To what extent was the women's war work the main reason women gained the vote by 1918?

In the 20th century of Britain, women were unable to vote as the government would not allow them to. They were classed as "second class citizens" and were physically, mentally and morally lower than men. Men thought that women were too delicate for politics and that they can't control their emotions, and also that women did not have a voice of their own and would just copy what their husbands had said. After a while women got sick of this and demanded equal voting rights. The main reasons why they wanted the vote was because they wanted their own identity, freedom from their everyday lives and thought that voting would open up more opportunities. The Representation of the People Act allowed women over 30 or rent payer women were granted the right to vote. Women's war work was one of the main reasons why women gained the vote in 1918. There was also the NUWSS or better known as the suffragists, WSPU or the suffragettes and also the changing attitudes of women at this time period. The women's war work was to an extent the main reason to why women gained the vote, however the suffragists were the most significant.

The NUWSS or known as the suffragists were a peaceful organization that would send pamphlets, petitions and bills to parliament. However this could be shown as ineffective as many people would ignore these peaceful attempts to gain the vote and would continue worrying about other things. Overall, the suffragists can be seen as the most important because in 1916, Lloyd George replaced Asquith as Prime Minister and many of the suffrage men before 1914 held influential places which emphasises how more people were influenced by the suffragists, which allowed the women to gain votes compared to women’s war work.

The suffragette movement or the WSPU was the violent and demanding suffrage movement. Many suffragettes smashed windows, put acid in post boxes and golf courses. This was effective because it was regularly discussed in parliament, showing how popular they were. When a member of the suffragette movement was arrested and put into jail, many of them would go on hunger strike in order to show that they were passionate about their cause, if they had not eaten for a while they would have to endure force feeding which could end up giving these women many long term issues. This was significant as it gave the movement a lot of publicity in prison and also showed the people that the government were doing a terrible job if one of the women had died during force feeding. It also showed how willing the women were for the vote. Overall the suffragette movement is more significant than women's war work on how women got the vote in 1918; this was because nationwide publicity was given when Emily Davidson had died from being hit by the Kings horse in horse race. However it is less significant than the suffragist's movement because the suffragist's members went up to 53000 in 1914 because many people had witnessed the terrorist act that women were doing when they were in the suffragette movement and wanted this to stop so they pushed them out of their society and were seen as terrible people.

After the 1867 reform bill there was many attitudes that were changing in parliament. The infant custody Act 1873 was one of the bills passed to ensure that women had the same votes as men, it increased the rights to their children instead of having a drunken father take custody of them if their parents had split up. This is significant as it allowed women to become more