

History Assessment: The Struggle for Civil Rights

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the 20th-century Civil Rights Movement, focusing on the fight for equality, key figures, and the impact of non-violent protest.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate responses. Ensure your spelling and grammar are clear. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

In the mid-20th century, many people across the globe stood up to demand equal rights and an end to systemic discrimination. Movements for civil rights challenged unfair laws that separated people based on their background or skin colour. Through peaceful marches, powerful speeches, and courageous acts of defiance, activists worked to ensure that everyone, regardless of their heritage, could access the same education, transport, and opportunities.

Word bank: Segregation · Equality · Discrimination · Non-violent protest · Boycott · Integration · Legislation · Human rights

1. Define the term 'segregation' and explain how it affected the daily lives of people in the mid-20th century. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the Elephant is researching history. She finds that many activists chose 'non-violent protest' instead of fighting back physically. Why do you think this strategy was so effective in changing public opinion? (3 marks)

3. Identify one major event or campaign from the Civil Rights Movement and describe its significance in achieving legislative change. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the impact of public speeches versus the impact of organised boycotts. Which do you believe had a greater influence on changing laws? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

5. Explain why the struggle for civil rights is often referred to as a 'movement' rather than a single event. (3 marks)

6. Consider the role of ordinary citizens in history. Why was it important for everyday people, not just famous leaders, to participate in the fight for equality? (5 marks)

7. If a new law were proposed that you felt was unfair, what peaceful methods could you use to express your opinion and influence change, based on what you have learned about civil rights? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative poster that represents the theme of 'Equality'. Use symbols or imagery that reflect the importance of unity and human rights.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Imagine you are a journalist in the 1960s. Write a short newspaper editorial (150 words) reflecting on the progress made regarding civil rights. Address the question: 'What might happen if the movement had chosen violence instead of peaceful protest? How would the long-term outcome have differed?'