

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

HISTORY

9697/6

PAPER 6 Caribbean History, 1794–1900

MAY/JUNE SESSION 2002

3 hours

Additional materials:
Answer paper

TIME 3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer paper/answer booklet.

Answer **four** questions.

You must answer **Question 1** (Section A), and any **three** questions from Section B.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Section A

You must answer Question 1.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION

1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

Source A

After having watched the action and effect of immigration with great anxiety and care, I have no hesitation in saying that on it depends under God, the welfare of the island.

The income is gradually increasing, the quantity of its exports have greatly expanded within the last six years. The yearly average of the last five years, from 1847 to 1851 inclusive, during which period the Indian Coolie labour has been introduced, is larger in the most important articles than that of any previous five years of which the exports are recorded.

The crop for this year is the largest ever shipped, and there is every probability of a considerable increase next year.

Now I find it almost universally the opinion of planters that these results could not be achieved without the Coolies, in fact, that without them the cultivation of the cane could not be carried on; for though they can depend on the Negro population to a certain extent for assistance during the crop, yet they show annually a greater disinclination to the ordinary operations of the cane-field, and, in fact, the planters are almost entirely dependent on the Coolie for the important service of weeding the canes, any neglect of which must cause failure of the crop.

Lord Harris, Governor of Trinidad, reporting to the Colonial Office in London, 1852.

Source B

During the years 1846 and 1847 as many as 7000 or 8000 Indians have been introduced into this colony, and, apart from the expense, what has been the result? Owing to them and the Portuguese, poverty has been introduced into a land where, before their arrival, it was unknown. As regards coolies, they have suffered from diseases, as a result of the change of the climate and from their own want of cleanliness: they have become, along with the Portuguese, almost the only occupants of the public and private hospitals. But the more careful and intelligent of them have every reason to be satisfied with the advantages of their new position.

H G Dalton writing a History of British Guiana covering events 'from the Earliest Years to the Present Time', printed in London in 1855.

Source C

The Indian indentured workers are perfectly free men and women and at their own option leave the filth and misery in which they have been accustomed to live, on a promise, guaranteed by government, of a free passage to the West Indies, certain employment, and fair pay for their services. Upon arriving here they have no thought or care about the future. They are immediately provided for. They live on the estates free in comfortable cottages; if sick, they receive medical attendance without charge; and their wages are five times more than they could earn at home.

W G Sewell, a US journalist of the New York Times, who, after a visit to the West Indies, wrote 'The Ordeal of Free Labour', published in New York in 1861.

Source D

It is when the rainy season sets in that his [the Indian's] heaviest trials commence, when he makes his first attempt at weeding, perhaps in high cane and heavy grass. The work is hard, monotonous, and in high cane may almost be called solitary: he loses heart, makes a task in double the time in which an experienced hand would make a whole one, returns at a late hour, cold, wet and fatigued, to renew the struggle on the morrow with decreased vitality till at the end of his first year it is found that his work has not paid for his rations. An immigrant embarks on the second year of his indentureship saddled with a considerable debt from his first year's rations.

From the Report of the Trinidad Immigrant Agent-General, commenting on conditions for Indian labourers in 1871.

Source E

I overtook an Indian dressed in European style, riding a pony. I addressed him in Hindustani and he answered in French patois. I got into conversation with him, and found out that his name was Umeer Singh, a Chettri by caste, who had been in the island for ten or eleven years. He had forgotten much of his native tongue and the patois seemed to come much more easily to him. He now does no work, but he owns twelve cows, two ponies and some goats, and is worth about 1000 rupees. He has a wife and two children and has no wish to return to India, and a few months ago accepted a £10 bounty to give up his right to a free return passage. I asked him about his relatives in India, and he said he had only one son and his mother, he believed was alive, but he had never written to her.

Surgeon Major Comins, an official from India, reporting to the Government of India on a visit to St. Lucia in the early 1890s. At this time the Indian Government was concerned about the treatment of Indian labourers in the Caribbean.

Now answer the following question.

'The use of Indian immigrant labour was a success.' How far does the evidence of Sources A-E support this statement?

Section B

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

- 2 How important was humanitarian campaigning in bringing about slave emancipation in West Indian colonies? (You should illustrate your answer from two or more European countries.)
- 3 Why did the apprenticeship systems in British and Dutch West Indian colonies turn out to be unsuccessful?
- 4 Why was the labour of freed people often unsatisfactory to employers after emancipation?
- 5 Examine the circumstances which facilitated the establishment of peasant farming in the Caribbean after emancipation.
- 6 Why did the proportion of West Indian sugar exports produced by British colonies decline after 1846?
- 7 In what ways and with what success did those in authority attempt to influence the labouring classes in the Caribbean after 1838?
- 8 What explains the recurrence of popular protests by Afro-Caribbean peoples in the second half of the nineteenth century?