Arguments for women gaining the vote

Arguments against women gaining the vote

Women have been allowed to vote in local elections since 1888. If they can vote in local elections then why not general elections.

Many uneducated men can have the vote while educated and respectable women can't

Women should not get involved in debating and politics, it is not their role in life

If you give the vote to women you will have to give it to all men, even layabouts and riffraff! Women pay taxes just like men so should be able to influence MPs on how that money is spent



What were the arguments for and against women gaining the vote?

Women are too emotional and should not be trusted with the vote

Women have special skills, expertise and interests which could influence Parliament to make better laws on issues such as education and the family. Giving middle-class women the vote will encourage them to develop careers and neglect their family duties.

Other parts of the British Empire, including New Zealand, have already given women the vote so Britain should do the same.

Women do not fight for their country in wars, so should not have a say in government

Women are pure and should be protected from the corrupt world of politics

Many single women and widows have the same financial responsibilities as men, so they should have the same political rights.