

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

This report on Commonwealth Topics in Examinations was considered by one of the committees set up by the Workshop on Teaching about the Commonwealth organized by the African Social Studies Programme and held in Nairobi in August 1978.

The committee recommended that Ministries of Education and Examining Boards in Commonwealth countries should, in addition to essay-type questions, set multiple choice and short answer questions on the Commonwealth, including some which are designed to elicit a response from given material (e.g. pictures, excerpts from documents, graphs, tables and flow charts).

The committee also drew up the following criteria as a guide to Examining Boards in framing questions on the Commonwealth:

1. Some questions should focus on the Commonwealth as a unit rather than on individual countries within the Commonwealth. Others should explore the role of an individual country in the Commonwealth or its impact on other members of the Commonwealth. (Thus, instead of asking candidates to explain the importance in the history of modern Africa of (a) apartheid, (b) Nkrumah, (etc.) a question could be phrased as follows: "Explain why (a) apartheid, (b) Rhodesia, (etc.) are sources of conflict among members of the Commonwealth".
2. Questions should be included that deal with:
 - (a) issues that have arisen since the formation of the modern Commonwealth;
 - (b) co-operation and conflict, and similarities and differences within the Commonwealth;
 - (c) the search for new relationships aimed at improving the quality of life of the peoples of the Commonwealth (e.g. the New International Economic Order, equal partnership, self reliance etc.).