WALT: **How was the vote won? Were the Chartists successful?**

WILFS: **L5:** **Explain** the causes for the change to the vote.

**L6:** **Evaluate** the success of the Chartists in achieving their demands.

**L6a:** **Compare and Evaluate** Chartists and other causes to the vote change.

After the strikes of 1842 the country was peaceful. The Chartists saw the pressure pay off. In 1847, Parliament introduced the Ten Hours Act – limiting working hours in textiles mills to ten hours per day. But in 1848 the Chartists were back.

**1 1848 according to Wellington: Revolution foiled.**

“In 1848, the Chartists caused trouble again. They said it was because of unemployment and high food prices. In Glasgow unemployed workers shouted ‘Bread or Revolution’. They had heard about the revolutions all over Europe. Then they organised another petition and a huge meeting. They said their petition had over 5 million signatures but many of them were forgeries.”

**2 1848 according to O’Connor: Petition delivered.**

“We never meant to start a revolution! Thousands joined the Chartist because they were desperate. Food prices had risen steeply. People lost their jobs because factories were losing orders. So many people signed our petition. Wellington claims they were forgeries but that is unfair. Many people could not write so they simply copied the writing of someone else. We went to London to hold a peaceful rally. The government was worried because of the revolutions abroad but we did not want violence either.”

**TASK – Read the Two Quotes - Discuss with SP the following question.**

***Q*** *“They can’t both be telling the truth: What reasons might each person have to lie? Why did the Working Class want a change to the vote?”*

***How was the vote won?*** Working people did not win the vote in 1848. So in that sense Chartism failed. But Chartism was part of a much bigger movement that continued through the next twenty years until 1867, when there was the first breakthrough.

**How did Joseph Taylor win the right to vote in 1867?**

**3**  After 1848 there were no more Chartist petitions and very few riots or strikes. Britain was in a boom. Industry did well. Wages were rising. Workers were better off. Chartism disappeared. But the people who had run Chartism did not disappear. Their desire for the vote did not disappear either. People like Joseph Taylor put their energy into other ways of improving their lives. Others got themselves educated. They felt that was a better way to improve their lives than petitions or strikes.

But they had not lost their desire for the vote. Slowly but surely MP’s in Parliament began to adjust to the idea that working men had earned the right to vote. Many said they were impressed by the fact that nearly all the protests for the vote were now peaceful. They were also impressed by the way working people worked hard to educate themselves and improve their own situation.

In 1866 Parliament debated a bill to give the vote to working men. Meetings were organised all over the North and Midlands. Some speakers called for a people’s parliament and a national strike. There were even riots in Hyde Park. Railings were torn down and crowds clashed with police. But these were exceptions. Mostly the campaign was peaceful.

In 1867, Parliament finally did what had been unthinkable twenty years earlier. They gave most working men in towns the right to vote. Overnight the number of votes almost doubled to 2 million.

**Q** “Were the Chartists successful or not, what else contributed to changing the vote?” – AllWriteConsensus – Discuss, Argue, come to an agreement, write…