

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GCSE**

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**HISTORY B
(MODERN WORLD)**

British Depth Study, 1939–1975

SOURCE BOOKLET

MONDAY 10 JUNE 2013: Morning

MODIFIED ENLARGED

HOW FAR DID BRITISH SOCIETY CHANGE, 1939–1975?

IMMIGRATION FROM THE CARIBBEAN TO BRITAIN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the years after the Second World War Britain changed in many ways. One important change was the arrival of immigrants from many parts of what had been the British Empire, such as the West Indies (the Caribbean islands). Some immigrants came for short periods and returned home. Others settled and raised families. But why did the immigrants come to Britain? Did they come because they were invited? Were they looking for opportunities in Britain or were they trying to escape from problems back home?

SOURCE A

NEW LONDON TRANSPORT RECRUITING OFFICE OPENS IN BRIDGETOWN



Mr Charlie Gomm, Recruitment Officer for London Transport, is currently interviewing the first applicants in the new office in Bridgetown.

Mr Gomm praised the Barbadian government: ‘The Barbadian government told us they have splendid workers here in Barbados and offered to recruit bus crews for us. I can honestly say that the government of Barbados has been true to its word and the Barbadians who have come to work for us have been truly splendid.’

A leaflet published and circulated by the government of Barbados in 1954. Bridgetown is the capital of Barbados.

The photograph shows a white man sitting behind a desk. He is talking to a young Barbadian man who is dressed smartly in a shirt and tie. Other Barbadian young men are waiting.

SOURCE B

I was a nurse in the West Indies when I went to listen to a young Member of Parliament called Enoch Powell speak in my home town. He was a junior minister in the Department of Health at the time. He was encouraging people like me to come and work in hospitals in England. I was a qualified nurse, I was quite well paid and doing well in my job. But Mr Powell made it sound very attractive to come and work in England. He said England needed people like us. My mother died when I was ten and I was raised by relatives. They were not poor or anything, but they did not really want me and were not very kind to me.

From an interview in the 1980s with a woman from British Guiana who came to Britain in 1956. British Guiana was in the West Indies (the Caribbean).

SOURCE C



A photograph which was used by London Transport as part of a recruitment campaign in the Caribbean in 1958.

The photograph shows a young black woman who is wearing a uniform and carrying a ticket machine. She is standing at the back of a bus.

SOURCE D

I am very unhappy about the immigrants being here. I mean, nobody asked them to come here did they? I think they should live in an area by themselves. In fact I would rather they all went home. I do feel a bit sorry for them because I have heard it's awful where they come from with no electricity or water or anything. They are all poor aren't they? But they are only coming here for the benefits and the health care and the schools for their kids. Most of them don't want to work, and I've heard that the ones who do work are no use.

A woman from Birmingham interviewed for a BBC TV programme broadcast in 1958.

SOURCE E

In recent years increasingly large numbers of unskilled young men have migrated from the West Indies to seek work in England. As a rule they leave home in despair at conditions there. High cost of living, unemployment, poor wages and lack of welfare benefits drive them out.

Many are guilty of wishful thinking because they have seriously overestimated the number of job opportunities and the wages they will receive. If you are one of these people I warn you that you should only come here if you have a valuable skill or if you are part of a scheme run by the government or an organisation like the National Health Service.

If you are not in this position and you decide to come and seek work you will find many difficulties. Nobody will take care of you and you will not feel welcome. Accommodation will be hard to find. The weather is cold. You will be the last man hired and the first man fired from any job.

From a book called 'A West Indian in England' published in 1954. It was written by a West Indian who had settled in England.

SOURCE F

Immigration from the West Indies has been steadily increasing in recent years and there is no sign that it will fall. Unemployment and poverty are high in these countries. Wages are low and life is hard. By contrast, wages here in Britain are high and there is a shortage of workers, both skilled and unskilled. The rising number of coloured people living here is damaging the strength and unity of our communities and causing great unhappiness. Many of our constituents tell us they feel like they have been invaded. We urge the government to take urgent action to discourage immigrants from coming to Britain. If the government does not act there will be serious consequences.

From a letter sent to the Prime Minister by 10 Members of Parliament in 1958. The MPs came from both Labour and Conservative parties and they represented areas with high immigrant populations.

Constituents = the people in an area represented by a Member of Parliament

SOURCE G



A cartoon published in a British newspaper in 1968. It shows a white man holding up his toe to a smiling black doctor and nurse. He is saying 'You see, doc, I dropped my "I-back-Enoch" placard on my foot.'

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