

# Grade 9 Answer

## Explain Importance

8  
Marks

### Question:

Explain the importance of the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) for the Spanish Empire in the Caribbean. (8 marks)

### Answer:

The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) was crucial for the Spanish Empire in the Caribbean as it legally established Spain's rights to newly discovered lands west of an imaginary line drawn through the Atlantic. This agreement, negotiated between Spain and Portugal, effectively divided the world outside Europe into two zones of influence, granting Spain exclusive access to lands in the Americas. As a result, the Treaty provided Spain with the legal and moral authority to explore, colonize, and expand in the Caribbean without interference from Portugal. This enabled Spain to establish colonies, such as Santo Domingo in 1496, and laid the foundation for Spanish territorial expansion throughout the Americas, consolidating Spain's influence and power in the New World.

The Treaty also limited competition from Portugal, allowing Spain to focus on exploring and exploiting the resources of the Caribbean without fear of Portuguese intervention. This was significant for the Spanish Empire because it allowed Spain to control valuable resources, including gold, which was crucial for funding its European empire and maintaining Spain's power across the continent. The treaty's provisions also helped Spain secure a monopoly over Caribbean trade routes, enabling it to dominate and extract wealth from the New World, further solidifying Spain's economic and political influence. Ultimately, the Treaty of Tordesillas was key in transforming the Caribbean into a Spanish stronghold and marked the beginning of Spain's expansive empire in the Americas.

### Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has explained and analysed the importance and included accurate and relevant knowledge.

