**C2 Britain, c1860-1930. The Changing Position of Women and the Suffrage Question.**

**KQ1 How far did the personal status of women change 1860-1930?; challenges to the “angel in the house” concept.**

 

* **In a Nutshell**: What was the “angel of the house”?
* **Dramatic episodes in the spotlight**: the changing personal status of women? : marriage, divorce, children and property, evidence of challenges to the “angel in the house” concept.
* **Identifying thematic developments?**
* **Spinning History**: In what different ways are these events interpreted?
* **Cracking the Puzzle** – Preparing for assessment

**(I)In a Nutshell: the changing personal status of women? : marriage, divorce, children and property; challenges to the “angel in the house” concept.?**

**Activity 1 – Intriguing images**

You will be given a collection of images. You will be asked to examine these images in groups. For each consider what is in the image, what you can infer from it about the Victorian ideal for women and it does not reveal.

**Activity 2 – On your marks…..**

As you work through this unit plot changes in the position of women onto your copy of the living graph. You will need to plot several lines:

* Legal position in marriage
* Property ownership rights
* Degree of Involvement in public life



**(II)Dramatic episodes in the spotlight: Depth studies illustrating the nature of the changing personal status of women.**

# **Activity 3 - Changes in womens personal status**

There are many developments which help to reveal changes in the personal status of women.

Students will be expected to know about

* The importance of relevant legislation in both reflecting and forming attitudes to the status of women, in particular the Married Women’s Property Acts of 1870 and 1882.
* The ways in which divorce could be obtained after the 1857 Divorce Act.
* The impact of the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1884.
* The importance of the 1891 Jackson marriage case.
* The sexual double standards that pertained at the time and about the successful campaign led by Josephine Butler in bringing about the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

**Activity 4 - The importance of relevant legislation in both reflecting and forming attitudes to the status of women, in particular the Married Women’s Property Acts of 1870 and 1882.**

During the period 1860-1890 Parliament was persuaded to make a number of significant changes in the legal position of women. Women experienced inequality in terms of property rights, marital rights, divorce and custody of children.

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| **Aspects of law** | **Changes in women’s legal position.** |
| **Property rights for** **Women**(pages 4-5) | In 1860 womenThe Norton caseThe Married Women’s Property Acts of 1870 and 1882Had women achieved equality in this aspect of the law? |
| **Marital Rights for** **women.**(page 5) | Many women were concerned byThe matrimonial causes Act 1884The Jackson caseHad women achieved equality in this aspect of the law? |
| **Divorce Rights for****Women.**(page 5) | Before 1867The 1867 Divorce ActHowever this benefited men rather than womenHad women achieved equality in this aspect of the law? |
| **Custody of children****Rights for women.**(page 5) | Once divorced women found it difficult to get custody of childrenIn the 1870’s and 1880’sHad women achieved equality in this aspect of the law? |

Activity 5 - The ways in which divorce could be obtained after the 1857 Divorce Act.

Covered currently in Activity 4

# Activity 6 - The impact of the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1884.

Currently covered in Activity 4

# Activity 7 - The importance of the 1891 Jackson marriage case.!

# **Activity 8 - The sexual double standards that pertained at the time and about the successful campaign led by Josephine Butler in bringing about the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.**

During the period 1860-1890 there were some achievements in regulating some aspects of male sexuality.

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| --- | --- |
| **Development in laws of****Sexual morality** | **The way in which these developments affected women.** |
| **The Repeal of the****Contagious Diseases** **Act** (page 6) | In 1864In 1886Equality |
| **The Criminal Law****Ammendment Act**(page 6) | Before 1885After 1885 |
|  | Had women achieved greater equality in sexual standards during this |

**(III) Identifying thematic developments -**

# **Activity 9 – Consolidate those concepts**

Create a concept map or mind map to consolidate your understanding of 

The importance of relevant legislation in both reflecting and forming attitudes to the status of women, in particular the married women’s property Acts of 1870 and 1882.

The ways in which divorce could be obtained after the 1857 Divorce Act.

The impact of the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1884.

The importance of the 1891 Jackson marriage case.

The sexual double standards that pertained at the time and about the successful campaign led by Josephine Butler in bringing about the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.



**(IV)Spinning History: What are the different explanations?**

**Activity 7 Cracking the Puzzle- Preparing for Assessment**

1. Complete Trigger Memory Activity for KQ1, using your background notes. An explanation on how to complete this is in your guidance booklet.
2. There are many excellent websites about the changing role of women which can be used to revisit the material covered so far. These include -

www.

www.

www.

www.

www.

Use these websites to gather further information for the period.

1. As a class, play the Game Show Presenter Game called 12womenKQ1.
2. Revisit the examination criteria and advice on tackling the examination questions given in the guidance booklet.
3. Apply these techniques to the specimen examination. You may be asked to work individually, in pairs or in groups.

**Trigger Memory Activity - Women KQ1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Image | Explanation |
| Angel of the house |  |  |
| Separate sphere |  |  |
| Domestic service |  |  |
| Caroline Norton |  |  |
| Custody of Children |  |  |
| Divorce |  |  |
| Matrimonial Causes Act |  |  |
| Married Property Acts  |  |  |
| Sexual morality |  |  |
| Contagious Diseases Acts |  |  |
| Ladies National Association |  |  |
| Josephine Butler |  |  |
| Legal status by 1900? |  |  |
| Schools boards |  |  |
| Poor Law Adminisration |  |  |
| Workhouse Visiting Society |  |  |
| Municipal Elections |  |  |
| Public involvement by 1900? |  |  |



