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91231R

Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 History 2026

91231 Examine sources of an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91231.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–7 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

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INTRODUCTION: The changing role of women in public and political life

In 150 years, women in New Zealand moved from political insignificance to a position of legal equality with men. In the twenty-first century, women still lagged behind in practice, but the possibility of equality was real.

Source (adapted): Else, A. (2011, April 26). *Gender inequalities – Politics and citizenship*. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. https://teara.govt.nz/en/gender-inequalities/page-3#

SOURCE A: New expectations for a new century

Factory work, with its defined hours and higher wages, was more attractive than domestic service.

The completely unregulated state of domestic service promoted labour activist Harriet Morison to try to organise a union for domestic servants in 1890.

Source (adapted): Brookes, B. (2016). *A History of New Zealand Women* (p. 162). Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

SOURCE B: The concerns of Māori women

In 1893, all New Zealand women, Māori and Pākehā, won the right to vote in general elections. It is not known how many Māori women signed the suffrage petition, but perhaps around 4,000 of them voted in the 1893 election.

Some Māori women of mana were accustomed to having decision-making power over men, whereas Pākehā women had long endured patriarchal domination[2].

[1] temperance — restriction of alcohol

[2] patriarchal domination — a social system where men hold primary power, authority, and control

Source (adapted): New Zealand History. (n.d.). *Meri Mangakāhia*. Manatū Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage. https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/meri-mangakahia

SOURCE C: 'Polly Plum'

Mary Ann Colclough was one of Auckland's earliest, most significant and outspoken Pākehā women's rights advocates. Under the nom de plume[1] 'Polly Plum', Mary Ann wrote to newspapers about women's rights, sharing her opinions on education, financial independence, and property rights for women.

On Wednesday, 16 August 1871, 'Polly Plum' wrote to the *New Zealand Herald* and demanded for women:

In her view, a woman should be able to work and care for her children without being tethered[2] to the success or failures of her husband. As Mary Ann's own husband died when she was 31, her advocacy was personal:

[1] nom de plume — an assumed name under which a person writes

[2] tethered — tied

Source (adapted): Finigan, N. (2018, 19 September). *Choice – Women in 19th Century Aotearoa*. Auckland War Memorial Museum – Tāmaki Paenga Hira. https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/stories/history/choice-women-in-19th-century-aotearoa; Macdonald, C. (Ed.). (1993). *The vote, the pill, and the demon drink: A history of feminist writing in New Zealand, 1869–1993* (p. 31). Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

SOURCE D: On the home front

The war years opened up professional occupations, such as the law, librarianship, accountancy, medicine, and academia. Historian Margaret Corner notes that between 1936 and 1945, the number of women lawyers rose by 12, dentists by 2, doctors by 54, university staff members by 39, welfare workers by 63, librarians by 217, accountants and cost accountants by 186, and women police by 30.

Source (adapted): Brookes, B. (2016). *A History of New Zealand Women* (p. 268). Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

SOURCE E: Political lives

It fell to an unmarried woman, Mabel Howard, to advocate for women in Parliament. In her maiden speech in February 1943, she sounded a warning: "The men of this country and of every other country have yet to realise that the whole outlook of women has changed, and that they are no longer going to be the servile[1] creatures they have been".

[1] servile like a servant

Source (adapted): Brookes, B. (2016). *A History of New Zealand Women* (pp. 284–285). Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

SOURCE F: Social aspects of equal pay

In conjunction with the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Wellington Women's Committee of the Public Service Association sponsored two meetings on the subject of equal pay for equal work, and reproduced the findings in the *Public Service Journal* in January 1946.

One of the speakers was Mrs Leicester [Caroline] Webb, who dealt with the social aspects of the problem. Below is part of Mrs Webb's address:



Source (adapted): Macdonald, C. (Ed.). (1993). *The vote, the pill, and the demon drink: A history of feminist writing in New Zealand, 1869–1993* (p. 133). Bridget Williams Books Ltd.

SOURCE G: Women in the labour force, 1896–2018

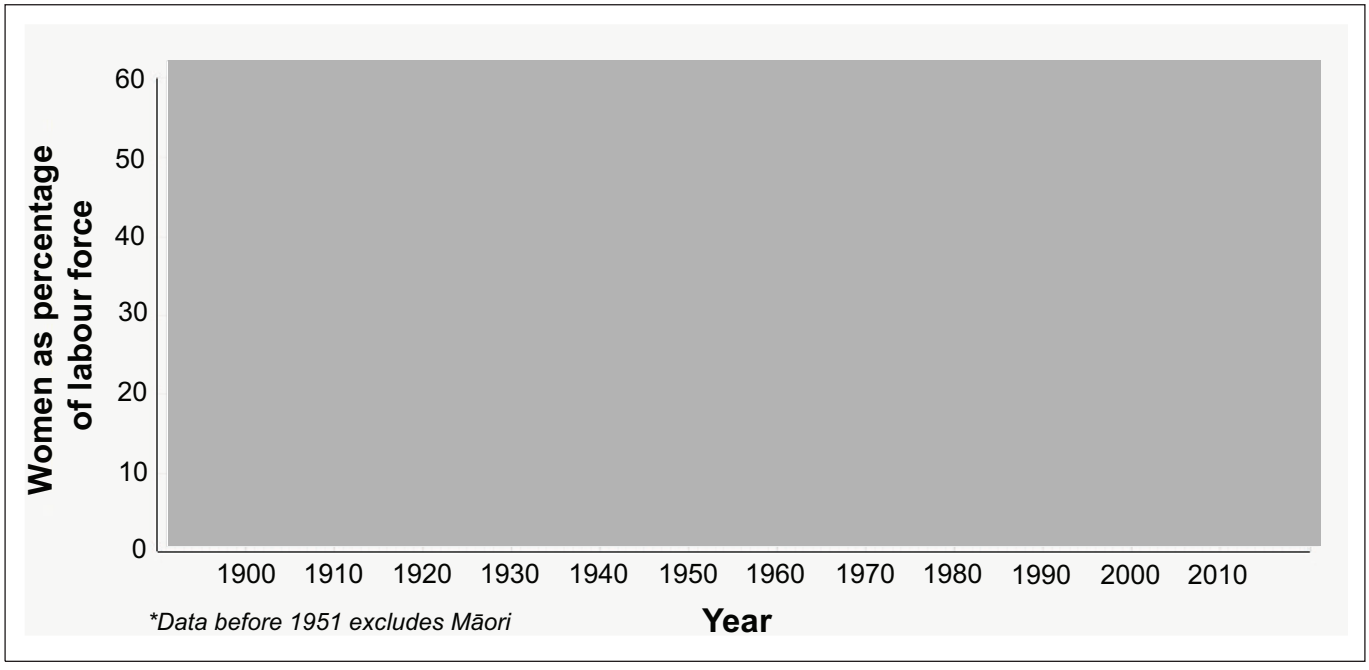
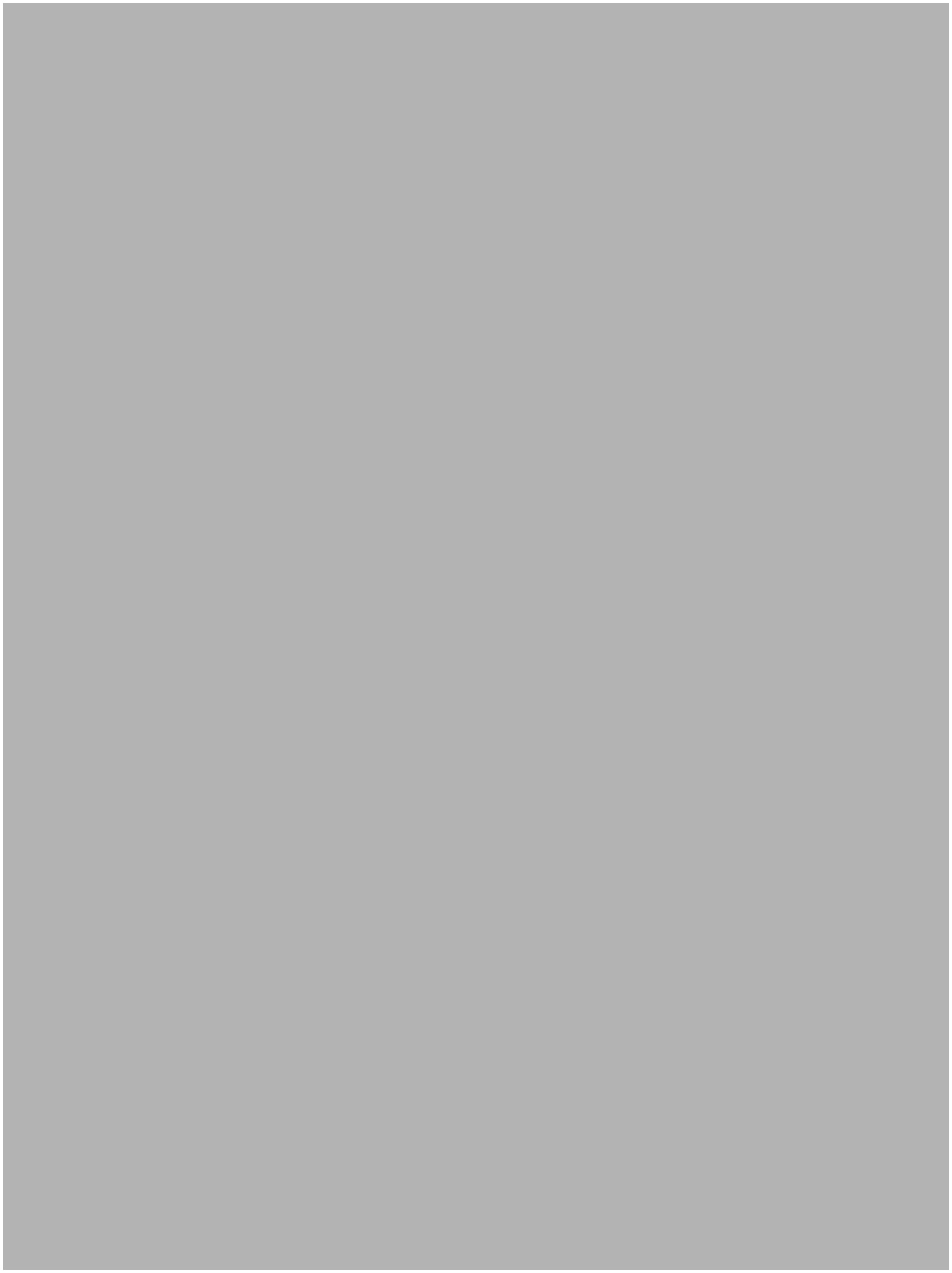


Image: Cook, M. (2011, March 22). *Women's labour organisations – Equal pay, mid-20th century*. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. https://teara.govt.nz/en/graph/26375/women-in-the-labour-force-1896-2018

SOURCE H1: Parallel worlds



The link between men and work was taken for granted. This 1938 advertisement encourages the use of New Zealand-made goods and features a blacksmith hammering out an 'NZ'. However, despite the overwhelming masculinity of the image, the goods listed were made by both men and women.

Image: Unknown artist. (1938). [Advertisement]. In Macdonald, C. (2011, March 30). *Women and men – Parallel worlds: mid-20th century*. Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand. https://teara.govt.nz/en/ephemera/29232/making-new-zealand

SOURCE H2: How far we've come



The first (left) panel recreates an image from an 1893 engraving published on 21 July 1894 in the *New Zealand Graphic* in reference to women's suffrage being achieved in New Zealand. The image depicts a woman climbing to the top of a mountain, holding a flag which reads: "Perfect Political Equality". A man already at the top takes her hand to help her up to the summit labelled "Parliamentary Heights".

In the second (right) panel, the image is replicated in the year 2015, where a woman climbs the mountain with a flag labelled "Perfect Pay Equity". This time, the man at the top of the mountain labelled "Social Justice Heights" reaches a hand out to her, but then extends his leg against her, to prevent her from climbing any higher.

Image: Murdoch, S. G. (2015, September 23). "How Far We've Come." [Digital cartoons published in *The Press, Sunday Star Times, Dominion Post*, and other publications]. Ref: DCDL-0031650. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. https://natlib.govt.nz/records/37118906