

English A
May – June 2011

Section D: Question 7

The government should ban the importation of all fruits and vegetables in support of local production. Write an essay giving your views.

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The government should ban the importation of all fruits and vegetables in support of local production. This can be done to improve the agricultural sector but lots of work will have to be done first for local production to be increased.

Farmers in Jamaica are encouraged to grow produce to be sold locally through incentives such as government subsidies and markets where they can sell their produce. The government supports them by lowering taxes and sometimes allowing them to squat on government land. This however is in strong contrast to a recent issue where over 10 hectares of farms were bulldozed without the farmers being notified. Irrational moves such as this discourage farmers and consumers are left with no choice other than to buy imported fruits and vegetables. If the government really wishes to support local production they should consider leaving some land to farmers instead of have them squatting and then bulldozing their crops.

Farmers should be assisted with loans and proper tools so that they could increase production and hence imported fruits and vegetables could be banned. Farming is the only means of livelihood for some people in Jamaica and presently it is a low income job. Some farmers are also unable to seek better jobs due to little or no education and I firmly believe if assisted by the government they can help increase local production so that imported fruits and vegetables could be banned.

Even if all these measures are implemented, there are still some consumers who have preference for ^{foreign} ~~imported~~ fruits and vegetables and therefore will not support the local produce being

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offered at the markets and groceries. Also, due to climatic restrictions only certain fruits and vegetables would be able to be grown locally. As a result of this there would still be a great demand for imports. The only solution therefore would be to ban importation.

The easiest solution therefore would be to ban importation of fruits and vegetables that could be grown locally. If the govt continues to give incentives and maybe even improve them, local production could be increased.

Comments

The question required candidates to write an argumentative essay.

This response indicated that the student has mastered at his level, the requirements of argument. This student established a clear stance on the issue, with a necessary modification/clarification of perspective, developed each point fully and logically, recognised counter arguments, and addressed them, without being dogmatic.

The argument acknowledged that good had been done, and that irrational or suppressive acts that negate the good, had also been carried out.

It pointed out how irrational acts could reduce incentive, offer further ideas to encourage production, and pointed out that there was room for more work to achieve the goal.

The student did not just list ideas, but gave reasons for many of the things said.

It acknowledged that there were some counter arguments and suggested modification which accepted the value of those positions.

Areas of weakness included the use of parallel structures and understanding when to use the conditional tense. There were also some punctuation flaws.