

‘Without the Falklands War, Thatcher would have lost the 1983 general election.’

Assess the validity of this view. (25)

<p>Support the statement i.e. may well have lost in 1983 if it wasn't for the war</p>	<p>Challenge the statement i.e. would probably have won anyway, with or without the war</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The war gained her popularity, increased patriotism, unity, decisive leadership, quick victory. “We have ceased to be a nation in retreat.” ● Conservatives deeply unpopular before the war. Impact of monetarism; high unemployment, riots, opposition from leading economists and own party, refusal to make a u-turn ● By-election defeats e.g. Crosby, Glasgow Hillhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State of the Labour Party under Foot. Too left-wing, SDP, memories of winter of discontent. ● Tackled the unions; Employment Acts in 1980 and 1982. Working days lost to strikes down from 12m to 3.7m between 1979 and 1983 ● Created a property-owning democracy; Housing Act 1980 ● Helped by first past the post voting system; 42% of votes, but 144-seat majority. Limited support in Wales, Scotland and the north ● Could also say the war brought Thatcher a great deal of criticism e.g. sinking of the Belgrano