The Role of Women During the Second World War

Life for most women before the war was quite different than today. Typically, most women stayed at home and did not go to work.

When the war started in September 1939, the role of women changed rapidly.

With men called up for active service, there was a need for women to undertake the jobs that the men had previously done, giving them the opportunity to become patriotic heroines. During the war, women were employed in a range of positions that included:

- munition factory workers
- working in the armed forces
- driving buses or trains
- working as nurses or ambulance drivers
- becoming searchlight operators and air raid wardens



In 1943, almost 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were in employment.

Questions



1. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'very quickly'.



2. What percentage of married women were working by 1943?



3. How did life change for women during the Second World War? Explain your answer.



4. Why does the author use the phrase **patriotic heroines**?

Disclaimer: Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your learners due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

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Answers



1. Find and copy a word which means the same as 'very quickly'.
   rapidly



2. What percentage of married women were working by 1943?
   By 1943, 80 per cent of married women were working.



3. How did life change for women during the Second World War? Explain your answer.
   Pupils' own responses, such as: Life changed for women during the Second World War because many of the men were away on active service. This meant that women were employed to do jobs that the men did previously instead of staying at home.



4. Why does the author use the phrase **patriotic heroines**?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: The author uses the phrase patriotic heroines because the women were helping to win the war for their country and their actions were heroic.