

Trailblazers of Change: A Legacy of Courage

Learning objective: To identify and evaluate the contributions of significant Black figures in British history and recognise the importance of equality, perseverance, and societal progress.

Below are six profiles of influential figures who shaped British society through their courage and intellect. Match the 'Contribution Key' to the correct historical figure. Then, use the 'Greater Depth' questions to justify why these individuals are considered pioneers of progress.

Word bank: Mary Seacole · Olaudah Equiano · Walter Tull · Claudia Jones · Sir Lewis Hamilton · Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock

1. Match the person to their achievement: (A) Established the first major Black British newspaper, (B) A pioneering nurse in the Crimean War, (C) An 18th-century writer who campaigned against the slave trade, (D) A professional footballer and courageous First World War officer, (E) A world-champion racing driver promoting diversity in STEM, (F) A renowned space scientist and educator. (6 marks)

2. Explain why Mary Seacole's decision to travel to the Crimea, despite initial rejection from official organisations, demonstrates the value of personal resilience. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the methods used by Olaudah Equiano to influence public opinion in the 1700s with how modern figures like Claudia Jones used journalism to support their communities. (4 marks)

4. Walter Tull broke barriers in both sport and the military. Justify why his story is a significant part of British history. (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock had not pursued her passion for space science? How does her role impact the aspirations of children today? (3 marks)

6. 6. Reflecting on the concept of 'equality', explain why it is important for the UK curriculum to celebrate the achievements of Black Britons throughout the year, not just in October. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque for a modern-day hero who inspires you. Include symbols that represent their contribution to society and a short, powerful motto that reflects their values.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a historian in the year 2100. Write a short journal entry explaining why the actions of one of the figures mentioned above helped build a fairer society for you to live in today. Use at least three examples of how their 'legacy' has influenced modern British laws or cultural attitudes.