

Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Lamp

Learning objective: To analyse the significant impact Florence Nightingale had on modern nursing and hospital hygiene during the Crimean War.

Use this scaffold to construct a historical account of Florence Nightingale's life and legacy. Ensure you use evidence to support your arguments regarding her influence on medical practices.

In the mid-19th century, the medical profession was forever altered by the tireless dedication of a woman named Florence Nightingale.

Word bank: pioneering · sanitation · consequently · furthermore · nevertheless · revolutionary · adversity · compassion · mortality rates · significant impact

1. Early Life and Ambition: What motivated Florence to pursue a career in nursing despite the expectations of Victorian society? Start your response with: 'During the Victorian era, it was highly unusual for a woman of Florence's status to...' (2 marks)

2. The Crimean War: Describe the conditions Nightingale encountered at the Scutari Hospital. Explain why she felt compelled to implement immediate changes. Start with: 'Upon arriving at the military hospital, Florence was horrified to discover...' (3 marks)

3. Sanitation Reform: Explain the link between hygiene and falling mortality rates. How did her focus on cleanliness save lives? Start with: 'Florence Nightingale believed that the primary cause of death was not just battle wounds, but...' (3 marks)

4. The 'Lady with the Lamp': Why did this symbol become so iconic, and what does it reveal about her relationship with the soldiers? Start with: 'The image of Florence carrying a lamp through the wards at night came to represent...' (2 marks)

5. Legacy in Modern Medicine: Compare and contrast hospital standards today with those in the 1850s. Justify why her methods are still considered the foundation of modern nursing. Start with: 'The legacy left by Nightingale is still evident in our hospitals today because...' (4 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: What might have happened to the medical profession if Florence Nightingale had not campaigned for these reforms? Start with: 'Had Florence Nightingale not intervened, it is highly probable that...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the Scutari Hospital writing a letter home to your family. Using the vocabulary from your word bank, write a diary entry describing how the atmosphere in the ward changed after Florence Nightingale's arrival. Consider the contrast between your feelings before and after the improvements in sanitation.