

The Fight for Equality: The Suffragette Movement

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Suffragette movement and construct a balanced historical argument regarding their methods and influence.

Use this scaffold to structure your historical report. Ensure you use evidence to support your arguments and maintain a formal, objective tone throughout your writing.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the quest for women's suffrage became a defining struggle for social and political reform in Britain.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · suffrage · militant · enfranchisement · nevertheless · in retrospect · significant · campaign · parliamentary

1. Introduction: Define the political climate of the early 1900s. Start with: 'During the Edwardian era, the societal role of women was restricted because...' (2 marks)

2. The Suffragettes' Methods: Explain why some campaigners chose militant tactics. Start with: 'Frustrated by the lack of parliamentary progress, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) adopted a policy of...' (3 marks)

3. Public Perception: Analyse how the public and the government reacted to these actions. Start with: 'The reaction to the campaign was deeply divided; whilst some viewed the methods as necessary, others argued that...' (3 marks)

4. The Impact of World War I: Describe how the war changed the political landscape for women. Start with: 'The outbreak of the First World War caused a shift in the movement because...' (3 marks)

5. Justification: Justify whether the actions of the Suffragettes were essential for achieving the vote. Start with: 'In my opinion, the militant campaign was/was not justified because...' (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the long-term legacy of the Suffragettes. Start with: 'Ultimately, the legacy of the Suffragettes remains significant today because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the tactics of the Suffragists (NUWSS) with the Suffragettes (WSPU). What might have happened if the government had granted women the vote earlier? Write a diary entry from the perspective of Ellie the elephant, imagining she is attending a peaceful rally in London in 1910.