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# 3

91439



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## Level 3 History 2021

### 91439 Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it

Credits: Six

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.	Analyse, in depth, a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.	Comprehensively analyse a significant historical trend and the force(s) that influenced it.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**Write ONE essay in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (▨). This area may be cut off when the booklet is marked.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**High Merit**

# 06

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Write an essay on ONE significant historical trend that you have studied, using the essay question below. Your essay should be concise and well argued.

Write your chosen historical trend in the box below.

Plan your essay on page 3. Begin your essay on page 4.

**ESSAY QUESTION**

Evaluate the forces that led to a significant historical trend.

Historical trend: **Changing Roles of American Women, 1890s**

## PLANNING

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 5–6 pages. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay.

Begin your essay here:

A significant historical trend was changing roles of American women from the 1890s to the 1950s. This was significantly influenced by the forces of progressivism and war. The position of women in the American society by the 1890s was based on the separate spheres ideology, and was dictated by gender norms where women were restricted to domestic and religious activities. The men's sphere was outside the home, revolving around commerce, politics and the industry. These separate spheres were especially well defined within the middle class in the cities and small towns. However, from the 1890s onwards a significant shift could be seen as women were less restricted by domesticity and were expanding their spheres, taking on 'New Women' roles of consumers, workers and reformers. Although both forces had an impact on the roles of American women, the most significant force was war as it gave them the opportunity to challenge the standard and stereotypical roles a woman should play in society.

A significant force which influenced the trend of changing roles of American women in the early 20th century was progressivism. It was a selection of philosophical and political movements which worked towards social reform and social progress for the betterment of American society from 1896 to 1916. Progressivism was a result of industrialisation which caused many immigrants to unsuccessfully exit the cycle of poverty, while the middle class had a higher role in society. Along with this, it led to women joining national organisations and becoming leaders in a variety of social and political movements. A key movement which led to role changes for women was The National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA), which was led by Carrie Chapman Catt. They advocated for women's rights and suffrage, and was a significant movement as 2 million women joined, making it the largest voluntary organisation in the nation. Their roles included, joining labour unions, holding strikes for better pay, and protesting for better working conditions. This signified the role change they experienced, from being tied to domestic responsibilities to being independent and being part of a change. Margaret Sanger, initially a nurse, opened the first birth control clinic and campaigned to bring safe and effective birth control in the American mainstream. She accomplished this by publishing eight issues of a feminist magazine, 'The Woman Rebel'. Sanger also founded The American Birth Control League, while demonstrating leadership and legacy. She experienced a role change from being a nurse to being an influential leader. Other influential women were Alice Paul and Lucy Burns who founded The National Women's Party (NWP). They were feminists and suffragists who worked towards passing an equal rights amendment while remaining a leading advocate for women's social, political and economic equality throughout the 20th century.

More than 8 000 women participated representing nearly every state and most occupations. Their roles included fighting for approval for a federal suffrage amendment in 1918 and campaigning for state ratification. Before the progressive era, women involvement in such public and political movements would be undermined and opposed, however, progressivism led to the acceptance of female activism while also increasing awareness of women's rights. There was an increase in female employment from 949 000 in 1900 to 3.4 million in 1920. Furthermore, women earned degrees and made up 40% of the college population in 1910. This was a significant force as it expanded women's roles by allowing them step outside the domestic sphere and become a leader, while breaking down gender stereotypes and being part of the political progress. However, there were also limitations, such as, rigid anti-black laws were in place, like the Jim Crow laws which enforced racial segregation. This led to black women often being excluded from white-dominated suffrage groups and although all women were allowed to vote, some voting stations held literacy tests and clauses which discriminated against the African-American population. Despite the crucial impact this force had on American women's roles, this was the least significant force as there were many restrictions which prevented all women from being equal.

Another force which influenced the trend of changing roles of American women from the 1890s to the 1950s was both world war one (WW1) from 1914-1918, and world war two (WW2) from 1937-1945. A key role change of this force was the social inclusion of women in the workforce. About 1 million worked in the industry from 1917-1918. During the Great War, women from all classes served in many capacities, such as making surgical dressings, gowns, masks and operating serviceman's canteens to provide wholesome entertainment for soldiers and sailors. In France, 223 American women popularly known as 'Hello Girls' served as long distance switchboard operatives for the US Army Signal Corps. 33 000 served as nurses and support staff officially and more than 400 nurses died in the line of duty. With 15 million men at war, women in 1944 made up more than 1/3 of the labour force and 350 000 served in auxiliary military units such as The Women's Army Corps, Women Acceptance for Voluntary Emergency Service, and Women Airforce Service Pilots. WW2 had a more significant impact as the economy was dependant on them bringing an increase of 36% in women's employment by December 1941. Furthermore more than 6 million women joined the labour force bringing the total number of employed women to 19 million. Before the war, women workers were predominantly young and single, but 75% of the new female workers were married, 60% were over 35 and more than 33% had children under age 14. Although some women remained content to roll bandages for the Red Cross, 250 000 women joined the armed forces and for the first time served in positions other than the nurse. President Wilson stated, "we have made partners with the women for this war... shall we admit to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnship of prvilige and right?". This along with the constant advocacy and the ratification of 19th amendment granted 26 million women the right to vote, further expanding their roles, by giving

them a choice in the political decisions of the society. However there were also limitations, such as, these opportunities only lasted for a short period of time. After men came back from war, women were urged to leave the workforce and go back to the domestic responsibilities or jobs that were 'more suitable for women'. Married urban middle class women faced isolation and restricted opportunities and most women generally earned less than the men they had replaced. Furthermore, although women gained economic freedom, they were still not allowed to have their own bank accounts. Despite these limitations, this force was the most significant as it gave women a sense of empowerment and fulfilment while giving them the opportunity to breakdown gender stereotypes. Although most still hoped to be wives and mothers, the war had "widened women's worlds and challenged sexist notions as nothing before ever had".

In conclusion, the two forces which significantly influenced the trend of changing roles of American women were progressivism and war. The most significant force was war. Although progressivism had a crucial impact on the roles of American women, there were many restrictions which kept them tied to the idea that they were better off in the domestic sphere. Such as, though the amount of women in the industrial and commerce sphere increased, better paying jobs continued to go to men. Furthermore, there were many discriminatory clauses which meant that not all women were equal. The working women developed a sense of independence and they "required a right to a personality". This quote suggests how despite the leadership they gained during the progressive era, they were still controlled by the society and had to 'earn their personality'. Women were still seen as a dependant group. In comparison to this, WW1 and WW2 brought many women into the workforce. With men at war, women had many more employment opportunities which gave them a chance be more than just a housewife and mother. They became working women and developed a sense of Independence, direction and freedom. Women forced unions like the United Auto Workers to confront issues like equal pay for equal work, maternity leave and childcare facilities for working mothers, which further encouraged them to take on new roles. According to historian Lesley Hall, "the biggest change brought by war was women moving into work". This further conveys how war was truly a role changer for American women. Overall, the war resulted in an upwards progression of the expanding spheres, and affected American women's roles by giving them the opportunity to disintegrate gender stereotypes.









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## Merit Exemplar 2021

Subject	L3 History	Standard	91439	Total score	06
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
1	M6	<p><b>The Changing Roles of American Women (1890s)</b></p> <p>The candidate used detailed supporting evidence in their argument, as well as a clear and effective essay structure that demonstrated their understanding of the prioritised forces.</p> <p>The candidate also demonstrated insight into the complexity of the forces they analysed.</p> <p>The candidate needed to show insight into the interconnectedness of the force and the trend to gain an Excellence grade (this was not especially evident in the essay).</p>			