Year 6 English Assessment: Celebrating Pioneers and Perspectives

Learning objective: To analyse the contributions of significant historical figures, evaluate the impact of their achievements, and demonstrate critical thinking through structured writing.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your responses are written in full sentences, using precise vocabulary and accurate punctuation. Check your spelling and grammar before submitting.

History is not merely a collection of dates; it is a tapestry woven from the lived experiences of individuals who challenged the status quo. During Black History Month, we reflect upon the courageous lives of figures like Mary Seacole, whose dedication as a nurse during the Crimean War redefined humanitarianism, and Olaudah Equiano, whose autobiography provided a harrowing yet essential account of the fight for abolition. These pioneers did not wait for change to occur; they actively pursued justice, equality, and recognition through their words and actions. By examining their diverse contributions, we gain a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by previous generations and the ongoing importance of advocating for a fair and inclusive society.

Word bank: Resilience · Pioneer · Legacy · Advocacy · Systemic · Empowerment · Perspective · Contribution

1. Identify two significant historical figures mentioned in the passage and briefly explain why they are considered pioneers. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. The author describes history as a 'tapestry'. Explain the metaphor of a tapestry in the context of learning about diverse historical figures. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the methods used by historical figures to challenge the status quo. Why might someone choose writing over direct action? (4 marks) (4 marks)

4. Justify why it is essential to celebrate Black History Month in schools today, even when we are studying historical events from the past. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. What might happen to our collective understanding of history if we only studied the perspectives of those in positions of power? (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Compose a formal letter (150-200 words) to a museum curator suggesting a new exhibit dedicated to an unsung hero of your choice. Persuade them why this individual's legacy deserves national recognition. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of 'Legacy' as described in the passage. Consider how you might visually depict the idea of weaving different historical threads together into a single, cohesive story.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research a local figure from your own community who has contributed to social progress. Create a biographical profile that highlights their challenges and successes. Explain how their actions mirror the themes of resilience and advocacy discussed in the passage.