Celebrating Pioneers: A Black History Month Reflection

Learning objective: To research, analyze, and evaluate the contributions of significant Black individuals to British and global history.

Use this scaffold to structure a reflective essay. Research one significant historical figure. Use the questions below to guide your research and critical thinking, ensuring you provide evidence to support your observations.

History is not merely a collection of dates, but a tapestry woven by the courage and ingenuity of individuals who dared to challenge the status quo.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · significant contribution · resilience · systemic change · legacy · pivotal · advocacy · perseverance · nevertheless · transformative

1. Introduction: Identify your chosen historical figure and explain why their work is considered a significant contribution to society. Start with: 'A figure whose resilience and vision transformed their field is...' (2 marks)

2. Contextual Analysis: Describe the societal challenges or barriers this individual faced during their lifetime. Start with: 'During this era, the societal landscape was characterised by...' (3 marks)

3. Justification of Impact: Explain why their achievements remain relevant today. Start with: 'The legacy of their work is evident in contemporary society because...' (3 marks)

4. Comparative Reflection: Compare and contrast their methods of activism or innovation with another person you have studied. Start with: 'While [Name] utilised [Method A], their contemporary [Name] opted for...' (4 marks)

5. Critical Evaluation: What might happen if this individual had not persevered in the face of adversity? Start with: 'Had this individual been deterred by the obstacles they encountered, the potential repercussions for future generations would be...' (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise what lessons we can learn from their life and how we can apply these to our own community. Start with: 'Ultimately, their journey teaches us that the responsibility to foster equality and innovation rests with...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a commemorative plaque for your chosen figure. Include a 100-word justification explaining why the specific imagery and language chosen for the plaque effectively represents their life's work and historical significance.