

Unsung Heroes: Investigating Significant Figures in Black History

Learning objective: To research and construct a biographical profile of an influential figure in Black history, evaluating their impact on British society or global progress.

Choose a significant historical figure who has made a meaningful contribution to history. Use the prompts below to structure your biographical account, ensuring you include historical context, key achievements, and an analysis of their lasting legacy.

Throughout history, certain individuals have emerged as catalysts for change, demonstrating remarkable resilience in the face of significant social challenges.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · nonetheless · pioneering · adversity · transformative · influential · courageous · systemic · invaluable · legacy · steadfastly

1. Introduction: Who is your chosen historical figure and what was the specific historical context of their time? Start by stating: 'The historical figure I have chosen to research is... who lived during a period characterised by...' (2 marks)

2. Overcoming Adversity: What specific challenges did this person face, and how did they navigate them? Explain why these obstacles were significant by writing: 'One of the primary challenges encountered by... was... which they overcame by...' (3 marks)

3. Major Achievements: Detail the key actions or contributions they made. Justify their importance by writing: 'The most significant contribution made by... was... because this action fundamentally changed...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare and contrast their approach to change with another historical figure you have studied. Write: 'Whilst [Name] focused on..., [Name] took a different approach by...' (3 marks)

5. Legacy and Impact: Explain why their work remains relevant today. Start with: 'The legacy of... continues to resonate in modern society because...' (2 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: What might happen if this individual had not taken their courageous stand? Consider the long-term implications: 'If... had not pursued their goal, it is highly probable that...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are interviewing this historical figure. Draft three sophisticated, open-ended questions you would ask them to better understand their motivations and the personal cost of their activism. Then, write a short paragraph explaining why your chosen figure deserves a permanent memorial in a major British city.