

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/06

Paper 6 Caribbean History ,1794–1900

May/June 2005

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

3 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **four** questions.
You must answer **Question 1** (Section A), and any **three** questions from Section B.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Section A

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

- 1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

Source A

Those possessing estates in full cultivation, are almost producing as much sugar as during slavery, often more. On these they have every description of machinery found to succeed in the best sugar beet factories in Belgium and France. With such estates it is no longer a question of abandonment; it is a race for scientific improvements, in which, with their immense resources, they must triumph.

The Governor of British Guiana, writing to the British Colonial Office in April 1852.

Source B

Let us pass to the mill. Ten years ago there were not a dozen horizontal mills in the whole island, now it is hardly too much to say that there are as many in every parish, and more are to follow every day. Next, look in at the boiling house. Ten years ago there was scarcely a planter in Barbados who knew what a vacuum pan was, or had any idea of the possibility of evaporating cane juice at a lower temperature than that produced by a roaring fire under an open taiche. Now there are four vacuum pans, as well as the plant at the Refinery, innumerable Gaddesden-pans and other means and appliances which have been more partially adopted. Above all, ten years ago we were unacquainted with those valuable machines for the production of good sugar, Precipitators and centrifugal Dessicators. Now they are coming rapidly into fashion, we shall not be surprised if a man who is without them at the next crop time is accounted a very slow coach indeed.

Quotation from the Barbados 'Agricultural Reporter' (April 1853), defending the activities of local planters.

Source C

Very soon and very generally the paralysing influence of the lack of labourers on the sugar plantations will be felt.

Only experience will teach us to what degree the main basis of our existence (sugar production) will be undermined. It is proven that even in favourable circumstances the total amount of labour will decrease very soon by about one third because of the lesser effort of the freed Negroes. Thus it is time, in order to maintain what we have, to start working on a fresh supply of new labourers to replace the ones who will fail.

From the report of a Dutch adviser, Netscher, writing 'Immigration of Chinese Workers to Surinam' in 1863 (the year of emancipation in Suriname).

Source D

There has grown up in Europe, under the influence of protection and export bounties, enormous beet sugar industry, against which our colonies have to compete. We would not complain if it proved that it could supply the world with sugar at a cheaper rate than we could. But we have every reason to object to a situation in which excessive production is stimulated by export bounties, and prices in our own market are kept down below the cost of production, resulting in the ruin of our cane sugar industry.

The West Indian colonies have protested against this situation. Many conferences between England and the beet sugar producers have taken place.

Meanwhile the English refiners, who would naturally be large purchasers of West Indian sugar, are left in a state of uncertainty, and it may be said that the cane sugar industry of the United Kingdom has been almost entirely destroyed. It is evident that as long as the inequality is allowed, the West Indian colonies cannot have that full prosperity to which they are entitled.

Report on the problems of the sugar industry in the British West Indies in the Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute for 1876-77.

Source E

Cuban sugar development suffered an abrupt interruption. On February 24, 1895, in the middle of the harvest season, a new war of independence broke out, one which, unlike the Ten Years' War, was fought over the entire island. During the War of Independence (1895-98), thousands of hectares of canefields were repeatedly set on fire (cane is an easy crop to burn). An unknown number of sugar mills was destroyed. Sugar production had reached about one million metric tons in 1895. It was below 300,000 metric tons in each of the other war years, 1896, 1897 and 1898.

To start up the industry again required an extensive programme of cane planting at a time when traditional farm labourers had been widely dispersed because of the war. This explains the drop of production in the war and immediate post-war years. However, within three years after the war, sugar production reached almost a million tons, which was about the same as the total capacity in 1895.

From an article on Cuban sugar production, published in 1985.

Now answer the following question.

'As the nineteenth century progressed, it became clear that there was no future for the Caribbean sugar industry.' How far does the evidence of Sources A–E support this statement?

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Discuss the factors which account for the abolition of slavery in British, French and Spanish colonies in the Caribbean.
- 3 Compare apprenticeship in the British Caribbean with the *patronato* in Cuba and assess their respective results.
- 4 Assess the reasons why freed people left the estates where they had been slaves.
- 5 To what extent were societies and economies of Caribbean colonies affected by emancipation up to 1900? Explain your answer.
- 6 How far was there a labour crisis in the Caribbean sugar industry in the second half of the nineteenth century?
- 7 How significant was discrimination based on gender in Caribbean societies after emancipation? Explain your answer.
- 8 Explain how Haiti achieved and consolidated its independence.

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Sources A–D Shirley C Gordon; *Caribbean Generations*; Longman Caribbean 1983. © Longman Group Ltd.

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