

Sample Answer 7

Examine how migration can impact on racial patterns.

Examine the impact of colonialism on racial distribution.

(80 marks)

Marking Scheme:

Number of aspects discussed:	3 @ 20 marks each	4 @ 15 marks each
<u>For each aspect:</u>		
Identifying aspect	4 marks	3 marks
Discussion	8 x SRPs	6 x SRPs

Overall Coherence 20 marks graded* 20 marks graded*

In this answer, I choose 3 aspects to discuss (1 Colonisation/ Out-migration from European colonial powers, 2. the slave trade and 3. migration from former colonies.). Overall coherence means how well your answer is structured (Introduction, main section, conclusion – well-structured and coherent) and do you keep to the point/ answer the question directly.

Race refers to the physical variations in the appearance of human beings (skin colour, facial features, hair and stature) which are passed on genetically from generation to generation. Anthropologists have divided humankind into a small number of broad racial groupings concentrated in different parts of the world, which are Caucasian, East Indian and Sub-Saharan African. Racial distribution of these groups can be attributed to the following three aspects which I will discuss: Colonisation/ Out-migration from European colonial powers, secondly the slave trade and finally migration from former colonies.

Colonialism refers to "The military, political, economic and cultural domination of one country by another". Through colonization there was a massive out-migration of Caucasians from countries such as France, Belgium and Britain across the world, lured by the prospect of employment, cheap land and other material advancements. These migrants and their descendants changed the racial mix of the colony to which they migrated to. In North America, settlers were seeking refuge from religious persecution in Britain and mainland Europe. Following the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492, Caucasian Europeans arrived and populated a continent which was already occupied. Virtual metropolises existed in North America, built by an East-Asian race of explorers in the form of what are called Cahokia. Here houses and courtyard mansions lined the streets leading to public plazas. Tombs, temples or palaces existed, built by the founding people, known as Paleo-Indians. The most technologically advanced regions were today's Peru and Mexico where the Inca and Aztec empires existed. The decisive factor in the European conquest and colonization of the Americas was what is called 'the Columbian exchange' (ie. infectious diseases transferred between racial groups where immunities have not built up). Diseases such as influenza were the main contributing factor to the indigenous Taino Indians of Hispanola for example going from 300,000 strong to virtually extinct 50 years later. Smallpox and measles contributed to the decimation of Central and South American populations and along with it the Inca empire and Aztec. It was so effective in that germ warfare became

a method of colonization when in 1763 documents show how British officers, who had first arrived on the Mayflower in 1620, gave Indian chiefs on the Ohio infected blankets from a smallpox hospital. Following this and under the European law of *res nullius*, land could then be taken if it was unoccupied, paving the way for European expansion through colonization. An average estimate suggests that the Indian population of all the Americas declined from 50 million in 1492 to 5 million by 1650, and were replaced by Caucasians in a multiracial society. Likewise, colonisation (out-migration) also contributed to the expansion of multiracial societies beyond Europe towards the Antipodeans. Australia had been settled by Aborigines 40,000 years ago, who are themselves an entirely separate racial group (protohistoric Negroid). Here the 'carry capacity' (the population which can be supported by the natural resources of an area) affected the influence of Caucasians as drought and lack of natural resources kept human settlement low. While in Africa colonization was limited to the trading region of southern Africa.

Secondly, racial mixing continued across the globe as during the slave trade at least 12 million African men, women and children were transported across the Atlantic. These slaves were sold into servitude on their arrival in the Americas, to work on plantations tending cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and cacao (*see Brazils economic notes also*). Therefore, these slaves found themselves in Brazil, Suriname, Jamaica, Haiti and the southern states of North America (Mississippi and Alabama). During the 18th Century, the slave trade was in full swing, dominated by the Caucasian racial group, assisted by Sub-Saharan tribes of Africa. European powers of Portugal, Spain, France, the Netherlands and Britain were benefiting. Slavery itself was a legal institution in the United States, primarily of Africans and African Americans, but while racial groups co-existed in America, racial mixing was not common. In 1776, with the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, liberty did not have the same connotations as it does today. In 1776, signed by slave owners, it did not mean that the disempowered (Sub-Saharan Africans or East Asians - Native Americans) could gain and exercise power. The American order was therefore upheld, which some thought was mandated by God (known as "*manifest destiny*"). Even today, while racial mixing is prevalent in Brazil, where people of mixed race account for 39% of the population, in the US this number only accounts for 12% of the population.

Finally, counter-migration from former colonies has led to an increase in racial mixing, particularly amongst former colonial powers. During the 1950's for example, the French and British empires began to collapse for a variety of reasons such as the legacy of World War 2 and the rise of nationalism. Therefore, over the last sixty years push and pull factors have contributed to people from former colonies (donor countries) moving to their former colonial countries (recipient countries). This was aided in some circumstances by the former colonies joining the British commonwealth (eg. In 1972 people of Indian extraction fled Uganda due to persecution from Idi Amin, seeking a better life in the UK). Push factors include civil war, political persecution or religious persecution for example have led these racial groups to seek asylum within Europe. Pull factors include jobs also leads economic migrants from these former colonies. The most recent migration crisis is also unprecedented as among of the 1.2 million first-time applications for asylum in the EU in 2016, over a quarter came from war-torn Syria, with Afghanistan and Iraq in second and third place respectively.