

Florence Nightingale: A Historical Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and evaluate the significant contributions of Florence Nightingale to nursing and hospital reform.

Use your research skills to complete this historical fact-file. Remember to use formal, historical language and justify your conclusions based on the evidence you have discovered about the Crimean War and the Victorian era.

Word bank: Scutari · Crimean War · sanitation · hygiene · Victorian · nursing · reform · The Lady with the Lamp

1. Early Life and Ambition: Describe Florence Nightingale's early background and explain why her decision to become a nurse was considered unconventional for a woman of her social standing in the Victorian era. (3 marks)

2. The Crimean Challenge: Compare the conditions of the hospital at Scutari before and after Nightingale's arrival. What specific changes did she implement to improve the situation? (4 marks)

3. Evidence-Based Reform: Explain why Florence Nightingale insisted on gathering data and statistics about the death rates in hospitals. How did this scientific approach change the way hospitals were managed? (4 marks)

4. The Lady with the Lamp: Justify why this nickname became such a powerful symbol for soldiers during the war. What does this reveal about the soldiers' morale? (3 marks)

5. Legacy and Impact: Contrast the state of modern nursing with the profession during the 1850s. What might have happened to hospital standards if Nightingale had not campaigned for reform? (4 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: If you were a hospital administrator in the 1850s, which of Nightingale's reforms would you have found most difficult to accept and why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a journalist in 1856. Write a short, persuasive editorial piece (150 words) arguing why Florence Nightingale's methods should be adopted in every hospital across the British Empire. Use persuasive vocabulary such as 'pioneering', 'essential', and 'transformative'.