

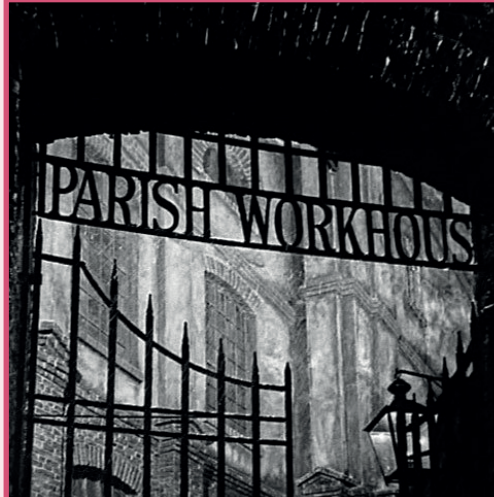
# What was the Chartist movement?

Between 1837-1848 many working men joined the Chartist movement to campaign for a fairer society. There were unhappy for many reasons, such as:

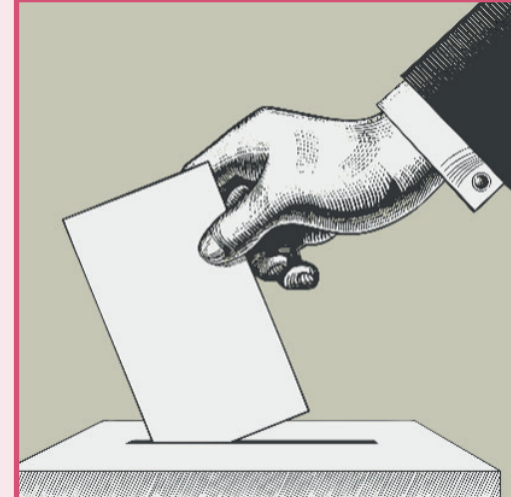
High unemployment, especially people who worked in the cottage industries (spinning yarn and weaving in their homes) who could not compete with new factories.



People who could not support themselves had to live in a workhouse. Living conditions were harsh, the food was very plain and husbands and wives were often separated.



Only those who owned property had the right to vote (less than 5 percent of the population). Those who could vote could be bribed or intimidated to voting a particular way.



## The People's Charter of 1838 called for:

- All men over 21 to have the vote
- A secret ballot (vote)
- Payment of MPs (so they weren't reliant on private income)
- The country to be divided into constituencies which roughly equal number of voters
- MPs re-elected each year
- MPs did not have to own property