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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 general standard attained by this year's diminished entry was disappointing. This may be related to the nature of the entry in relation to previous years. There is no strong evidence to suggest that there was any appreciable difference in the nature or level of difficulty of the paper itself. This is supported by the fact that all sixteen questions were attempted and that nine of them were answered by more than twenty percent of candidates. Certain questions proved more popular than others, especially **Questions 1, 2, 3 and 6**, which all attracted more than forty-five percent of candidates. **Questions 4, 8, 10, 11 and 16** were answered by more than twenty percent in each case. Despite the variation in question popularity, there was less variation in the quality of response. The general limitations are indicated by the fact that eleven of the sixteen questions produced average scores between 5 and 9 out of 20. The higher marks of the minority being more than balanced by many sketchy or poorly focused responses. There was a tendency among some weaker candidates to answer the question they had hoped would appear rather than focusing on that actually set. As usual, the sixteenth century questions proved most favoured and the twentieth century the least popular.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Very popular with some strong responses, but many lacked reference to key events and wasted time on lengthy narrative that contained more drama than significant information. Some good responses were seen concerning the motivation for the voyages and most were able to score concerning the effects on the Amerindians. Weaker candidates strayed into later voyages or omitted key events in the basic outline of 1492/3.

Question 2

A minority of candidates scored well on this question and produced answers containing a wide variety of relevant points. The first part concerning Spanish methods of control was strongly answered by many, but weaker candidates could produce little more than a brief reference to the House of Trade and the convoy system. The second part of the question was less well done by many, with some candidates straying into the seventeenth century, with reference to buccaneers and settlement.

Question 3

There were some full, rounded responses, but many lacked development. In the first part of the question, candidates often failed to discuss why tobacco was chosen by the early settlers in preference to other crops, while in the second part, the full implications of the Sugar Revolution were not always explored. The influence of demand for each product was well known, as was the importance of competition from Virginian tobacco.

Question 4

This aspect of Jamaican history was not often well known. Only a minority were able to answer the first part in any detail, and many used the second part of the question to write a general description of buccaneers and their activities.

Question 5

The occasional answer of merit, but most of the minority of candidates who responded found difficulty in developing their effort. 'Vestries' rarely attempted.

Question 6

Together with **Question 1**, this was a question answered by most candidates. Although it scored higher than other questions and some candidates obtained high marks, the overall performance was not as strong as might have been anticipated. Candidates were often satisfied to provide the basic outline of the subject, without fully developing lifestyle and work in greater detail.

Question 7

A difficult question avoided by most candidates. The level of response, in most cases, seemed to indicate weaker candidates seeking a fifth question and not making the wisest choice.

Question 8

Some candidates produced strong answers to this question, but many were too brief in their response to the first half of the question. A biographical sketch of Toussaint provided the bulk of many answers. The stratified nature of the colonial society was often noted, but the effect of the French Revolution on its various components was seldom well developed.

Question 9

There were some spirited attempts at the letter requested, but too often there was a lack of reference to a sufficient variety of possible problems affecting the planter. Fear of slave revolt naturally figured strongly in many answers, but often to the exclusion of other possible factors. Weaker candidates failed to note the date and set their letter in the wrong era. Usually post emancipation and overlapping the subject matter of **Question 11**.

Question 10

Possibly the most surprising question of all in the weakness of many responses. The anticipated details of the Emancipation Act of 1833 seldom appeared in accurate detail, while the Stipendiary Magistrates often failed to appear in response to the second half of the question.

Question 11

While some stronger candidates produced broader answers of quality, many turned it into a question almost exclusively about indentured labour. This could gain good credit, but was not the path to a balanced response to the question set.

Question 12

This did not produce the anticipated response to what is usually a popular aspect of Jamaican history. Paul Bogle, Eyre and Grant were all that was really required to score well. Possibly the constitutional flavour of the question alienated candidates.

Question 13

Few answered. Those seen often lacked accurate detail.

Question 14

Not a popular question. A few candidates used the Moyne Commission as a path to credit, but strong responses were seldom seen.

Question 15

Not a popular question. Several of those who did answer it seemed to wish to focus on Jamaican independence rather than the question set.

Question 16

The only twentieth century question to attract an appreciable number of answers. Weaker candidates tended to do little more than list examples from each area of the question, without much attention to development. However, stronger candidates did include development and also discussed some effects of the changes they had mentioned.