

The Educational System of Trinidad and Tobago

AACRAO Annual Meeting
March 25, 2008



Country Background



- 7 miles off the coast of Venezuela
- Island of Trinidad discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1498
- Spanish colony 1594-1802 then ceded to the British
- Island of Tobago settled by the Dutch in 1630

Country background



- French colony for 33 years then ceded to British crown in 1814
- Slaves emancipated in 1838
- Contract laborers from India brought in between 1845 and 1917 to support sugar industry and cocoa production
- 1888 islands united as one colony
- Gained independence on August 31, 1962

Country background



- Population 1,056,608 – majority live on island of Trinidad
- Literacy 98.6% - highest in Caribbean
- English is official language
- Caribbean Hindustani (dialect of Hindi), French, Chinese, Spanish also spoken
- 00000 Trinidadian students in U.S.
- Steel drum was invented in Trinidad

Educational system



- Based on British model
- During 19th century, education was primarily a preparation for upper class to continue studies abroad
- Early 20th century, public school system established and open to all
- Government-financed school related to religions on islands open



Educational system

- 1970s: two-cycle secondary system established (3 years junior secondary and 2 years upper secondary)
- 1972: technical/vocational secondary schools opened
- 1975: new primary school syllabus introduced and fully-integrated by 1981

Educational system



- Education is free and compulsory from age 6 to 13
- Primary school begins at age 6 and is 6 years long
- Common Entrance Examination

Educational system



- Secondary school: 5 years (Forms I-V)
 - 3 years junior secondary
 - 2 years upper secondary
- End of Form V: Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC)
- Prior to 1972, students sat for General Certificate of Education “Ordinary” Levels

CSEC



SOSN7019804

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

Date of Birth 25 SEPTEMBER 1979

Registration Number 0016701980

obtained the results shown in the following 6 subjects in the year 1997 JUNE

SUBJECT	PROFICIENCY	GRADE	PROFILE
ART	GENERAL	TWO (II)	DRAWING(B),IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION(B), GRAPHIC DESIGN(B)
BIOLOGY	GENERAL	THREE (III)	KNOWLEDGE AND COMPREHENSION(C), USE OF KNOWLEDGE(C),EXPERIMENTAL SKILLS(C)
CARIBBEAN HISTORY	GENERAL	TWO (II)	KNOWLEDGE(B),USE OF KNOWLEDGE(B), ENQUIRY & COMMUNICATION(B)
ENGLISH A	GENERAL	TWO (II)	UNDERSTANDING(A),EXPRESSION(B)
ENGLISH B	GENERAL	TWO (II)	KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT(B), ORGANISATION OF RESPONSE(A)
MATHEMATICS	GENERAL	FOUR (IV)	COMPUTATION(C),COMPREHENSION(C), REASONING(NA)



Registrar:

John H. Walter

Chairman:

Kenneth D. Hunte

THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT BY FIFTEEN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES IN 1972 AND IS RECOGNISED AS THE EXAMINING BODY FOR THE AREA.

CSEC Grading Scale



Overall Grade	Suggested US Equivalent	Profile Description
I	A	Candidate shows a comprehensive grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
II	B	Candidate shows a good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
III	C	Candidate shows a fairly good grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
IV	D	Candidate shows a moderate grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
V	D	Candidate shows a limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus
VI	F	Candidate shows a very limited grasp of the key concepts, knowledge, skills and competencies required by the syllabus

Educational system



- Form VI
- 2 years
- Choice of 2 examinations:
 - CXC Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE)
 - General Certificate of Education “Advanced” Level Examination

CAPE



CXC **CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL** *5358*
SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE *5358*
This is to certify that
 FRSN16005607

Date of Birth: 12 August, 1989 Registration Number: 1600560447
 obtained the result(s) shown in the following 7 subject(s) in the year 2005 JUNE

SUBJECT	PROFICIENCY	GRADE	PROFILE
CARIBBEAN HISTORY	GENERAL	ONE	KNOWLEDGE(A), USE OF KNOWLEDGE(A), ENQUIRY AND COMMUNICATION(A), UNDERSTANDING(A), EXPRESSION(A), KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT(A)
ENGLISH A	GENERAL	ONE	ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSE(A), COMPUTATION(A), COMPREHENSION(A), REASONING(A)
ENGLISH B	GENERAL	ONE	KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION(A), USE OF KNOWLEDGE(A), EXPERIMENTAL SKILLS(A)
MATHEMATICS	GENERAL	ONE	KNOWLEDGE(A), APPLICATION(A), INTERPRETATION(A)
PHYSICS	GENERAL	ONE	LISTENING(A), READING(B), SPEAKING(B), WRITING(A)
PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS	GENERAL	ONE	
SPANISH	GENERAL	TWO	

CERTIFIED
 ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS' SCHOOL
Matthew Anderson
 PRINCIPAL

BRYANT UNIVERSITY
 FEB 25 2006
 OFFICE OF ADMISSION

Registrar: *Larry Steward* Chairman: *Shirley C. Hall*

THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT BY FIFTEEN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN 1972 AND IS RECOGNISED AS THE EXAMINING BODY FOR THE AREA.
 *Double Subjects: - A weighting equivalent to two subjects is granted for certain integrated examinations which are equivalent to separate examinations in two subjects or which require a total period of preparation in excess of that for two subjects.

CAPE grading scale



Overall Grade	Suggested US Equivalent
I	A
II	B+
III	B
IV	C
V	C
VI	F
VII	F

Educational system



- Variety of post-secondary options
 - Technical and vocational schools
 - Career preparation institutions (ex. Trinidad and Tobago Hotel School)
 - Teacher training college
 - College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (CSTAATT)
 - University of the West Indies
 - University of Trinidad and Tobago
 - University of the Southern Caribbean

Educational system



- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago
 - Associate and bachelor's degree in technical and vocational fields

Educational system



- University of the West Indies
 - Trinidad campus opened in 1962
 - Largest post-secondary institution on Trinidad and Tobago
 - Awards 97% of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees on Trinidad and Tobago
 - Admission requires 5 CSEC passes and 2 CAPE/GCE "A" levels
 - Accredited by Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)

UWI grading scale



Grade	GPA	Marks %	
A+	4.3	86-100	
A	4.0	70-85	
A-	3.7	67-69	First Class Honours 3.6 and above
B+	3.3	63-66	
B	3.0	60-62	Upper Second Class Honours 3.00 – 3.59
B-	2.7	57-59	
C+	2.3	53-56	
C	2.0	50-52	Lower Second Class Honours 2.00 - 2.99
C-	1.7	47-49	Third Class Honors 1.50-1.99 (BSc only)
D+	1.3	43-46	
D	1.0	40-42	Pass (1.0 – 1.49)
F	0.0	0-39	

UWI grading scales



- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree classifications:
 - First Class Honours
 - Second Class Honours (Upper and Lower)
 - Pass
- MB BS, DDS, DVM degree classifications:
 - Honours with distinction
 - Honours
 - Pass

Educational system



- University of Trinidad and Tobago
 - Founded in 2004
 - Result of government's goal of tripling post-secondary university enrollment
 - Bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs
 - Admission requires 5 CSEC passes and 2 CAPE/GCE "A" levels
 - Accredited by ACTT

UTT grading scale



Percentage Grade	Letter Grade	Points Grade
90-100	A+	4.0
85-89	A	4.0
80-84	A-	3.7
77-79	B+	3.3
73-76	B	3.0
70-72	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
63-66	C	2.0
60-62	C-	1.7
55-59	D+	1.3
50-54	D	1.0 (minimal pass)
0-49	F	0.0

Educational system



- University of the Southern Caribbean
 - Affiliated with Seventh Day Adventist Church
 - Bachelor and master's degree
 - Not accredited by ACTT

Educational system



■ Teacher training

- 2 teacher training colleges (now part of UTT)
- Minimum entry requirement for primary school teachers: 5 CSEC passes
- 2-year programs – Teacher's Diploma
- Certificate of Education – one year, part-time
- Secondary school teachers: Diploma in Education – one year, part-time following Certificate of Education
- 3-year Bachelor of Education (BEd) - 1992
- Master of Education (MEd) – UWI, 2 years, part-time for teachers, principals, administrators, supervisors

Educational system



■ Resources:

- Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education: <http://stte.gov.tt>
- Caribbean Examinations Council: www.cxc.org
- Trinidad and Tobago Training Agency: www.ntatt.org
- COSTAATT: www.costaatt.edu.tt
- UWI: www.sta.uwi.edu
- UTT: www.utt.edu

Placement recommendations



- *Common School Examination*: place in grade 7
- *CSC CSEC*: completion of senior high school
- *GCE A Level/CAPE*: Each A-level/CAPE subject passed represents completion of the introductory sequence of that subject in the United States. Credit may be awarded for academic subjects on a course-by-course basis.
- *Teacher's Diploma*: Comparable to completion of 2 years of undergraduate study
- *Certificate of Education*: Comparable to completion of 3 years of undergraduate study

Placement recommendations



- *Associate's degree*: comparable to completion of 2 years of undergraduate study in the U.S.
- *Bachelor of Nursing*: comparable to completion of 3 years of undergraduate study in the U.S.
- *Bachelor of Education*: comparable to a bachelor's degree in the U.S.
- *Bachelor Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery*: comparable to completion of a first professional degree in medicine in the U.S.
- *Doctor of Dental Surgery*: comparable to a first professional degree in dentistry in the U.S.

Placement recommendations



- *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*: comparable to a first professional degree in veterinary medicine
- *Post-Graduate Diploma*: comparable to a master's degree in the U.S.
- *Master's degree (in any field)*: comparable to a master's degree in the U.S.
- *Doctor of Philosophy*: comparable to an earned doctorate in the U.S.
- *Medical Doctorate/Doctor of Medicine*: comparable to post-doctoral study in the U.S.