

NAME:

### LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES:** is a group of specialized departments (employed by government) of the Bahamas whose job is to oversee the observance of the law and to make sure that the laws are obeyed and carried out. These agencies include: The Royal Bahamas Police Force, The Royal Bahamas Defence Force, Custom, Immigration, The Road Traffic, and The prison.

### THE POLICE FORCE

One of the major responsibilities that the executive and judicial branches of government share is law enforcement. The Royal Bahamas Police is the major law enforcing body in The Bahamas. It was established in 1840 with the appointment of an inspector and constables, initially recruiting expatriates to its ranks. However today the force is entirely Bahamian including the highest position – the commissioner. The task of enforcing the laws in the Bahamas is the responsibility of The Royal Bahamas Police force. Law enforcement agencies are a part of the Ministry of National Security. One such organization that helps to make sure laws are obeyed is the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF). The leader of the RBPF is referred to as “**Commissioner**”.

To enforce the law means to make sure that the laws are obeyed and to try prevent crime. If a crime is committed it is the job of the police to attempt to track down and bring to justice the perpetrators of the crime. The Policeman should be viewed as a friend of society. His job is to help us live in security and happiness, free from fear and anxiety. He has to work long hours, sometimes **through the night so that we can sleep soundly in our beds. Thus to any law-abiding citizen the policeman is a friend who assists in many different ways. However, he must arrest or caution those who break the law if he is in a position to do so. Any man or women aged eighteen or over can join the Royal Bahamas Police Force if he or she is a law-abiding citizen and has a good basic education.**

All applicants are given the same treatment before being assigned to one of the branches such as road traffic, fire, band, criminal investigation department and marine divisions. Opportunities for further education also exist in the Police Force. A Police can rise from

constable right up to the rank of Commissioner, responsible for the entire Police operation. Today, women are encouraged to join the Royal Bahamas Police Force for there are some jobs for which they are specially qualified. The Royal Bahamas Police Force comes under the Ministry of National security. The Police Force is divided into a number of divisions and units. Some of the visible divisions include: the Royal Police Force Band, the Road traffic Division, the Criminal Investigation Division and the Drug enforcement unit. The Police is also divided into districts throughout. The Bahamas, maintaining an effective connection with local communities through links with Neighbour watch programme and other community-based initiatives. Since the 1970s there has led to cooperation with various US agencies such as the drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) as many crimes are drug-related.

**ASSIGNMENT: THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE**

*Answer the following questions in the space provided.*

1. What is the main function of the Police Force?

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(1)

2. Do you believe that the Police is a friend of society? Explain

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(2)

3. List and explain two reason for crime.

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(2)

4. In what year was the Police Force established?

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(1)

5. What is the highest position in the Police Force?

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(1)

6. Identify three divisions within the Police Force?

i \_\_\_\_\_

ii \_\_\_\_\_

iii \_\_\_\_\_ (3)