

The women's suffrage movement in Britain can be traced back to 1792, when Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* was published. In this book she contended that women were not second-class citizens compared to men and called for equal rights for women in education and jobs.

In 1832, the Great Reform Act gave half a million more men the right to vote - one in five of the male population - but it excluded women from the vote.

By the 1890s the suffrage movement was firmly established in Britain and was motivated by events in New Zealand where women were enfranchised in 1893. Activists from New Zealand helpfully advised their British counterparts and gave speeches detailing how winning the vote had helped to improve women's lives in their own country.

In 1903, the Women's Social and Political Union was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst. Its aim was to get the vote 'by any means' and the WSPU had a strategy of using daring tactics. Many thousands of women joined in the fight and its members were given the nickname 'suffragettes' as a joke by a daily newspaper. In the early years of their campaign, the WSPU met with strong opposition from the Church, Parliament and the newspapers. A group known as the 'Antis' was formed who highlighted the 'defective temperament and intelligence of women'. They described women as illogical, over-emotional, fickle, fragile and absorbed with trivial and domestic matters. A woman's proper place, they claimed, was in the home. As resistance to their cause continued to increase the suffragettes became more and more dramatic and violent. They disrupted political meetings, harassed MPs, smashed windows as well as cutting telegraph wires.

The suffragette's acts of defiance brought them publicity and gradually more support. In 1908, they made the headlines again with a demonstration in Downing Street, where MPs were assembled to attend a cabinet meeting. Two determined suffragettes chained themselves to the iron railings outside the official home of the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman. While police were grappling to cut the chains, a taxi drew up on the opposite side of the street, out popped another suffragette who audaciously dashed inside the Prime Minister's house. Some men caught her before she reached the Cabinet Room and she was arrested and charged with disorderly behaviour and sent to prison for three weeks.

For the next few years, the suffrage movement kept up its momentum, then on 4th June 1913 came a new development. 32-year-old Emily Davison was part of the huge crowd gathered at Epsom racecourse on Derby Day. As the horses thundered down the track, Emily slipped under the barrier and threw herself at the king's horse, Anmer. The horse struck her and swerved and turned a complete somersault, tipping the jockey to the ground. Emily was taken to hospital where she died four days later from head injuries. In Emily's coat pocket, doctors found the purple, green and white flag of the WSPU.

A spectacular funeral procession through the streets of London was organised, attended by thousands of suffragettes from all over the country. The government began to understand the sheer weight of support for reform.

Emmeline Pankhurst ordered the suffragettes to cease campaigning during the First World War, a warm gesture that made the government begin to take notice of their demands. Women took the jobs of men who went to fight in the war and the number of women employed in industry and public service rose by one million, putting women in a much stronger bargaining position.

In the last year of World War One - on February 6th 1918, under Prime Minister David Lloyd George - women were granted the first instalment of what they had been fighting for; the right to vote at age 30.

In 1928, the voting age for women was reduced to 21 under Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, and three years later 15 women became new Members of Parliament.

1 What was the male population of Britain in 1832?

- A 1,000,000
 - B 2,000,000
 - C 2,500,000.
 - D 500,000
-

2 In which year were women given the right to vote in New Zealand?

- A 1928.
 - B 1893.
 - C 1908.
 - D 1903.
-

3 How did the suffragettes acquire their nickname?

- A Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter Christabel thought it up.
 - B The head of Antis called them suffragettes for a joke.
 - C The nickname was plucked from the pages of a children's comic.
 - D It was first coined by a newspaper and the name stuck.
-

4 Amongst other things, how did the Antis view women?

- A They considered them to be irrational and delicate.
- B They thought that they could be feisty and formidable.
- C They felt that they should all earn their own living and be more independent.
- D They considered them all to be excellent cooks.

5 What were the official colours of the suffragettes?

- A Purple, grey and white.
 - B Purple, green and white.
 - C Purple, gold and white.
 - D Purple, green and silver.
-

6 On which date did Emily Davison lose her fight for life?

- A 4th June 1913.
 - B 6th June 1913.
 - C 8th June 1913.
 - D 9th June 1913.
-

7 Who was the Prime Minister when women were first enfranchised in Britain?

- A Henry Campbell Bannerman.
 - B Stanley Baldwin.
 - C Herbert Henry Asquith.
 - D David Lloyd George.
-

8 What kind of daring stunts did the suffragettes carry out during World War One?

- A None, they agreed to pause their campaign for the duration of the hostilities.
- B They heckled MPs and smashed windows.
- C The suffragettes cut telegraph wires.
- D They set fire to government buildings in Whitehall.

9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 The suffragettes would often cause havoc during political meetings.
- Option 2 Emily Davison was crushed by a race horse named Anmer.
- Option 3 The Antis took the view that women should simply stay at home.
- Option 4 Two members of the WSPU shackled themselves to the wooden railings outside Downing Street in 1908.

- A Options 1 and 2.
- B Options 2 and 3.
- C Options 1, 3 and 4.
- D Options 1, 2 and 3.

10 Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- Option 1 Two million more women went to work in factories and offices during World War One.
- Option 2 Mary Wollstonecraft argued that women were not inferior to men.
- Option 3 Emily Davison died as a result of a heart attack.
- Option 4 Fifteen women were voted into Parliament in 1928.

- A Options 1 and 3.
 - B Options 3 and 4.
 - C Options 1, 3 and 4.
 - D Option 4 only.
-

Synonyms - choose the word that is closest in meaning?

1

marvellous

A

B

C

D

charitable

remarkable

sociable

respectable

2

melancholy

A

B

C

D

grimy

gloomy

grainy

groovy

3

pleasant

A

B

C

D

improbable

profitable

adjustable

agreeable

4

omit

A

B

C

D

exclude

excite

expect

expire

5

voluntary

A

B

C

D

vocational

emotional

optional

functional

6

result

A

B

C

D

outlay

outcry

outlet

outcome

7

outing

A

B

C

D

exclusion

excursion

illusion

emission

8

hesitate

A

B

C

D

pause

press

push

prove

9

tranquil

A

B

C

D

boastful

cheerful

peaceful

doubtful

10

precise

A

B

C

D

vague

fuzzy

sharp

exact

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

mock

sneer

jeer

scoff

cheer

sad

cheerful

jovial

jolly

cheery

sumptuous

luxurious

lavish

meagre

extravagant

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

energetic

inactive

lively

animated

vigorous

eager

reluctant

loath

unwilling

disinclined

detest

adore

loathe

despise

hate

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

insecure

firm

loose

unsteady

shaky

significant

important

major

trivial

considerable

spiteful

vicious

cruel

malicious

kind

Please can you select the most appropriate adjective from the table on the top that can be placed before each noun in the box at the bottom?

I've done the first one for you:

1

blunt ✓
emergency
thorough
sweet
rich

rescue
revenge
reward
research
blunt reply

2

narrow
considerable
bitter
crunchy
quick

salad
rivalry
sale
risk
ribbon

3

emotional
crusty
attempted
regular
false

routine
robbery
rumour
reunion
roll

4

direct
pleasant
vacant
entire
efficient

series
seat
service
scent
route

Comprehension

1	C
2	B
3	D
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	D
8	A
9	D
10	C

Synonyms

1	B
2	B
3	D
4	A
5	C
6	D
7	B
8	A
9	C
10	D

Antonyms

1	cheer
2	sad
3	meagre
4	inactive
5	eager
6	adore
7	firm
8	trivial
9	kind

①

blunt reply
emergency rescue
thorough research
sweet revenge
rich reward

②

narrow ribbon
considerable risk
bitter rivalry
crunchy salad
quick sale

③

emotional reunion
crusty roll
attempted robbery
regular routine
false rumour

④

direct route
pleasant scent
vacant seat
entire series
efficient service