

REGIONAL INTEGRATION PAST PAPER QUESTIONS

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.

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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.

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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

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Q7: June 2004, Q6

- Name TWO member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).
- State TWO objectives of the OECS.
- Give THREE reasons why countries of the OECS would find it difficult to develop as individual states.
- Suggest TWO ways OECS governments may encourage their nationals to work in other member states.

Q8: Jan 2010, Q7: AT LEAST FIVE CARICOM COUNTRIES SPENT OVER 20 PERCENT OF THEIR BUDGET ON EDUCATION IN 2002. Write an essay on the importance of education to Caribbean nations. In your essay, you should outline THREE educational needs that require the spending of large sums of money. You should also give THREE reasons for governments' expansion of the provision for education. Finally, suggest ONE way in which governments may reduce expenditure without lowering the quality of education. Explain why your suggestion may reduce expenditure.

Q9: May/June 2010, Q6: The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

Write an essay on the above topic. Begin by naming TWO member countries of the CSME and state TWO benefits that Caribbean people can obtain from countries being members of the CSME. Next explain TWO factors that hinder economic integration among Caribbean countries. Suggest THREE strategies that CARICOM leaders may use to strengthen the CSME. Explain why you believe EACH of your strategies is likely to be successful.

Q10: May/June 2010, Q7: CARICOM- HELPING DISASTER VICTIMS

Write an essay on the above topic. In your essay identify ONE natural disaster faced by Caribbean countries and state TWO effects of the natural disaster on the physical environment of Caribbean countries. Then name the regional organization which has been established in the Caribbean to manage disasters. Give TWO reasons why Caribbean governments need to cooperate in the event of disasters. Finally suggest to citizens THREE measures they may take to assist community members in the event of a natural disaster. Explain why EACH measure is likely to be successful.

Q11: Jan 2011, Q6: "TRADE LIBERALIZATION: DIFFICULTIES FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES"

Write an essay on the above topic. Begin your essay by stating the meaning of the terms "trade liberalization" and "trade bloc". Give TWO reasons why Caribbean countries face difficulties when trading with countries outside the region. Finally, suggest to the members of a Manufacturers' Association, giving full details, THREE actions they may take to help improve Caribbean trade. Explain fully why EACH of these actions will succeed.

Q12: Jan 2011, Q7: "CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES NEED TO INTEGRATE."

Write an essay on the topic above in which you identify TWO major efforts at regional integration from 1958 to the present time and name TWO member countries of the 1958 integration movement. State TWO functions of the Heads of Government Conference in the integration process. Finally, suggest to your government, giving full details, THREE ways in which it may demonstrate the spirit of cooperation in the event of an environmental disaster in the Caribbean region. Explain fully why each way will succeed.

Q13: June 2011, Q6: Write an essay based on the following topic.

"THE CSME IS ABOUT YOU AND ME."

In your essay identify TWO stages of the integration movement before the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Describe TWO difficulties that some member states may experience in meeting the objectives of the CSME. Finally, suggest THREE strategies, giving full details, for overcoming the difficulties of the CSME. Explain fully why EACH strategy suggested will be successful.

Q14: June 2011, Q7: Write an essay on the following topic.

"BENEFITS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION TO CARICOM CITIZENS"

Begin your essay by naming TWO organisations designed to promote regional cooperation in education. State ONE function of each of the organisations and then explain TWO ways in which Caribbean citizens benefit from regional cooperation, other than in education. Suggest THREE measures, giving full details, that the government of your

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country may take to encourage citizens to support CARICOM organisations.. Explain fully why each of the measures will be successful.

Q15: Jan 2012, Q6: CARICOM INTEGRATION AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

As a CARICOM official responsible for trade in a country, you have been asked to address the Manufacturing Association on the above topic. In your address, state the meaning of the term “globalization”. State TWO negative effects of globalization on manufacturers in the CARICOM countries. Then, describe TWO ways by which the CARICOM Secretariat can inform CARICOM citizens about the importance of the integration process. Finally, suggest, giving full details, THREE strategies through which manufacturers may take advantage of globalization. Explain why each strategy you suggested will be successful.

Q16: Jan 2012, Q7: REGIONALISM: THE WAY FORWARD TO A PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN REGION.

Write an essay on the above topic. Begin your essay by explaining the meaning of the term “regionalism”. Identify TWO social factors that encourage regionalism. Explain TWO ways in which unequal distribution of resources in the Caribbean may hinder regionalism among the territories. Suggest THREE strategies, giving full details, which CARICOM countries may use to strengthen the regional integration movement. Explain why you believe EACH of these strategies will be successful.

Q17: June 2012: “The future of the Caribbean has to be grounded in its ability to effectively integrate.”

Write an essay on the above topic. Begin your essay by stating with examples, THREE areas of cooperation among CARICOM member states. Then, give THREE reasons why the smaller Caribbean states may experience problems when trading with the larger states. Suggest to CARICOM leaders ONE activity which would demonstrate how Caribbean states can integrate more effectively. State why this activity may be successful.

Q18: May 2007, Q5

- (a) Name TWO associated institutions of CARICOM (2 marks)
- (b) List TWO objectives of the OECS. (4 marks)
- (c) Explain THREE ways Caribbean countries have benefitted from membership in CARICOM. (6 marks)
- (d) Suggest to your prime minister ONE strategy that may improve relations among CARICOM member states. State why your suggestion will work. (5 marks)

Q19: June 2003, Q7 (17 marks)

TRADING BLOCS AND THE GLOBALISATION PROCESS

You have to address a group of businessmen on the above topic. First, outline what a trading bloc is and then state TWO ways a country may benefit as a member of a trading bloc. Next, explain THREE effects of globalisation on consumers in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Finally, suggest TWO ways in which governments may assist local businessmen in avoiding the negative effects of globalisation.

Q20: June 2002, Q5

- (a) (i) State TWO factors which facilitate regional integration in the Caribbean. (4 marks)
- (ii) State ONE factor which hinders regional integration. (6 marks)
- (b) Describe THREE ways in which CARICOM member states have benefitted from regional integration. (6 marks)
- (c) Suggest TWO ways in which the government of your country may encourage local manufacturers to support regional integration. (5 marks)

Q21: June 2002, Q6: THE OECS IS A GROUPING OF SMALLER CARICOM MEMBER STATES

- a) Name four member states of the OECS. (4 marks)
- b) Name two major industries found in the OECS. (2 marks)

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- c) Explain three ways in which these smaller countries may benefit from working together. (6 marks)
- d) Suggest two ways that ordinary citizens of different OECS countries may develop a feeling of togetherness. (6 marks)

Q22: June 2004, Q6: COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS OF TH oecs

Write an article for your school magazine on the above topic. In your article name TWO member countries of the OECS and state TWO objectives of the OECS. Give three reasons why common financial services is an example of cooperation among member countries and finally, suggest two measures that the OECS Secretariat may take to make it easy for OECS citizens to enter and live in any member country.

Q23: June 2003, Q5

- a) Identify two regional organisations that were established in the Commonwealth Caribbean to develop cooperation among member states. (2 marks)
- b) Give four examples of areas in which there is cooperation among countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. (4 marks)
- c) Give three reasons why it is important for the region to promote cooperation among member states. (6 marks)
- d) Suggest two ways in which the government of your country may demonstrate the spirit of cooperation in the event of an environmental disaster in the region. (5 marks)

Q24: June 2005, Q6 Basic

(a) Copy and complete the following table in your answer booklet. Choose your answers from the list below.

GLOBALISATION INDEPENDENT STATE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT
 BILATERAL AGREEMENT DEVELOPING COUNTRY CARICOM FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Statement	Terms
Buying foreign currency	
A country with few developed resources	
Caribbean Community	
A country that has control over its affairs	
A contract between two countries	
Interdependence among countries in the world	
A contract among many countries	

- (b) Explain three ways a developing CARICOM state may become developed. (6 marks)
- (c) Suggest two actions the Ministry of Agriculture in a CARICOM country may take to support regional trade. (6 marks)

Q25: Jan 2013, Q6: As head of a Caribbean trade union, you have been asked to deliver a speech on the topic “The Unemployment Crisis and the Free Movement of Labour”. In your speech, identify TWO factors which contribute to unemployment in the Caribbean and explain ONE way in which regional governments can help to reduce unemployment. Give TWO reasons why Caribbean businesses face difficulty in creating employment. Finally, suggest, giving full details, THREE ways in which the free movement of labour within CARICOM may help to reduce

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the unemployment in the region. Explain fully why EACH way is likely to be successful.

Q26: Jan 2013, Q7: Write an essay on the topic: “Regional Integration: The Way Forward”. In your essay, identify TWO cultural factors that promote Caribbean integration and TWO geographical factors that can hinder integration. Give TWO reasons why Caribbean countries should continue to support regional integration. Finally, suggest giving full details, THREE strategies which the universities of the CARICOM region may undertake to assist in strengthening regional integration. Explain fully why EACH of these strategies is likely to be successful.