

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Nelson Mandela day

Read the following extract from an article about the very first Nelson Mandela Day. This article by Sashni Pather, Dominic Mahlangu and Gabisili Ndebele appeared in The Times on Friday 17 July 2009.

Madiba rests while world works

While the world marks the first Nelson Mandela Day, the former president will be resting at home. Tomorrow, July 18, marks Mandela's 91st birthday.

People around the globe are encouraged – and many have already pledged – to spend 67 minutes of their time doing community work. The initiative was created by the 46664 campaign and the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

President Jacob Zuma endorsed the plan in his State of the Nation Address earlier this year. The effort reflects the Nobel Laureate's 67 years of uninterrupted and selfless service to the people of South Africa and the world.

Ruth Rensburg, Resource Development Manager of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said that Mandela was 'honoured' by the world-wide initiatives. "But he will be spending the day, as he has in recent years, at home surrounded by friends, family and comrades," she said.

In a recorded interview released this week, Madiba said: "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it. Mandela Day will not be a holiday, but a day created to service."

Now answer the following questions, using your own words.

1. How many Mandela Days had there been at the time when the article was written? [2]
2. Why was the 18th of July chosen as Mandela Day? [2]
3. Why was this day celebrated around the world? [2]
4. Who created the plan to celebrate Mandela's birthday? [2]
5. Was President Zuma in favour of this plan? [2]
6. How was Mandela Day to be celebrated? [2]
7. Why was the number 67 chosen? [2]
8. Is Mandela Day to be a public holiday? [2]
9. What is your opinion of the way Mandela Day is to be celebrated? [3]
10. How would you spend your 67 minutes celebrating Mandela Day? [3]

Total marks: 22

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solutions
1	2	None, this was to be the first Mandela Day.
2	2	The 18 th of July was Nelson Mandela's 91 st birthday.
3	2	Nelson Mandela is famous/honoured throughout the world.
4	2	The plan was created by the 46664 initiative and the Nelson Mandela Foundation.
5	2	President Zuma endorsed the plan in his 2009 State of the Nation Address.
6	2	It was to be celebrated by each person pledging to give 67 minutes of their time to do community work.
7	2	Nelson Mandela had given 67 years of uninterrupted and selfless service to the people of SA and the world.
8	2	It was not to be a public holiday, but a day devoted to helping others.
9	3	Personal response.
10	3	Personal response.

Total marks: 22