Why was the Slave Trade abolished?

Describe reasons why Great Britain finally abolished the Slave Trade in 1807.
Great Britain finally abolished the slave trade in 1807, after years of campaigning by abolitionists. Given that many people supported the trade, why did it finally end?
William Wilberforce MP kept on introducing bills in Parliament to abolish the slave trade.

These were continually rejected, and seemed likely to continue, especially given France’s influence.
France and Britain were at war from 1792. Britain wanted slave trade money to fund the war.

The **French Revolution** in 1792 had also inspired some slaves to rebel against their owners.
The slave revolt on the French island of Haiti worried Britain too.

The violence shown in the rebellion – led by Toussaint L’Ouverture – could have spread elsewhere. It seemed safer to keep slaves under control.
However, in 1807, Parliament still voted to abolish the slave trade. However, this only ended the buying and selling of slaves - slavery itself continued.

**Slavery** was abolished in British colonies in 1833.
Abolition happened for many different reasons.

The campaign run by abolitionists was an important feature.

By writing books and holding public meetings it raised the issue to public attention.
Having former slaves and slavers speak out made people aware of the horrors of the trade.

The fact that most churches were opposed to slavery helped persuade many in Britain to oppose it.
Britain increasingly traded with *other countries* around the world (often at *cheaper* prices) – it had less of a need for slave labour.

Britain also had less influence on the Americas after the *American War of Independence* in 1776.
The sugar boycott persuaded some merchants to avoid buying slave sugar, undermining the trade.

Many slave islands had a high death rate amongst the slaves – this made the trade more difficult and expensive.
To what extent was the success of the abolitionist campaign due to the work of Thomas Clarkson?

- Structure – Introduction
  Para 1- Work of Thomas Clarkson P,E,E X2
  Para 2 work of William Wilberforce P,E,E
  Para 3 work of another abolitionist
  Conclusion – who had the biggest impact

FOLLOW YOUR STRUCTURE!!!
Abolitionists also were careful to only ban the *slave trade* – not slavery itself.

By targeting only *one part* of the trade, this made it easier to persuade people to support the campaign.

Banning slavery could be achieved later.
Timeline of Abolition

1807
The Atlantic slave trade is abolished

1834
Slavery made illegal in the British Empire

1865
13\textsuperscript{th} amendment abolishes slavery in USA (after Civil War)
Last country to abolish slavery is Brazil 1888
The end of Slavery?

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