# 5.8 Civil Rights in the United States: Race, Gender and LGBT+ Rights: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief. For levels-marked questions, write a fully developed essay using precise legal and political vocabulary, named cases and dates where relevant. The final question is a 30-mark evaluation and requires a clear judgement.**

**1** Using the two short extracts below about recent US civil rights protest activity, evaluate the argument that protest remains an effective route to protecting and advancing rights in the United States. Extract A: 'Large-scale protests in 2020 over police violence and racial injustice forced rapid corporate and municipal responses, including policy pledges and some police reform measures.' Extract B: 'While protests raise awareness, lasting legal protections often require legislative or judicial action, and protests alone seldom create durable constitutional change.' Using the source, evaluate the extent to which protest is effective in advancing and protecting civil rights in the US today.

**(Total for Question 1 is 12 marks)**


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## Question 1

| | |
|---|---|
| **Level 0** No relevant content. | **0** |
| **Level 1** Basic use of the extracts with limited analysis, typically paraphrase of one extract and little or no evaluation or context. | **1-3** |
| **Level 2** Clear use of both extracts with some developed analysis linking protest actions to specific short-term outcomes or limitations, but limited wider knowledge or evaluation. | **4-6** |
| **Level 3** Good use of the extracts combined with accurate wider knowledge and analysis showing how protests have led to concrete changes and also their limitations in producing durable legal protections, with some evaluative judgement. | **7-9** |
| **Level 4** Sophisticated, critical use of both extracts integrated with wide, accurate contextual knowledge and analysis that weighs evidence for protest as an effective route to rights protection, reaches a clear, sustained evaluation and addresses counterarguments. | **10-12** |

**Indicative content:**

- Extract A supports the view that protest can produce rapid, tangible change in policy and public opinion, citing corporate and municipal responses after the 2020 protests following George Floyd's murder.
- Extract B highlights the limitation that protests rarely by themselves create durable legal or constitutional change, which typically requires legislation or judicial rulings.
- Wider knowledge supporting Extract A: examples where protests pressured institutions to act, such as some city police reform measures, corporate policy changes on diversity, or removal of Confederate monuments after 2020.
- Wider knowledge supporting Extract B: examples where protest did not translate into durable legal rights, such as many protest-driven pledges not becoming enforceable law, or the need to pursue litigation or legislation for long-term protection, e.g. the mixed success of police reform bills in state legislatures.
- Evaluation could consider differences between symbolic and substantive change: protests may shift norms and corporate behaviour quickly, but durable civil rights protections often require statutory or constitutional mechanisms which protests alone cannot deliver.
- Evaluation could argue protests create political pressure that enables litigation or legislative change, so they are an indirect but crucial route to rights advancement, particularly when combined with organised movements, strategic litigation and electoral pressure.
- A developed judgement should weigh immediate demonstrable effects against the need for institutional change for durability, concluding that protest remains an effective element in a broader strategy for advancing and protecting civil rights, though not usually a sufficient condition on its own.


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