

Trailblazers in History: Celebrating Black British Contributions

Learning objective: To analyse the significant contributions of individuals from the Black community to British history and to evaluate the impact of their achievements on society.

Read the questions carefully and provide detailed, well-reasoned answers. Use the provided vocabulary to support your historical arguments.

Throughout British history, individuals of African and Caribbean heritage have played vital roles in shaping the nation's culture, science, and social progress. From the presence of Black people in Roman Britain to the arrival of the Windrush generation, these stories are an essential part of our shared heritage. During Black History Month, we reflect on how figures such as Mary Seacole, a nurse who provided care during the Crimean War, and Walter Tull, a professional footballer who became one of the first Black officers in the British Army, challenged societal barriers and left an indelible mark on our history.

Word bank: Legacy · Pioneering · Injustice · Resilience · Advocacy · Representation · Systemic · Contribution

1. Mary Seacole faced significant obstacles while trying to support soldiers during the Crimean War. Explain why her persistence was considered pioneering for the time. (2 marks)

2. Compare the contributions of a historical figure, such as Walter Tull, to modern-day role models. In what ways has the concept of 'representation' changed over the last century? (3 marks)

3. Justify why it is important for historians to study Black British history as part of the wider national curriculum, rather than as a separate subject. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to our understanding of the British Army's history if we chose to ignore the stories of soldiers like Walter Tull? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Identify one challenge faced by the Windrush generation and describe how their arrival influenced the cultural landscape of the United Kingdom. (2 marks)

6. Evaluate the following statement: 'Historical figures are defined more by the adversity they overcome than by the achievements they reach.' Provide evidence to support your viewpoint. (4 marks)

Draw: Ellie the elephant is creating a 'History Mural' to celebrate unsung heroes. Draw a scene featuring a person from history who you think deserves more recognition, including symbols that represent their specific contribution or career.



Extension challenge: Research a person of African or Caribbean heritage who has made a significant contribution to your local area. Create a 'Blue Plaque' design for them, writing a short persuasive paragraph explaining exactly why they deserve to be remembered in your town or city.