Social Studies / History Assessment: The Journey Towards Civil Rights

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the struggle for civil rights, focusing on key figures, peaceful protest, and the impact of segregation.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure you use full sentences for the extended writing tasks.

In the mid-20th century, many societies were divided by laws that kept people apart based on the colour of their skin. This system, known as segregation, meant that people were often denied equal access to schools, public transport, and voting rights. Brave individuals led movements to challenge these unfair practices through peaceful protest, public speaking, and legal action. Over time, these actions led to significant changes in laws, helping to pave the way for a fairer society.

Word bank: Segregation · Boycott · Discrimination · Equality · Protest · Legislation · Justice · Integration

1. Define the term 'segregation' and explain one way it affected people's daily lives in the past. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant explains that many people chose 'peaceful protest' over violence. Why do you think choosing peaceful methods was an effective way to highlight the need for change? (3 marks)

3. Name one example of a public service or facility that was often segregated during this period of history. (1 mark)

4. Describe the purpose of a 'boycott' as a tool for political or social change. (2 marks)

5. Explain how new legislation (laws) helped to improve civil rights for minority groups. (4 marks)

6. Identify two character traits that were essential for civil rights activists to have and explain why those traits were necessary for their success. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are a journalist in the 1960s. Write a report (approx. 100 words) describing the importance of a march for equality. Include why the people are marching, the atmosphere of the event, and what they hope to achieve for the future. (5 marks)

8. Give one example of how the struggle for equality in the past still influences our values in modern society today. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster that might have been carried during a peaceful march for equality. Use symbols that represent unity and justice.

Extension challenge: Research a person who fought for civil rights in your own country. Write a short paragraph explaining one specific thing they did to make society fairer. Total: /25