

2003 Revised DBQ

WORLD HISTORY SECTION II

Total Time—1 hour, 30 minutes

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading and writing time: 55 minutes

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following.

- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
- **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradiction, corroboration, and/or qualification.
- **Use of the Documents:** Utilize the content of at least six of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Sourcing the Documents:** Explain the significance of the author's point of view, author's purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents.
- **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
- **Outside Evidence:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
- **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following.
 - A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area
 - A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history)
 - A different discipline or field of inquiry (such as economics, government and politics, art history, or anthropology)

Question 1: Using the documents and your knowledge of world history, analyze at least one cause and at least one consequence of the system of indentured servitude that developed in the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries.

Document 1

Source: Herman Merivale, British Undersecretary of the Colonies, 1850's.

Indentured laborers are not voluntary immigrants in the ordinary sense, led by spontaneous desire of bettering their conditions; they are not slaves, seized by violence, brought over in fetters, and working under the lash. They have been raised, not without effort, like recruits for the military service.

Document 2

Source: Editorial in the *Natal Mercury*, Itongati, South Africa, on the visit of Sir George Grey, British colonial governor, June 6, 1855.

A clause was introduced at the public meeting setting forth the necessity of an "importation of foreign labor" for the exigencies of our tropical industry, more especially of the sugar enterprise; unfortunately that clause was struck out by the Town Council.

Next year, the quantity of labor that will be required to bring to a profitable result the large and increasing sugar cultivation now going on will be great beyond the possibility of its being supplied by our own natives, no matter how vigorous and how successful may be the measures of Government in the meantime for the better development of native industry. Every succeeding year, the demand for labor will increase in an almost geometrical ratio. In the island of Mauritius, there are not more than 60,000 acres under sugar cultivation, and for this small area—producing however, upwards of 100,000 tons of sugar annually,—not fewer than 60,000 laborers are required.

Document 3

Source: Asian Indian laborers harvesting sugar cane and European supervisor, Suriname (Dutch Guiana), 1920.



Photo and print collection of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Tall-, Land- en Volkenkunde, Leiden. Julius Eduard Muller, photographer.

Document 4

Source: "General Statement of Asian Indian Immigration to Mauritius," published by the British Government, 1949.

| FORMER SLAVES AND ASIAN INDIANS IN MAURITIUS, 1835-1851 | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| Former Slaves | | | Asian Indians | | |
| Year | Male | Female | Male | Male and Female | Female |
| 1835 | 36,500 | 24,500 | | 1,300 | |
| 1837 | 32,700 | 19,900 | | 11,700 | |
| 1846 | 28,100 | 21,200 | 48,900 | | 7,300 |
| 1848 | 28,200 | 21,700 | 47,000 | | 9,300 |
| 1851 | 26,700 | 21,700 | 64,300 | | 13,700 |

Document 5

Source: British Guiana Indenture Agreement, 1895.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND TERMS OF AGREEMENT WHICH THE RECRUITER IS AUTHORIZED TO OFFER ON BEHALF OF THE AGENT TO INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

Period of Service: Five years from date of allotment

Nature of Labor: Work in connection with the cultivation of the soil or the manufacture of the produce on any plantation.

Number of Days on which the Emigrant is Required to Labor in Each Week: Every day, except Sundays and authorized holidays.

Number of Hours in each Day during which Emigrant is Required to Labor without Extra Remuneration: Seven hours in the fields or ten hours in the factory buildings.

Monthly or Daily Wages or Task Work Rates.

Able-bodied adult of and above sixteen years of age, shall be paid one shilling for each day's work. Adult males, not able bodied, or minors (10-16), or females shall be paid $\frac{2}{3}$'s of a shilling for each day's work.

Condition as to Return Passage.

The emigrant on completing a continuous residence of ten years in British Guiana, and becoming entitled to a certificate of exemption from labor, shall, with family, if any, be provided with a free return passage back to Calcutta. After completing a continuous residence of five years and becoming entitled to a certificate of exemption from labor, the emigrant may return to India at his own cost. Blankets and warm clothing are supplied gratis on leaving India but not for the return voyage.

Other Conditions.

Rations shall be provided for the emigrant and family, if any, by the employer for three calendar months following the date of allotment, according to the scale sanctioned by the Government of British Guiana.

A suitable dwelling shall be assigned to the emigrant and family, if any, free of rent, and shall be kept in good repair by the employer; medicines, comforts, medical attendance, hospital accommodation and appropriate diet when sick shall be provided free of cost.

I agree to accept the person named on the face of this form on the above conditions.

Recruiter for British Guiana.

Document 6

Source: *Documents of Indentured Labour*, South Africa, 1851-1917.

Office of the Protector of Immigrants

Ramana, Indentured to T.T. Poynton states:

I complain that I am not allowed proper time to eat my meals during the day. I have to commence work at about 5:30 in the morning and finish off about 8:30 p.m. daily. I work on Sundays up to 2 o'clock.

I am overworked and the wages paid me is not sufficient.

Whenever I stop away for a day in a month, it is deducted from my pay and I am told by my master that I will have to make up these days at the expiration of my indenture.

Ramana, X
(His Mark)

Document 7

Source: Statistics from various official government records.

| SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION IN SELECTED TERRITORIES DERIVING FROM INDENTURED MIGRATION | |
|---|-----------|
| Groups | 1920-1921 |
| Asian Indians in Mauritius | 71% |
| Asian Indians in Trinidad | 33% |
| Asian Indians in British Guiana | 42% |
| Asian Indians in Fiji | 40% |
| Japanese in Hawaii | 43% |
| Chinese in Hawaii | 9% |