, and as a result the women have been withdrawn.

When one takes into consideration the huge number of accidents to persons and property, owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing as a result of the lighting and War conditions, and this at a time when vehicles are being driven by men who are thoroughly experienced we feel that the menace to the public will be very largely augmented by the introduction of female licenced drivers.

I need hardly point out to you that we are very desirous of avoiding anything in the nature of a labour dispute and trust you will see the necessity of meeting an early deputation to hear our case.

3. Overleaf: Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps on the Western Front, First World War.