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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

Candidates generally focused on questions from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the average marks gained often tended to be higher in these areas of the question paper. **Questions 1** and **6** were the most popular, each attracting three out of four candidates or more. **Questions 2** and **7** were also answered by more than half the candidates. All questions were answered, but **Questions 8, 12, 13** and **15** found favour with very few candidates.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates answered very fully and scored well. Most were able to achieve reasonable credit. Details of Caribbean lifestyle tended to be well known. Some candidates failed to realise the credit to be gained by contrasting comment concerning the Arawaks in the last part of the question.

Question 2

There were a few fuller responses, but generally answers lacked details concerning the privateers and their activities. Several answers strayed into irrelevant accounts of seventeenth century buccaneers. In the last part of the question the House of Trade and the convoy system were often mentioned, but many answers were not sufficiently developed in this area.

Question 3

A few candidates knew considerable detail concerning Thomas Warner and St Kitts, but weaker attempts relied on the last part of the question to gain some credit.

Question 4

Few were able to achieve much credit from identifying and discussing French seventeenth century settlements, but the Code Noir proved a profitable area for credit for most.

Question 5

The first half of the question concerning the Dutch and their trading activities tended to dominate responses to this question. However, there were a few exceptions to this pattern that produced some detail on the legislative and military actions of English governments in the mid-seventeenth century.

Question 6

Extremely popular and often answered in some detail. Only the weaker candidates strayed into details of the lifestyle of the slaves or a description of the plantation buildings. The cultivation and the processing details were both well known, although not all answers achieved the best balance. There were some good attempts to answer the last part of the question, but some awarded it too little attention.

Question 7

Some answers were very strong on the first part of the question identifying the Maroons and their activities, but few could respond to the second half of the question in like manner. Those who did earn credit for the later section seldom advanced far beyond the war of the 1730s.

Question 8

Only token efforts were seen here, the question not really answered meaningfully.

Question 9

As in some previous sessions, not all candidates entered fully into the letter format and style of writing. However, the subject of missionary activity and their problems proved to be a good source of credit.

The minority of candidates answering this question produced some sensible and varied responses.

Question 10

The second part of this question enabled candidates to display some detailed factual knowledge of the 1833 Act. However, responses to the first part of the question were most disappointing and strong answers were seldom to be found, which was a little surprising in view of the normal willingness displayed to write about the Emancipation movement.

Question 11

A popular question, but seldom answered correctly. The vast majority of answers were focused on the wrong era. Instead of writing about the end of the nineteenth century, as requested, most candidates discussed events of the 1830s and 1840s. Few seemed to realise that what was required was a discussion of post 1880 problems. Possibly, it was a case of answering the question one had hoped to find rather than that which actually appeared.

Question 12

Very few answers and none were strong. Some credit was gained for showing knowledge of Grant's work in Jamaica.

Question 13

Of the few answers seen, all were weak.

Question 14

This was not a popular question and no really strong answer was seen. Some candidates were able to gain credit discussing the reasons for the formation of trade unions in the West Indies in the early twentieth century and the difficulties they faced, but their development up to 1939 proved beyond almost all.

Question 15

The last part of the question was obviously more demanding and may have frightened off some candidates, but the first half of the question was also surprisingly lacking in adequate responses.

Question 16

The open-ended second part of the question enabled most candidates to gain credit, although few were developed very far. The most disappointing aspect of most responses was the lack of detailed knowledge concerning events leading to national independence.