

TEACHERS COLLEGES OF JAMAICA

**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 2021 EXAMINATIONS**

**COMMON PAPER
LANGUAGE ARTS
COMMUNICATION SKILLS 2**

[LA202GEB]

EC/PRIM/SEC

YEAR 2

TIME: 2 ½ HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS: Candidates are required to answer TWO questions, ONE from
SECTION A and ONE from SECTION B.**

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

SECTION A

[30 marks]

Write an argumentative essay in 450- 500 words on ONE of the following topics.

1. The advantages of face-to-face schooling outweigh the benefits of online education.
2. The natural environment in Jamaica has been destroyed by the government's quest to build new roads.
3. Economic gain does not compensate for the negative outcomes of parental migration.
4. The education system, as it currently exists, does not prepare persons to be productive and effective citizens.

SECTION B
[20 marks]
CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Answer ONE question from this section.

In 350 -400 words write a critical analysis of ONE of the following.

EITHER

Question #1

The Sugar Issue

Adapted from *Diluting Sugar*, by Christopher Tufton
Published in: *The Sunday Gleaner* | Sunday, March 17, 2019

1. The late writer, historian, and philosopher William Durant is credited with the saying, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” I preface this article with this quote since it is excellence that we are after in public health in Jamaica.
2. To achieve excellence in public health, sometimes tough or otherwise uncomfortable policy decisions have to be made – tough and uncomfortable for those who may consider that they are being penalized, albeit for the greater public good. I note the recent news headlines on sugar – a fuel that fires obesity, a known modifiable risk factor for the scourge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) now plaguing Jamaica.
3. ‘Big Sugar’, as one newspaper refers to a group of private-sector stakeholders, is critical of behavior change campaign efforts by non-government organization (NGO) stakeholders and policy shifts of the Ministry of Health to reduce the amount of sugar consumed by, in particular, our children. Yet, these efforts must continue; there is too much at stake.

RISK FACTORS

4. Among children and adolescents, modifiable risk factors for NCDs, such as high consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), low fruit, low vegetable and water intake, and low physical activity levels have been found to be significantly associated with overweight and obesity. The calories provided by SSBs have little nutritional value.
5. The reality is that 69.9 per cent of Jamaican students aged 13-15 years have been reported to drink carbonated drinks one or more times per day – 73.7 percent of them males and 66.5 percent females (Global School-based Student Health Survey, GSHS, 2017). At the same time, overweight and obese children are at higher risk of

developing serious health problems, including Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and other respiratory problems, sleep disorders, and liver disease. They may also suffer from psychological effects, such as low self-esteem, depression and social isolation. Obese children are more likely to develop NCDs early in life as adults or may already have an NCD.

ECONOMIC BLOW

6. There is no discounting the contributions of the food and beverage industry to the Jamaican economy. However, unless we arrest the scourge of NCDs, we are putting at risk the entire economy, now and in the future. This, since the healthcare expenditure for the treatment of NCDs is likely to increase, even as the economy is negatively impacted due to reduced productivity among persons who are ill, to say nothing of the emotional and financial strain on families, unless we do something about it.
7. We currently spend 15 per cent of our health budget on diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer - as is reflected in the 2017 investment case for the prevention and control of NCDs in Jamaica. That investment case also reveals that at minimum, the Jamaican economy stands to lose some J\$77.1 billion over a 15-year period (2017 – 2032), should we fail to implement a package of intervention packages for NCDs, notably diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, tobacco, and alcohol control. What is more, investing in a package of priority policies and programmes is estimated to yield a return on investment of \$JMD 2.10 for everyone JMD spent.
8. It is on the strength of this kind of data that the Ministry of Health – through initiatives such as Jamaica Moves, the Taking Responsibility Road Tour, and the Restriction of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in Schools – is tackling NCDs. Meanwhile, it has been suggested that there is an ongoing media war on sugar. The suggestion that I, as the Minister of Health, am out to destroy the sugar industry is, frankly speaking, ridiculous. Indeed, I am not against the consumption of sugar, I am against the excessive consumption of sugar and to the extent that public health is compromised.

Finally, if private-sector stakeholders have particular concerns with our efforts to preserve public health, then I urge them to come to the table and let us discuss it. I am willing and available to speak with them in a spirit of cooperation and with the goal of ensuring the best possible health outcomes for all Jamaicans while facilitating opportunities for industry to prosper through innovation and creativity.

Dr. Christopher Tufton is the Minister of Health and Wellness and Member of Parliament for West Central St. Catherine.

OR

Question #2

NIDS Crosses Red Line

There have been many instances in our country's relatively short history where leadership decisions have been made that could so easily have had adverse effects on the health of Jamaica's democracy.

I believe the present Government's recent decision to introduce the National Identification and Registration Act (NIRA) could have such an adverse impact. The Opposition has quite correctly challenged the constitutionality of the introduction of the National Identification Scheme (NIDS).

To justify this piece of legislation, the Government has cited the high level of crime, and sees NIDS as a measure to reduce crime. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to support the contention that NIDS would reduce crime. Issuing national ID cards has certainly not reduced crime in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain where such a scheme exists.

I understand that NIRA makes it compulsory for all Jamaican citizens residing here to be registered and be bearers of a NIDS card. The act further makes it a criminal offence not to be compliant. It follows then, that our police would be authorised by law to stop any citizen of Jamaica and demand to be shown his or her NIDS card. Failure to do so would likely lead to prosecution.

My concern is that this could lead to the police profiling certain people in deciding just who should be stopped and checked for possession of their card. Giving the police a licence to stop anyone at random is an infringement of our constitutional right to be able to be "free to move about without an obligation to carry a pass, and not to be subject to arbitrary or random stop and searches."

National ID cards have often been described as 'local or internal passports', which every citizen would be required to have on his/her person in order to move about in his/her country to conduct personal or lawful business.

PERSONAL DATA

NIDS requires a large amount of personal information/data that is not voluntarily provided, information we will have to trust will be properly secured. How confident are we that the security of such information will not be compromised? Just who will be responsible for securing it?

It is noted that our personal information/data will not be made available to others, except when it is in the interest of national security. In that case, it may be made available to others. Just who or what will be the arbiter in the decision to release such information?

In addition, in the past, very sophisticated and advanced systems have been compromised/

breached or hacked, and one's personal data would be subject to abuse, putting the victim at great risk and expense and/or loss of rights guaranteed for every citizen of Jamaica by virtue of the Constitution. Our political leaders should not believe for one moment that their personal information/data could not also be used by their opponents to gain political advantage.

So Jamaicans will be compelled to be NIDS registered, and those who are not will be guilty of an offence. In addition, because we will also not be able to conduct business or be provided with services by government bodies or agencies, we will not be able to be registered as voters or exercise our franchise at the polls. Those so disenfranchised will effectively have no say as to who represents them in Parliament, and thus have no voice in the selection of the government.

These constitutional rights for us, Jamaicans, are fundamental to the health and preservation of our democracy, and we should jealously guard the same.

I urge the Government to give very careful thought to the introduction of NIDS or any such similar scheme that interferes with or violates our rights. It is still not too late, regardless of any ruling by the court with regard to the Opposition's claim, to withdraw this piece of legislation. They need not be afraid of doing so, as they would be in good company: the British did exactly that with its NIDS.

Colonel Allan Douglas, former officer in the Jamaica Defence Force

The Jamaica Gleaner: Tuesday | November 6, 2018

END OF EXAMINATION