Florence Nightingale: A Historical Biography

Learning objective: To write a structured biography of Florence Nightingale, explaining her significant contribution to nursing and hospital reform.

Use the prompts below to build your biography. Remember to include historical facts, use formal language, and organise your writing into clear paragraphs. Use the word bank to help your writing flow.

Born into a wealthy family in 1820, Florence Nightingale defied the expectations of Victorian society to pursue a career that would change medical history forever.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · notably · during the Crimean War · sanitation · revolutionised · compassion · legacy · in addition to · however

1. Early Life and Ambitions: Describe Florence's childhood and why she decided to become a nurse. Start with: Although she was born into a life of privilege... (3 marks)

2. The Crimean War: Explain what Florence found when she arrived at Scutari Hospital. Start with: Upon arriving at the Barrack Hospital, Florence was shocked to discover... (4 marks)

3. Improvements and Changes: What specific actions did Florence take to improve the conditions for the soldiers? Start with: To reduce the high mortality rates, she introduced... (4 marks)

4. The Lady with the Lamp: Explain the nickname Florence earned and what it represented to the wounded soldiers. Start with: The soldiers began to refer to her as 'The Lady with the Lamp' because... (3 marks)

5. Legacy: How did Florence Nightingale change the nursing profession for the future? Start with: Florence's influence extended far beyond the war as she... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a soldier in the hospital at Scutari. Write a short diary entry describing the difference in the ward after Florence Nightingale's arrival. Use Ellie the elephant to help you remember the key dates and events!