

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE®
EXAMINATION

03 JANUARY 2020 (a.m.)



FILL IN ALL THE INFORMATION REQUESTED CLEARLY IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

TEST CODE

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SUBJECT ENGLISH A – Paper 02

PROFICIENCY GENERAL

REGISTRATION NUMBER

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SCHOOL/CENTRE NUMBER

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NAME OF SCHOOL/CENTRE

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CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

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DATE OF BIRTH

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SIGNATURE _____

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JANUARY 2020

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 ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
4. Section C consists of TWO questions. You MUST answer ONE question from this section.
5. Section D consists of ONE question. You MUST answer this question.
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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SECTION A

(Suggested time: 40 minutes)

You **MUST** answer this question.

Write your answer on the **RULED PAGES** provided, pages 6 and 7. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 5 for any notes you may want to make. **THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.**

1. Read the following article on the aloe vera plant carefully. List **FIVE MAIN** points discussed, then write a summary of the article in **ONE** paragraph of **NOT MORE THAN 120** words. If the word limit is exceeded, only the first 120 words of your answer will be read and assessed. Remember to include in your summary paragraph the five points you listed.

As far as possible, use your own words. Your summary must be in continuous prose. You may use the blank space on page 5 to jot down a plan.

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

- (a) identify the main ideas and opinions in the extract
- (b) organize and express these ideas and opinions in your own words
- (c) use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Aloe Vera: The Thorny Balm

Aloe vera is literally a pharmacy in a plant. Its gel contains seventy-five minerals and eighteen amino acids and vitamins. For centuries it has been used medicinally, including as a moisturizer, to treat burns and skin conditions, for hair loss, acne, and endless other purposes. The aloe vera plant can be found in many backyards in the Caribbean. While you'll find the occasional person growing aloe merely for decorative purposes, it's commonly used as a laxative, or to aid with digestion. In some of the Caribbean islands like Barbados and St Vincent and the Grenadines, parents and grandparents rub it on the hands of children to discourage them from sucking their fingers. There's even an old legend about keeping it in the kitchen to guard against evil. Some people mix it with citrus or mango juice, but that barely masks the cutting bitterness. Today, do-it-yourself enthusiasts are experimenting and creating charming cosmetic inventions as well.

One plant with so many uses should make aloe a way of life — and, in Aruba, it already is. A drive around the island reveals that Aruba is one of the driest places in the Caribbean. Cacti grow haphazardly and at times form natural residential fences. Even the country's highest point, called the Hay Stack, is covered in cacti and succulent plants. One of these species is a gem in plain sight — the aloe vera plant.

The aloe industry in Aruba dates back to the eighteenth century, when Mon Plaisir and Socotero were the largest producers. In the 1920s, two thirds of the island were covered with “lily of the desert” — an old name for the aloe — and to commemorate the plant as one of Aruba's first sources of substantial income, aloe appears on the country's coat of arms. While other islands around the Caribbean exported sugar, bananas, coffee, cocoa, citrus, nutmeg, and other crops, Aruba was steadily cultivating aloe and successfully distributing aloe-based products around the globe — aptly earning the name Island of Aloes.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



In more recent years, houses and buildings have replaced many aloe fields, leaving a sole remaining plantation in Hato, on the northern outskirts of Oranjestad — the legacy of an enterprising businessman from more than a century ago.

Adapted from Shelly-Ann Inniss, "Aloe Vera: The Thorny Balm".

Caribbean Beat, Issue 145 (May/June 2017).

Retrieved from <http://caribbean-beat.com/issue-145/aloe-vera-thorny-balm#axzz4tqLzXpDu>.

Total 25 marks

SECTION A

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

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

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SECTION A

Question 1.

You MUST write your points for the summary on this page.

LIST OF FIVE MAIN POINTS

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(5 marks)



SECTION B

(Suggested time: 30 minutes)

You MUST answer this question.

Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided, pages 10 and 11. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 9 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT BE MARKED.

2. Study the situation presented below and then answer the question that follows.

You are the outgoing president of your school's students' council. Elections for a new executive is scheduled for Friday, 25 June 2020 at 10.00 a.m. at your school's auditorium. The following positions on the executive will be available:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Public Relations Officer

Students need to be informed that the president of the student's council must be a fifth form student. Further, students must vote for a candidate for every position available.

Write a notice that will be placed on the students' notice board.

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

- **format your notice**
- **select relevant and complete information**
- **organize and express the information in your notice**
- **use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.**

Your notice MUST be in continuous prose.

Make sure to include all the relevant details in the notice so that students will be fully informed of the elections.

Total 30 marks

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



SECTION B

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

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SECTION B

Question 2.

You MUST write your answer on this page.

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SECTION C

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

You **MUST** answer **ONE** question from this section.

Your answer 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, pages 14–17. You are expected to write within the word limit. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 13 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) use the stimulus provided
- (b) develop and organize the content of your writing
- (c) use language appropriate to your audience, purpose and content
- (d) use appropriate grammar, sentence structure, paragraphs, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

EITHER

SHORT STORY

3. Write a story based on the picture below.



Source: www.danheller.com

(25 marks)

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



OR

4. “Mr Mattar was a well-known and respected member of the community but lately he had become quite withdrawn. No one could explain the change until the day the stranger arrived.”

Write a story which includes these sentences.

(25 marks)

SECTION C

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

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SECTION C

Write your answer to the question you have chosen to answer in Section C here.

Remember to write your question number in the box provided below.

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SECTION C

Write your answer to the question you have chosen to answer in Section C here.

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SECTION C

Write your answer to the question you have chosen to answer in Section C here.

Remember to write your question number in the box provided below.

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SECTION D

(Suggested time: 45 minutes)

You MUST answer this question

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

You MUST write in Standard English. Write your answer on the RULED PAGES provided, pages 20–24. You are expected to write within the word limit. There may be more space than you need. There is a blank space on page 19 for any notes you may want to make. THIS WILL NOT NOT BE MARKED.

In your answer, you will be assessed on the

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

- 5. “The number of road accidents will decrease if the age for obtaining a driver’s licence is increased to 20 years.”**

Write an essay giving your views on the statement.

(25 marks)



SECTION D

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

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



SECTION D

Question 5.

You MUST write your answer on this page.

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing an answer.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



SECTION D

Question 5.

You MUST write your answer on this page.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing the answer.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE



SECTION D

Question 5.

You MUST write your answer on this page.

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SECTION D

Question 5.

You MUST write your answer on this page.

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END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.

The Council has made every effort to trace copyright holders. However, if any have been inadvertently overlooked, or any material has been incorrectly acknowledged, CXC will be pleased to correct this at the earliest opportunity.



EXTRA SPACE

If you use this extra page, you **MUST** write the question number clearly in the box provided.

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CANDIDATE'S RECEIPT

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATE:

1. Fill in all the information requested clearly in capital letters.

TEST CODE:

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SUBJECT: ENGLISH A – Paper 02

PROFICIENCY: GENERAL

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

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FULL NAME: _____
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

2. Ensure that this slip is detached by the Supervisor or Invigilator and given to you when you hand in this booklet.
3. Keep it in a safe place until you have received your results.

INSTRUCTION TO SUPERVISOR/INVIGILATOR:

Sign the declaration below, detach this slip and hand it to the candidate as his/her receipt for this booklet collected by you.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the candidate's booklet for the examination stated above.

Signature: _____
Supervisor/Invigilator

Date: _____

