

History for CSEC® Examinations

Amerindians to Africans

3rd edition

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Contents

<i>List of Maps</i>	vii	Architecture	20
<i>Preface to the Third Edition</i>	ix	Arts and crafts	20
I The Nature of the Caribbean Region	1	Writing, mathematics and the calendar	21
The Caribbean Region	1	The Maya today	21
The Greater Antilles	1	3 The Expansion of Europe	22
The Lesser Antilles	3	Europe in the age of Columbus	22
The Bahamas	3	Society	22
The Guianas	3	Religion	23
Belize	5	Trade	23
The Caribbean Sea	5	Portugal and Prince Henry the Navigator	24
The trade winds in the Atlantic	5	The application of technology	25
Ocean currents	5	Ship development	25
The trade winds in the Caribbean Sea	7	Compass development	25
2 The Earliest Inhabitants of the Caribbean Region	8	New navigational instruments	25
The arrival of people in the Americas	8	Maps and charts	26
The arrival of people in the West Indies	9	Armament development	26
The first Arawaks	9	Christopher Columbus and the race for the East	27
The Taino	10	The first voyage, 1492	27
Appearance and colour	10	The second voyage, 1493–1496	29
Subsistence living	10	The third voyage, 1498–1500	31
Arawak communities	11	The fourth voyage, 1502–1504	32
Political organisation	12	The rival claims of Spain and Portugal	33
Religion	12	The legacy of Columbus	33
Pleasure and recreation	13	4 The Spanish Conquest	34
The Caribs	14	Official Spanish policy towards the Indians	34
The Kalinago	14	The Ovando administration	34
Appearance	15	<i>Encomienda</i>	35
Diet	15	The colonisation of Hispaniola	36
Political organisation	15	Gold production	37
Warrior training	17	The conquest of Puerto Rico	37
Language	18	Ovando's retirement	38
Religion	18	The administration of Diego Columbus	38
The Amerindians of the Guianas	18	The conquest of Jamaica	38
The Maya	19	The conquest of Cuba	38
Political organisation	20	The conquest of the Yucatan	39
Religion	20	The genocide of the Taino	39
		Ways in which the Taino were killed	40

The role of the Church	41	The Dutch break the Spanish monopoly	63
The Church and the Indians	42	The revolt of the Netherlands	63
Montesinos	43	The Dutch in the West Indies	63
The work of Bartholomew de las Casas	43	The Dutch West India Company	64
Conquest of the Caribbean Region completed	44	Non-Spanish settlement in the Caribbean	65
Trinidad	44	Sir Walter Raleigh and the Wild Coast	65
The Guianas	45	The Dutch in the Guianas	67
		The French in the Guianas	68
5 Spanish Colonial Administration, Economic Development and the Control of Trade	46	7 The Foundation of the English, French and Dutch Island Colonies	69
The machinery of colonial government in Spain	46	St Kitts – mother colony of the English islands	69
The conciliar system of government	46	Warner begins the settlement	69
The Council of the Indies	46	The arrival of the French	70
Colonial government under Philip II	47	Economic development of St Kitts	71
Spanish colonial administration in the New World	48	The proprietary system	71
Local government	48	Indentured servants	71
Economic development	49	Population	71
The influence of gold	49	Crops	72
Extracting gold	49	The survival of the colony	72
Royal control of mining	50	The settlement of Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat	72
The beginning of the sugar industry	50	The settlement of Barbados	73
Difficulties in starting the industry	51	The charter and other difficulties	73
Control of trade	52	Economic foundations of Barbados	74
The <i>Casa de Contratación</i>	53	The Revolt of Barbados	74
Functions of the <i>Casa de Contratación</i>	53	The arrival of Willoughby	75
The <i>Flota</i> and <i>Armada</i> system	54	The Declaration of Independence	75
Routing the treasure fleets	55	The settlement of Bermuda and the Bahamas	76
Protecting the treasure fleets	57	The English conquest of Jamaica	76
6 Breaking the Spanish Monopoly in the Caribbean	58	The ‘Western Design’	76
Spain’s claim to control the Caribbean	58	The capture of Jamaica	78
Nationalism and religion in Europe	58	English settlement in Jamaica	79
‘No peace beyond the Line’	59	The Cayman Islands	79
Pirates and adventurers	59	The French colonies	79
Illegal traders	59	St Kitts	79
French privateers	60	The settlement of Martinique and Guadeloupe	80
English privateers	60	French expansion	80
Importance of the privateers	62	Government in the French islands	81
		Mercantilism in the French West	81
		Indian empire	82
		The Dutch and Danish island colonies	82

Interaction between the Europeans and Caribs	83	The foundation of St Domingue	99
The attitude of the Caribs	83	The Anglo-Dutch Wars and the West Indies, 1652–1678	100
European attitude towards the Caribs	84	The Second Dutch War	100
Early contacts between Europeans and Caribs	84	The Third Dutch War	101
The Caribs of Dominica	84	The great age of the French buccaneers, 1678–1685	101
The French approach to the Caribs	85	The end of buccaneering	102
Conclusion	85	The logwood cutters	103
8 Government in the English Colonies and the Old Colonial System	86	The Bahamas – the pirates' republic	103
How the English colonies were governed	86	10 The Sugar Revolution	104
The proprietary system	87	Causes of the sugar revolution	104
The governor and council	87	Fall in West Indian tobacco prices	104
The Assembly	88	Part played by the Dutch in the sugar revolution	105
The Church	89	Results of the change in land use	106
Law in the colonies	89	Land tenure	106
Military service	90	The price of land	107
The Old Colonial System	90	Population changes	107
Economic theories of empire	90	Sugar in other parts of the Caribbean Region	108
How mercantilists viewed the Dutch	91	The Guianas	108
The Navigation Acts	91	The French islands	108
Enumerated goods	92	Other effects of the sugar revolution	109
The Consolidating Act of 1696	92	Monoculture	109
Establishment of the Board of Trade	92	A stratified society	110
The advantages and disadvantages of the Navigation Acts	93	Absenteeism	110
Advantages for England	93	11 African Slavery	113
Advantages for the colonies	94	The labour problem created by the sugar revolution	113
Disadvantages for the colonies	94	Slavery in the ancient and medieval worlds	114
9 European Rivalry in the Caribbean in the Age of the Buccaneers	95	Slavery in West Africa	114
The end of the Spanish monopoly in the Caribbean	95	Slavery in pre-European times	114
The buccaneers	95	The Sudanic empires and the trans-Saharan trade	114
Providence Island	97	The forest states	116
Tortuga Island	97	Oyo	116
Port Royal	97	Benin	116
'Militia of the sea'	97	Dahomey	116
The English buccaneers	97	The Asante Kingdom	116
Henry Morgan	98		
The importance of the English buccaneers	99		

West African society in the fifteenth century	118	13 The African Slave in the Caribbean	139
Administration	119	The use of slave labour	139
Religion	119	The sugar plantation	139
Art and Industry	120	The organisation of a sugar plantation	141
How African slavery in the West Indies began	120	Seasonal activities on the plantation	143
The reasons used to justify using West African slaves	120	Free labour	144
The arrival of the Portuguese	121	Enslaved labour	145
Main sources of slaves	122	Social relationships on the plantation	146
Conclusion	123	The slaves' lives	147
12 The Conduct and Effects of the Slave Trade	124	Kinship	147
The conduct of the trade	124	Religion	148
The Companies and free traders	124	Music and dance	148
Obtaining the slaves	125	Health	148
The triangle of trade	126	Food and clothing	149
The English and the triangle of trade	129	The Sunday Market	150
Price of slaves and profit in slave-trading	130	Other employers of slave labour	151
The middle passage	130	Coffee plantations	151
Conditions for slaves on the middle passage	132	Cotton plantations	151
Mortality on the middle passage	133	The logging industry	151
Arrival in the West Indies	135	The growth of a 'free coloured' society	152
Slave sales	135	Legislation against coloureds	153
The volume of the slave trade	136	Conclusion	154
The death rate of slaves	136	Revision Questions	155
Breeding slaves	137	Further Reading	157
The effects of the slave trade on West Africa	137	Index	159
Conclusion	138		

Preface to the Third Edition

Amerindians to Africans is the first of three books aimed at covering the 2000 Caribbean History syllabus of the Caribbean Examinations Council. It is a considerably revised and enlarged version of *Arawaks to Africans*, the book written to meet the needs of earlier editions of the syllabus. As with its predecessor the content follows the thematic approach of the syllabus, and deals with **The Indigenous Peoples and the Europeans** and **Caribbean Economy and Slavery**.

In attempting to meet the needs of the 2000 syllabus, the incorporation of much new and revised material has involved some rearrangement of the contents, and the addition of two new chapters. A determined effort has been made to strike a better balance in the emphasis placed on topics such as the indigenous peoples, the Spanish conquest, European colonisation and slavery, than perhaps was apparent in the first edition. Considerably more attention has been paid to the early history of the Bahamas, Belize, the Guianas and the non-plantation islands in order to meet two of the main aims of the syllabus - the need for students to acquire a knowledge and understanding both of the common experiences of the peoples of the Caribbean and of the creative contributions made by the inhabitants of any territory in the region. The major revision has taken place in the last three chapters, each of which deals

with an aspect of African slavery. All three have been largely rewritten in the light of modern scholarship, with proper emphasis on subjects such as the role of women in slave society, the retention of African cultural forms in West Indian life, and the creation of a Creole society.

The policy adopted by the authors of the first edition was to concentrate on a factual approach, and to attempt to treat all topics at the level required by the Caribbean Examination Council, both in factual content and comprehension. The same approach has been followed here, but with the addition of the reviser's analysis and interpretation of, and insights into, key events.

The revision questions at the end of the book have themselves been revised, and now follow very closely the questions which were set in the history examinations conducted during the seven years which followed the introduction of the new syllabus.

The Further Reading list contains most of the books used both in the writing of the original *Arawaks to Africans*, and in the preparation of this revised edition. It contains the standard general texts for Caribbean history. Not all the books listed were written for school students, or will be found readily in all school libraries, but all will repay the efforts undertaken by students in locating copies.

Brian Dyde
Pembroke 2007