

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3 How far did the position of American women change in the years 1917-80?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4 How far was the response to fears of communist influence in the period after the First World War different from the response in the period after the Second World War?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)

- 1917 - 80.
- changed; WWI ~ WWII
 - 1963: Equal Pay Act
 - law cases
 - suburbs
 - Now membership: 1974: 40.000 ppl.
- more skilled
reputation
1940s
Service Act
Training
- take care of children
 - no workers
 - not allowed to get jobs
- didn't change
- faced hostility. ←
 - 1979: UN agreement
 - 1972: Equal Rights Act.
 - organisation split up. ←
 - ~~law~~
 - black women. ←



SECTION B

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number:

Question 3 ☒

Question 4 ☒

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The position of American women changed in the years from 1917 to 80, significantly, as seen from the changes of women's position from WWI to WWII, for example, ~~that~~ during WWII women ~~worked in~~ was accepted to work, than in WWI. Also, a series of legislation and rulings showed that women were becoming more accepted. However, ~~that~~ one can consider that the position of women did not change, especially in the long term, since even now, the Equal Rights Act (since 1972) is not ratified, showing US did not allow ~~definite rig~~ equal rights for women as men.

On one hand, the position of American women did change. During World War I, ~~women~~ and just before WWI, women weren't favoured if they worked, as they were seen more to grow children. For example, they could not be a teacher, since people would see that they would become pregnant and not be able



~~They were 'first last hired, first fired'~~

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to work. Wages were lower, even lower for black ~~and~~ ^{women}. However, during WWII, position for women did change. Women were allowed to work more and gained more skills throughout working. After the war, they worked more than after. From 1940 to 45, the percentage of women who worked rose from 15 to 23%. Moreover, the 1940 ~~Service~~ ^{Selective Training} Act allowed women to fill in job spaces for men (this would not be acceptable during the late 1940s period of WWII). Therefore, this shows a significant improvement in women ~~in~~ in employment.

Furthermore, in 1963 the Equal Pay Act was passed ~~to~~ for women to have same wages as men. In 1972, the Eisenstadt v Baird case allowed contraception and the 1973 Roe v Wade case ~~at~~ legalised abortion. This meant that the US was starting to take in women's demands and accept ~~fight~~ their rights. ~~by taking their~~ Therefore, it shows there was, ~~gradual improvement~~ through the years, gradual improvement since the federal scene acted to improve their positions.



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Additionally, ~~suburbs~~ women had protested for their rights, like other civil rights protestors. One example is NOW (National Organisation of Women) formed in 1966. By 1974, NOW membership was 40,000, compared to a 1000 when it just started. Direct actions include the feminist march in 1970, as well as Betty Friedan's 'The Feminine Mystique' written in 1963 to protest for women's rights. This shows ~~the increase in support from the public~~ there was active action for improving women's positions, and support increased throughout the years. As a result, ~~to~~ one can consider that their positions improved ~~and positive~~ throughout the years, positively.

On the other hand, it can be said that women's rights didn't improve through the years. This is because ~~of the 1979~~ ~~in the long term~~, we can see that ~~their~~ their position didn't change to a great extent. For example, in 1979, the US didn't sign the UN policy which ~~stated~~ stated that women had same rights as

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men. Also, the Equal Rights Act (1972) wasn't, and still, not yet ratified. This shows ~~how even~~ that even though women's positions seemed to be improving, in the end, ~~it was~~ ~~it~~ it did not improve enough to have complete equality which women hoped for.

Furthermore, even though NOW membership did increase and there was widespread support, NOW disintegrated later ~~because~~ there was opposition from men, and not all the women in the organisation had same aims. For example, some people did not want to legalise abortion. Therefore, it does not represent women as a whole and the gradual breakdown shows that improvement for position of American women was not significant since it did not remain strong ~~despite its increase in membership~~ against opposition despite its increase in membership.

Moreover, even though women did seem to have more employment jobs and ~~sp~~ skill in WWII, they still faced hostility and were payed lower than men. Even though



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reputation did improve, ~~they~~ the working wages and conditions were unequal in the long term. ^{Women still got domestic work than men.} This shows how women were still unequal than men in employment and jobs. & Therefore, even if it did improve ~~Black women were treated very unequally~~ ~~the~~ in WWII, than during WWI, it still had its limits.

In conclusion, it can be said that women's positions did improve during 1917 to 1980, because of the change we see in their position during the crucial times of war, as well as the Equal Pay Act (1963) and other cases which responded to women demands. However, it is a balanced argument because in the long term, one can consider that there was hardly no improvement, since the 1972 Equal Rights Act was not ratified and eventually the organisations did split up; one cause of it was hostility.

