



The Civil Rights Act (B1 -Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. When does your country's constitution date back to?
2. Did it give everyone the right to vote?
3. Have other laws been passed since then to grant equal rights to marginalised or minority groups?
4. What do you know about the American Civil Rights Act of 1964?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The Civil Rights Act
 - a) protects voter rights.
 - b) prohibits segregation.
 - c) does both of these.
2. After the American Civil War, former slaves
 - a) became US citizens.
 - b) weren't discriminated against.
 - c) were not protected by law.
3. The Civil Rights Bill was presented by
 - a) the Civil Rights Movement.
 - b) John F. Kennedy.
 - c) Lyndon B. Johnson.
4. The number of senators who voted in favour of the bill was
 - a) seventy-three.
 - b) twenty-seven.
 - c) forty-six.
5. Other laws to prohibit racism were passed in
 - a) 1975 and 1978.
 - b) 1965 and 1968.
 - c) 1968 and 1975.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why was life still difficult for former slaves in the southern states, even after 1868?
2. Which organisation fought to end discrimination in the 1960s?
3. What event greatly increased racial tension in 1963?
4. Why didn't John F. Kennedy see the passing of the bill he had presented to Congress?
5. What was the purpose of the Fair Housing Act of 1968?
6. What name was given to the laws that separated black and white people in the American South?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. The ministry _____ a 5 per cent pay rise to members of staff last year.
2. You can go to your local Citizens Advice service if you need _____ legal advice.
3. The _____ of water is 100 degrees Celsius at sea level.
4. Laila has a good job now, but she had to _____ lots of difficulties in the past.
5. The mistake in the first _____ of the contract has been corrected. Here is the final version.
6. International Aid is less effective in countries where corruption is _____.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

Medgar Evers was a black civil rights leader ¹_____ murder gave great prominence to the Civil Rights Movement and resulted ²_____ large-scale protests across America. Evers had fought in Europe in World War II, where he ³_____ part in the D-Day landings in Normandy. After the war, he was engaged in the fight ⁴_____ segregation in schools and universities and in public facilities.

On 12th June, 1963, Evers was shot and killed in front of his home ⁵_____ Byron De La Beckwith, a white supremacist and member of the Ku Klux Klan. De La Beckwith was tried twice for Evers' murder, but avoided ⁶_____ to prison because the all-white male juries could not agree on a verdict. Finally, in 1995, on the basis of new evidence, he was tried again and given a life sentence. He died in prison in 2001.

F – Write about it

Write about a landmark law passed in your country regarding civil rights or civil liberties. Mention:

- when it was passed;
 - what the law prescribes;
 - why it was necessary;
 - which parties were in favour of it.
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Answers: The Civil Rights Act (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. b

C – Read and answer

1. Because discrimination was still rife, as there was massive resistance to desegregation in the southern states. 2. The Civil Rights Movement. 3. The murder of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. 4. He was assassinated before it was passed. 5. To prevent discrimination in the buying or renting of property. 6. The Jim Crow Laws.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. granted 2. unbiased 3. boiling point 4. overcome 5. draft 6. rife

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. whose 2. in 3. took 4. against 5. by 6. going

