



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC YEAR (2024/2025) – SEMESTER ONE
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE : HIS109
COURSE TITLE : Indigenous Societies in the Caribbean
LECTURER(S) : Rhysea Joseph
DATE : 18th December 2024
TIME : 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
DURATION : 2 Hours
STUDENT ID # : _____



GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Students must sign **IN** and **OUT** on the examination class list.
- Write your ID number on the question paper.
- Please number your responses accurately.
- **This paper consists of 3 sections. Students must complete each section.**
- Section A: There are 10 multiple choice questions. Answer **ALL QUESTIONS**.
- Section B: There is one source-based question. Students **MUST** answer this question.
- Section C: This section consists of essay questions. Students must answer **ONE** question from the available options.

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

SECTION A

Circle or shade the best answer that corresponds with each question. This section is worth **10 marks.**

1. What is known as the Van Sertima thesis?
(A) African presence in the Americas predated Europeans
(B) Indigenous presence in the Americas predated Africans
(C) Indigenous presence in the Americas predated Europeans
(D) European presence in the Americas predated Africans
2. What archaeological evidence Van Sertima did NOT use to prove his thesis?
(A) Artifacts (B) Skeletons
(C) Monuments (D) Stone heads
3. All of the following evidence exist of Nordic presence in the Americas before Columbus EXCEPT
(A) religious (B) linguistic
(C) botanical (D) metallurgical
4. L'Anse aux Meadows shows evidence of Nordic Style
(A) smelting (B) recycling
(C) leaching (D) concentrating
5. Most archeological evidence of Nordic presence in the Americas was garnered from the excavation at
(A) Oklahoma Rune
(B) Spirit Pond Eune
(C) Kensington Rune
(D) L'Anse aux Meadows
6. Which of the following BEST explains why Spain invaded the Americas?
(A) To search for gold
(B) To spread Christianity
(C) To secure colonial empires
(D) To spread European civilization
7. Under the encomienda system, the Spaniards were given title to and allowed to use Indigenous lands and villages in return for
(A) using the Indians as labourers
(B) converting the Indians to Christianity
(C) developing the villages for all to benefit
(D) sharing the mineral resources with the Indians
8. The Encomienda System failed because
(A) Spanish colonist neglected it
(B) it was unprofitable for the Spanish colonist
(C) after being Christianised the Indigenous Peoples fled
(D) Indigenous People did not provide an effective labour force
9. Which of the following is NOT true of the response of the Indigenous peoples to the Spanish conquistadores on horses?
(A) They gladly welcomed the Spaniards
(B) That size animal was unusual to them
(C) They thought that man and animal was one
(D) Indigenous people thought the Spaniards were Gods

10. 14. What was MOST responsible for the decimation of the Indian population in the Americas?
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (A) European guns | (B) European swords |
| (C) European animals | (D) European disease |

SECTION B

The extracts below relate to the early contact Europeans with Africa and the Americas before 1492. Study the extracts, then answer Parts (a) to (d) that follow.

Document I

There they laid up their ship, and spent a pleasant winter, and caught fish for their support. But in the spring... some of the men sailed away round the eastern shores of the land and Thorvald went up the country with all his companions. He then said: "Here it is beautiful, and here would I like to raise my dwelling." Then went they to the ship... and saw upon the sands ... three skin boats (canoes), and three men under each... caught them all, except one, who got away with his boat. They killed the other eight, and then went back to the cape, and looked round them, and saw some heights inside of the firth (mouth of a river), and supposed that these were dwellings. Then rushed out from the interior of the firth (mouth of a river) an innumerable crowd of skin boats, and made towards them. Skrælings shot at them for a time, but afterwards ran away, each as fast as he could.

"Saga of the Greenlanders, 1002".

Retrieved 8 December 2003 from <https://notendur.hi.is/haukurth/utgafa/greenlanders.htm>.

Document II

You should know that the said Lord Infante of Portugal [the crown prince, Henry the Navigator] has leased this island of Argin [off the coast of West Africa] to Christians [for ten years], so that no one can enter the bay to trade with the Arabs save those who hold the license. These have dwellings on the island and factories where they buy and sell with the said Arabs who come to the host to trade for merchandise of various kinds...

Alvise da Cadamosto, "Description of Capo Bianco and the Islands Nearest to it, (1455-56)". In J. H. Parry, European Reconnaissance: Selected Documents, New York: Walker, 1968, pp. 59-61. Retrieved 1 December 2010 from [http://college.cengage.com/history/world/bulleit.earht_peoples/2e/students/primary/slave trade.htm](http://college.cengage.com/history/world/bulleit.earht_peoples/2e/students/primary/slave%20trade.htm)

Document III

He [Columbus] wanted to find out what the Indians of Hispaniola had told him, that there had come to it from the south and southeast Negro people, who brought those spear points made of a metal which they call guanin, of which he had sent to the king and queen for assaying, and which was found to have in thirty-two parts eighteen of gold, six of silver, and eight of copper.

Cited in Van Sertima, Ivan. They came before Columbus,

The African Presence in Ancient America, New York: Random House, 1976, p. 1

*Raccolta, parte 1, Vol. I (1498).
Retrieved 9 December 2013.*

(a) With reference to Document I, who were the people encountered by Thorvald in his exploration? Give TWO reasons for your answer. **[6 marks]**

(b) With reference to Document II, outline THREE ways in which Prince Henry, the Navigator aided in establishing contact between Portugal and West Africa before 1492. **[9 marks]**

(c) With reference to Document III, give TWO reasons to support the claim that Africans had arrived in the Caribbean before the 1490s. **[6 marks]**

(d) With reference to Documents I, II and III, give THREE points to support the view that there was a network across the Atlantic long before Columbus' voyages. **[9 marks]**

Total 30 marks

SECTION C

Answer **ONE** question from this section in the form of an essay.

1. 'The claim of a West African presence in the Americas prior to Columbus' arrival is unconvincing.' Assess this view.

Total 30 marks

2. Evaluate the ways in which Spanish Settlement in the Caribbean changed the political, social and economic conditions of the Indigenous people in the period 1492 to 1600.

Total 30 marks