



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 2011

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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.

You may use a pencil for any rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Section A: Emancipation and its consequences

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS IN JAMAICA

- 1 Read the Sources and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources, both individually and as a group.

Source A

The great causes which operate against manual labour in Jamaica, if the people were willing to work are, first, the total lack of example and direction in the methods of working and, secondly, the lack of proper and necessary implements and instruction how to use them. The employers are more to be blamed than the labourers for the wasteful system and ridiculous manner under which manual labour is conducted in a great many instances in the island. There is a total lack of both management and the necessary implements, besides example and supervision in the direction of the operation.

James Anderson, civil engineer, Report on Jamaica 1841–42.

Source B

3. That, unhappily, there has occurred, simultaneously with the amendment of the conditions of Negroes, a very great decline of the staple productions, including sugar, of the West Indies, to such an extent as to have caused serious and, in some cases, ruinous injury to the proprietors of estates.

4. That while this distress has been felt to a much less extent in some of the smaller and more populous islands, it has been so great in the larger colonies of Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad as to have caused many estates, hitherto prosperous and productive, to be cultivated for the last two or three years at considerable loss, and others to be abandoned.

5. That the principle causes of this diminished production and consequent distress are the great difficulty which has been experienced by planters in obtaining steady and continuous labour and the high rate of wages which the planters give for the broken and indifferent work which they are able to procure.

Extracts from Resolutions of the House of Commons Committee on the West Indian Colonies, including Jamaica, 1842.

Source C

The planter refuses to cooperate in any way with people who will submit no longer to his authority and will not recognise his right to command their services whenever he pleases. But, more than this, the labour which he can even now obtain, the Jamaican planter neither uses profitably nor takes any trouble whatever to retain. He himself aggravates and increases the scarcity of which he so bitterly complains. He practically ignores all the mechanical and agricultural improvements of the century. His methods of cultivating and manufacturing sugar remained the same in 1848 as they were in the year 1800.

W. G. Sewell, Ordeal of Free Labour, 1861.

Source D

This much I can say, that the impressions produced on my mind by my tour of Jamaica were on the whole more encouraging than I had, from the gloomy accounts given by all parties, ventured to anticipate. I certainly returned with a higher opinion of the capabilities of the island, and a more hopeful estimate of its possibilities, than I had when I started.

The prospects of the cultivators of sugar especially appear to me by no means of the desperate character which unfortunately it has been usual to expect. The worst effects of competition with the whole world in the production of sugar are now understood. Yet so far as my information goes, I do not believe that any plantation in the island which was at the beginning of the year in tolerable order will make a loss for its proprietor. To go further, wherever the cultivation is on a sufficient scale to yield say from 150 hogsheads upwards, I am confident the plantation will yield a handsome profit. From all I have heard, crops under 100 hogsheads can scarcely yield a profit in the present state of Jamaica, unless the proprietors are not only resident but competent from previous training to conduct the management in person.

Governor of Jamaica, reporting to London, 1854.

Source E

The planter was bankrupt before emancipation. It was emancipation that tore down the veil which concealed his poverty. I speak generally, for I do not doubt that there were many exceptional cases. Many of the three hundred estates in cultivation at the present day are exceptions. There are planters who continued to cultivate sugar after emancipation who were successful then, and are successful still. Since 1853, when the general abandonment of estates may be said to have ceased in Jamaica, the number of these successful planters has considerably increased. I need not pause to explain that they were all wealthy men and that their properties were economically managed. Today only first-class estates are in cultivation.

W. G. Sewell, Ordeal of Free Labour, 1861.

Now answer the following question.

'Plantation owners were responsible for the problems of the sugar industry in Jamaica after emancipation.' How far do Sources A–E support this statement?

Section B

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

- 2 Explain how emancipation was achieved in Haiti and other parts of the French colonised Caribbean between 1794 and 1848.
- 3 Why was the Apprenticeship Scheme in the British Caribbean ended in 1838?
- 4 Discuss the causes of the movement of freed people away from sugar estates.
- 5 Examine the contributions of the peasantry to Caribbean economy and society before 1900.
- 6 Explain the problems of securing a suitable supply of labour for sugar plantations after emancipation.
- 7 To what extent did governments in the Caribbean take responsibility for social policies for the public good in post-slavery societies?
- 8 How did the people of Cuba seek to gain freedom from Spanish rule?

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