

SECTION A

INFORMATIVE ESSAY

Format

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

BODY PARAGRAPHS (2-3 paragraphs)

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

What should I do?

- Identify the main points in your essay question
- Plan your points with accurate facts and supporting evidence
- Include an opening paragraph to introduce the topic of your essay
- Name facts in the body of your essay
- Follow the facts with supporting details
- Organising your writing with transitional words
- Refer to the topic and include key vocabulary
- Make a closing paragraph that relates to the topic

Example

Christopher Columbus was looking for the coveted land because there was a heavy demand for the items produced there. He made a proposal which was rejected by several other monarchs before it was accepted by the Spanish King and Queen who felt that they could benefit from his undertaking.
(a) (i) Name the “coveted land” that Columbus was seeking. (1 mark)

(ii) Identify *THREE* items produced in this land which Europeans desired. (3 marks)

(b) Explain *THREE* reasons why the European demand for the items produced in the “coveted land” was so great. (9 marks)

(c) Discuss *THREE* ways in which the King and Queen of Spain thought they could benefit from Columbus’ proposal. (12 marks)

Total 25 marks

Essay

Europeans sought heavily demanded items produced in this continent. Those who had a sense of importance to their lifestyle and economy and they often sought various routes which were most available to them to travel to attain the wealth harboured in the “coveted land” or, as it is properly known, Asia. This essay will discuss three items produced in this land, three reasons as to why their demand was so great and lastly three ways in which the king and queen of Spain thought they could benefit.

Europeans mainly sought three items produced in the continent; fine textiles/silk, valuable metals like gold, valuable metals such as gold and various spices/aromatic products. These items were important to Europe as they provided lavish lifestyle satisfaction and betterment to them and helped with maintaining a good economy within their continent, giving them superiority and wealth over other European nations. Spices aided in masking the taste and smell of rotten food. This was needed because the lack of refrigeration and poor standards of hygiene meant that food often spoiled quickly. Europe was in an economic decline and importing these highly demanded items would help restore the economic crisis faced by the country, as they would not have been able to constantly import or cultivate new food with a limited amount of money as well. Secondly, silk was viewed as a luxurious item that the rich and affluent often sought, due to its “unusualness,” as it hailed from a foreign continent to theirs. These luxuries and exotic items were then transported overland to Europe where they accumulated lots of money from the rich and affluent’s interest in the material. With gold, Europeans fought against each other and against various empires, such as The Turkish Empire, Ottoman Empire and others. These wars were very expensive, so they needed to find lots of gold, silver, and precious stones to pay for them. They believed that Asia was loaded with gold, silver, and precious stones, so they decided to find them and bring them back.

Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer, brought many proposals to European Monarchies in an attempt to receive funding to travel to Asia by travelling West. He believed that the earth was smaller than it actually was and that travelling West would lead him right to Asia, specifically India. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella saw the virtue in Columbus’ request to carry out the expedition, as they themselves envisioned how it would benefit them as monarchies. Three of these benefits included finding a shorter shipping route, the Spanish empire would gain an advantage when it came to trading with Asia when compared with the rest of Europe. The current route which they had was by land and it was costly, long and dangerous as they often ran into conflict with other empires during their trades, some of which stopped them from crossing over to Asia. Finding the shorter and cheaper route by water would benefit Spain expeditiously. The other route was by travelling alongside the coast of Africa, but as Spain allowed and supported the expedition they did aim to overthrow the glory of Portugal by finding a shorter and cheaper route to Asia. The second benefit of funding Columbus's journey was that they would get to keep 90% of all the wealth found during the journey. This placed any potential riches from newly discovered lands in Spanish hands. Europe at the time had a struggling economy, and these discoveries or riches would allow them to again have an advantage over other European countries. Finally, a third benefit that helped them to decide to fund the voyage was to help spread Catholicism around the world, with the idea being that a more direct route to Asia would allow them to more easily spread the Catholic faith to that part of the world. Spain at the time was overseen by the Pope and this was often given heavy importance as Spainards and other monarchies overseen by the pope travelled to lands that did not conform to this religion.

Concluding, the need to travel to Asia, the “coveted land” to acquire silk, gold and spices were heavily emphasised in European society. They used these for funding during wars, for selling to the rich and affluent, and to help in the consumption of rotten food. The Spanish monarchy saw Columbus’ want to explore a short way to this land as beneficial to them, as they would have

overpassed Europe in finding a short way to Asia, gain access to 90% of the wealth said to be in Asia and spread the religion of catholicism to the continent.

SECTION B

LETTER / ARTICLE / SPEECH

LETTER

Format

(block letter format - doesn't have to be in block letter format only)

Your Address

Date - always make sure it is in the range of the date given by the question

Sender's Address

Salutations

Body of the letter (2-3 paragraphs)

Closing

What should I do?

- Identify the main points in your letter question
- Plan your points with accurate facts and supporting evidence
- Include an opening paragraph to introduce the topic of your essay
- Name facts in the body of your essay
- Follow the facts with supporting details
- Organising your writing with transitional words
- Refer to the topic and include key vocabulary
- Make a closing paragraph that relates to the topic
- Use the PEEL method to help you
 - Point
 - Evidence/Example - can be made up, but must be closely linked to the point (this is an "imagine that you are" question, so the points must stay factual but examples are free to imagine)
 - Explain
 - Link

Example

Imagine that you are a planter in any named English-speaking Caribbean territory. Write a letter to the Governor discussing some of the problems facing the sugarcane industry between 1838 and 1854. (25 marks)

Letter

Lawrence's Plantation

45-49 Piccadilly Street

Georgetown, British Guiana

British West Indies

December 12th, 1841

The Honourable Joseph Whiteman

Governor of Great Britain

Colonial Head Office, Leeds Road

Leeds, United Kingdom of Great Britain

Dear Mr. Whiteman,

I am writing this letter to inform you of the problems which the sugar economy is being faced with as of now. I am Mr Joseph Lawrence, and I am a planter in the colony of British Guiana. I have been directly affected by the crisis which the sugar industry is facing as of now.

Firstly, there has been an astonishing increase in the cost of sugar production. As you may know, many planters are absentees (not me) and there has been a mismanagement of many estates by managers who were left in charge of the plantations. Also, now slavery has been abolished and other planters and I have lost a steady labour force. Personally, I had 1,000 enslaved on my plantation but now I have 35 employed on my plantation as the Negroes have now been freed. I also have to pay them wages, and those that are quite high due to the lack of people on the plantation to attend to the work that needed to be done. I am very upset at this as I am accustomed to having the Negroes work for me for free, and I want cheap full-time labour like the old days had it. I also heard that there was an exodus of the enslaved to other colonies, such as Barbados and the planters there do not have this issue. Also many Negroes have established themselves as peasant cultivators and are making some small money from that as well. A lot of plantation owners have now resorted to borrowing extensive amounts of money from British merchants to help revive their plantations and now with the industry at stake, it is quite impossible to repay such loans. I myself have a loan of \$50,000 which I must repay in about 2 years' time. As of now though, many of the banks have now become reluctant to lend us this money. This is quite frankly a horrendous crisis.

As well to this factor, there has been a decline in the market for West Indian sugar. We have 3 main competitors now, Cuba, Brazil and countries in Europe. Cuba and Brazil have proven successful because of their higher quality and steady labour force and countries in Europe, like France, have started producing beet sugar in many factories. It's said to produce better sugar 2 times faster than sugar estates. We in the West Indies have none of these advantages, as we started sugar production much later and mechanical technology has not been implemented onto our plantations at all. Also, the policies that the British government has implemented after emancipation actually is setting back the

sugar industry in the British West Indies. I have heard that this notorious policy is due to the fact that Britain does not want us, its colony, to make manufactured goods to compete with products from England. This policy is being called mercantilism, and it is the idea that a country's prosperity depended on getting cheap raw materials from colonies, making manufactured goods from these materials then selling the goods within national borders, back to the colonies and to other countries. This policy includes refined sugar, so even though we, the West Indian plantations are capable of making refined sugar, instead of just exploiting brown sugar to England to be processed into white sugar the British government has charged higher duties on refined sugar coming from our West Indies colonies. This is crazily unfair.

Concluding, Honourable Governor I ask for your assistance in these times. The sugar industry has proven to be extremely lucrative in the past and we cannot keep up our activity if we have lost our steady labour force, are in a large number of debts, are facing huge competition from other countries, have a decline in the need for west Indian sugar and the British government keeps instilling policies that are holding back us from regaining out previous momentum and dominance over the economy and sugar industry as a whole.

Yours Respectfully,

Mr. Joseph Lawernce

ARTICLE

Format

Headline

Byline / Name of Author

Body - must include quotations, figures and examples

What should I do?

- Identify the main points in your article question
- Plan your points with accurate facts and supporting evidence
- Include an opening paragraph to introduce the topic of your essay
- Name facts in the body of your essay
- Follow the facts with supporting details
- Organising your writing with transitional words
- Refer to the topic and include key vocabulary
- Make a closing paragraph that relates to the topic

Example

Theme 5 – Adjustments to Emancipation, 1838–1876

Question 9.

The year is 1876. You are a planter who has inherited a plantation which engaged in the large-scale importation of Indian labour after 1838. Write an article for your local newspaper explaining TWO ways in which Indian immigrant labour affected the fortunes of the Caribbean sugar industry between 1838 and 1876, and THREE contributions of the Indian immigrant to Caribbean culture.

Total 25 marks

Article

WHAT HAS INDIAN IMMIGRATION DONE?

FORTUNES TO ECONOMY AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURE BROUGHT WITH THE INDIAN INDENTURED LABOURERS

By Silvester Davidson, Friday 27th June, 1876

The lucrative sugar industry in the British West Indies has gained back its much lost economic momentum and now colonies, such as Trinidad and British Guiana are booming with production. If a few years back the industry was bound to fail, how come now it's back to its level of prosperity? This

prosperity is being held in the hands of the Indian indentured labourers. I, myself, can detest this “economic salvation” brought to the plantation.

I am myself a plantation owner, like my father, who had been an absentee as he often worked in Britain, passed away due to cholera. By birthright, I had inherited this 1500 acres of plantation land and the responsibility that has to come with it. As of then, the Negros were emancipated, the 1500 Negros that my dad had purchased and bred dropped to 30 free men, whom I had to pay to work on the plantation due to slavery being abolished. My plantations had been in shambles, there was mismanagement, the slaves were gone, I was in debt as I took multiple loans to help the plantation, policies were oppressing the success of sugar, it was truly devastating to experience. We suffered for years and in recent years the British Crown implemented immigration of labourers from suitable continents to aid with our labour shortage. To rise triumphant amongst the ethnic groups which immigrated were East Indian immigrants as they helped to reopen the fortunes of the economy of sugar in the BWI due to its boundaries and adversities it has been forced to face.

The production of sugar has increased, practically in Trinidad and my colony, British Guiana. From my records, I produced 34 tons of sugar in 1839 and now I am producing 1 500 tons of sugar in just 6 months to date. Definitely back and booming! This has been happening to all planters who have indentured Indian labourers working on the plantations of now. This, of course, is mainly due to the fact that the indentured labours have provided us with a steady flow of labour, similar to that which we possessed during slavery. They have adapted to the plantations and work similar to the Negros, and have been working expeditiously like them on the fields, living on the fields and other things as well. I have about 1678 persons employed on my plantation as of now, and 1645 of them are Indian indentured labourers. This has now allowed me to pay low wages, expand cultivation, increase production and maintain my social and political status, similar to me and my other planter comrades.

But, I have also observed that Indian immigration is adding to a cultural prospect. I have seen that Indians brought their firm family structure to Caribbean culture in which all relations supported each other. This idea of extended family, which included several generations, was very strong. I asked this girl on my plantation about it and she told me that “The males over 16 years are in a family council and they make all decisions of my family, like, marriage, religious ceremonies and expenditure. I’m supposed to get married soon as well” As well as this, I am noticing the mixing of racial groups among the population with the Indian immigrants. “Miscegenation” is what it’s called. There are people who are mixed with negro and Indian, or “Douglas” and people mixed with Chinese and Indian, or “Chindians” But this racial mixing has not brought anything too positive, because there’s a lot of racial tension in our culture now. It really comes from the ex-slaves despising the Indians and refusing to work alongside them in the fields and they described them as “heathens” because of their speech and clothing. Indians themselves also despised the blacks because of their alleged low moral standards. The same girl I spoke to, whose name I cannot disclose mentioned to me that the only reason that she is getting married is that she has found interest in a negro boy. Her family does not want her to birth “Douglas ” children into their family. Hmm. Now too thought, the Caribbean society has become plural societies or multi-ethnic societies. In other words, there are people in the Caribbean who are citizens of the same country, but who belong to different racial groups, different ancestral cultures, different religions or all these.

SPEECH

Format

Greeting

Quote

“What If” or “Imagine that” Scenario

Rhetorical Question

Silence pauses

Statistics

Examples

Powerful Statement/Phrase

What should I do?

- Identify the main points in your speech question
- Plan your points with accurate facts and supporting evidence
- Identify your audience
- Name facts in the body of your essay
- Appeal to pathos, logos and ethos
- Follow the facts with supporting details
- Refer to the topic and include key vocabulary
- Make a powerful statement/phrase to reside with your audience

Example

Theme 5 – Adjustments to Emancipation, 1838–1876

Question 9

The year is 1897. You are a Member of Parliament and a die-hard advocate of imported contract labour in the British Caribbean, giving a speech on this topic to the House of Commons. In your speech, analyse FIVE reasons for your continued support of the importation of Indian indentured workers.

Total 25 marks

Good morning gentlemen, I draw to the attention of the House Commons as I wish to cement my reasons for my continued support of the importation of Indian indentured workers into the

Caribbean.

It is 1897, I can imagine that you all know about the circumstances that have been granted to us over the past decades. We went from having an amazing economy, booming with industries of sugar production to a failing economy, with slavery ending and the enslaved negroes gaining emancipation. We lost our labour force. We lost our fuel to our economy. We lost. But, my members of parliament, we were not lost for long. The idea of the importation of indentured workers emerged and proved successful in the colonies. Indian immigration, however, proved the most successful of them all.

But, enough of the past. I do not like to lament the past, but in fact, display the facts. And the fact is that Indian indentureship has provided an increase in the supply of labour over the years, and most definitely solved the labour shortage problem planters knew oh too well. On my hand, I possess data on the populations of labourers in the year 1839 and 1895 in British Guiana. In the year 1839, and I read, there was a population of 14 000 labourers in total on all the plantations of British Guiana. Now, I read that there was a population of 123 450 labourers in total on all the plantations of British Guiana. Indentureship has proven its benefits here and then! We have regained our long lost steady supply of labour, and we should continue this importation as these numbers will in due time increase, as it has been done already.

And too, the Immigration of Indian Labourers is the most viable option we have to source labour in general. The success of this immigration scheme also depended on viability, that is whether it could be maintained. But, the sources of white migrants are not populous areas and can't supply migrants in the numbers that are needed. In times of distress, temporary interest in migration may develop but will not be maintained in the long term. Whites still felt that their superiority prevented them from working alongside black workers. The high costs of white and Chinese immigration made them both unviable. The only solution we have to this is to keep the immigration of Indian workers going.

Now, I bring across my third point to the assembly, the satisfaction of Indian indentured labourers. Yes, planters are extremely satisfied with indentured labourers and their worth ethic. Indian indentured labourers have a better performance than the others on the sugar estates and they are more willing to renew their contracts. The previous test runs, most definitely proved unsuccessful but the Indians were the best suited out of all the other groups. Why, as thinking members of the society, would we want to iradice this immigration with so many given benefits?

As well as these other points, India is a British Colony, just like we are. We have the advantage to recruit labourers and our ships and trading ports are already in India. We have the advantage, we are in charge and we can keep an eye on things and supervise immigration. This authority provides us with the ability to oversee a successful immigration scheme since we are in charge of everything from start to finish. Why would we want to ride a scheme providing us with so much authority for our benefit?

And, I present my last point. Willingness from the immigrants. India is very overpopulated and a lot of the Indians want to leave as there is not enough land to divide among the younger generations. India is the only country available to us with people willing to migrate, we know that this will keep the system continuing if the people themselves want to leave! No other country or area provides us with people wanting to immigrate like Indians. They are trying to escape the police and the rigid and inescapable caste system. Our West Indies is very attractive to them due to the amazing wages we have to offer. Wages are already low in India, why would they not want to migrate to a place that doesn't have this issue? And too, they are our most gullible group of people to which we can immigrate. Their living conditions are already poor, why not provide them with a false narrative, of a utopia, in the Caribbean. We have been doing this for years, and they still come to the Caribbean. They still stay after their contracts end as well, and take land grants and much more. Why not use this to our advantage?

Ask yourself, why would we want to eradicate the system that provided us with so much? Do we not want the best for our colonies? Think about it, and may your conscience be your utmost guide. I leave the stand with these points, do enjoy the rest of your days as members of the house.

SECTION C

ESSAY

Format

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

BODY PARAGRAPHS (2-3 paragraphs)

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

What should I do?

- Identify the main points in your essay question
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- Use the PEEL method to help you
 - Point
 - Evidence/Example
 - Explain
 - Link

Example

Question 14.

Examine THREE political and THREE economic measures taken by Fidel Castro which contributed to the survival of the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

Total 25 marks

“The duty of a revolutionary is to make a revolution.” This quote is famously said by Fidel Castro, one of Cuba’s many presidents and the man who led the Cuban revolution in 1959. Admired by many, and hated too. The success of the Cuban revolution lay in the measures that Fidel Castro took, both economical and political, and heavily contributed to the success of the revolution. This revolution has shaped Cuba into the country it is today, with various factors. This essay will attempt to discuss 3 economic and 3 political measures Fidel Castro carried out to ensure the success of the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

One economic measure taken by Fidel Castro which contributed to the survival of the Cuban Revolution was the development of trade interactions with the USSR. In May 1960, diplomatic relations were established between Cuba and the USSR. The USSR stands for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and it comprised 15 Republics such as Russia and Ukraine. The Soviet Union committed to purchasing 425,000 tons of sugar in 1960, and from 1961 to 1964 one million tons of sugar from Cuba annually. Furthermore, Nikita Khrushchev granted Havana a 100 million U.S.-dollar credit at very low interest (2.5 %) and promised to sell oil to Cuba below world market prices. This enabled Cuba to once again rely on its sugar industry to anchor the Cuban economy because of Russia's guarantee of a stable market and further economic aid. As a result, Cuba became nearly totally dependent on the Soviet Union. All things considered, developing trade interactions with the USSR contributed to the success of the revolution. One economic measure taken by Fidel Castro which contributed to the success of the Cuban Revolution was

Fidel Castro nationalised three U.S. banks in Cuba, a U.S.-owned electricity and telephone company as well as US Oil Refineries. The Revolutionary Government on October 24, 1960, authorised the nationalisation of the remaining 166 U.S. properties in Cuba. These properties included insurance companies, chemical companies, mining companies, hotels and bars. Nationalisation is the process of transforming privately owned assets into public assets by bringing them under the public ownership of a national government or state. The U.S. controlled Cuba's economy, so when Castro came into power he implemented the nationalisation programme and immediately put an end to American dominance in Cuba. Under Batista's leadership, he forged an early alliance with the United States. The Americans owned 90% of the telephone and electricity services, 50% of public transportation, 40% of the raw sugar industry and 90% of the banks. All things considered, nationalisation contributed to the survival of the Cuban Revolution. Agrarian Reform was an economic measure taken by Fidel Castro which contributed to the survival of the Cuban Revolution. The common man benefited from the Agrarian Reform of May 17, 1959, which facilitated the distribution of land to small peasants. They could also access economic and technical aid through the various associations that were created.

Land owned by major American cattle ranchers, and sugar and tobacco estates companies were seized without compensation and made the property of the government. Castro then proceeded to redistribute it in smaller parcels to landless locals at the rate of twenty-seven (27) hectares per family. The Agrarian Reform Law of May 1959 eradicated landed estates and foreign ownership of the property; eliminated all forms of non-proprietary ownership; and gave ownership of the land to those who worked it, thus benefiting over 100,000 peasants. The reform law was intended to increase the overall prosperity and health of the nation by equalising land distribution among the campesino (peasant farmer) class with economic opportunities and an acceptable standard of living. * The new revolutionary government introduced the First Agrarian Reform Law as one of the first major structural changes of the Revolutionary era.

One of the political measures Fidel Castro put in place that contributed to the survival of the revolution was to control the press. The Cuban government-controlled newspaper advertisements, radio broadcasts and banned certain books. The Cuban press had been heavily consolidated; the only surviving newspapers were those directly controlled by the government and even those were limited

to a great extent. Through the press, Castro was able to appeal to Cuban listeners and to a very large extent, leave a lasting impact on them as people generally tend to believe and advocate for whatever the press produces. This heavily controlled press contributed to the survival of the revolution by further winning over public opinion,, informing listeners and watchers, and by influencing the minds of the population at large

One political measure implemented by Castro that contributed to the survival of the revolution was his introduction of a new system of government. With Cuba becoming communist, one of the fundamental principles was collective ownership. So, when Castro came to power all private properties were nationalised and owned by the government. Additionally, the government-owned and controlled all factors of production. This helped to effectively re-distribute wealth, provide jobs, and demolish American domination. Open corruption and oppression under Batista's rule led to his ousting in January 1959 by the 26th of July Movement, which afterwards established communist rule under the leadership of Fidel Castro. Since 1965, the state has been governed by the Communist Party of Cuba. The U.S. had gained a position of economic and political dominance over the island, which persisted after it became formally independent in 1902. This led to open anti-US feelings among Cubans. Therefore, by implementing the 'no private property rule; Cuba was able to control her resources and factors of production, and dispel American influence. The introduction of a new government contributed to the survival of the revolution because the Cubans were tired of the strong US influence, and Castro introduced newness which benefited all Cubans by job creation and security, and by ensuring that wealth was properly

One political measure put in place by Castro that contributed to the success of the revolution was his petition for the overthrow of Batista. Castro openly challenged Batista by submitting a petition to the Court of Constitutional Guarantees, accusing the dictator of violating the Constitution of 1940. Batista, who led a corrupt dictatorship that involved close links with organised crime organisations and the reduction of civil freedoms of Cubans, was significantly damaging Cuba's economy, citizens, and future. Therefore, Castro felt the need to petition for the overthrow of Batista and his corrupt government officials and corrupt government Batista had earned himself the reputation of being corrupt, dishonest, and a terrible leader who prioritised the enjoyment of free-spending Americans over his own citizens who were living in extreme poverty. By petitioning for the overthrow of Batista and successfully doing so, Castro dispelled one of his biggest threats that ensured the survival of the revolution.

Concluding, the economic measures Castro implemented, such as making ties with the Soviet Union, Nationalisation and the Argan Reform Act helped with the success of the Cuban Revolution. Adding to this, the three political reasons, being the control of the press, petitioning to overthrow Batista and the introduction of a new system of government helped with Castro's success in the Cuban revolution. Clearly, these measures provided utmost success to the revolution and have changed the way of things in Cuba, and heavily influence their history as well.