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CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE®  
EXAMINATION

ENGLISH A

Paper 02 – General Proficiency

2 hours 40 minutes

**READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

1. This paper consists of FOUR sections: A, B, C and D.
2. Section A consists of ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
3. Section B consists of TWO questions. You MUST answer both questions from this section.
4. Section C consists of THREE questions. You MUST answer ONE question from this section.
5. Section D consists of TWO questions. You MUST answer ONE question from this section.
6. Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet.
7. Do NOT write in the margins.
8. You are advised to take some time to read through the paper and plan your answers.
9. If you need to rewrite any answer and there is not enough space to do so on the original page, you must use the extra lined page(s) provided at the back of this booklet. **Remember to draw a line through your original answer.**
10. **If you use the extra page(s) you MUST write the question number clearly in the box provided at the top of the extra page(s) and, where relevant, include the question part beside the answer.**

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

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01218020/F 2016

[cxctutor.blogspot.com](http://cxctutor.blogspot.com)

**SECTION A**

**(Suggested time: 35 minutes)**

**Answer Question 1.**

**Write your answer on the RULED PAGE provided. There is a space for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.**

- 1. Read the following magazine article carefully and then write a summary of it in NOT MORE THAN 120 words. If this limit is exceeded, only the first 120 words of your answer will be read and assessed. As far as possible, use your own words. Your summary must be in continuous prose.**

**In your answer you will be assessed on how well you**

- (a) were able to identify the main ideas and opinions in the extract**
- (b) organized and expressed the main ideas and opinions in the extract**
- (c) used appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.**

**Empowering Youth**

It should be understood that the future development of any nation depends on harnessing the creative and productive potential of its youth. This can only happen if we empower young people. Any society with a high percentage of disillusioned youth is steering towards serious long-term social problems. It is therefore imperative that those who have the primary task of managing and governing our societies should not wait for a catastrophic collapse before embarking on any programme of policies that can impact young people positively. It is no longer front-page news that young people from so-called socially and economically challenged backgrounds are involved in criminal activities.

The evidence is clear: the impact of crime on the development of Caribbean economies is significant. According to the Caribbean Human Development Report 2012, crime has become one of the main challenges that threaten the economies and the quality of life in Caribbean countries. The Report, however, suggests that with appropriate social and economic programmes that target young people, high levels of violence can be stemmed. What must happen is that, our homes, schools, and communities should provide young people with alternatives to crime and violence.

The experiences of Caribbean youth are not unique. Youth in the UK, for example, especially those of Caribbean descent, face similar challenges of high unemployment, high school exclusion, and drug use, made worse by inequality, racial discrimination, and poverty. To these must be added very high rates of deadly lifestyle diseases, as compared to their fellows in the Caribbean.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

01218020/F 2016



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We must be cautious, however, as not all unemployed, undereducated and disillusioned youths turn to crime. Many see the rewards of engaging in constructive activities as ways to becoming empowered and to avoiding being attracted to destructive behaviours. Many at-risk youths have turned out well in spite of the multitude of challenges within our communities. They have not fallen victim to the stereotypes that portray them as being without hope. The success stories include and go beyond music, entertainment, and sports. Young entrepreneurs are emerging and are becoming strong role models for other young people, creating employment for themselves and others. They are not waiting on others to empower them. They are not giving in to the negative image others focus on. They are taking charge by thinking big and working smart.

*Adapted from "Empowering Youth", Nex Generation,  
Empowering the Caribbean Family and Community,  
Issue No. 14, Fall-Winter 2015, p. 63.*

**Total 30 marks**

**SECTION A**

**You may make notes here. This will NOT be marked.**



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SECTION B

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

Answer Questions 2 and 3.

- 2. Read the poem below carefully and then answer all the questions that follow. Write your answer on the ruled lines provided after each question.

The Castaways

The vivid grass with visible delight  
 Springing triumphant from the pregnant earth,  
 The butterflies and flowers in brief flight  
 Dancing and chirping for the season's birth,  
 5 The dandelions and rare daffodils  
 That touch the deep-stirred heart with hands of gold,  
 The thrushes sending forth their joyous thrills,-  
 Not these, not these did I at first behold!  
 But seated on the benches daubed with green,  
 10 The castaways of life, a few asleep,  
 Some withered women desolate and mean  
 And over all, life's shadows dark and deep.  
 Moaning turned away, for misery  
 I have the strength to bear but not to see.

*Adapted from Claude McKay,  
 "The Castaways", Selected Poems of Claude McKay,  
 Harcourt Porace Jovanovich, 1953.*

- (a) What is the reason for the activities described in lines 1 to 4 of the poem?

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 .....

(2 marks)

- (b) Quote TWO examples from lines 4 to 7 where the poet appeals to the sense of hearing.

.....  
 .....

(2 marks)

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- (c) Quote the expression which shows that the character in the poem was not touched by the beauty of the surroundings.

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(2 marks)

- (d) What causes the feeling or emotion that is conveyed through the expression, "touch the deep-stirred heart with hands of gold" (line 6)?

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(2 marks)

- (e) What word does the poet use to show the reader a contrast in those things that affected the character?

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(1 mark)

- (f) Who according to the poet are the castaways of life?

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(1 mark)

- (g) Quote TWO words that show the character's attitude towards the castaways.

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(2 marks)

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(h) What "misery" does the character turn away from?

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(1 mark)

(i) Describe the mood that the poet creates in the last two lines of the poem.

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(2 marks)

**Total 15 marks**



3. Read the passage below carefully and then answer all the questions that follow. Write your answer on the ruled lines provided after each question.

### The Kashmir Bar

The two brothers who owned and operated the Kashmir Bar and Restaurant on Middle Street could not have been more dissimilar. Ashoka, the elder, was a dreamy romantic: long-haired and bearded, he looked like a sage or holy man, his grey eyes frequently retracting to distant landscapes that only he could see. Romesh, the younger brother, was clean-shaven and practical; his eyes were dark and unexpressive — people said that he was the real businessman, the man of numbers, who did the accounts and kept the business running. He spent most of his time at his desk in the office.

Ashoka was always at the bar, chatting with the customers; Romesh had few words for anyone he did not consider rich or important. In his opinion, Ashoka moved far too slowly for the world they lived in and wasted too much time being nice to people; there was no profit in being nice and Romesh was always expressing impatience or disapproval of his brother's fanciful ideas and lack of business sense.

In August 1988 the Kashmir Bar and Restaurant shrank to one small storeroom for three weeks while the place was renovated and enlarged. Romesh considered this a testimony to the success of the business — due, he was certain, to his own acumen. Ashoka, on the other hand considered that their success sprang from the relaxing atmosphere and pleasant conversation which attracted customers and for which he, Ashoka, was largely responsible.

On the last Friday afternoon in August, while the workers were putting the finishing touches to the new décor and varnishing the impressively large purpleheart counter of the bar, Ashoka invited a dozen or so customers in the temporary room to have a preview of the new space. Romesh, who had been supervising the last tasks of the workers, did not conceal his annoyance when Ashoka marched in, followed by his customers. When eyes had adjusted to the reduced light in the new room everyone looked around and took in the innovations, remarking — in subdued tones because of Romesh's obvious annoyance — items that caught their attention.

*Adapted from Valmiki Madramootoo, "Alma Fordyce and the Bakoo",  
Suspended Sentences, Mark McWatt, Peepal Tree, 2005, pp. 86–87.*





(a) What word could be used to replace the word “dissimilar” in line 2 of the extract?

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(1 mark)

(b) What technique does the writer use in the first paragraph to create the characters of the brothers?

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(2 marks)

(c) According to paragraph 1, what are TWO characteristics which the people expected a “real businessman” to have?

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(2 marks)

(d) Quote TWO pieces of evidence that show that Romesh did not respect his brother as a businessman.

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(2 marks)

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(e) What information in paragraph 3 suggests that the men were successful in managing the business?

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**(2 marks)**

(f) What action shows that the patrons (villagers) were uncomfortable around Romesh?

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**(2 marks)**

(g) Identify the behaviour in paragraph 4 which shows the contrast in the character of the two brothers.

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**(2 marks)**

(h) What effect does the writer achieve by using the phrase “marched in” (line 22)?

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**(2 marks)**

**Total 15 marks**



SECTION C

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

Answer ONE question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 400 to 450 words in length.

You MUST write in Standard English. However, dialect may be used in conversation.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided. You are expected to adhere to the word limit. There is a blank page for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you

- (a) used the stimulus provided
- (b) developed and organized the content of your essay
- (c) used language appropriate to your audience, purpose and content
- (d) used appropriate grammar, sentence structure, paragraphs, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

EITHER

SHORT STORY

4. Write a story based on the picture below.



(35 marks)

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

01218020/F 2016



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OR

5. Write a story based on the following words:

He looked nervously around him and decided that the time was right. It was now or never.

(35 marks)

OR

**DESCRIPTION**

6. The long walk down to the water was tiring, but the villagers had to see for themselves what they had heard from others. Describe their feelings and what they saw as they journeyed.

(35 marks)

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

01218020/F 2016



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**SECTION D**

(Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

Your answer in this section should be approximately 250 to 300 words in length.

You **MUST** write in Standard English.

Write your answer on the **RULED PAGES** provided. You are expected to adhere to the word limit. There is a blank page for any notes you may want to make. **THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.**

In your answer you will be assessed on

- (a) clarity, organization and development of your argument
- (b) correctness of grammar, sentences, paragraphs, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

**EITHER**

7. Too many accidents are caused by careless young drivers.

Write an essay giving your views on this statement. **(35 marks)**

**OR**

8. No primary school child should be given his/her personal computer. Give him/her educational books instead.

Write an essay **EITHER supporting or opposing** this view. **(35 marks)**

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01218020/F 2016



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