

Paths Opened

Trace how laws and programs widened access after World War II.

USII.8.g “describing expanded educational and economic opportunities for military veterans, women, and minorities; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each law or program and circle the words that tell how it expanded opportunity or show a limit that remained.

New Opportunities, Continuing Barriers

- ① After World War II, the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, called the GI Bill, opened new paths for many veterans. It helped eligible former service members pay college tuition, receive job training, and obtain low-interest home loans. Before the law, college had been out of reach for many working-class families. The GI Bill helped millions of veterans enter schools and skilled jobs. However, local discrimination and segregated colleges often blocked or limited these benefits for many Black veterans.
- ② During the 1960s and 1970s, laws expanded opportunities for women. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 required employers to pay men and women equally for equal work in the same establishment, although pay gaps continued. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned sex discrimination in hiring and employment. In 1972, Title IX barred sex discrimination in most education programs receiving federal money. These laws gave women stronger tools to challenge unfair treatment in schools and workplaces.
- ③ Minority groups also gained protections that supported educational and economic opportunity. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also outlawed racial discrimination in many public places. Federal enforcement and court decisions helped challenge segregated schools. Affirmative action programs sought to increase access to jobs and colleges for groups that had faced discrimination. These changes did not erase unequal outcomes, but they created legal protections and wider paths to education and work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How did the GI Bill expand educational and economic opportunities for veterans? Give two examples from the passage.

- 2** What did Title VII and Title IX each do to expand opportunities for women?

- 3** Name two changes that supported educational or economic opportunities for minority groups.

- 4** Why does the passage say that expanded opportunities did not erase unequal outcomes?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences that compare how one policy helped veterans and one law helped either women or minority groups. In your final sentence, explain why expanded opportunity did not mean equal results for everyone.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each law or program and circle the words that tell how it expanded opportunity or show a limit that remained. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the GI Bill expand educational and economic opportunities for veterans? Give two examples from the passage.	It helped eligible veterans pay college tuition, receive job training, and obtain low-interest home loans. Any two examples are correct.
2	What did Title VII and Title IX each do to expand opportunities for women?	Title VII banned sex discrimination in hiring and employment. Title IX barred sex discrimination in most education programs receiving federal money.
3	Name two changes that supported educational or economic opportunities for minority groups.	Answers may include the Civil Rights Act ban on employment discrimination, the ban on racial discrimination in many public places, federal enforcement and court decisions challenging segregated schools, or affirmative action programs increasing access to jobs and colleges.
4	Why does the passage say that expanded opportunities did not erase unequal outcomes?	Legal protections and new opportunities were created, but discrimination, segregated colleges, and pay gaps could still limit people or continue unequal results.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The GI Bill gave many veterans money for college and training, while Title IX protected women from sex discrimination in federally funded education programs. Both changes opened routes to education and work that had been harder to enter. Even so, discrimination and unequal outcomes could continue, so legal protections did not guarantee equal results.

Accept accurate paraphrases and any valid examples named in the passage. For the open response, check for a correct comparison of veterans with women or minority groups and a clear explanation that barriers could remain.