

**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.**

Do not  
write  
in this  
margin.

Do not  
write  
in this  
margin.

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 Trinidad are encouraged to grow produce to be sold locally through incentives such as government subsidies and marketed where they can sell their produce. The government supports farmers 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. Incentives 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 leasing some land to farmers instead of have them squatting and then bulldozing their crops.

Farmers should be assisted with land 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 Trinidad 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 <sup>foreign</sup> imported fruits and vegetables and therefore will not support the local produce being

Write on both sides of the paper and start each answer on a new page.

Do not  
write  
in this  
margin.

offered at the markets and grocery. Also, due to climatic restrictions  
they only contain fruits and vegetables could be able to be grown  
locally. As a result of this there would still be a great demand  
for imports. Therefore, there would be further 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 impose them, local  
production could be intensified.

Do not  
write  
in this  
margin

### 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.