Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/1D**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1D: Britain, c1785–c1870: democracy, protest and reform

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery,* published 1944.

Britain's transition to an industrial economy defeated the slave owners. Caribbean planters and British industrialists had opposing economic interests. In the run-up to abolition in 1807, the free market arguments of the industrialist capitalists won the debate.

The attack on the West Indian system was more than an attack on slavery. It was an attack by supporters of Adam Smith and his free market theories, on the economic monopoly of the slave owners. The abolitionists were humanitarians who also supported modern economic theory. British industrialists thought that slavery was cruel, but also that it was an inefficient and increasingly unprofitable method of production. Free labour was more productive, they thought, than the labour of slaves.

Capitalists in Britain, who had built their wealth on the labour of slaves, now turned and destroyed the slave trading system in the name of the free market. The abolitionists highlighted the cruelty of slavery and attacked it at its weakest and most indefensible spot, the cruelty of the slave trade. But it was the slave owners' vast economic power that they hated.

Extract 2: From Boyd Hilton, *Why Britain Outlawed Her Slave Trade,* published 2010.

The argument that slavery was incompatible with the free market is flawed in a number of ways.

First, in a purely economic sense, the British West Indies was far more valuable to Britain in the decade or so leading up to 1807, than at any time before.

Second, the property value of the slave colonies had doubled since 1789 as slave numbers increased.

Third, Britain had come to dominate an increasingly profitable slave trade just before abolition. There was actually more capital being invested in the slave trade at this point than at any time before.

Fourth, Britain's slave system was nowhere near its 'maximum economic potential', because the acquisition of British territory in the Caribbean was still growing.

Fifth, in the years leading up to abolition, Britain's trade with Europe had been very badly hit by the war with France. This increased the economic argument in favour of the slave trade.

The slave trade was central to British commercial prosperity. Slavery was, according to the historian, Seymour Drescher, 'a dynamic system' that was 'aborted in its prime'. Therefore, the reasons for abolition are to be found in the humanitarianism of the abolitionist movement, and not in economic arguments.

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Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: Capitalism and Slavery By Eric Williams © Capricorn Books, 1966

Extract 2 from: Why Britain outlawed her slave trade. Chapter in Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa, and the Atlantic By Boyd Hilton. Editor: Derek R. Peterson © Ohio University Press, 2010