

HISTORY

Paper 6 Caribbean History, 1794–1900

9697/06

May/June 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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 an HB pencil for any rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.



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.

**SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN THE BRITISH
CARIBBEAN, 1838–1865**

- 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

I will not, at present, enter into the question you are discussing with the planter proprietors of British Guiana, namely whether the colony is at this moment prosperous or not. The decline in sugar production is unquestionable. The return enclosed with your dispatch of 15 October 1839, shows a considerable decrease in sugar on the quarter from 6 July to 10 October as compared with 1831–32.

The statement of the West India merchants, in their report of 17 January is as follows, 'The deficiency in the last years' crops, in Demerara alone, exclusive of Berbice, was shown to be no less than £930 000 sterling'. Some part of this decline may be owing to the lateness of the season, but no doubt can exist as to the remarkable falling off in the quantity of sugar produced in the first year of freedom.

Letter from the British Minister for the Colonies to the Governor of British Guiana, 1840.

Source B

I find that in 1838, when freedom was fully granted, there had been 206 estates in cultivation. At the end of last year there were 193, so that only 13 had been abandoned by then. From the increase in the quantity of land planted in some estates, the number of acres was probably the same at both periods.

Previously to emancipation the slaves on the estates amounted to about 16 000. At present about 10 000 workers are on the estates.

The sugar crop however has increased. Notwithstanding this it can be shown that since 1838 not only has there been no profit, taking the whole term of years and all the estates together, but there has been a dead loss of British capital to the amount of £1 million sterling.

Out of the 193 estates, about 17 may be considered as having made a profit. About the same number have held their ground, neither gaining nor losing. The rest have kept going at a loss.

This is the record to the end of 1847.

It does not appear probable that more than six estates are likely to make a profit in the current year.

The Governor of Trinidad writing in 1848.

Source C

I think the general state of this colony, after all the severe trials through which it has passed, and under which it is still suffering, may be fairly described as favourable. The income is gradually increasing, and the quantity of its exports has greatly increased within the last six years. The yearly average of the last five years, from 1847 to 1851 inclusive, during which period the Indian labour has been introduced, is larger in the most important products than that of any previous five years of which the exports are recorded.

The sugar crop for this year is the largest ever shipped, and there is every probability of a considerable increase next year. During this season the manufacture of sugar has improved, while the cost has diminished by at least one-third. However, the weather during croptime was unfavourable, greatly impeding the operations of the planters. I am happy to say that, despite this, the large crop I have mentioned was made with unusual rapidity.

I find it to be almost universally the opinion of the planters that these results could not have been achieved without Indian workers.

Report of Governor Harris of Trinidad, 1852.

Source D

In Barbados, following the end of the Apprenticeship System, a sudden drop in levels of sugar production occurred.

The decline was short-lived. So too were the fears among the plantocracy that the sugar industry was, in their own words, 'fast dying a sort of natural death'. From 1844, the statistics show that sugar production levels and exports had picked up and were rapidly increasing to new record levels. Production in 1847 amounted to 33 111 hogsheads, in 1850 to 35 302 and in 1859 to 50 778. The explanation for this remarkable recovery had to do with the planters' assertion of effective control over the labour force, increased yields resulting from improved cultivation techniques. Widespread use of chemical fertilizers and more efficient factory techniques also contributed to greater yields.

A modern historian of Barbados writing in 2004.

Source E

This meeting views with alarm the distressed condition of nearly all the classes of people in Jamaica. There is a lack of employment in consequence of the abandonment of a large number of sugar estates. The crop of this country is no longer profitable, caused by being brought into unequal competition with slave-grown sugar.

In consequence of such distress from no work being obtainable, many of the inhabitants, chiefly tradespeople, have been compelled to leave their homes to seek employment abroad. Many others are only deterred from doing this because they do not know what is to become of their families in their absence.

Resolutions of Spanish Town meeting to discuss the Underhill letter, Jamaica, May 1865.

Now answer the following question

'Between 1838 and 1865, the sugar economy of the British Caribbean was ruined.' How far does the evidence of Sources A–E support this statement?

Section B

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

- 2 How important were the activities of the anti-slavery reformers in bringing about slave emancipation in the Caribbean?
- 3 How successful were the apprenticeship schemes in British and Dutch Caribbean territories?
- 4 To what extent did the lives of freed people change after full freedom was achieved?
- 5 Why were some Caribbean territories more favourable than others to the rise of the peasantry?
- 6 To what extent was there a shortage of labour on sugar estates after emancipation laws came into full effect?
- 7 How effectively was education provided for the masses in post-slavery Caribbean societies?
- 8 How did the former slave owners retain control over colonial governments in much of the British Caribbean after emancipation?

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source D © H. Beckles; *Great House Rules: Landless Emancipation and Workers' Protest in Barbados, 1838–1938*; Ian Randle Publishers; 2004.

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