

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Shatter the Barriers: 11th Grade Civil Rights Grit Quiz

Executive orders, grassroots litigation, and systematic boycotts—tools that dismantled American apartheid and rewrote the social contract for the modern era.

1. Which landmark 1948 executive order issued by President Harry Truman established the Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services?

Answer: B) Executive Order 9981

Executive Order 9981 officially desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces, a major early victory for the movement.

2. In 1960, four college students began a famous sit-in protest at the Woolworth's lunch counter in _____, North Carolina.

Answer: C) Greensboro

The Greensboro Sit-ins were a series of nonviolent protests that led to the Woolworth department store chain removing its policy of racial segregation.

3. The 'Southern Manifesto' was a document written by Southern congressmen to express their support for the Supreme Court's decision to integrate schools.

Answer: B) False

The Southern Manifesto was actually a protest against the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, accusing the Supreme Court of an 'abuse of judicial power.'

4. Fannie Lou Hamer was a key leader of which political organization that challenged the all-white delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention?

Answer: C) The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)

Hamer helped found the MFDP to challenge the legitimacy of the regular Mississippi Democratic Party, which excluded Black participants.

5. The 1963 protests in Birmingham, Alabama, are often referred to as 'Project ___' by the organizers who sought to end discriminatory economic policies.

Answer: A) C

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Project C (for Confrontation) was the strategy used by the SCLC in Birmingham to provoke a response that would garner national attention.

6. The 24th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1964, abolished the use of poll taxes in federal elections.

Answer: A) True

The 24th Amendment was a significant legal victory that prevented states from using wealth as a barrier to voting in federal contests.

7. Which influential civil rights strategist was the primary architect of the 1963 March on Washington but remained largely behind the scenes due to his identity as a gay man?

Answer: C) Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin was a brilliant organizer and proponent of nonviolence who served as the chief deputy to A. Philip Randolph for the March on Washington.

8. Before joining the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall served as the chief counsel for the _____ Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Answer: D) NAACP

Marshall spent years as the lead attorney for the NAACP, winning the Brown decision before his appointment to the high court.

9. What was the primary goal of the 'Freedom Summer' project in Mississippi during 1964?

Answer: B) To register African American voters

Freedom Summer was a volunteer campaign aimed at increasing Black voter registration in Mississippi, a state with historically low participation.

10. The Civil Rights Act of 1968, also known as the Fair Housing Act, prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

Answer: A) True

The 1968 Act was the final great legislative achievement of the civil rights era, targeting systemic residential segregation.