



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 2012

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.

PERCEPTIONS OF A 'LABOUR CRISIS'

- 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

Over the last two or three years sugar producers have suffered considerable losses. It has been difficult to obtain a steady supply of labour and the cost of wages has been high.

The diminished supply of labour is caused by the fact that former slaves have taken themselves to other occupations more profitable than field labour. But the more general cause is that labourers are able to live in comfort and to acquire wealth without labouring on the estates of planters for more than three or four days a week and from five to seven hours in a day. They have no sufficient need to perform an adequate amount of work.

This state of things arises partly from the high wages and the competition between employers. This competition between employers for the available workforce naturally compels the planters to pay more in wages. The situation is principally to be attributed to the easy terms upon which the use of land has been obtainable by freed people.

The most obvious and desirable way of compensation for the diminished supply of labour is to promote the immigration of a fresh labouring population to create competition in employment.

Committee of the British House of Commons reporting on the West Indian colonies in 1842.

Source B

On sugar estates young people from 14 to 16 years of age are paid as high as one shilling and sixpence to two shillings per day and yet they cannot be prevailed upon to remain at their work. They go gadding about the country selling fruit and do not perform more than two, at most three, months labour in the year.

From a report on Jamaica by a British visitor to the island, 1841-2.

Source C

Since emancipation there has been a great change in social customs. Then every woman on the estate worked in the field during slavery. Now the case is altered. As they get rich they keep their wives at home to take care of their houses or look after the children who used to be reared in the nursery of the estate. For that reason at least half the female labourers have to be taken from the field and the estate and applied to other purposes.

Report to British Select Committee on Sugar, evidence of a witness from British Guiana, 1848.

Source D

The causes of the disastrous condition as regards the larger properties, the sugar estates in Grenada, are easy to find.

The majority of proprietors are absentees; in 1848 out of 120 estates the total number owned by absentees was 73. In addition, most of the properties were heavily mortgaged. On these proprietors had to pay very high rates of interest, from 5 to 8 per cent. It is unnecessary to dwell on other minor circumstances regarding this body of men, explaining other shortcomings such as the lack of scientific improvement or intelligent enterprise. These were the common accompaniment to the two much more serious conditions, absenteeism and encumbering paralysing debt.

As for Tobago, the agriculture of this island has not been so prosperous as at one time was expected. It has been remarkable indeed for problems similar to those of St. Vincent and Grenada, and even in a higher degree.

The decrease in produce is commonly attributed to lack of sufficient labour, and of continuous labour. This is the most obvious cause, but there are others, and not less important, such as defect of skill and science, and of good and economical management. Most of the proprietors of estates are absentees and the managers employed to take their place are generally unenlightened.

John Davy, 'The West Indies before and since Slave Emancipation', 1854.

Source E

The proprietors of sugar estates denounced the negro for his lack of industry but what, we ask, have they done themselves? They blamed the negro for deserting their estates and ruining their fortunes when they themselves were absentees and paid their profits to bankers, to whom they were in debt. They failed to offer the independent peasants whom they employed sufficient advantages for work on their estates. They attempted to obtain his work for less wages than he could earn in any other employment. They never cared for the comfort or happiness of their tenants. They made no attempt to elevate labour above the degraded level at which slavery left it. They never set an example of the industry that was needed from all classes of West Indian society. Enterprise never prompted them to encourage the introduction of labour saving devices.

William Sewell, 'Ordeal of Free Labour', 1861.

Now answer the following question.

'The great issue troubling the British sugar industry in the Caribbean in the period 1840 to 1860 was the lack of a suitable work force.' How far does the evidence of Sources A–E support this statement?

Section B

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

- 2 Explain the factors leading to the emancipation of slaves in the Caribbean colonies of different European states.
- 3 Why did the emancipation laws in most cases fail to grant immediate freedom to slaves?
- 4 To what extent did emancipation from slavery affect the lives of fully freed people?
- 5 How did members of the plantocracy react to the development of the peasantry?
- 6 Examine the impact of immigrant labour on the Caribbean economy after emancipation.
- 7 In what ways did the provision of education for the masses affect the lives of inhabitants of the British Caribbean after 1835?
- 8 How was Haitian independence achieved by 1804?

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