

KAMSSA 2022 HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

1. Describe the organization of the Trans Saharan trade? (13mks)

- It was the trade across the Sahara Desert.
- It was between North Africa and Western Sudan (West Africa)
- The participants were Africans and Tuaregs
- Others were Arabs, Jews, Phoenicians and Romans.
- The trade was organized by barbers
- They controlled the trade and provided capital to traders
- The trade started far back in the 2nd century A.D.
- The Berbers were the middlemen between North Africa to West Africa.
- They Tuaregs were to guard and guide traders
- They organized the caravans across the desert.
- The means of transport were camels
- Later human portage, ox – drawn carts and horses were used.
- Traders moved in groups called caravans
- Each caravan had a guide, guards and a captain
- The goods were gold, slaves, ostrich feathers, ivory and kola nuts from W. Africa.
- Others were beads, cloths, salt, glass ware guns, swords from North Africa.
- The medium of exchange was barter trade
- Later use of copper and iron bars, cowries' shells, and coins were used as money.
- It was a silent trade because there was no common (common) language.
- The trade was carried out on major routes
- The western, eastern and Trans – continental routes.
- The western route was from Marrakesh via Sijilmasa, Taghaza into western Sudan.
- It had gold and salt trade
- The central route was from Tunis via Ghardames, Ghat, Agades into Kano and Katsina.
- The items were salt and horses
- The Eastern route was from Tripoli via Murzuku into Chad and Kanem – Bornu.
- The items were slaves and salt
- The kings provided security on the trade routes.
- They levied taxes on traders e.g. Askia Mohammed of Songhai
- Slaves were got through raiding villages.
- It lasted for 90 – 100 days. (13mks)

(b) What were the problems faced by the Trans – Saharan Traders (12mks)

- The caravans were attacked by robbers/hostile tribes.
- Tuaregs used fast moving horses and robbed the traders
- There were language barriers
- Transport was difficult, traders used foot across the desert
- Many slaves used died on the way
- The camels carried limited goods thus the volume of goods in trade could not increase.
- There were tropical diseases like malaria, sleeping sickness, many traders were killed.
- Traders were eaten by wild animals.
- There was also insecurity on trade routes due to civil wars e.g. the Almoravids and wars along the Niger belt.
- The climatic conditions in the Sahara Desert was hostile to traders
- Barter trade was difficult; there was often unequal exchange on the basis of value for less.
- There was thirst and hunger, desert had a few oases and hardly any food
- There was high taxes and interest rates.
- There were sandstorms and sand dunes in the desert.
- There was no compass direction, traders got lost.
- There was a problem of inadequate accommodation and storage facilities in the desert.
- The journey from West Africa to North Africa was too long. (12mks)

2(a) Describe the origin of Ghana Empire

(10mks)

- It was one of the first empires in western Sudan
- It was founded in the Savannah region near the river Niger in W. Africa
- It was one of the Negro – empire of Western Sudan.
- Its origin is not clear.
- There are many theories that try to explain the origin of Ghana.
- It is believed that it was founded by a Soninke dynasty in about 300AD
- This was under the leadership of Kaya Maghan.
- It was later called wagadu
- Ghana was used as a king's title meaning "warchief"
- Its capital was Kumbi saleh
- Others say it was founded by white people and it was under the barbar control
- Ghana bordered rivers Senegal, Gambia and Niger.
- These areas occupied by the Mende people
- These people carried out farming as well as taking part in the Trans – Sahara trade.
- They mined gold, salt and made tools like spears and arrows.
- The population grew rapidly and the empire reached its climax in the 11th century.
- It stretched from Timbuktu on the Niger to central Senegal up to the North of Sahara Desert.

(b) Why did this kingdom of Ghana decline

(15mks)

- There were many factors for Ghana's decline
- Some were external and internal factors
- The empire of Ghana falls in the 1200AD
- Governors were harsh and oppressive
- The subjects were over taxed making them rebellious and some started to refuse to pay taxes making it fall.
- Leaders of Ghana were inefficient and weakened especially after the death of Tunkamanin and Basi
- Their death left a political vacuum
- Their empire had become too large to be effectively administered.
- The kingdom was attacked by the Susu and barbarians who wanted gold and trade affected trade and agriculture.
- Wars later led to famine and poverty.
- There was lack of unity between the metropolitan Ghana and provincial Ghana.
- The army became weakened
- There was lack of natural barriers to provide security to the country.
- Many vassal states wanted to be independent e.g. Tekrur, Silla and Diara.
- The kingdom was invaded by the Muslim Almoravids in 1076AD.
- The disruption of the caravan trade by Almoravids led to its decline.
- The rise of Mali under Sundiata Keita led to the fall of Ghana. (15mks)

3(a) Why is Askia Mohammed I the great remembered in the history of Songhai Empire?

- He was Sunni Ali's trusted Soninke general
- He was a prime minister whose original name was Mohammed Toure Ibin Abu Bakar.
- He organized a coup – d'état against Sunni Ali's son in 1492.
- He revived Islam which had declined.
- He improved on trade and commerce
- He made friendship with devout Muslims, he appointed Muslims as his advisers.
- He made pilgrimage to Mecca for two years 1495 – 1497.
- He built a hostel to be used by western Sudanese pilgrims in Cairo using gold.
- He was appointed the caliph of western Sudan
- He discouraged bad practices by his officials e.g. corruption
- He created a strong standing army
- He established an excellent administrative system of government.
- He divided up the empire into provinces in which relatives and friends were given responsibilities
- He established a system of banking and credit to facilitate trade in the empire.
- He unified the system of weights and measures throughout the empire.
- He improved agriculture by digging wells and channels to carry water to desert areas.

- He promoted education in the empire.
- He was referred to as the great.
- He improved on security, peace
- He was over thrown by his son Askia Musa
- He led Songhai to greatness.

(13mks)

(b) What led to the decline of Songhai empire.

(12mks)

- The factors for its fall were external and internal
- The over throw of Askia Mohammed by his son led to the fall of Songhai
- The outbreak of wars weakened the empire.
- There was attacks by the Mossi and Hausa.
- Songhai was large to be ruled effectively by rulers.
- The successors of Askia Mohammed were weak.
- The army became weak to defend the empire against external aggression
- There were religious conflicts with in the empire.
- The vassal states fought to be independent
- The subjects refused to pay tributes and taxes.
- The Moroccan invasion was the last blow to Songhai's decline.
- The invasion led to decline in trade
- Loss of lives
- The system of government failed
- The rise of other states like Oyo, and Kanem Bornu empires
- The factors were political, social and economic.

4(a) Explain the factors that led to the rise of Oyo Empire. (13mks)

- It was the Yoruba empire
- It started in the 19th century
- It was one of the forest kingdoms of west Africa.
- It was started by oduduwe believed to be a god.
- The rise of Oyo was political, social and economic
- Others were geographical
- Oyo had competent kings called Alafins
- Oyo had a written constitution
- Had a centralized system of administration
- Oyo's rise is linked to the strong military organization.
- Yoruba developed early civilization and knowledge seen in their works of iron.
- Oyo people were united with one traditional belief
- Oyo was strategically located in the Northern end of the forest and river Niger.
- Oyo got taxes and tributes from vassal states
- Oyo controlled the trade routes.
- Oyo participated in trade i.e. Trans – Atlantic trade.
- It participated in the Trans – Saharan trade.
- Oyo had a good industrial and craft man ship skills
- Oyo had fertile soil
- Oyo was small in size
- Oyo had strong army
- Had strong unity

(b) Why did this kingdom last for a long time?

(12mks)

- It was one of the forest states
- It was founded in south western Nigeria by the Yoruba speaking people.
- By the 18th – 19th century Oyo kingdom still stood as a powerful state.
- The empire had an efficient well-organized army.
- The empire had strong commanders known as Kakanto
- Oyo had a centralized system of government.
- With Alafin as the leader and was assisted by a council of elders
- As well as the Oyo Messi
- Oyo had a strong economy based on agriculture

- Oyo had a strong industrial sector and
- It took part in the trade – Trans Atlantic trade.
- From the trade, it got taxes and wealth
- Oyo got tributes from vassal states
- Oyo had enough food to feed its population.
- Had effective kings e.g. Alafin's this created stability.
- Oyo had unity
- They had one common language, religion and origin
- Had a good judiciary, executive that changed the powers of Oyo Messis and Alafins
- Had a good system of checks and balances, this eased comical and trade which brought in wealth.

5(a) **Describe the factors that led to abolition of slave trade in West Africa? (10mks)**

- Slave trade is the buying and selling of human beings.
- Slave trade started as early as the 15th Century
- Slaves were taken across the Atlantic Ocean thus Trans – Atlantic slave trade.
- Slavery was recognized in West Africa and was a normal feature to the Africans.
- Between 18th – 19th slave trade was abolished in the world.
- This was led by Britain,
- Later other countries followed i.e. France, America, Spain and Portugal
- It's abolition was due to economic, humanitarian and political factors
- The introduction of machines in Europe
- The revolt of America against Britain led decline in slave trade
- The rise of industrialists under mined slave trade
- The rise of humanitarians like Granville sharp who advocated for human rights
- 1807 slave trade was declared illegal for all British subject
- 1833 it was abolished in the British empire
- Homes were set up in Sierra Leone and Liberia
- Missionaries preached against slave trade
- Religious bodies helped in the abolition of slave trade e.g. Catholics, Anglicans
- The industrial revolution in Europe also contributed to the decline of slave trade
- The influence of philosophers led to abolition of slave trade

(b) **what were the effects of slave trade on West Africa (15 marks)**

- Slave trade caused depopulation
- It lowered the quality of the African people
- Many towns and trading centres came up e.g. brass, New calabar, bonny etc
- Later they became city states
- Slave trade led to decline of some states
- Others rose and expanded e.g. Oyo, Benin, Asante
- It caused human suffering to many Africans
- Slave trade caused inter-tribal wars
- African crafts man ships almost disappeared and this caused a decline in making the local making of cloth.
- It led to growth of European influence in West Africa
- Slave trade weakened the African law and religion, leading to half caste e.g. in upper Guinea
- It led to decline in African art and culture
- It retarded economic development and pyres in Africa
- Many people lost their lives
- A lot of property was destroyed
- Slave trade made Africans to stop growing cash crops which left to Europeans
- Slave trade led to European colonization of west Africa
- It caused insecurity in west Africa. **Any 1 point @ 1mk = 15 marks**

6(a) **Why was the colony of Liberia founded (12 mks) Code L**

- Liberia is a product of the abolition of slave trade.
- It was founded by the American colonization society in 1882
- A few freed American Negroes negotiated for the land at Cape Mesurado
- The first area to be settled was the Island of Shebro.

- Later many settlers occupied areas of Cape Palmas, Grand Bassa and Sinoe.
- Liberia means land of free people who wanted liberty.
- The reasons were many
- It was founded in order to get area for freed slaves considered to be social problem to America.
- The need to Christianize the Negro Africans.
- They wanted to civilize the settlers in the colony
- Liberia had good climate and fertile soils that would favour crop production and settlement.
- Colony was to produce raw – materials for European industries.
- The natural harbors of Liberia at Monrovia contributed to the development of a ship building industry thus area became a calling station for ships.
- There was fresh water in Liberia from her numerous rivers and streams, this favored farming.
- The need to eliminate slave trade and slavery on the African continent.
- The need to make Liberia market place for American made goods led to the founding of the colony.

(b) What problems did the early settler face in Liberia? (13mks)

- Liberia means land for freed slaves
- It was founded in 1882 by the American colonization society.
- The settlers faced the problem of diseases like malaria, small pox.
- There was a problem of hostile local people who did not welcome them on their land.
- Settlers met the harsh rainy season
- There were increased slave trade activities earned out by the Portuguese who operated on west African coastline.
- Many chiefs still wanted slave trade to continue.
- Settlers lacked funds to run the colony because money was got from the American government.
- The French and British Merchants refused to pay custom duties on goods.
- They saw it not independent neither an American colony.
- There was power struggle e.g. DR A – Ayre and Ashum conflicted over the leadership of the colony.
- There was lack of land on which to carry out development activities.
- The constitution imposed on the settlers e.g. the mulattoes were against the Negroes.

7(a) Why did the Christian missionaries come to West Africa. (12mks)

- These were Europeans who came from Europe
- They came in many groups such as the church missionary society, the Roman Catholics.
- Others were the Church of England and church of Scotland, the Baptist mission etc.
- They came to spread Christianity.
- Missionaries came as explorers e.g. Mungo Park and the Lander brothers.
- Missionaries came to stop primitive and backward customs and ways of life.
- They wanted to come and participate in the legitimate trade.
- They wanted to come and control/check slave trade.
- They came to stop/check spread of Islam in West Africa.
- They were agents of colonial rule
- They came as spies for their home governments.
- Missionaries came to provide western education.
- Missionary work started in 15th century and was spear headed by the protestant churches in Europe and America.
- They were encouraged by the evangelical revival in Europe.

(b) Describe the missionary activity carried out in West Africa? (13mks)

- The work of missionaries was led by Portuguese Catholic missionaries.
- This was during the 15th – 17th centuries.
- Missionaries while in West Africa carried different activities.
- They decamped slave trade in many parts of West Africa.
- They opened up homes for freed slaves and centres
- They started churches and planted Christianity in West Africa.
- They opened up mission stations that acted as colonial offices.
- They promoted formal education e.g. Bishop Joseph Shanahan of Nigeria.
- They checked the spread of Islam in parts of West Africa.
- They opened many schools, colleges and Universities in West Africa.

- They fought hard to abolish evil practices like human sacrifice and murder of twins.
- They signed treaties
- They brought West African under colonial rule.
- They introduced new agricultural methods and farms.
- They developed legitimate trade which replaced slave trade.
- They promoted western culture.

8(a) ***Explain the roles and contributions of Kwama Nkrumah in the struggle of Ghana's independence.***
(12mks)

- He was born in 1909
- He got his education in Ghana
- He trained as a teacher in Achimota Collage
- He left for USA and Britain
- He joined the united gold coast convention as secretary in 1942.
- He founded the convention people's party (CCP).
- He organized strikes and demonstrations with the boys i.e. cutting cocoa trees planted by the British.
- He started mass mobilization and campaigns among farmers, women and youth.
- He founded a newspaper the Accra evening times that called for Ghana's independence.
- He called upon the people of Ghana to refuse to work on white farms.
- He was seen as a hero.
- He was arrested together with CCP leaders and detained in 1950.
- His party won elections while in prison.
- He became a prime minister in 1952.
- He Africanized the Ghanaian civil service which forced many foreigners to leave Ghana.
- He won CPP elections in 1957.
- He led Ghana to independence in 1957.
- He later changed the name to gold coast.
- He became the first president of Ghana in 1960.
- He inspired pan – Africanism and called for African unity.

(b) ***Describe the problems faced by the African nationalists in the struggle for West – African Independence?***
(13mks)

- Nationalism refers to the desire for self-rule.
- It started in 1850 to 1960
- Nationalists were the Africans who inspired others to fought/fight against the whites in West Africa.
- Examples include – Kwama Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Felix housphoet Boigy.
- Nationalists formed parties that fought Europeans in their countries.
- Nationalists met problems of lack of resources for the mobilization of different parties.
- There was lack of popular support by the majority of Africans.
- There were religious differences between Moslems and Christians
- Colonial governments were very hostile to political parties.
- Many west Africans were too large to be effectively covered by nationalists.
- There was lack of transport and this hindered work.
- Many areas were remote
- Some political parties were based on tribes.
- There was illiteracy which made comical difficult.
- Many political parties were not allowed by the colonial governments
- Political leaders were put into prison while the youth were arrested by the colonialists.
- The colonial government used divide and rule policy of administration
- Tribal difference.
- Religious different
- Limited supplies like food
- Divide and rule policy
- Poor road networks.

END

