

Read the passage and label each paragraph with an appropriate title. Choose from the following:

The great land robbery, A long road to freedom, The end of an era, The roots of apartheid, A divided society

# A South African drama



A. ....

Race prejudice started early in the history of South Africa. The Dutch, who settled in the area of the Cape in 1652, and the British, who followed them a century later, made use of slaves as **workforce**. The first slaves were brought to the Cape from other parts of Africa, from India and the Indonesian islands, and together with the indigenous black population, were **deprived** of their rights. Even after the abolition of slavery in 1834, black people were confined to the rank of servants and **labourers**. The European colonists were convinced that they were a superior race, chosen by God to create a race-based social order. This was the beginning of a South African drama that would span the next three and a half centuries.

B. ....

In 1909 the Union of South Africa, a British overseas territory, was formed and in 1913 the Natives' Land Act prohibited black people from owning land. Whites, who constituted 20% of the population, had 90% of the land. In the following years, laws became more oppressive: black people were forced to live in poor reserves or *townships*, as the urban areas inhabited by blacks were called.

C. ....

In 1948 the National party won the elections and it extended racial segregation to create the legal system of *apartheid*, a word which in Afrikaans, the language spoken by the descendants of the Dutch, means *separation*. Apartheid legislation classified inhabitants into four racial groups: white, black, coloured (people of mixed race) and Indians. Sexual relations and marriage between different groups were prohibited. There were separate schools, buses, trains, hospitals. People could not use the same restaurants, swimming pools, beaches or toilets.

D. ....

Resistance to racial segregation began at the beginning of the 20th century. Gandhi, who at the time was working in South Africa as a lawyer, organized campaigns of passive resistance, but other forms of protest included strikes and violent demonstrations. The police reacted brutally, often killing people. Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), an organization which fought for civil rights, was arrested and spent 27 years in prison.

E. ....

From the 1960s the United Nations condemned the system of apartheid and international economic sanctions against South Africa were adopted. The fight against apartheid became very violent in the 1980s, when the country almost risked a civil war. The government realized that it was necessary to reform the country and in the 1990s the system of apartheid was abolished. Mandela was freed from prison and in 1994 the ANC won the first democratic elections, with universal suffrage. Mandela became the first president of the *new* South Africa.

