

**Q1: May 2008, Q6: THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Write an article for a newspaper on the above topic. In your article, first identify TWO areas, apart from agriculture, in which CARICOM members cooperate. Next, state TWO benefits of regional cooperation to CARICOM citizens. Then, give THREE reasons why cooperation in agriculture is necessary among CARICOM countries. Finally, suggest to leaders in your country ONE way they may involve the youth in regional cooperation. Write a statement to justify your suggestion.

Question 6 This was a popular question. It focused on regional cooperation, its benefits to CARICOM citizens, and why it is necessary in agriculture. Some candidates were able to identify education, health, and trade as areas of cooperation. Some of the benefits of regional cooperation offered by candidates included wider range of goods and services available, larger market for exports, special hotel rates for citizens and employment opportunities. The Interpretation part of this question was challenging for some candidates. Candidates were required to provide reasons why cooperation in agriculture is necessary. Several candidates offered food scarcity and high food prices as reasons. Other good responses focused on job creation in agriculture, improvements in quality and quantity of food for citizens, and the export of surplus to earn foreign exchange. However, for the most part the responses lacked clarity and development. The Application part asked for a way to involve the youth in regional cooperation. Some candidates suggested youth exchange programmes through scholarships, video and teleconferencing opportunities to discuss regional matters, and cultural activities involving the youth. The justification statement was based mainly on the notion that the youth are the leaders of the future. However, several of these responses were unclear and not fully developed. The overall performance of the candidates in this question was unsatisfactory.

**Q2: May 2008, Q7: TRADING IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET**

You are asked to address a group of Caribbean manufacturers on the above topic. First define “common market”. Then describe TWO benefits of the common market to CARICOM manufacturers. Next give THREE explanations for the CARICOM’s assistance to the smaller Caribbean countries. Finally, suggest ONE way manufacturers may pass on the benefits of the common market to CARICOM citizens. Say why your suggestion will work.

Question 7 This question was based on the CARICOM Common Market. Many candidates did not respond to it. For the Knowledge part, candidates were required to define „common market“ and to describe benefits of this market to CARICOM manufacturers. Many candidates were unable to define common market. Responses such as “where goods and services are sold”, “fellow partners in trade” and a “market to allow business to cooperate” were common. Correct responses contained the idea of coming together to trade without “hassle” and restrictions. Candidates, however, were able to describe benefits of a common market. Acceptable responses included the removal of tariffs and duties, cheaper commodities, greater productivity and reasonable prices. For the Interpretation part, candidates were asked to explain CARICOM’s assistance to the smaller states. Many candidates did this part poorly. Responses such as funding, donations, cheaper goods and disaster assistance were offered. Candidates also offered responses that discussed the limited revenue stream, limited human resource capability and smaller markets in these smaller states. The Application part of the question asked candidates to suggest a way manufacturers may pass on the benefits of the common market to citizens and to state why the way suggested would work. The main suggestion indicated that manufacturers should reduce the prices of goods and sell cheaply to citizens. Suggestions such as - 6 - organizing exhibitions and discount cards and coupons were few. On the whole this question was not well done.

**Q3: May 2006, Q6: THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SECURITY FOR CARICOM COUNTRIES**

Write an article on the above topic. In your article define “food security”, then state TWO factors that have affected the production of food in the Caribbean. Next, give THREE reasons why security in food is necessary for the Caribbean. Finally, suggest ONE initiative farmers may take to ensure food security for the region. State why you would support the initiative you have suggested for the farmers.

This question was quite popular. It focused on ‘food security’ for CARICOM countries. Candidates were required to define ‘food security’ and to state the factors that affect the production of food in the Caribbean. Many candidates looked at food security in relation to safety and health, protection of crops and defending the food supply. These candidates apparently were influenced by media reports of terrorists’ activities in developed countries. Few candidates defined food security as producing sufficient local foods to meet the demands of the countries in the region. The candidates’ responses on the factors that affect the production of food ranged from praedial larceny to poor farming practices and inadequate infrastructure. 6 The Interpretation part of the question asked candidates to give reasons why food security is necessary for the region. Some candidates indicated the health benefits to the people, foreign exchange savings, and a contributor to sustainable development. The Application part required candidates to suggest initiatives farmers may take to ensure food security for the region. Most of the initiatives related to lobbying the governments in the region to provide land, loans and technical advice. Few candidates stated what farmers themselves could do. Initiatives such as the use of better farming practices, the development of family farms and diversification programmes were rarely mentioned. Justification for the initiatives was based on the financial capability of governments to support farmers in food production. This question was not well done by many candidates. The mean score was 5.54.

**Q4: May 2006, Q7: GLOBALISATION: COOPERATE TO SURVIVE**

Prepare an address to a group of businessmen on the above topic. First, define what “globalisation” is, then state TWO negative effects of globalisation for Caribbean businessmen. Next give THREE reasons why regional cooperation is necessary to compete with international producers in a global environment. Finally, suggest to the businessmen ONE action they may take to prepare their workers for globalisation. State why the businessmen should support the measure you have suggested.

This question was based on ‘globalisation’. Candidates were required to define the term and to state its negative effects to Caribbean businessmen. Most candidates who attempted this question did not know what globalisation meant. A few candidates correctly mentioned the penetration of capital, technology and goods into the region. Some stated that it was about the coming together of countries. Some candidates knew some of its negative effects. These included more imports, competition on the world market, dumping of commodities and higher costs. The Interpretation part of the question was not done well. The common response was producing more locally grown foods and import restrictions through taxes and quotas. Correct responses such as pooling of resources and greater bargaining power in negotiations were few. The Application part required candidates to suggest actions businessmen may take to prepare workers for globalisation. Most candidates suggested courses and seminars and retraining of workers to handle technology. The justification for these suggestions was focused on survival and keeping abreast with the rest of the business world. Many candidates rambled in this question. The mean score was 4.63.

**Q5: June 2005, Q7:** Write an essay on “ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AMONG CARICOM STATES”. First, state TWO factors that facilitate economic integration, and ONE factor that hinders economic integration among member states. Explain THREE ways CARICOM member states are likely to benefit from economic integration and suggest TWO measures the government of your country may take to encourage producers of goods and services to support economic integration.

The focus of this question was on economic integration among CARICOM states. A small number of candidates responded to this question. For the Knowledge part candidates were required to state the factors that facilitate and factors that hinder economic integration among CARICOM states. Some candidates offered responses based on historical and cultural considerations. A few candidates stated factors such as the limitation of market capacity and the inability to earn substantial foreign exchange. As hindrances some candidates indicated the disagreements among leaders and the insularity of some member states. The Interpretation part asked candidates to explain ways CARICOM states would benefit from economic integration. Most candidates had difficulty with this part of the question. The most popular response was based on trade and the movement of goods and services. Other correct responses such as agricultural development and self reliance in food were far and few. The Application part asked candidates to suggest measures that would encourage producers of goods and services to support economic integration in the region. Many candidates could not respond to this part of the question. Most answers were based on the removal of restrictions such as taxes. Generally this question was poorly done. Candidates were not adequately prepared to handle questions on this topic in the syllabus. The mean score was 4.29.

**Q6: June 2005, Q5**

- a) State the meaning of each of the following terms:
  - i. Bilateral agreement
  - ii. Multilateral agreement
- b) Give ONE example of a:
  - i. bilateral agreement between Caribbean States
  - ii. Multilateral agreement among Caribbean states
- c) Give THREE reasons why CARICOM countries enter into agreements with other countries.
- d) Suggest to CARICOM governments TWO ways to resolve their concerns about the terms and conditions of agreements.

This question was not very popular. The main reason given by examiners and assistant examiners was that topic, CARICOM, is not taught by some teachers. It is regarded as dry and uninteresting. For the knowledge part however some candidates were able to state the meaning of bilateral and multilateral agreements but could not provide examples. The most common examples were in relation to fishing agreements and trade. The Interpretation part asked why Caribbean states enter into agreements with other countries. The main responses focused on the need to obtain goods and services and disaster assistance. Responses such as size of the domestic markets and geopolitical alignment with the developed world were far and few. The Application part asked for ways CARICOM governments can resolve their concerns about the terms and conditions of agreements. Candidates offered good suggestions based on communication and dialogue but did not indicated the level these should take place. In other words the suggestions were not developed and candidates could not receive full marks. Generally the candidates’ performance in this question was less than satisfactory. The mean score was 4.82