



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

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HISTORY

9697/06

Paper 6 Caribbean History, 1794–1900

May/June 2007

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 soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or 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.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR

- 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

It has been stated that the British coolie immigration is cruelly conducted, but I can confirm that the very reverse is the case. Upon arriving here they have no thought or care about the future. They are immediately provided for and their wages are five times more than they could earn at home. The physical appearance of a crowd of coolie immigrants returning to India proves the beneficial results of working in Trinidad. Instead of being a set of naked, half-starved, gibbering savages, ready to eat any dead putrid animal, fish, flesh or fowl that lay in their path, they are clothed, sleek and well fed, strong and able bodied, speaking English with tolerable accuracy, and looking the intelligent people that they really are. I have seen them arrive and seen them depart, and speak from actual observation. After they have landed from the ship, not only families, but people from the same district are kept together. Their wants are immediately cared for and, the prospects of work and wages being certain, their condition is far more comfortable and encouraging than that of the mass of Irish immigrants who arrive every week in the city of New York.

A US journalist, W.G. Sewell, writing about his visit to Trinidad in his book, 'Ordeal of Free Labour' (1861).

Source B

I am confident that it is a common practice of doctors to discharge immigrants from treatment in hospital before they are completely cured. This accounts for a large proportion of the cases of so-called idleness which are brought before magistrates. By the strict letter of the law an indentured immigrant is bound to do his daily task of work, if he is not in hospital. Although the magistrate has a discretionary power of declining to convict, if he believes the accused is physically unable to work, it is difficult for him on account of the accomplished malingering tendencies of the coolies, to decide in other than extreme cases against the expressed opinion of the doctor.

The consequence of this is that great numbers of immigrants are weekly committed to prison for breaches of contract. However a very considerable proportion are convicted of neglecting to do what they are physically incapable of doing.

Your lordship will readily understand that in the courts of such magistrates an immigrant is by no means certain of obtaining his rights.

G. W. Des Voeux, a former Stipendiary Magistrate in British Guiana, in a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, about conditions there (1869).

Source C

For some time past, arrests of immigrants for breaches of the Labour Law, except in the case of absentees or deserters, must have been extremely rare. While giving Mr. Des Voeux full credit for his share in putting the administration of the law on a stricter footing, we cannot agree that the Courts and the Magistrates generally are proved to have been places where the immigrants cannot and do not get justice.

From the 1870 report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Treatment of Immigrants in British Guiana, appointed after the Des Voeux letter (Source B).

Source D

The employer of immigrant labour is placed in this position. He must either abstain from prosecuting the coolie and condone bad work and deliberate laziness or he must lose the service of the immigrant altogether for a time (when he is in prison). Among the immigrants there must be a considerable proportion of idle people who will not work so long as they are comfortably kept in prison. The opportunity to escape regular labour on the Estate is a direct incentive to break the labour laws.

Comment by the West Indian Committee in a letter to Lord Carnarvon, Secretary of State for the Colonies (1875).

Source E

Under Article 18 of the Immigration Ordinance it is the duty of the Immigration Agent to give advice to coolies, conduct investigations, institute prosecutions and assist the magistrate in the estimation of wages. However, the officer in charge of the district to which I belong, beyond visiting the estate once a month for a little over an hour, taking down a few 'averages' of the earnings of stronger men and listening to a few family quarrels, does little else. He seldom visits the hospital, and as long as I have been on Plantation Enmore, has never inspected any of the coolie dwellings. Besides taking no interest in the coolies, whose protector he is supposed to be, he is on such friendly terms with the manager as to have succeeded in getting his daughter employed in his house as governess. How is it possible under the circumstances, to receive justice from him?

Evidence given by Bechu, an Indian immigrant in British Guiana, to the West Indian Royal Commission (1898).

Now answer the following question.

'The supervision of the Indian coolies in Trinidad and British Guiana failed to protect them.' How far does the evidence of Sources A–E support this statement?

SECTION B

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

- 2 Assess the significance of the Haitian Revolution (1794–1804) for European colonies in the Caribbean.
- 3 Compare the methods the European countries used to emancipate the enslaved in the Caribbean.
- 4 Explain the policies of French governments towards former slaves in the years after 1848.
- 5 Analyse the reasons why some Caribbean territories were relatively unfavourable to the formation of peasantries after emancipation.
- 6 Discuss the problems of recruiting and transporting immigrant labour to work on sugar estates after 1835.
- 7 Why and with what success did governments in the British Caribbean deal with the provision of health facilities during the post-slavery period to 1900?
- 8 Why were there riots and revolts in many parts of the Caribbean from 1848 to 1900?