

SOURCE 5



Domestic servants at Petworth House.

The largest number of all worked as domestic servants (source 5). Writers held different opinions about this kind of work:

SOURCE 6

The situation of a domestic servant . . . is attended with considerable comfort. With abundant work it combines a wonderful degree of . . . discipline, health, physical comfort . . .

J. D. Milne, *The Industrial and Social Position of Women*, 1857

SOURCE 7

Domestic service is incessant hard work at all hours of the day and sometimes of the night also. It is at best but a kind of slavery . . .

Emma Paterson, *The Organisation of Women's Industry*, 1879

Women also worked on the land. Their jobs included potato-gathering, turnip-pulling, hoeing, weeding, and picking fruit and vegetables. In the East Midlands and East Anglia girls often worked in agricultural gangs (source 8). An official from the Children's Employment Commission asked Georgina Rowan, who was sixteen, what kind of work was hardest, but she did not know. 'We're used to it now, and don't mind it', she said.

activity

- 1 Look at sources 5, 6 and 7.
 - a Make a list of the points on which sources 6 and 7 (i) agree (ii) disagree.
 - b How do you explain the disagreements between them?
 - c How could source 5 be used to support (i) source 6 (ii) source 7?
- 2 Look at source 8. What can you tell about the artist's attitude to the women?

SOURCE 8



'The Stonepickers', painted by Sir George Clausen in 1887. This winter work was often given to women in agricultural gangs.