



CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

**CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE®
EXAMINATION**

ENGLISH A

HYBRID

Paper 02 – General Proficiency

2 hours 40 minutes

05 JANUARY 2026 (a.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This paper consists of FOUR sections: A, B, C and D.
2. Section A consists of ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
3. Section B consists of ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
4. Section C consists of TWO questions. You MUST answer ONE question from this section.
5. Section D consists of ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
6. **All responses MUST be written in the answer booklet provided.**
7. Your responses MUST be written in Standard English.
8. You are advised to take some time to read through the paper and plan your answers.
9. It is an offence to share your keycode with any other candidate or to log in with another candidate's details.
10. Any attempt to change the configuration of this machine, connect external devices, connect to external networks or to in any way initiate communication with resources other than the URL provided will result in your disqualification, you being shut out of the system and the cancellation of your entire test.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

SECTION A

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

You MUST answer this question.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGE provided, page 6. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 4 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

1. Read carefully the following article on farming in the 21st century. List FIVE MAIN points discussed, then write a summary of the article in NOT MORE THAN 120 words in ONE PARAGRAPH. If the word limit is exceeded, only the first 120 words of your answer will be read and assessed.

As far as possible, use your own words. Your summary must be in continuous prose. You MUST include in your summary paragraph the five points you listed AND other relevant points. A minimum of seven points is required in order for you to score full marks. You may use the space on page 5 to jot down a plan.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you

- (a) identify the main ideas and opinions in the extract
- (b) organize and express these ideas and opinions in your own words
- (c) use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Farming in the 21st Century

Farmers of the 21st century are, first and foremost, entrepreneurs. The success of their farms rests squarely on their shoulders — or on those of the workers they hire. Today, most farms and ranches in the United States are small. But farms are getting larger and more concentrated. Increasingly, farmers contract with large business operations, called agribusinesses. These businesses purchase the farmers' crops or animals and produce the food that we recognize on grocery store shelves. Farmers who do business in this way say that they reduce their risk of losing money because they are guaranteed a buyer that will offer them a known price for their crops or animals.

Other farmers sell their products themselves elsewhere, such as on commodities exchanges — trading centres, similar to stock markets — where prices often are determined by worldwide supply and demand for the products. A variety of factors, such as worldwide market conditions, may lower or raise the prices that these farmers receive. Because these farmers have little control over pricing, keeping down the costs of production is especially important.

Modern farmers use a wide range of techniques to maximize production and reduce costs. Even something as common as the cell phone, for example, has improved farmworkers' ability to coordinate their efforts over thousands of acres, speeding up their work. Farmers are finding ways to apply modern techniques and increase efficiency. In many ways, the business of raising crops today is distinctly modern. For example, many farmers use integrated pest management techniques to control pests without pesticides. To eradicate a pest, they might introduce another type of insect that feeds on it or use a substance that interferes with the pest's reproductive cycle. Among the more contemporary methods of raising crops are precision farming, bioengineering and organic farming.

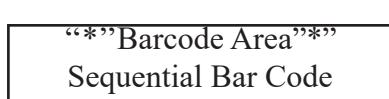
GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



Precision farming involves using technology and data to make efficient decisions about raising crops. Two methods of precision farming include the making of detailed maps of the land and the use of electronic yield monitoring. Farmers use detailed maps of the land that are created from satellite and aerial photographs. Added to these maps are data from sensing devices in the ground that measure the amounts of water, weeds and nutrients in the soil. Today's global positioning systems (GPSs) allow exact locations of the land and nutrients to be pinpointed. Farmers use this information to decide where to add fertilizer, herbicides and water. In this way, farmers reduce their costs by cutting down on unnecessary applications.

*Adapted from Arlene Dohm, “Farming in the 21st Century:
A Modern Business in a Modern World”
Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2005/spring/art02.pdf>*

Total 25 marks



SECTION B

(Suggested time: 30 minutes)

You MUST answer this question.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided, pages 8 and 9. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 7 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

2. Study the situation presented below and then complete the task that follows.

- Ronnie Boodram, a local footballer, requires urgent medical attention in the neighbouring island of Martinique.
- His family does not have the financial resources to pay for the medical expenses.
- His family has written to your community group seeking assistance.

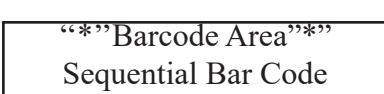
You are the secretary of the Jericho Community Group. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Police requesting permission to hold a fund-raising dance on 19 June 2026 between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., on behalf of the president of the group, Jeremy Whaite. The venue will be the local community centre. Proceeds from the fund-raising event will be used to pay for Ronnie's medical expenses and the trip to Martinique.

Your letter MUST be in continuous prose.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you

- (a) format the letter
- (b) select relevant and complete information
- (c) organize and express the information
- (d) use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Total 30 marks



SECTION C

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

You MUST answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer should be approximately 400 to 450 words in length.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided, pages 11–14. You are expected to write within the word limit. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 10 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

You MUST write in Standard English. However, dialect may be used in conversation.

Your answer will be assessed on how well you

- (a) use the stimulus provided
- (b) develop and organize the content of your writing
- (c) use language appropriate to your audience, purpose and content
- (d) use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, paragraphs, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

EITHER

SHORT STORY

3. Write a story based on the picture below.



Source: Unknown

(25 marks)

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

OR

4. Write a story based on the sentence below.

“Jenna was a fun-loving and ambitious lady who motivated many of us.”

(25 marks)

SECTION D

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

You MUST answer this question.

Your answer should be approximately 250 to 300 words in length.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided, pages 16–19. You are expected to write within the word limit. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 15 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

Your answer will be assessed on the

- (a) appropriateness of your content**
- (b) clarity, organization and development of your argument**
- (c) correctness of grammar, sentence structure, paragraphs, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.**

5. “Children under 13 years of age should be allowed to have social media accounts.”

Write an argumentative essay giving your views on the statement.

(25 marks)

END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.

The Council has made every effort to trace copyright holders. However, if any have been inadvertently overlooked, or any material has been incorrectly acknowledged, CXC will be pleased to correct this at the earliest opportunity.

