

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
HISTORY (CARIBBEAN).....	2
GCE Ordinary Level	2
Paper 2159/01 Paper 1	2

FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

HISTORY (CARIBBEAN)

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 2159/01

Paper 1

General comments

The eighty-eight candidates produced a good spread and distribution of marks.

Most answers tended to concern questions between the sixteenth and the early nineteenth centuries. Generally, knowledge of twentieth century topics was weaker. Some candidates displayed sound knowledge and the ability to express it clearly. Many candidates revealed familiarity with at least three topics and managed some credit with two more. Probably, the main weakness for those failing to score as highly as they would have wished, was a tendency to fail to back-up general comments by reference to supporting detail.

A number of candidates might have performed better with closer attention to question wording, to achieve a sharper focus on the material required.

The general standard seemed much the same, or a little better, than in recent Papers, and the degree of effort made by the great majority of candidates was not to be doubted.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Answered by the great majority of candidates, this was the highest scoring question. Details of Arawak and Carib life were well known by most, but scores would have been even higher if candidates had made more reference to 'the accounts of the Spaniards' and to 'the work of modern archaeologists'.

Question 2

Almost half of all candidates attempted this question. Some showed knowledge concerning both parts of the question, but it was more common for information to be offered about the methods by which Spain protected its trade than it was for details of how the empire was organised to be detailed. With regard to the first part of the question, most could gain credit for the Council of the Indies, but relatively few offered much about the various officials who governed the colonies.

Question 3

More than one in three candidates attempted this question. Some very good responses identified all the Dutch settlements and provided detailed accounts of the ways in which the Dutch aided the early English settlers. However, the overall standard was rather disappointing, particularly concerning identifying Dutch settlements. All candidates found the first part of the question the most difficult, with many mentioning trade, but few alluding to privateering or the struggle against Spain for national independence.

Question 4

Answered by one in five candidates, this question was done well by the minority who proved familiar with the various Navigation Acts, but many failed to get beyond that of 1651. The second half of the question earned more credit for most attempting this question.

Question 5

Attracting much the same proportion of candidates as **Question 4**, this was also well answered by a minority, but too many seemed to have been attracted by one half of the question while having little knowledge with which to tackle the other part. Some strayed into the St Domingue Revolution of the late eighteenth century when describing social structure, while the Code Noir was occasionally confused with Amelioration details of the 1820's.

Question 6

Answered by more than seven in ten of candidates, this scored well for many. Those who failed to earn the credit available for this popular question often ignored the focus on 'a day', and failed to move beyond the factory and the processes of sugar production for the work of a skilled artisan.

Question 7

Just over half of candidates answered and many displayed a good knowledge of this topic. The best responses displayed considerable detail, identifying individuals, supplying place names and providing details of events and treaties. Some weaker answers either omitted mention of the Maroon Wars or merged them into one.

Question 8

Although attracting almost one third of candidates and scoring reasonably well, some responses to the question concerning Toussaint L'Ouverture were disappointing; many candidates showed more eagerness to express support for his ideals than to display much detailed knowledge of his achievements. The minority with such knowledge scored very well here.

Question 9

Answered by approximately one in six candidates, this scored moderately. The letter format may attract weaker candidates who see it as an easy option. This is seldom the truth, since knowledge of the subject matter remains essential, while familiarity with the form and spirit of a letter are also required. Better candidates fulfilled these requirements, but the weaker responses contained generalised greetings or expression of feelings while forgetting the problems faced by the missionaries.

Question 10

Over four in ten answered this popular question. Some answers were full and detailed, but many candidates who scored reasonably on the problems faced by the Special Magistrates would have scored higher if they had realised that an account of the details of the Apprenticeship System was relevant to the duties of these magistrates.

Question 11

Not a popular question and weakly answered. Possibly, candidates were hoping for a question on the events of 1865, which were very relevant to the first part of the question, but were unprepared for the wider question with which the second part was concerned.

Question 12

Answered by just over one in six candidates, this question did not score well for the majority. Almost all could score something by identifying new crops and some linked the crops to particular locations, but only a minority discussed such items as the Norman Report, the Imperial Department of Agriculture, or Botanical Departments.

Question 13

Similar to **Question 12** statistically, with slightly fewer responses and a slightly lower average mark. Despite a question wording which gave opportunity to display almost any knowledge on the subject of West Indian trade unionism prior to World War Two, answers were few and most appeared to be candidates who had hoped for a question on the Moyne Commission. Such candidates were able to gain some credit, but never managed to get the actual question in real focus.

Question 14

Few answers and none of quality. Seemingly, the development of the natural resources of the Caribbean in the first half of the twentieth century does not attract many candidates.

Question 15

Attracting just over one in seven candidates, this question did not produce a high average mark, but there were some strong and wide ranging responses. These were able to outline the developments producing an increase in tourism and to detail some of the economic results for the West Indies. They also outlined various forms of media and the economic and cultural changes they have produced.

Question 16

Despite the frequent appearance of this topic it attracts only a very small minority of candidates. Those who had prepared the topic scored quite well, especially on the second part of the question.