

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/06

Paper 6 Caribbean History ,1794–1900

May/June 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

3 hours

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 on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **four** questions.
You must answer **Question 1** (Section A), and any **three** questions from Section B.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

SECTION A

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEASANTRY

1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

Source A

Missionaries to Jamaica, like Knibb, Phillippo, Clark, Dendy and Burchell, gave a lead in the establishment of free villages. The general result of this process, which transformed the emancipated slave into a peasant proprietor, is described by the Governor, Sir Charles Metcalfe, in 1840, in a letter to Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London: 'The accompanying statement shows that a large increase has taken place from 1838 to 1840 in the number of proprietors of small freeholds in the rural parishes of this island, the increase consisting almost entirely of emancipated slaves. It appears that the number of such freeholds assessed in 1838 was 2,014; and in 1840, 7,848.

From a recent book on Caribbean history.

Source B

A female proprietor, who had become short of money, was advised to sell off part of her property in small lots. The labourers in the neighbourhood bought up all the little freeholds with extreme eagerness, made their payments faithfully and lost no time in settling on the spots which they had purchased. They soon framed their houses and brought their gardens into useful cultivation with yams, bananas, plantains, pineapples and other fruits and vegetables, including plots of sugar cane. In this way Augusta and Liberta sprang up as if by magic. It was a scene of contentment and happiness; and I may most certainly add, of industry; for these freeholders occupied only their leisure hours in working on their own grounds. They were also earning wages as labourers on neighbouring estates, or working at English Harbour as mechanics.

*Observations of J.J. Gurney about a visit to Antigua in 'Winter in the West Indies' (1840).
Gurney was a Quaker abolitionist and philanthropist.*

Source C

Governor Light, reporting to the Secretary of State in 1844, wrote: 'The miserable thatched hut is rarely seen; neat, well-built houses with some attention to ornament, behind which or surrounding them are the well-cultivated gardens of the owners, have risen up in quick and close succession.' Earlier in 1841 commenting on the report of a Stipendiary Magistrate who had toured the village settlements of Demerara and Berbice, he wrote that it exhibited, 'a very satisfactory picture of the general state of these counties, and is especially gratifying as showing the highly creditable and useful manner in which those labourers who have become independent agricultural freeholders are conducting themselves in the new station which their industry has achieved.'

*Reports about the peasantry in British Guiana by the Governor,
quoted in a History of Guyana (1990).*

Source D

Little progress has been made by the labourers in establishing themselves as freeholders, nor is there any disinclination on their part but, given the circumstances of our island, there is little opportunity to obtain freeholds. The reason is obvious: there is not in the whole island a spot of waste land fit for cultivation; and as the land is principally divided into plantations, the proprietors are not likely to sell off small plots for that purpose; and there being no public lands available, it is plain that freeholders to any extent cannot be established in this country.

The police magistrate of St. Michael Parish, Barbados, in 1842, commenting on the factors limiting peasant development.

Source E

The French West Indies provides us with an answer as to whether there was a mass desertion of the plantations by freed people after emancipation, refusing to work and threatening the colonies with economic ruin. The table below presents the economic situation before and after emancipation in 1848. There were no immigrants before 1854.

	Martinique		Guadeloupe	
	1846	1856	1846	1856
Cultivated land (hectares)	34,530	31,725	44,813	32,204
Land growing sugar (hectares)	20,232	18,202	24,189	22,549
Workers	43,486	43,794	51,522	51,659
Raw sugar produced (kg)	29,318,175	30,344,650	30,007,807	38,180,200

Statistics about labour on sugar estates in the French West Indies quoted by a historian writing in 1970.

Now answer the following question.

'All over the Caribbean, after emancipation, former slaves deserted the sugar estates in favour of independent peasant farming.' How far does the evidence of Sources A-E support this statement?

SECTION B

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

- 2 How significant a part did slaves play in ending Caribbean slavery?
- 3 How did the rulers of Haiti seek to restore the plantation economy from 1794 to 1820?
- 4 Why did freed people move off the sugar estates after emancipation?
- 5 Why did many freed people have difficulties in obtaining land to cultivate after emancipation?
- 6 Why was immigrant labour so widely used in the Caribbean region between 1840 and 1900?
- 7 Why and how were health facilities developed in the English-speaking Caribbean after emancipation?
- 8 Explain the changes brought to the English-speaking Caribbean by the introduction of crown colony government between 1866 and 1900.

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Source B. S. C. Gordon. *Caribbean Generations*. Published by Longman. © S. C. Gordon.
Source C. Vere Trevelyan Daly. *Short History of the Guyanese People*. Published by MacMillans.
Source D. H. Beckles. *A History of Barbados*. Published by Cambridge University Press.
Source E. E. Williams. *From Columbus to Castro*. Published by Andre Deutsch.

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