Research Handbook for CSEC® Candidates

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Contents

Preface

CHAPTER 1 – Research and research vocabulary

CHAPTER 2 – Choosing and writing a research topic

CHAPTER 3 – Research design, methods and strategies

CHAPTER 4 – Sampling and sample selection

CHAPTER 5 – Data collection instruments

CHAPTER 6 – Presenting, reporting and analysing findings

CHAPTER 7 – Putting an SBA project together

CHAPTER 8 – Review test for private candidates

CHAPTER 9 – Glossary of research terms you should know
Preface

This handbook provides guidance for students doing School Based Assessment (SBA) projects in social studies, geography, principles of business and other CSEC subjects and for private candidates preparing for CXC examinations, Alternative Papers. In addition, teachers and students pursuing undergraduate study programmes at tertiary institutions in the region and persons interested in the acquisition of basic research skills and methodologies would find this book helpful.

Some guidelines for school candidates doing research projects for CSEC examinations:

- Select a problem to investigate and write it in question form
- Select suitable methods to collect data
- Write out the exact questions that you would ask on questionnaires or in interviews; seek the assistance of your teacher
- Select a sample from a particular locality, school or group; state the characteristics of the sample chosen and the method used to select the sample
- Present and display data using tables, graphs, maps, photographs, diagrams and text
- Interpret and explain the data you have displayed
- State what the data mean in relation to the problem being investigated
- Write out what you have found from investigating the problem
- Write out recommendations based on the findings and state how you would implement these recommendations

The questions on the Alternative Paper (Paper 03/2) for private and non-school candidates test their ability to:

- Choose a topic and state the problem in the form of a question
- Select appropriate methods of investigation
- Design instruments to collect data
- Describe procedures to collect data and for the selection of samples
- Present and display data in several forms
- Explain the data presented in these forms of display
- Interpret the data in terms of the topic chosen and the problem stated
- State findings from the information presented in case studies
- Make recommendations based on findings and suggest ways to implement these recommendations