Unsung Heroes: A Historical Perspective

Learning objective: To research, analyse, and present the contribution of a significant Black historical figure to British or global history, demonstrating an understanding of their impact and legacy.

Use this scaffold to structure your biographical report. Ensure you provide evidence for your claims and use formal, objective language suitable for a historical investigation.

Throughout history, the contributions of Black individuals have often been overlooked, yet their resilience and innovation have fundamentally shaped the world we inhabit today.

Word bank: furthermore · nevertheless · consequently · in retrospect · pivotal · marginalised · contribution · legacy · systemic · advocacy

1. Introduction: Who is the individual you have chosen and why is it essential to recognise their achievements in the context of Black History Month? Begin by stating: 'The individual I have selected to research is...' (2 marks)

2. The Historical Context: Explain the societal challenges or barriers this person faced during their lifetime. Compare this to the opportunities available in the modern day. Use the sentence starter: 'During this era, the social climate was characterised by...' (3 marks)

3. Significant Achievements: Detail the primary actions or innovations this person is known for. Justify why these actions were considered 'pivotal' or 'groundbreaking' at the time. Start with: 'The most significant achievement of this individual was...' (3 marks)

4. Impact and Legacy: Analyse how their work influenced future generations. What might have happened if this person had not pursued their cause or career? Start with: 'The lasting legacy of this individual is evident because...' (3 marks)

5. Critical Reflection: Evaluate the importance of inclusive history. Why is it vital that we broaden our historical studies beyond traditional narratives? Start with: 'Studying diverse historical figures is crucial because...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. How has this research changed your perspective on historical representation? Use the starter: 'In conclusion, researching this figure has highlighted that...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who is tasked with curating a new museum exhibition. Write a persuasive letter to the museum committee explaining why the person you have researched deserves a permanent, featured display in the 'Greatest Minds' gallery. Use your 'word bank' to add sophistication to your argument.