

Unsung Heroes: A Historical Perspective

Learning objective: To research and construct a biographical account of an influential Black historical figure, analysing their impact on society and justifying their significance in British or global history.

Use this scaffold to structure your biography. Ensure your writing is formal, objective, and well-researched. Focus on how your chosen figure overcame challenges and the legacy they left behind.

Throughout history, there have been remarkable individuals whose contributions have shaped the world we live in today, yet their stories are often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · notwithstanding · pioneering · social reform · adversity · legacy · influential · in retrospect · significantly · advocated

1. Introduction: Identify your chosen figure and state clearly why their contribution is historically significant. Start with: 'A figure of immense historical importance is...' (2 marks)

2. Early Life and Challenges: Describe the environment they grew up in and the barriers they faced. Explain why these obstacles were difficult to overcome. Start with: 'Born in..., they were confronted with significant challenges, such as...' (3 marks)

3. Key Achievements: Detail the specific actions or inventions they are known for. Justify why these actions were revolutionary for their time. Start with: 'The primary achievement of this individual was... This was transformative because...' (4 marks)

4. Comparative Analysis: Compare the society they lived in with our society today. What might have happened if this person had not taken their actions? Start with: 'Comparing the social climate of the past to the present, it is evident that...' (4 marks)

5. Reflective Conclusion: Summarise their lasting legacy. Why is it vital that we remember their story during Black History Month? Start with: 'In conclusion, the legacy of... continues to inspire because...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who has a perfect memory for history. Write a 'Letter to the Future' from the perspective of your chosen historical figure. Explain what you hope the next generation learns from your life story and the values you stood for. Justify your choices using evidence from your research.