



Candidates must complete this page and then give this cover and their final version of the extended essay to their supervisor.

Candidate session number			
Candidate name			
School number			
School name			
Examination session (May or November)	MAY	Year	2013

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: HUMAN RIGHTS  
(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay: WHAT RESULTS ARE SEEN IN THE WOMEN OF THE 1920'S DUE TO THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND THE PASSING OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT?

**Candidate's declaration**

*This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.*

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

Candidate's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters)

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

realized that she did not know as much about women's rights as she thought as she got deeper into her research for the extended essay. She focused less on people than she probably should have. She did realize that books were better research sources than the internet.

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent 

3
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 hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Supervisor's signature:

Date:

## Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Criteria	Achievement level			
	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3
A research question	2	0	2	
B introduction	2	1	2	
C investigation	4	1	4	
D knowledge and understanding	4	0	4	
E reasoned argument	4	2	4	
F analysis and evaluation	4	1	4	
G use of subject language	4	1	4	
H conclusion	2	1	2	
I formal presentation	4	2	4	
J abstract	2	0	2	
K holistic judgment	4	0	4	
Total out of 36		9		

What results are seen in the women of the 1920's due to the Women's Rights Movement and the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment?

History

By

Advisor,

Word Count: 3,398

Session, May 2012

## **Abstract:**

Through examination we find that the Women's Rights Movement and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment created a change in the women of the 1920's. The women of the time created an change themselves through the goals set by the Women's Rights Movement. Once the goal of being able to vote was given the women themselves began to change. One investigating the women from their outer changes like clothing and hair we see an attitude change. The women of the time changed from a conservative style to a vibrant and more scandalous type of dress. This created the idea for equality showing that women were going for a more boyish look through their dress and hair. This created an attitude that was determined for equality among the men of their society. The women wanted all the same rights and to be given the same standards. Through the birth of the Flappers women began to partake in activities that were traditionally only thought to be for a man. After further investigating the ideas behind it we find that women began to partake in what was considered as "ill-moral" because people weren't used to it in every day society. Women of the time were smoking and drinking and partaking in what was called "sluttish" activities. We find that the impact the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment had on the women was mostly in their style and attitude. They were ultimately changed on the outside to see that they weren't going to be put to a set idea anymore. They're attitude was to push for more equality.

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**Introduction:**

In the 1920's, a woman's behavior and style began to drastically change. These actions were in response to the "Women's Rights Movement" and the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The Women's Rights Movement was a remarkable movement leading to the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The necessary two-thirds vote was passed by Congress to approve the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote. This amendment gave women a great privilege they ever had before, and this was just the beginning. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 1920 and gave women the right to vote. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment states: "*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any States on account of sex.*" ("19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote (1920).") The act of voting was just one large step for women to be able to be outspoken and become an individual in society with an opinion of their own. Before women stood behind their husband without any ideas of their own, influenced by the ideas of the husband; it became time for them to speak out and create their own ideals. This is what led to the Women's Rights Movement. This movement led to our 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment being the opportunity which caused a change in women's lifestyle and was a significant stepping stone to the changes occurring in the 1920's due to many influences like music, dance, or clothing. These rights are the base of the civilization we have today, and the advances woman have made. Women have come as far as to have a woman running in our 2008 presidential elections. Prior to WWI, woman were very conservative from their dress to their actions. The Woman's Rights Movement began in 1848 with the first convention. Women slowly began to break the mold of what women "should be like". They began to attend school, and petition for their rights. Women gradually began to break away from their dependency on their husbands and become dependent

upon themselves. In 1855 a woman named Lucy fought for the right to keep her last name during marriage, she was the first of many to do so. And women's post-war attitude was significantly different. ("The Path of the Women's Rights Movement.", 2010) With shorter skirts and hair it influenced a stronger sexual appearance and created a comfortable feel for women. This was the beginning of women starting to change their actions in a public setting. In the 1920's there is a development of new music which created changes in women, like their personalities, dance style, and attitudes. Jazz and ragtime became popular and had an influence on women and their behavior, and caused bold moves in their dance. Women became more social and saw opportunities like the Prohibition to rebel against the normal standards of women. Flappers, for example, are one of the most well-known products of the Prohibition and the 1920's; mostly known for their behavior at speakeasies. From the birth of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment women have opened the door for themselves and created a world where we can consider ourselves equal. Changing their ideas and their feelings towards society and giving them their desire for equality between men and women.

### **Fashion and Its Influence:**

In the 1920's a drastic change for women was their clothing causing some of the largest controversy over their morals and ideals. Most women were considered a Victorian style of dress, very modern and conservative. But the changes of dress ranged from sportswear worn as type of daily outfit for women to wear in the open, the lengths of women's skirts and wearing a straight-line chemise topped with close-fitting cloche hat. Early 1920 style of Victorian was categories to have had a very traditional style flattering the woman's natural curves; from a low bust and curvy hips with a long full skirt seen with a type of trail; typically compared to today's wedding gowns. The women from the 1925-1926 started to develop a different style described as



a boyish look with dresses and shirts that did not flatter the woman's figure. The dresses and skirts were shorter exposing their legs. The style of dress made women look narrow with no curves such as the hips or breasts; this fashion design was also popular again in 1928-1929. ("Women's Clothing .", 2011) The lengths of skirts changed frequently early 1920's, skirts were at knee length during 1920 and 1921, then fell to the ankles in 1923, rose up to the knees again in 1925, and again shortened to knee length in 1929. ("Women's Clothing") The lengths of skirts seemed to be one of the biggest scandals. Women were known for not exposing much skin and by shortening the lengths of skirts you would see their tights or stockings with were considered inappropriate by most standards. Women also began changing their hair and cutting it into a style called a "bob", which is short hair right above your shoulders that would fit under the cloche hat. The cloche hat was fitted tightly around the head only revealing the bottom strands of hair. This change in hair was drastic because it gave women another comparison to men having their hair, in some cases, the same length. Many women saw this as another standard of quality. By the end of the 1920's women began to wear low waisted clothing with a full hemline for comfort while dancing. ("Fashion in the 1920's.") From the 1920's we see many style changes, one style being a very boyish cut in clothing with draping shirts and pants and skirts low-waisted. This started women to break the standard, it created a statement for women that they were no longer restrained to one idea and one style. It became a statement that men and women were equal, even in how they dressed. This change in clothing was step towards the change of women entirely. They created a different look about them to reflect their change in attitude. It was one more step towards equality for them. If they could first be accepted in their form of dress then they could be accepted for their desires and attitude.

There were many designers supported this change by creating what was considered as “outrageous” clothes. They designed clothing to go along with the changes of women and to motivate them in their change. Jean Patou, and Coco Chanel are among many examples of designers. Jean Patou was a French designer. He started off making two-piece sweater and skirt outfits out of wool jersey. His most popular clothing was his morning dresses and sport suits, which were typically outrageous for women to wear out in public. His clothing was embraced by the women of the 1920’s so easily because it was suited to their busy lifestyle, and comfortable. (“Fashion in the 1920’s) They favored his ideas because of his support as a man to see women live a life of business and independence. It motivated more women to become active in the work force which was very rare of women to do. Coco Chanel was another large fashion icon. She was the inspiration for the style of most flappers. She was the innovator of the “bob” cut, one of the first women to ever do it and to show it off to the public. She began the initiative for a change of fashion and decided to design clothes that suited this new change. She wanted all women to have the opportunity to change their dress. She also introduced in the 1920’s the small black dress, the jersey knit and the use of bold knitwear’s and jewelry. (Nash, Tim) Coco Chanel became one of the leading innovators in the style of women in the 20’s. Due to her frequent appearance in the public eye it expressed to women that it was daring, but acceptable to break the barriers of a woman stereotype. By her ability to stand confidently in clothes typically out of the norm she inspired many other women to do so. With her designs many women saw their chance to be daring and express their desire for change.

### **Flappers:**

Prior to the 1920’s women were described as very Victorian but through influences from Coco Chanel and the birth of Jazz, a generation of “Flappers” started to appear. Flappers, also

known as “Jazz babies”, among many other things, were described as northern, urban, single, young, middle-class women in the 1920’s. Like most women of this time they had desk jobs, communication was in high demand so phone operators were very important. But these women led a double life because at night they expressed what seemed to be activities only suitable for men. These flappers were influential women who because of their scandalous behavior influenced other women to duplicate their scandalous behavior. Women began to perform things in public that never used to be socially acceptable! For example, a woman having a simple cigarette in public is now something we see regularly, and a woman at a bar ordering an alcoholic drink. Ruth Hooper wrote in a New York Times article speaking as an ex-flapper, she says that these flappers live off of the encouragement of others and the attention of “innocent boys”. She states in her article, “Of course a flapper is proud of her nerve-she is not even afraid of calling it by its right name. She is shameless, selfish and honest, but at the same time she considers these attributes virtues. Why not? She takes a man’s point of view as her mother never could, and when she loses she is not afraid to admit defeat, whether it be a prime lover or \$20 at auction.” (Hooper, Ruth. 1922) Flappers engaged in nightlife activities such as visiting jazz clubs and vaudeville shows, drinking and smoking. Speakeasies were a very common place to find a flapper. Speakeasies were underground parties during the Prohibition that normally took part in illegal alcohol consumption, jazz music and dancing. Flappers had a very carefree attitude and carried themselves with confidence in their independence. They influenced more women of this time to be more independent. Through the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment they got their first taste of equality, but as their behavior became flamboyant and reckless they pushed for more equality.

Around this time more young women drank alcohol illegally in this decade more than ever before. The flappers frequently smoked and drank but the act of smoking was considered a

taboo because people were not accustomed to women smoking. Before the 1920's women typically were never seen in public smoking. (Ushistory.org) But progressively it became a norm in society. In an article from the *New York Times* called "Women Smokers" in 1920 a store clerk was asked the amount of women that come into a store daily to buy cigarettes, he said "Seventy-five or a hundred is more like it. They come in the way the men do. And they buy the same kind of cigarettes the men do." (Mowry, George E, 178) The women wanted to be equal to the men, in an article they are compared strictly due to their habits. This description is an example to the process of which women have made for themselves; their goal was to make usually non-lady-like qualities an acceptable idea for women.

The style of flappers different significantly to the normal ideas of women's clothing. The typical women were very Victorian. Flappers though were bold in their style. They broke the stereotypes of a normal American woman but as a whole flapper were generalized in their appearance. The flappers had short hair which was never seen before on women because prior to the 1920's because no woman would even think about cutting her hair. They wore clothing that was loose on their bodies showing no flattering curves or bust. Flapper's skirts were short and exposed their arms and tights. (Gray, Richard. 2012) This was a big deal to the American people because typically women were conservative and would hardly ever expose their bodies. But the flappers were the women of rebellion and their goals were to get the attention of people. These women were on a rampage to see that women's reckless behavior could be socially acceptable. We can infer from the behavior of women in today's society that they were successful. It's a very regulatory thing to see women exposing themselves, holding a cigarette, or even a beer. They broke the mold for the women and influenced them to partake in more rebellious activity.

## Music:

In the 1920's there was a burst of vibrant and upbeat music that became popular, and with the assistance of the first radio broadcasts to the world by storm. (Gray, Richard. 2012) Ragtime music and Jazz were two of the upcoming and new genres exposed during the 1920's. They were different from most music and got people interested. Jazz was one of the more popular types of music around this time. It was upbeat and was discussed as being held with no restraints, a type of music without discipline. Most music critics disliked jazz, Sigmund Spaeth said "merely a raucous and inarticulate shouting of hoarse-throated instruments, with each player trying to outdo his fellows, in fantastic cacophony." (Davis, Ronald L, 85) Jazz was becoming a large controversy in 1922 coming from multiple opinions on the new genre of music. It was compared to as the "new poetry" but it was also said to be "nigger music" and "whorehouse music". Due to derogatory comments the upper class looked down upon the music. (Davis, Ronald L, 83) But this genre of music got people in general, not just women, in America excited! It was intended to be a cast off to the "blues" and be upbeat and joyous music to infect the people. (Mowry, George, 67) It infected many people and become one of the more popular genres played at speakeasies during the prohibition. For women it was seen as vibrant and created an outlet for some who became interested. It was frequently played by African Americans at speakeasies where the Flappers of the 1920's spent frequent amount of time.

Ragtime was the direct predecessor of Jazz, which went along with the new music tempo that started in the late 1980's and became popular for its composition for the piano, generally in duple meter and containing a highly syncopated treble lead over a rhythmically steady bass; meaning that there is a steady beat along with a beat that is almost off rhythm in comparison. ("History of Ragtime.", 2011) The music assisted women in expressing their ideas of the time

and influencing their dance style. They broke the ideals normally associated with women by using music to dance and express that they are not a simple stereotype of normal women. They are equal to men and wanted to get past just the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Women of this time became involved with the music by singing and dancing too it. Due to the innovations of the 1920's like the radio we began to see women support the music. Their new found pride and independent caused to women to become more open minded and build their own ideas of what is right and wrong.

### **Dance:**

Dancing for women was typically very calm and didn't involve any spastic movements. It was normally played with soft music and women normally kept a close distance to their dance partner. With the innovation of music though came new dancing. The Charleston and swing dancing were two popular dances. Swing dancing was also called the "Lindy hop", named after the pilot Charles Lindburgh's first solo flight. It was the first dance that entailed throwing your partner into the air which was scandalous at the time due to its recklessness and closeness with a partner. It's danger and fast movements also was new to people of the time. (Scott, Robert)

The Charleston was also a dance that became popular in the 1920's. It was the idea behind the name of the Flappers because of how they "flapped" their arms around like wings. The dance dates back all the way to African tribes, but it was first introduced to Americans on Broadway in 1923 in the play Running Wild while playing the song "The Charleston", its popularity increased afterwards. (Cayton, Mary Kupiec, and Peter W. William, 17) It was a taboo of the women but Flappers saw this it as a challenge and began to regularly do the dance.

These dances created a break in the stereotype of women because they were seen as immorally wrong for women to do. Women were eventually recorded doing the dance on national TV. This was a goal done by the flappers who took it upon themselves to do the dance in public. This dance was a bold idea done to influence women. Dance was something women typically involved themselves in but in the 1920s we see a change in style due to their attitude. Through the women's new found given equality dance tested boundaries for women. They saw dance as a way to show their support of bold music and a way to influence a mild change.

**Conclusion:**

The Women's Rights Movement's goal was to get women to the equal standards of men. Then granted the 19th Amendment and saw this as a goal met. With this given women began to strive for more equality. The passing of the 19th Amendment occurred in 1920; the rest of the era resulted in hectic and scandalous behavior exemplified by the women of the time. This passing of the 19th Amendment created women with a changed attitude developed from a desire for equality. The 19th Amendment carried the ideas so that women enjoy their ability to vote and be equal to men in that standard. But they were still not seen as equal. And from this idea the women of this time were selfish, determined, and set a goal to break the mold of the traditional American woman. Through many ideas they expressed themselves. Their first step was through their dress. Women transformed their dress from a Victorian conservative style, to outspoken and vibrant, but also considered as revealing. They're traditional dress of fitted and a display of curves was changed into a narrow short dress showing no figure in regard to their hips or breasts. This was a drastic step towards equality because they started to resemble the dress of a man. This created a symbol of equality to them that they could be different and break a standard idea for women. Women who cut their hair created much controversy because women traditionally have

long hair, but the women were influenced so that they had very short “bob” cuts. Flappers were the icon for the rebellion of the women. They broke many stereotypes of a woman and build new ideas about women. The flapper dress exposed lots of skin for the women of the time, like their arms and legs. This was women’s way of expressing their rebellion of the time, this style carried on even to today’s society giving an example these women had on today. We also see the love for music and dance the women of this time had. Women enjoyed the music of jazz and ragtime. They were a genre of music that was sweeping the nation in its ideals. It was vibrant and for the women of the time they experienced the joy in its freedom because they were seeking their own. It also influenced their type of dance. The free and soulful music was what helped to create such reckless and flashy dance styles. From dances like the ragtime and the Charleston, which were big taboos for the time, women were able to express their style and creativity. Some women even became involved in this music world by singing. This was the attempts by the women to become equal by doing something they regularly aren’t allowed to do, or are looked down upon for. The women of the 1920’s never took for granted the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Women’s Rights Movement; they say those accomplishments as motivation to push for more accomplishments. Their actions in the 1920’s may have been reckless and considered ill-moral by men at the time, but there goals were achieved through equality. Due to their bold and selfish actions women of today have more equality than ever. In politics, and in the work environments, it also has come to be casual for a woman to smoke or to have a drink at the bar. Their motivation was the Women’s Rights Movement, their goal was the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but they never stoped pushing for more quality. The actions of women from the 1920’s can only be seen as a statement that provoked acceptance.



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