



**CONCOURS D'ELEVE TECHNICIEN SUPERIEUR DE LA STATISTIQUE
ENGLISH EXAMINATION (May 2007)**

Duration : 2 hours

NB: Please write your answers in the spaces provided.

I - GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY (5marks)

A) Grammar: (3 marks).

a) Complete these sentences with a suitable form of the verb in brackets. (1.5 mark).

- 1) She (buy) a computer if she had had enough money_____.
- 2) He usually (do) his invoices after he (record) the financial transactions_____.
- 3) The business (take over) by a Japanese company last year_____?
- 4) They (sew) the gowns a week ago_____.
- 5) The man who presently (walk) near your house is my uncle._____

b) Fill the gap in each sentence using a suitable linking word (1.5 mark).

- 1) They came to the party_____ they had not done their homework.
- 2) We cannot leave the office_____ 3 o'clock _____we have a lot of work today.
- 3) It rained in the morning; _____ a result, many students came late.
- 4) She has not_____ completed her assignment.
- 5) _____he was writing, his friend was singing.

B) Vocabulary: (2 marks)

Give the synonyms of the following words and expressions:

- To afford.....
- A neighbouring factory.....
- A sugar mill.....
- Economical.....
- To manufacture sugar.....
- A voyage.....
- To process sugar-cane.....
- To be within easy reach.....

II READING COMPREHENSION: (5 marks)

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it.

Sugar-cane was first brought to the West Indies by the Spaniards and Portuguese: In fact, Columbus took some canes with him on his second voyage in 1493. Sugar-cane probably came originally from the Pacific Islands. In ancient times, the Pacific Islanders were great travellers and took long sea voyages in their big canoes. We think they must have taken canes with them on their voyages to the East Indies and East Asia, for more than 2, 000 years ago sugar-cane was being grown in India. Arab travellers brought it to Mediterranean countries, and by the 15th century it was growing in the Canary Islands and on the west coast of Africa. It was still very little known in Britain and Northern Europe.

The Spaniards and Portuguese found that the sugar-cane grew very well in the West Indian islands, and it was principally to work in the sugar-cane plantations that they brought over slaves from Africa. More and more plantations were made in all the larger islands and, especially during the last 100 years, better varieties of sugar-cane have developed.

One very important point in growing sugar-cane is that the juice must be extracted from the cane very soon after it has been cut, or much of the sugar is lost. Therefore there must be sugar factories within easy reach of the plantations. In the old days when transport was slow and difficult, almost every grower manufactured his own sugar in his own little sugar mill and boiling house on the plantation. There are ruins of many of these small sugar mills to be seen around the country, and a few are still working. Now that the transport of canes is easier and cheaper, it is much more economical to have fewer and bigger factories which can afford to buy expensive modern machinery. For these reasons smaller plantations have often been joined together into bigger ones, and big companies able to afford the expense of a big factory have replaced private landowners. There are still, however, many small plantations which grow cane but send it to a neighbouring factory to be processed.

Adapted from *A Sugar Plantation in Jamaica* by Phyllis Thornton and Moya Cozens.

Questions

- 1 The first of the three paragraphs above is about: (1 mark)
 - a) The Spanish and Portuguese settlers in the West Indies
 - b) The early history of sugar-cane
 - c) Early trade by sea
 - d) Ancient history in East Asia and the Pacific Islands
- 2 Give a suitable title to the passage (1 mark)
- 3 Why do better communications lead to fewer factories for sugar-making? (1 mark)
- 4 Which one of these answers is true? (1 mark)
 - a) Nearly all plantations are now large ones
 - b) Large plantations tend to split up into smaller ones
 - c) There are more small plantations now than there used to be
 - d) There are many large and many small plantations
- 5 The last paragraph is about: (1 mark)
 - a) The economics of sugar production
 - b) The effect of sugar plantation size on profitability
 - c) The need for fewer but bigger sugar factories
 - d) The positioning of sugar plantations and sugar factories

III ESSAY (10 marks)

Write an essay of **300 words** on any **one** of the following topics.:

- a) Is sugar manufactured in your country? What is the contribution of sugar to the economy of your country?
- b) What discovery/innovation/invention of the twentieth or twenty-first century do you consider revolutionary? Why?