

PROVA SCRITTA DI LINGUE STRANIERE

INGLESE

Traccia 1 • Questionario

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Nelson Mandela was a famous South African anti-apartheid activist and politician. Apartheid was a political system in South Africa from 1948 until 1994. In this system, the government divided people according to their race. Racial separation laws meant that non-white people could only live and work in certain areas and they couldn't vote. There were separate schools for white and non-white students, and people of different races were not allowed to marry¹.

Rolihlahla Mandela was born in South Africa in 1918. Rolihlahla meant 'to pull the branch of a tree', or in other words 'troublemaker²'. A teacher gave him the name Nelson on his first day at primary school, when he was 3 years old. In the 1920s, African children were usually given English names that were easier to pronounce.

When he was in his 20s, he started campaigning against apartheid. For more than 20 years, he led³ non-violent protests. The police arrested Mandela in 1963, and in 1964 the government sentenced him⁴ to life imprisonment⁵. He spent 27 years in prison, where he wrote his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. While there, he also had secret talks with F. W. de Klerk, the President of South Africa.

In 1990, de Klerk released Nelson from prison, and in 1993 they shared the Nobel Peace Prize for ending the apartheid system.

Mandela became the country's first black president. He was also one of the most respected world leaders of the 20th century. In 1999, he retired from politics and continued his work for charities like the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Mandela died in 2013 at the age of 95, after changing South Africa forever and becoming a world symbol for peace, freedom and equality.

There are many songs and films about his life, including *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, which stars Idris Elba.

The Irish rock group U2 also wrote the title song for this film, called *Ordinary Love*. Around the world, people remember Mandela's life and celebrate his legacy⁶ on Nelson Mandela International Day, 18th July – Mandela's birthday.

¹ **marry**: sposarsi

² **troublemaker**: piantagrane, uno che combina guai

³ **led**: guidò

⁴ **sentenced him**: lo condannò

⁵ **life imprisonment**: carcere a vita

⁶ **legacy**: eredità, retaggio

1 Read the text, then choose True (T) or False (F).

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Under apartheid, people of different races had the same rights. | T | F |
| 2 Mandela used violence in his protests against apartheid. | T | F |
| 3 Mandela wrote <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i> while he was in prison. | T | F |
| 4 Mandela was still in prison when he received the Nobel Prize. | T | F |
| 5 After he retired from politics, Mandela stopped working. | T | F |

2 Read the text, then answer the questions.

1 Who was Nelson Mandela?

.....

.....

2 Why did Mandela's teacher give him a new name on his first day of school?

.....

.....

3 What did Mandela do to fight against apartheid when he was young?

.....

.....

4 What happened in 1964?

.....

.....

5 What important activities did Mandela do while he was in prison?

.....

.....

6 What happened to Mandela between 1990 and 1994?

.....

.....

7 How do we remember Nelson Mandela in film, music and public celebration?

.....

.....

8 Nelson Mandela forgave his enemies. Do you think it is important to forgive people? Why or why not?

.....

.....

Traccia 2 • E-mail personale

Write an email to a friend. Tell him/her about a famous person who has had a positive impact on the modern world.

Include this information:

- who the person is and where he/she is from
- what he/she is famous for
- one or two important events in his/her life
- how people remember, follow or celebrate this person today
- your opinion of this person and why he/she is important.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....