Black History Month: Celebrating Pioneers and Perspectives

Learning objective: To evaluate the contributions of significant Black individuals to British and global history and analyse the importance of Black History Month in the modern day.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your explanations are clear and use formal historical terminology.

Black History Month serves as a vital opportunity to recognise the oft-overlooked contributions of Black individuals throughout history. From the scientific breakthroughs of Mary Seacole during the Crimean War to the civil rights advocacy of figures like Rosa Parks and the cultural impact of writers such as Olaudah Equiano, history is enriched by diverse perspectives. By examining these lives, we challenge incomplete historical narratives and foster a more comprehensive understanding of our past.

Word bank: Legacy · Pioneer · Injustice · Representation · Advocacy · Human Rights · Contribution · Historical Narrative

1. Identify one significant Black historical figure and describe one major contribution they made to society. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Explain why it is important to include diverse voices when studying history. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the impact of two different historical figures you have studied. How did their methods of advocacy differ? (4 marks) (4 marks)

4. Justify why Black History Month is celebrated annually. Why might some argue that this history should be integrated into the curriculum year-round instead? (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. What might happen to our understanding of the present if we continue to omit certain groups from historical records? (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Ellie the Elephant has asked you to write a speech for a school assembly about the importance of legacy. Choose one individual from the history of civil rights or scientific discovery. Write a 5-mark response explaining how their courage changed the world for future generations. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative plaque for a historical figure of your choice. Include a brief caption (20 words max) explaining why their legacy remains relevant today.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research a local Black historical figure from your own region. Create a profile explaining how they influenced your local community and why they deserve a permanent memorial. Present your findings in a structured, persuasive report.