

MERRYLAND HIGH SCHOOLS ENTEBBE

KIGUNGU AND KATABI

S6 TERM ONE 2020 HOLIDAY WORK

DIVINITY 3

AFRICAN RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

Religion refers to the way of life of a given group of people in the society.

According to Professor John. s. Mbiti, Africa traditional religion is the richest part of the African heritage that is found in all human life.

Mbiti added that African traditional religion has dominated the thinking of African people to the extent it has shaped their social life, cultures and their political and economic activities.

From the above, we can conclude that there no pagans in the traditional Africa. All Africans were religious, the living and the living dead.

WRONG AND DEROGATORY UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN RELIGION

Many people including the educated and Christian missionaries have failed to understand this religion because of a number of confusing things written and said about it.

Some people call it ancestral worship/ worship of the dead people which is only small part of it. Others call it superstition i.e. believing and fearing something without proper ground.

It is called paganism a wrong word used to refers to Africans who were not Christians and Muslims.

The religion is also called magic and witchcraft yet actually it is much more than that. Although witch craft features in the traditional way of life, it is not right to equate African traditional religion to witch craft.

There all sorts of false names given to the African traditional religion by those who do not understand it.

They misunderstood African initiation rituals as babyish yet to Africans it was means of worship.

The religion is also wrongly called fetishism, meaning “charms” worn by Africans.

The religion was termed as devilish and yet Africans worshipped gods as assistants to God.

Missionaries looked at Africans as primitive and back word.

They did not know that religion had penetrated into every department of African life, yet to Africans religion was accurate way of life.

Revision question

1. Comment on the different ways in which the early missionaries misunderstood African way of life.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

African traditional religion believed in God as the creator of heaven and earth and all creatures. That is why the Baganda call him katonda, basoga call him Kibumba etc.

This religion also believed in the small gods as the assistants to God.eg the Baganda have different gods as the like Musoke the god of rain,Ddungu the god of hunting etc.

The religion believed in the ancestors and their spirits. These are the people who die d and traditional Africans believe that they are not completely dead but they are living dead.

African traditional religion believed in physical features like mountains, rocks, etc. as dwelling places for the gods and the spirits.

The religion had Art pieces and symbols such as the drums,stools,skins, spears and others which have a lot of religious meaning.

Traditional African believed in prayer and they usually prayed to the divine beings for help.

The religion involved offerings of sacrifices to the gods. They were mainly in form of animals and chicken and they involved shedding of blood.

In addition, African traditional religion involved giving of offerings to the gods and these were in form of food like grains, drinks like local beer etc.

The religion involved African music dance and drama to the gods by the people in order to appease and entertain them.

African traditional religion involved a lot of initiation rituals and practices especially for children at puberty stage.eg circumcision among the kikuyu in Kenya.

It is a religion that emphasized morals and discipline among the children and all society members.eg children were to respect the elders in the society.

African traditional religion involved carrying out of charitable works to the needy. The traditional Africans always

took care of strangers and the needy as a religious obligation.

The religion involved putting up of shrines as worshipping places of the gods. Almost every family in Africa had a shrine to show their being religious and these were locally called “Amasabo” in Buganda.

The religion also had religious leaders in form of diviners, traditional healers, medicine men etc. who connected the people to the gods.

It involved worshiping of the spirits and the gods by the people by drumming and dancing for them.

African traditional religion had a number of rites of passage that were observed.eg Birth rites, Naming rites, funeral ritesetc.

The religion involved a number of celebrations or ceremonies like after a great harvest coming of rains, winning a war etc. were all celebrated.

African traditional religion was and is still not written down like other religion i.e. it has no written scriptures but it's found in people's minds and practices.

The religion called for respect of traditional cultural norms and values and it discouraged marrying of close relatives.

The religion called for keeping of one's virginity until marriage and sex before marriage was highly punishable. E.g. among the Karamajongs and the Bakiga girls who broke their virginity before marriage were killed.

The religion had African riddles, poems and proverbs or wise sayings which were highly respected because they explained religious realities. These passed on to the young by the elders.

African traditional religion involved dreams and visions which were seen as foretelling and explaining events that would happen in the society.

The religion had prophets whose prophetic messages were highly respected because prophets were seen as being close to the spiritual word.

Political leaders also worked as religious leaders and these presided over religious functions especially prayers and sacrifices.

Of all divine beings in traditional Africa, God held the most respected position and he had special attributes like creator Holy, Provider, protector etc.

In traditional African religion, those who were morally upright received blessings from divine beings in form of producing many children, having good harvest etc.

Revision question:

Discuss the characteristics/main features of African Traditional Religion in the Pre-Christian era? (25 marks)

NATURE OF THE AFRICAN GOD

God is the creator of the universe and is given names that describe him as the creator for example the Baganda call Him Katonda meaning the creator

God sustains his creation; he keeps, cares and upholds his creation together.

He provides for what was created, provides life sunshine, rains, water, good health, fertility of people, animals, plants, food and protection.

God rules over the universe and has names like lord, Judge, ruler, distributor etc.

In the human images, is considered father, mother and thus parent. Africans looked at themselves as children of God.

God is also considered as a great friend, people feel at home with Him, believing that He is trustworthy, faithful, close to them and ready to help.

God is attributed to images of human bodily parts that God sees, hears and smells, tastes.

There are also images of human activities said of God, such as eating, sleeping, playing, getting angry, speaking, remembering etc.

God is considered very good towards all people and all things.

God is merciful and kind, the God of pity, of blessings and this expression is often used "May the God mercy be with you."

God is holy and pure, he cannot and does not do any things wrong or evil. He has no faults or failures.

God is powerful and almighty, can do all things and there is nothing which God cannot do.

God is all knowing, there is nothing hidden from him he is the wise one, whose wisdom, knowledge and understanding are without limit.

He is present everywhere in the universe, at once yet not identical with anything or any place.

God limitless, has no limit and is both very far and very near, both beyond and with in.

God is self-existent, he has made all things, yet He is not made. He exists on his own.

He is the first cause, the original source, and he beginning of all things.

God is perceived to be spirit, invisible and everlasting.

God never changes, is considered the same everyday.

God is unknowable, cannot be precisely explained or fully known.

WHERE IS AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION FOUND?

Although African traditional religion has no scriptures, there are number of areas where the religion is found and these include the following:

African traditional religion found in the shrines which are built in peoples' homes and they are believed to be houses of the ancestors.

African traditional religion is found in the physical features like mountains, rocks, big trees and caves for example Mubende rocks, Nakayima tree etc where small gods are believed to be staying

African traditional religion is found in music, dance and drama. This is because most religion go hand in hand with music.

The religion is found in African rites of passages e.g. birth rites, naming rites, funeral rites and initiation rites.

It is found in African proverbs, riddles and poems i.e. such stories contain a lot of religious information.

The religion is found in African art and symbols like stones, sticks, pots, stools and calabashes.

The religion is found in African names of people and places e.g. some names given to people are names of gods e.g. mukama, mukasa, musoke etc

The religion is found in myths and legends, since the was no writing, religious truth was passed down by word of mouth.

It is found in marriage e.g. getting married is away of making ancestors happy.

It can be found in African ceremonies e.g. after a great harvest, successful hunting, victory in war.

The religion is found in people's hearts, minds and practices since it has no written scriptures.

It can be found in food taboos for example women were denied to eat certain foods as way of appeasing spirits for chicken pork raw groundnuts etc among the Baganda.

CHARACTERISTICS/ FORMS WORSHIP IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

In traditional Africa, worship meant communicating to the divine beings such as God, gods and the ancestors.

Africans worshipped God the creator whom they believed to be everywhere and the most powerful of all divine beings.

They also worshipped the gods who were taken as assistants to God.

African further worshipped the ancestors and the ancestral spirits who were taken to be living dead who continued to live among the Living.

Worship took the form of giving sacrifices of animals to the divine beings in order to appease them and overcome calamities in the society.

Worship took place in worship centre such as shrines on mountains, rocks and along river banks.

They worshipped using objects such as local drums, spears, xylophones etc. to the divine beings.

Worship took the form of prayer to the divine beings asking them for their wants and requesting for blessings in Life.

It took place in form of offerings where material and physical things were offered to God and other divine beings.

It also involved singing and dancing for the divine beings to please and appease them. This was in form of the African Music, dance and drama.

Worship took the form of celebrating rites of passage such as birth, naming rites, marriage rites and funeral rites.

It involved asking for forgiveness and reconciliation from the divine beings in order to have a harmonious living with the gods and people in the society.

Africans worshipped basing on family, clan and community levels and their worship sessions involved few and many people.

Worship was led by different religious leaders ranging from Kings, medicine men, rain makers, diviners etc. who connected people to the divine beings.

COMPARISON BETWEEN AFRICAN WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN

WORSHIP Similarities

Both traditional Africans and Christians today worship God the creator of heaven and earth.

Both offer to God in form of worship though Christians offer in form of money.

Both Christians and traditional Africans worship from worship places which are well built.

Both have worship objects in form of music instruments like drums which entertain the worshippers.

Both pray to the divine beings during worship asking for blessings from them.

In both, worship involves singing of songs and dancing to the divine beings in order to appease them.

In both, worship involves asking for forgiveness from the divine beings and reconciling with one another.

In both, people worship the divine beings in both small and big congregations.

Both have religious leaders who lead people during worship and these connect people to the divine beings.

Differences:

Christians worship only one God the creator while the traditional Africans worshipped God alongside the small gods.

Christians during worship offer in form of money while the traditional Africans offered in form of sacrificing animals to the divine beings.

Traditional Africans worshipped from shrines, rocks, along rivers etc. while Christians worship from churches and other holy places.

Africans worshipped in form of celebrating rites of passage while Christians celebrate Christian events like Christmas Easter etc. during worship.

Christians refer to those who died in Christian faith (saints) during worship while the traditional Africans worshiped the spirits of the dead/ancestors.

Examine the forms of worship in the African Traditional society (13 marks)

Compare African forms of worship with the Christian forms of worship today. (12 marks)

IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP TO THE AFRICAN

Worship helped the Africans to express their social and personal problems to the divine being who in turn solve them.

It also helped the Africans renew their relationship and contacts with their departed ones, the ancestor.

This is because the living communicated to their ancestors through worship.

Worship enabled the worshippers to seek or search for divine blessings which make them to become happy and prosperous in life.

Worship imparted good morals into the young generation, and any form of immorality was highly punishable by the divine beings.

Through worship, Africans repented their sins and received forgiveness from the gods which made the live a happy life.

Worship promoted unity among the people in the society. This was because they could worship together. It helped to instill culture into the young generation, who were always taught to respect the society norms as a religious obligation.

Worship was also used by the African to celebrate human life from conception to death and every stage in, birth, naming, initiation and death was marked by worship practices.

Worship enabled the living to receive guidance from the ancestors who were believed to know all.

Through worship people socially interacted with others in society. They came to know one another and promoted relationship.

- It helped to solve society such as witchcraft, diseases, famine etc. this would done by the divine beings when pleased by the living.

Worship helped to please, entertain and keep the ancestors happy in the spiritual world. This was done through sacrificing for them, and letting them eat from the living.

It helped to maintain law and order in the society. This was because it spiritualbeings would be called upon to indentify the wrong does during worship.

Worship promoted justice, peace and harmony in the society. This is because it promoted the spirit of friendship among the people who worshipped the same go

WEAKNESS OF AFRICAN WORSHIP

African worship involved human sacrifice as away of appeasing the divine beings and get whatever the wanted.

African worshiped at times involved the use of abusive and vulgar words when communicating to the gods for example during twin dancing rituals in Buganda.

Worship lacked a uniform order as each family, clan and community worshipped different gods at different times.

Worship at times involved inflicting pain to the people for example at times would punish severely the criminals.

It lacked trained and ordained leaders and respected elders and any body with special quality such as political leaders, diviners and foretellers would lead worship.

It promoted gender inequality because women were usually considered unclean to lead worship and to come near the spiritual beings.

It also promoted revenge, as the people called upon the spirit to harm others through use of witchcraft.

Qn. Asses the importance of worship in the African traditional society (apply both positive and weakness of worship)

AFRICAN RITES OF PASSAGE

Rites of passage were celebrations/rituals that Africans carried out following the different stage of human growth and development from conception to death.

The rites of passage included conception rites, birth rites, naming rites, initiation rites, puberty rites and death rites.

BIRTH RITES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE

When a woman was discovered to have conceived, there was great happiness in the family.

When a child was born, it was seen as the greatest blessing of the life and the Africans reacted to such event with joy and satisfaction.

If it was the first pregnancy, it brought assurance to everyone that a woman was due to bare children, an asset to the family.

Once a woman gave birth, the marriage became secure, strong and stable than when she was discovered to be barren.

The relatives and the entire family of the man would treat the woman with greater respect than before. Becoming pregnant and giving birth, assured the public of the good health of the woman and the man i.e. both were seen sexually normal.

Giving birth strengthened the love feelings between man and the wife, the basis of a good family and marriage.

It helped to transmit life from the parent to the new born babies and from one generation to another.

It enabled the parents to get children who were future sources of labour, wealth and security of the family, clan and the society at large.

It helped in expanding and enlarging the clan of the man to greater heights and respect.

Delivering a child, brought respect and prestige to the family of the man and woman and they were recognized in the society.

Through birth, the living communicated with the living dead, ancestors, through the blood shed by the mothers.

Becoming pregnant and giving birth showed the willingness and readiness of the woman to make a home and a family.

The birth of a child was seen as a reward for the man for much bride price that had been paid to the girl's side or family.

Question:

1. Explain the importance of giving birth in African traditional society.

NAMING CHILDREN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

There are many naming customs all over Africa, which however tend to vary from one society to another.

In some cultures, the name is/ was chosen before the arrival of the baby.

In other societies the name was chosen immediately upon arrival-birth of the baby and without any ritual or ceremony.

In most cases, naming involved ceremony attended by members of the family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

Naming involved giving of gifts to the new born baby, which varied from one culture to another e.g. the Banyankole of western Uganda gave cows and still.

Names were Linguistic such as Mwesigwa among the Bantu and Okello and the Luo.

Special meals were prepared during the ceremony. Millet food was prepared among the Banyoro.

Naming involved or involves celebrations and beer partying that welcomed the baby into the family and the clan.

Special herbs were smeared on the baby during naming ceremony in preparation for a successful future and cleanse away bad omen.

The choice of the name was determined by the parents, elders and relatives.

Some names were situational, given according to the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy and birth.

Names were given in praise of the supreme creator as the overall provider and controller such as Byamukama among the Banyoro.

MEANING/ IMPORTANCE OF NAMING

In African culture, names given to babies helped to bring back the departed members of the family i.e. names of the dead were given to new babies.

Some names helped to show the feelings of the parents during pregnancy and child birth.

Some names helped to show the religious feelings of the parents concerned, many times granting recognition to God's role e.g. Byakatonda, Byaruhanga- all referring to God as the one in charge.

Names helped to show the clan in which someone belonged, e.g. 'Kababiito' among the Banyoro showed that the person belonged to the Biito clan.

Naming rites were social functions which helped the child to be welcomed and integrated in the community.

The naming occasions helped to create unity among the members of the community due to the many people that got involved.

Since all names were cultural, naming helped to preserve culture and ensured its continuity hence Bantu names, Luo names etc.

Through naming rituals, the child could get spiritual assistance and blessings from the ancestors, gods and God.

Some names helped to educate and explain some past experience to the young generation hence guiding them in life.

Naming rites helped the babies to receive gifts e.g. among the Banyankole babies were given cows.

Names helped to show one's belongingness to a particular family because some families had specific family names.

Some names reflected the state of and time of birth of the child e.g. thunder, rain, famine, harvest etc.

GROWTH AND INITIATION

There was circumcision which involved removing of the foreskin on the male reproductive organ. It was very common among the Bagishu and kikuyu and it was important for hygiene and sexual satisfaction.

Clitoridectomy was another initiation ritual which involved cutting off of parts of the clitoris on the female reproductive organ. It was very common among the Sabiny and it helped to control sexual immorality among the Sabiny women.

Pulling/elongation of the Labias were also an initiation practice which involved elongating the Labias to a given height. It was so common among girls of Buganda, Toro, Ankole, Busoga etc and it helped to stimulate sexual appetite among girls in marriage.

Another initiation ritual was detoothing which involved removing of the upper fore middle tooth from the initiates at puberty stage. It was done among the Karamajongs and it was for beauty and identification.

Piercing of the face was a common ritual to the young people at puberty stage. It involved piecing the face following a pattern of lines as it was common among the Masai and karamajongs. It also increased the beauty of the initiates.

There was also tattooing of the body where different parts of the body were decorated with tattoos. This was common among the Alur and it was for beauty and identification purposes.

Ear piercing was an initiation ritual which involved piercing the ears and decorating them with ear rings mainly for beauty. eg among the Kikuyu, Masai etc.

IMPORTANCE OF INITIATIONS

In African traditional society there were different initiations rituals performed on the young by different societies as explained below:

Positives:

Initiation graduated the initiate from Childhood to adulthood. E.g. the circumcision ritual among the Kikuyu of Kenya.

It also joined the initiates with the ancestors through shedding blood on the ground.

It enabled the initiates to assume positions of responsibility like leadership in the society.

Initiation rituals were moments of celebration and enjoyment with the society members through eating and drinking.

It enabled the initiates to acquire wealth through the gifts they received e.g. among the Gishu of Eastern Uganda, the boys would receive cattle, goats, sheep, chicken etc. After circumcision.

Some initiation rituals enabled the initiates to enjoy sex while in marriage e.g. the pulling of the Labias among the Baganda, Banyankole, Basoga, Batoro etc.

Initiation promoted unity among the African societies because these rituals were attended by many people.

It enabled the initiates to acquire sex education e.g. during the pulling of Labias, the Baganda girls were taught a lot about sex.

It promoted permanent marriages due to sex education which was provided to the initiates.

Through initiation rituals, African culture was preserved from one generation to another e.g. piercing of the face by the Kramajongos.

Through initiation, the initiates received spiritual blessings from the ancestors for future life and responsibilities.

It provided the initiates with identification marks/scars which made it easy for them to be recognized in the society. E.g. piercing of the face among the ALUR.

Some rituals made the initiates to be brave and fearless in the society e.g. circumcision and detoothering among the Gishu and Karamojong's respectively.

It promoted entertainment in society because some rituals like circumcision involved drumming, singing and dancing.

Some rituals helped to control sexual immorality in the society e.g. clitoridectomy among the Sabiny reduced the sex Libido of the girls/women.

Some rituals made the initiates beautiful and attractive. E.g. detoothering, face piercing and tattooing among the Karamajongs, Alur and Dinkas.

Initiation enabled the initiates to get married because no one could get married before being initiated.

Through initiation rituals, new relationships/friend ship were made among people who came together to celebrate.

It enabled the people to identify future marriage partners. E.g. during the Kadodidance among the Gishu, the men would get attracted to girls who danced well.

Weakness

The Negative roles of initiation rituals included the following:

Some rituals caused a lot of pain to the initiates e.g. clitoridectomy, detoothing etc.

Some of them caused a lot of bleeding to the initiates making them lose a lot of blood. E.g. circumcision among the Bagishu.

Some initiation rituals caused death especially when they were not carried out properly e.g. clitoridectomy among the Sabiny of Eastern Uganda.

They violated God's natural Law of creation of Man by cutting off some of God's created body parts.

Some rituals deprived women of their right to enjoy sex by cutting off their clitoris which makes sex interesting.

They deprived the initiates' right to privacy because they were circumcised when the whole public was seeing.

Some rituals distanced the initiates from their family members because they were taken to secret places after the ritual.eg Kikuyu boys were taken to the forest after circumcision.

Some rituals were done by force. ie they were done without the will of the initiates hence taking away their freedom and Liberty.eg Clitoridectomy.

Analyze the implications of initiation in the African traditional religious experience (15 marks)

Approach:

The question wants the important /significance of the different initiations ritual that were performed on the young during the puberty stage. Rituals like circumcision, cliteridectomy, detoothing etc. A candidate should

Assess the role of initiation rituals in Traditional African Religious Experience. (25 marks)

Approach:

It is a two sided question which wants both the positive and Negative roles of the various initiation rituals in traditional Africa.

Givesome examples for the S.H marks

AFRICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education is a process of imparting knowledge, skills and attitudes by the teacher to the learners.

Education is in two i.e. formal and informal educations.

Formal education is the European type of education introduced in East Africa by the missionaries and it involves reading and writing while informal does not involve reading and writing.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INFORMAL EDUCATION (AFRICAN EDUCATION)

It was conducted outside classroom and learners were taught together without grouping them in different classes.

It was conducted in open places i.e. did not have schools but it was taught from home.

It had no trained teachers, elders, parents or any knowledgeable relative conducted it.

It had no teaching syllabus to be followed. The content taught was got from the environment and cultural norms.

It lacked a formal time table to be followed, at any time the elder felt like teaching he or she would do it.

It lacked formal or regular assessment and evaluation of learners.

It lacked exams or tests to find out whether learners had understood or not.

It was not literate i.e. did not involve reading and writing.

It was cultural in nature i.e. it promoted preservation of cultural norms by the people.

It was mainly practical since it involved practical skills for example cooking, digging and planting.

It emphasized promotion of morals among the children in order to live a successful life.

It involved sexual education especially to the children at puberty.

It emphasized respect for one another i.e. girls were taught to be low so as to respect their husbands.

African education was free of charge i.e. did not involve paying of school fees like formal education.

There were no educational credentials to the learners, but practical outcomes were got after attaining this education e.g. circumcision of boys was a credential and qualification for adulthood among the Kikuyu of Kenya.

Content of this education system varied with the age of the learners. Sex education e.g. was exclusively for the adolescent and not the young.

STRENGTH/ ADVANTAGES OF AN INFORMAL EDUCATION

Positively, it helped to produce morally upright people in the society. This is because morals were highly appreciated.

It helped the young people to fit in the society in which they were born, however harsh it was.

It promoted equality because it did not grade learners and separated them into classes.

It made the youths to get to know why certain things in an area e.g. lightening, famine, earth quakes and the will get to know how to overcome them.

It taught young ones their historical background and made them aware of past experiences such as origin, migration pattern, battles fought.

It promoted unity because the content taught was the same and learners were allowed to interact with one another.

It promoted the spirit of social concern for one another because the spirit of brotherhood was imparted into them.

It equipped the young ones with practical skills for their own survival e.g. they were taught domestic work for example digging, hunting, fetching water and collecting fire wood.

It also prepared the young people for social responsibilities in the society as some of them became leaders while others became medicine men and women.

It helped youth for marriage relation, promoting stability of marriage, as every one well knew and performed required duties respectively.

It served to respect and preserves the African cultural beliefs and practices, since the content was got from the cultures of the communities.

WEAKNESS OF AFRICAN INFORMAL EDUCATION

It created inequality and classes in the society based on sex. This is because women were undermined and seen as inferior to men.

Content taught was not universal but societal i.e. it varied from culture to culture which created disunity among the people.

It was not literate and therefore it produced people who never knew how to read and write.

Since it lacked academic papers or credentials, it undermined the position of leaders since their education could not qualify them.

Some forms of informal education like circumcision was unfair and painful to human life.

It involved punishment that were unfair e.g. ex-communicating the girl who become pregnant before marriage or even killing them.

Since it depended on the elders as teachers, these could become tired and sick hence making the children miss their lesson.

Questions:

Asses the African informal type of education. (give strength and weakness)

Compare the missionary education and the African traditional education.

SEX EDUCATION IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Sex education was that type of education that involved imparting of information about sex to the young people at puberty stage and were about to get married.

In African traditional society, different societies taught different things to their children concerning sex as seen below:

CONTENT OF SEX EDUCATION TAUGHT TO CHILDREN

Sex education was that education that involved imparting of information about sex to the young people at puberty stage.

It was mainly taught to the adolescent by the elders, parents, relatives and friends.

Boys were usually taught by their uncles who gave them marriage roles and responsibilities.

The girls were usually taught by their Aunties who also gave them tips on how to behave while in marriage.

Sex education involved separation of the learners from the rest of the public to teach them.eg among the Kikuyu, the boys were taken to the forest.

The adolescent boys and girls who were about to get married were taught the different sex techniques and styles which they were to use while in marriage.

The children were taught to be morally upright and disciplined and respect all elders in the society.

The girls were called upon to keep their virginity until marriage and heavy punishments were given to those who broke it before marriage.

The Aunties always told the girls to show respect to their husbands by kneeling while greeting and giving them anything. This was common among the Baganda.

In some societies, it involved mutilation of sex organs e.g. among the kikuyu of Kenya, circumcision was done in order to bring sexual satisfaction among thepartners in marriage.

Life skills were also imparted into the young to prepare them for the future e.g. among the Baganda boys were taught how to hunt,Masai girls were taught how to build house etc.

The boys were also taught by the uncles to be hardworking in life in order to able to take care of their wives and children.

The girls in Buganda were told not to respond when their husbands were quarreling. They were told to put water in the mouth to prevent responding.

Sex education also involved taking the girls to the bush schools where they were taught how to elongate their Labia. This was common among theBaganda, Basoga, Batoro etc.

The girls were also taught not to fear sex while in marriage and to always give sex to their husbands any time they wanted

The girls were made aware of their menstrual periods and they were taught how to handle/clean themselves during those periods.

Girls were told to Love their husbands and always be clean at home through washing the clothes, utensils and cleaning the house and the compound.

Both boys and girls were taught to produce as many children as possible while in marriage in order to expand the clan.

Both boys and girls were taught to produce as many children as possible while in marriage in order to expand the clan.

Girls and boys were taught to get married and not to fear getting married for their own good.

Both boys and girls were a lot about their culture during sex education so as to be able to pass it on to their children.

The children at puberty were taught to have sex as many times as they wanted while in marriage.

In some societies, girls were also circumcised during sex education. This was to reduce their feelings sexually in marriage e.g. among the sabiny of Eastern Uganda.

Discuss the major elements/characteristics and contents of sex education in African Traditional society. (15 marks)

Approach:

It wants how sex education was carried out and what was actually taught to the young people at Puberty stage.

IMPORTANCE OF SEX EDUCATION IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Sex education referred to the Imparting of information about sex into the young people at puberty stage.

It was important as shown below:

It provided information which helped the young to develop into healthy and responsible adults.

It also enabled the children to get married at the right time.ie not too early and not too late.

It helped to prevent sexual abuses/ misuses in the society such as fornication, rape, homosexuality etc among the youth.

It also helped to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies as well as sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis.

Sex education promoted hygiene and sanitation because children especially girls had to be clean during their menstrual periods.

Sex education helped the girls to keep their virginity until marriage hence attracting big bride price for their parents.

It promoted hard work especially among the boys because they were taught by the uncles to be hardworking people.

It also promoted culture because a lot of cultural norms and values were taught to the young during sex education.

It enabled the parents to get a lot of bride price from their daughters during marriage.

It brought satisfaction of both partners in marriage and made it possible for children to be produced.

Sex education promoted permanent marriages because they young were taught to have permanent marriage during sex education.

It promoted Love among married people due to the fact that the young were taught to Love their roles in case of marriage.

It enabled the girls to know their biological changes of menstruation before it happened hence preparing for it.

It promoted respect for elders in the society and respect for one another in marriage.

Through sex education, children became morally upright and well disciplined.

Discuss the importance of sex education in the traditional African society. (13 marks)

Approach:

It wants the good things that came out of teaching the young people about sex.

METHODS OF IMPARTING SEX EDUCATION IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY

It was imparted through punishing the sex offenders.eg killing of the fornicators among the Bakiga and the Karamajongs

It was imparted through Age mates who taught their fellow peers about sex.

It was passed on through African poems which revealed a lot of secrets regarding sex.

Through African dances like Mbaga dances in Buganda, circumcision dance among the Bagishu,Mpango dance among the Batoro etc.

The Aunties also taught the girls much about sex during the puberty stage e.g. the Sengas in Buganda.

Through initiation rituals likecircumcision, pulling of the Labiasetc sex education was also imparted into the young people.

The uncles especially in Buganda also gave the boys a lot of information about sex.

Sex education was also passed on through elder brothers and sisters to their young siblings.

It was imparted through telling stories to the young from the grandparents usually in the evening around the fire places.

It was also taught through cultural taboos. E.g. the Kiganda taboos that discouraged sleeping of mature brothers and sister together.

Through giving different kinds of work to girls and boys e.g. in Buganda, boys were to hunt while girls were to cook.

Through composing and singing of songs to the young that contained information about sex.

Through rewarding those who kept their virginity until marriage.

Sex education was passed on through bush schools e.g. in Buganda girls were taken to the bush where they were told to pull their Labias.

It was imparted through living exemplary lives sexually e.g. mothers being faithful to their husbands.

In what ways was sex education imparted among traditional Africans.(13 marks)

Approach:

The question wants the various methods used by the traditional Africans to teach the young people about sex.

WHY SEX EDUCATION IS COLLAPSING TODAY

The Elders and the parents are too busy with their work hence have no time to impart sex education.

The big gap between the youth and the elders has hindered free discussion about sex.

Peer group influence has made youths to only listen to their own experiences and disregard the advice of the elders.

Lack of appropriate Literature about sex education is another challenge faced in imparting sex education
Sex education is commercialized today and this has made many poor people to miss out these wonderful Lectures.

Influence of formal education which has made many educated people to look at sex education as something out dated and primitive.

Emergence of nuclear families which have eroded extended families and their roles.

There is high rate of permissiveness where youths have a lot of freedom to do whatever they want and refuse sex education.

Some parents are too shy to impart sex education into their children.

The influence of western culture which has eroded traditional cultures hence distorting the practice of sex education.

The presence of mass media that are pornographic is another problem faced in trying to impart sex education today.

Most parents think that teachers will impart sex education to their children at school and so, both sides end up missing out.

Some parents look at sex education with suspicion i.e. they think that it will instead ignite sex urge among the youths.

Family instabilities/disintegration in form of divorce and separation has also hindered the practice of sex education today.

Political instability/unrest has made parents unsettled hence being unable to impart sex education.

There is selfishness of some family members like step mothers who out of Jealous refuse to pass on sex education to their step daughters.

Influence of boarding schools where most children stay have also limited the time parents have to teach their children about sex.

Most parents today were not taught about sex in their youthful stage and so, they lack the real information to teach their children.

Poverty has also made it hard to uncles and Aunties today to keep boys and girls in their homes teaching them about sex.

The decline in African traditional beliefs has also made sex education useless as modern people consider it to be for long ago.

The high cost of living today has made it impossible for the aunts and uncles to fear teaching their girls and boys at their home.

The influence of religions like Christianity that do not emphasize culture has made it hard for sex education to go on today.

The rapid growth of urbanization has also limited the practice of sex education. This because there are no secret places (bush) in towns where girls can be taken to teach them secrets.

Discuss the challenges your society is facing while trying to impart sex education. (12 marks) Approach:

It wants reasons why sex education is rarely being carried out to the young people today.

HOW IS SEX EDUCATION IMPARTED TODAY

Sex education is imparted through news papers, Novels and magazines like straight talk, Red peppers, Bukedde, Newspaper, Kamunye etc.

It's imparted by teachers in schools during their Lessons especially C.R.E and Biology teachers, Senior Woman and senior man etc.

Drama plays like Emboozizabagalana by alina talents,Obufumbobwabatoetc is another way of imparting sex education into the young.

It's also imparted through television programmes like soaps, movies, films, "Akasale" on bukeddeTv etc.

Through medical professionals like doctors and Nurses who teach their patients a lot about sex and family planning.

It is taught through religious leaders like reverends, priests and pastors who teach those about to be wedded a lot about sex.

Cultural organizations like "Kisakate of the Queen of Buganda is another way of imparting sex education today.

It is taught by counselors to those who have challenges in marriage.

Some courageous parents today still teach their children about sex.

It is taught through fellow peers/friends e.g. most girls today get to know about pulling of the Labias from their Friends.

It is imparted through cultural ceremonies like circumcision among the Bagishu.

Through social media on the internet.eg face book, twitter, whatsapp,Skype etc.

It is imparted through government initiatives and programs like piassy.

Some uncles and Aunties also teach their children about sex.

Sex education is imparted through songs; both local and international contain a lot of information about sex.

REASONS WHY PARENTS ARE AGAINST THE USE OF MASS MEDIA TO IMPART SEX EDUCATION

Mass media involves use of radios, Televisions and Newspapers to impart sex education, so the question wants reasons why parents today don't want sex education through the media to their children.

Answers.

Mass media involves a lot of permissiveness.ie it gives the youths a lot of freedom to do whatever they want.

Mass media especially televisions show pornographic pictures which instead spoil the youths sexually.

Some radio presenters and sex educators over the media speak sexual words directly to the public which also spoil the morals of the youths.

Sex education is supposed to be private and secret affairs but mass media makes it a public affair.

Mass media cannot be accessed by all youths in the country. ie not all youths can get Newspapers or afford radios and televisions.

Traditionally, sex education was supposed to be imparted by the biological uncles and Aunties to the children but those of mass media are not.

Mass media is aimed at making money but not improving the morals of the youths in the society.

Traditionally, fathers were not supposed to be around when teaching their daughters about sex but mass media does not consider this.

Mass media aims at arousing and inspiring the youths into sexual abuses instead of making them to have self-control sexually.

Mass media teaches both boys and girls together yet traditionally, boys are supposed to be separated from girls during sex education.

Using mass media to teach about sex originated from Europe and that is why most African parents today are against it.

Why are most parents today against the use of mass media as a method of sex education? (10 marks)

AFRICAN MARRIAGE SYSTEM

AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE

Before marriage, the couple was supposed to go through initiation ceremonies e.g. among the Bagishu and the kikuyu, the boys had to be circumcised before marriage.

Marriage was for the production of children. The children produced sealed the marriage, acted as a link between the living, the dead and the future generation.

Africans believed that from the very beginning of human life, god commanded people to get married and bear children; therefore marriage was seen as a gift from God.

Marriage was seen as a sacred (holy) duty, which every normal person was of age was supposed to perform i.e. it was compulsory.

In all societies, everything possible was done to prepare the young people for marriage and make them love the marriage institution.

Women were considered inferior to their husbands and were expected to be submissive to their husbands.

Having sex was only allowed in marriage and the married people were free to enjoy sex any time they wanted.

Marriage was compulsory for every adult and those who did not were disrespected i.e. they were seen as children and were denied leadership roles.

The unmarried were not even given descent burial e.g. in Buganda their dead bodies were passed through the back door and their names were not given to the new born babies.

Divorce was not allowed in African traditional society except when one of the partners was a witch or a night dancer.

Virginity was highly valued by most African traditional societies. A girl who was married when still a virgin would earn her parents and relatives a lot of respect, pride and special gifts were given.

Marriage was between partners of the same tribes i.e. inter- marriage was forbidden and in case it happened the couple would be isolated by the community.

- Marriage was asocial affair built on a permanent basis i.e. Couples were expected to their agreement for ever until death.

Polygamy was highly practiced i.e. man married as many wives to get enough wealth, labour and sexual satisfaction.

Marriage was between people of the opposite sex i.e. between man and woman and marriage between people of the same sex was forbidden.

Marriage was sealed by the payment of bride wealth i.e. marriage took place after full payment of bride wealth.

Marriage was also across clans i.e. between people of different clans and marrying from the same clan was sinful because the two were brothers and sisters.

Marriage was a communal affairs i.e. parents and relatives were actively involved in the affairs of the children through offering sex education, choice making.etc

IMPORTANCE/ VALUE OF MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

All Adults were expected to marry because marriage helped to fulfill the African cultural demands of every adult person to get married.

Marriage enabled the adults to have sex for pleasure leisure and enjoyment.

Marriage enabled the adult married people to share Love and intimate relations among themselves.

It was a must to marry because marriage extended relationship and friendship with other families and clans.

Marriage provided for the production of Children by the married couple hence expanding the family and the clan.

It earned the married people respect and prestige in the community because they were seen as responsible

All Adults were to marry because marriage enabled the Men to acquire Leadership positions in the society because of being able to lead their families.

Marriage promoted unity and cooperation among the members of the society who intermarried.

Marriage was compulsory because it enabled the married couple to receive gifts that congratulated them for that achievement.

Getting married promoted sexual morality in the society as all adults had sexual relations in marriage.

Marriage that involved producing children helped to show that the couple was in a good health status.

It was a religious ritual that united the living with the ancestors hence providing blessings to the newly married couple.

Marriage enabled leaders to get Loyalty in their Leadership because they married from several clans. This prevented leadership conflicts.

Marriage provided for material wealth and property to the family to the girl through payment of bride price and that is why all adults were expected to marry.

“In traditional Africa, all adults were expected to marry. “Comment (13 marks) Approach:

The question wants the importance of marriage in traditional Africa to the extent that all mature people were supposed to get married.

COMPARISON BETWEEN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE AND CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Similarities

To a large extent, African traditional understanding of marriage is similar to that of Christianity as shown below:

In both, bride wealth/price before marriage is emphasized.

Both traditional Africa and Christianity call for permanence in marriage.

Both call upon the married couples to have sex regularly while in marriage.

In both, Virginity is emphasized before marriage. ie they both discourage fornication.

Both Christianity and African tradition encourage sex education before marriage.

Both believe that marriage is a sacred institution.

Both call for marriage between man and Women i.e. they emphasize that marriage should be hetero but not homo.

Both encourage pro-creation in marriage i.e. they encourage producing of children in marriage.

In both forgiveness and reconciliation in marriage is emphasized.

Both Christianity and traditional Africa call for proper upbringing of Children

Both believed that marriage is a sacred institution which every normal person must perform.

In both incest is condemned meaning that people should marry from another clan e.g. Paul condemned the man who slept with his step mother, to be ex-communicated.

- In both marriage is seen as uniting factor, and that is why in Genesis God said, that a man shall leave his parents and unit with his wife and the become one.

In both marriages is seen as a fulfillment of God's command of companionship, love and procreation.

In both, acts adultery and other unfaithful cases are punishable as a way of restoring the dignity of the marriage institution.

Differences

However, to a small extent there are differences between African and Christian understanding of marriage as shown below;

In Christianity, man and woman are equal in marriage while in traditional Africa; man was superior to the woman in marriage.

Christianity calls for monogamous marriage while African tradition called for polygamous marriages.

In African traditional society, child bearing was compulsory while in Christianity, it is optional.

Christianity calls for church marriage while African tradition calls for customary marriage.

In African traditional society, inheritance of widow was allowed while in Christianity, it is condemned.

In African tradition, sex was offered for hospitality in marriage while in Christianity, it is regarded as sexual immorality.

In some African societies like among the ancient Bahima and Tutsi, marrying of close relatives was allowed while in Christianity, it is seen as incest and therefore a sin.

In African tradition, divorce was allowed on grounds of adultery while in Christianity, reconciliation is called for instead of Divorce

In African tradition, they believed that marriage had to be blessed by the ancestors to be stable while in Christianity, is blessed by God.

In African traditional society, a wife was regarded as a family/clan wife while in Christianity, she is a personal wife.

In traditional Africa, the marriage partners were chosen by the parents/elders for their children while in Christianity, it is a personal choice.

In Christianity, Baptism is a condition for one to attain church marriage while in traditional Africa, initiation rituals like circumcision was a condition for one to get married.

In African traditional society, marriage was within their cultural tribal settings while in Christianity mixed marriages are encouraged.

In African traditional society, marriage was compulsory while in Christianity, it is optional especially those who are to serve God whole heartedly.

To what extent is African traditional understanding of marriage similar to Christianity? (25 marks)

Approach:

It is a two sided question. The large extent part needs the similarities between the Christian and traditional African understanding of marriage. The small extent part needs the differences.

THE UNMARRIED LIFE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY

They were considered to be social misfits in the society for failure to get married.

They were looked at as people who were cursed by the ancestors and therefore no need of respecting them.

They were seen as people who were still young and therefore couldn't even hold any leadership position in the society.

The unmarried were seen as a source of evils in the society. I.e. when the society was faced with problems, they were attributed to the unmarried ones.

They could not be respected since they had no inheritance rights to property. I.e. they could not inherit their dead parents.

They were looked at as people who were impotent and barren and therefore not worthy respecting.

They were looked at as people who were against the natural Law of God i.e. Go and multiply and fill the earth.

They were not respected because even upon their death no single funeral rite could be performed for such people.

The unmarried were seen as people who were greedy and selfish and therefore could prepare their own meals.

They were seen as a loss and a disgrace to the society because of not producing children who were very important.

They were not respected because they could not enjoy the gift of sex since they did not have their own spouses.

They were under looked because even when they died, they were not mourned.

The unmarried were seen as people who were greedy and selfish and therefore could prepare their own meals.

The unmarried were undermined because they were seen as people who feared responsibilities in life.

1. Why were the unmarried not respected in the traditional African society?

Approach:

It wants the reasons why people who were not married yet mature were under looked and despised.

REVISION QUESTION:

“Remaining unmarried was not acceptable in African Traditional society. “Comment (25

marks) It is one sided question which wants reasons why remaining unmarried was not allowed in Africa Traditional society. The question basically needs the disadvantages of being unmarried and the advantages of being married.

Answers:

Unmarried life in African culture was considered a curse and people ensured that they married to avoid being seen sources of curses.

The unmarried were also seen as a source of bad omen and they were avoided in society. The unmarried life was not accepted because even initiation rituals were organized to prepare people for marriage and rising of families.

3. The initiates were strongly commanded to live under a solemn obligation of getting married and they had to respect it.

Africans also believed that God commanded them to marry and bear children hence a reason why being unmarried was not acceptable.

Marriage was seen as a sacred duty for all Africans and therefore religious rites which all adults had to undergo.

Remaining unmarried was seen as stopping the flow of life which was seen as evil.

The unmarried were as rebels to culture and therefore Law breakers.

The unmarried were known to be abnormal and half human and thus not complete people in Life.

Refusing to marry was seen as a rejection of one’s culture and society and the society in return also rejected such a person.

Marriage was considered a duty and an obligation for all with every one as an actor or participant

Marriage which resulted into child bearing acted as medicine against death.ie a person with children did not die completely.

Marriage was a religion for all and a source of blessings hence its being compulsory.

Remaining unmarried was seen as being selfish and self-centered without regard for others.

Elders took every concern to establish the causes of single life among adults to ensure that they married.

Getting married attracted gifts such as Land, animals etc. which motivated all people to marry and this encouraged the adults to marry and get married.

Sexual intercourse was strictly for the married and it was highly punishable among the unmarried and this encouraged the adults to marry.

The unmarried could not inherit property or own property because they were seen as young.eg among the Baganda of central Uganda.

They were seen as children however old or mature they were hence being called upon to marry in order to be seen as old.

The unmarried did not hold responsible or leadership positions in the society.

They were not also given respect or descent burials when they died and they were not mourned for.

Upon death, the unmarried were not inherited meaning that they died completely.

The names of the unmarried were not given to the new born babies in order to encourage people to get married.

Getting married created unity and relationship among people and families and that is why remaining unmarried was not acceptable.

Getting Married appeases the ancestors and that is why remaining unmarried was condemned in African Traditional society.

REASONS WHY MARRIAGES ARE BREAKING UP TODAY

Limited sex education being given to these about to get married has made married couples to make mistakes in marriage hence divorce.

Limited period of courtship where people do not get to know each other well before marriage has also led to marriage break ups.

Increased drug abuse and alcoholism especially among men have annoyed their wives leading to marriage break ups.

Poverty and the high cost of living have also made wives tired of their husbands hence divorcing them and looking for rich men.

Declining African cultures today has made people not to value marriage hence breaking up very fast

The women Liberation movement and their demand for their rights and equality has made men tired of their wives hence divorce.

Permissiveness where people today are free to do whatever they want has made married tired of them hence divorce.

Unfaithfulness/marital infidelity where the partners cheat on themselves sexually has also led to marriage breakups.

Lack of sexual satisfaction among married partners has made marriage meaningless and unless leading to its breaking up.

Lack of respect and trust for each other in marriage has made the partners suspicious of each other leading to marriage instabilities.

Too much work where the partners 'don't give themselves enough time has contributed to marriage break ups.

Barrenness on the side of women and impotence on the side of men have made marriage useless leading to divorce.

Producing of single sex children and children with disabilities has made most men divorce their wives thus ending marriage.

Political instabilities in the world today have made partners to run away for safety thus ending up a banding their marriages.

Give the reasons for the high levels of marriage break ups in the society today. (12 marks)

Approach:

The question wants reasons for the high levels of divorce cases today.

COURTSHIP IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY

Courtship refers to close or intimate relationship between a man and woman who are mutually attracted to each other with the intention of getting married.

- Or It is the period which the couple spends studying one another before the get married/ before actual marriage.

In African traditional society, courtship was spent following a number of aspects, rules and regulations as seen below:

After getting a girl of desirable qualities the man was supposed to inform the parents about the new catch he had got.

The girl could also inform her parents about her love with the boy in order to seek for their advice and blessings.

The parents of the boy would now meet the parents of the parents of the girl to allow the boy date their daughter.

The man and his family were then expected to inform the whole community about their courtship intention with that girl.

The couple intending to get married was not allowed to meet and talk directly to the each other but a middle man was got for this.

Courtship was the time that those intending to get married went through initiation e.g. in Buganda the girl had to visit the bush at this time if she had not pulled.

It was the time when those wanting to marry looked for marriage size to confirm whether the two really love themselves.

During courtship, the boy and the girl would be sent for another round of serious sex education in preparation for actual marriage.

It was during courtship that both families tried to find out the health of their children i.e. no family wished their child to marry a sick person.

It was during courtship that the boy's family struggled to look for bride wealth demanded by the girl's family.

It was time when the couple researched about each other in matters concerning hard work, cleanliness, obedience and general discipline.

A number of rituals were also performed during courtship and this was aimed at preparing the couple for marriage e.g. cleansing ritual among the Banyoro.

During courtship, wedding clothes for the girl were prepared e.g. a gomasi, ear rings bangles beads to wear around the neck and lower abdomen in order to look beautiful on the stage.

It was the time when the boy would be assisted by the elders to plan for the future because he was no longer a child but an adult.

1. Explain the ways in which courtship was conducted in African traditional society

VALUES/ IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP INTRADITIONAL AFRICAN SOCIETY

Courtship resulted into good choices of marriage partners which made marriage exist with less challenges.

It also made marriage stable since the couple had due appreciation for each other before getting married.

It bought joy of love and intimacy among the couples through exchange of gifts.

Courtship enabled the couple to learn the behavior of one another before marriage.

It provided for parental participation in determination of the marriage partners of their children.

Courtship was used to shape the morals of the unmarried into good people. ie during courtship, the unmarried were counseled and guided-morally.

It helped to promote virginity among girls because it was one of the qualities looked by the boy.

The practice of courtship led to respect and promotion of African cultural values because a lot of cultural ideas were passed on to the unmarried.

Courtship made marriage meaningful, respected and admired by many people in the society.

It helped to reduce and prevent cases of incest among partners because they got to know each other thoroughly well.

It enabled the two parties i.e. the family of the boy and that of the girl to negotiate and appreciate bride price.

The courtship that took a long time enabled the couples to plan for their marriage in advance.

It promoted permanence in marriage since the couple got married when they knew themselves.

It promoted trust and faithfulness among partners because of knowing themselves well.

Due to courtship, the married partners respected one another and they were loyal to each other.

It enabled the partners to know and appreciate each other's interests in life and personal weakness and strengths.

Courtship was a public declaration that a person had moved from childhood to Adulthood.

It enabled the couples to receive blessings from the parents because they would be involved in courtship process.

Discuss the values that were attached to courtship in African tradition. (13 marks) Approach:

The question wants the importance of courtship as it was carried out in African traditional society.

FACTORS THAT HAVE UNDERMINED COURTSHIP TODAY

Influence of western cultures in Africa today which have no regard and respect for courtship.

Limited and lack of sex education to the youths today has also deprived courtship of its importance.

Declining respect for African cultures by the youths today has made many of them not to carry out courtship before marriage.

Too Much selfishness and individualism among people today limits the practice of courtship. ie people do not want to exchange gifts during courtship.

Influence of formal education which prevents some people from practicing their traditional practices like courtship.

Influence of the women emancipation movement that gives women rights on their marriage relations.

Presence of Killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS in Africa which undermines the value attached to marriage today as well as the practice of courtship.

Negative peer influence where some people simply encourage each other to enter marriage on a rush.

Rampant urbanization which tends to distance people from their traditional village obligations and practices such as courtship.

Permissiveness where the youths have freedom to do all what to be delayed with issues of courtship.

Increasing moral decay among people in the society today has made most youths to have little respect for cultural obligations like courtship.

Poverty has also made it hard for people to sustain long periods of courtship due to the courtship gifts involved.

The generation gap has also undermined courtship .i.e. the youths do not believe in the elder's advice at dating for a lot of time.

The high sex libido/ urge among many youths have also made it hard for them to date for a long period of time before marriage.

Staying unmarried for a long period of time has made such people to courtship for a short period and then get married.

Explain the factors that have undermined courtship in modern society. (12 marks)

Approach:

It needs the reasons why people no longer courtship or study each other for a long period of time before marriage as it was in African traditional society.

BRIDE WEALTH

Bride wealth refers to the gifts which are taken by the man's family to the girl's family who intends to marry.

In African traditional society such gifts varied depending on the culture of the community, but what was common were heads of cattle, goats and sheep and local beer, foodstuff etc.

ADVANTAGES OF BRIDE WEALTH

It was paid to compensate the family of the girl for the loss of service she transferred to her new home.

It helped to indicate the wealthy ability of the man i.e. it was a sign that the girl wouldn't suffer material inadequacies when married.

It helped the groom to extend/show gratitude and appreciation to the family of the bride for having taken care of their daughter well.

It acted as a certificate of marriage declaring the boy and the girl as husband and wife.

Paying bride price acted as a guard against sexual abuse.ie it helped the girls to keep their virginity until marriage because this attracted a lot of bride price.

Bride price acted as shield against divorce.ie it made Men to take good care of their wives fearing to make losses if the girl divorced.

Paying and accepting bride price helped to remind both families that there should be no hostility against each other but peace.

Bride price brought great respect and prestige to both the bride and the groom as the two were seen as mature and responsible people.

Paying bride price helped to uplift the economic status of the bride's family. Therefore, the more the girls the more the wealth.

It helped to continue the process of marriage in that the Brothers of the girl could also use the bride price paid to their home to also marry their wives.

It warned the village boys and stopped them from tempering with the girl since she was some one's wife.

It encourages hard work as the boys had to work hard to get wealth demanded by the girls' family.

It acted as a license for the couple to begin the process of reproduction since they had been fully initiated into adulthood.

Bride price helped to express the man's intimate Love and feelings for the woman.

Comment on the significance of bride price in traditional African Society (13 marks)

The question wants the importance of paying bride price in African tradition or why bride price was always paid in traditional Africa

DISADVANTAGES OF BRIDE WEALTH

It at times involved cheating of the boy's family by asking for too many animals.eg among the Masai and Turkana of Kenya.

It at times frustrated the efforts of the boy to marry the girl of his choice due to many items that he could afford.

It left some times girls unmarried and they turned out to be idlers because the boys couldn't afford what was demanded.

It at times led to forced marriages where parents forced their daughters to get married so as to get wealth.

Paying bride price also led to early marriages as parents gave their young daughters in order to get wealth.

After paying bride price, men looked at their wives as personal property and mistreated them.

It led to elopement. ie boys and girls ran away and got married secretly after failing to pay bride price.

Some men also looked at their wives as sexual machines after paying bride price. I.e. they over worked them sexually against their will.

Where too much bride price was demanded, some men ended up stealing, raiding and cattle rusting in order to get demanded items.

Its payments at times left the boy and his family in a poor financial state after paying a lot to the girl's family.

Those who contributed towards the payment of bride price usually interfered with the family of the newly married couple.

Demanding for too much bride price often led to open disagreements and hatred between the family of the boy and that of the girl

DECLINE OF BRIDE WEALTH TODAY

It at times involves cheating the family of the boy especially where a lot of animals are demanded e.g. Among the Banyankole of western Uganda.

It frustrates the efforts of some boys to marry the girls of their choice especially where parents demand for impossibilities.

It has left some girls unmarried and has turned into idlers because of demanding for a lot of bride price.

The practice of paying bride price has declined because at times parents force their daughters into marriage in order to get wealth.

In addition, the practice has led to early marriages where parents force their daughters into unwanted marriages in order to get wealth.

After paying bride price, men tend to consider their wives as personal property hence mistreat and exploit them as they want.

Demanding for high bride has led to elopement in society where the boy and the girl run away and secretly get married.

After paying bride price, men tend to look at their wives as mere sexual objects or machines to satisfy their sexual Libido.

It has corrupted some men into dubious means of acquiring the demanded items such as stealing, killing among others.

Paying bride price has at times left the family of the boy in a poor financial state to the extent that the boy cannot sustain the family after the function.

Negotiating for bride price has at times led to open disagreements and hatred between the two families hence leading to its decline.

Rampant divorce cases today even after paying bride price have discouraged many people today to pay bride price fearing to incur losses.

Too much poverty today has also led to the decline of the practice because people lack the money to purchase all the required items

1. Account for the decline of the practice of bride price today. (12 marks)

POSITION OF WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Women were considered beasts of burdens who were supposed to do all the domestic work as the men were enjoying beer with the friends. eg among the Karamojong.

Women were denied chance to take up leadership positions in the society but only Men could be leaders.

Women were prohibited to eat certain foods in some societies e.g. among the Baganda, they were forbidden to eat eggs, pork, chicken etc. as they were for only Men.

Women were denied chance to own property neither could they inherit property hence being inferior.

There was more celebration when a baby boy was born than when a baby girl was born.

When a woman died, mourning took a few days than when a man died.

In some societies, women were seen as a source of curses. eg in Buganda, when a man met a woman first on the way, he could just go back home.

Women were blamed for any misfortune or catastrophe that occurred in the society .e.g. earthquakes, drought etc.

They were also blamed for producing single sex children yet Men were responsible for this.

A woman was denied chance to initiate divorce yet Men could send away their wives if they wanted.

Women were seen as sex machines who were supposed to satisfy men sexually without them enjoying sex.

Women were prohibited to take part in society meetings and they could not make any decision either at home or in the society.

A woman had no right to choose for herself a marriage partner .Once a man admired her, she had to go with him.

They were seen as factories for manufacturing children who did not belong to them but belonged to their husbands

They were denied chance to decide the number of children to produce. It's only men who determined the number of children to produce.

They were always beaten, slapped and kicked by their husbands and they had no right to fight back.

Women were expected to keep their virginity until marriage and those who did not were severely punished but the issue of men being virgin was not highly emphasized.

Women had no identity of their own but they could be known by either their fathers or husbands.

They were supposed to respect Men and be submissive to them even when a man was younger to the Woman.eg in Buganda; Women were to kneel when greeting men.

Women were blamed for any misfortune or catastrophe that occurred in the society e.g. earthquakes, drought famine etc

There was no restriction on how many women a man could marry, but a woman was allowed only one man at time.

However, to a smaller extent, men paid some respect to women giving the special places in society.

Women were the doctors and nurses of society, making syrups and medicine to cure diseases and illness.

They would be saluted for helping to prepare the adolescent girls for marriage and other adulthood responsibilities, a unique and highly respected role.

Women inculcated the correct morals values into the children, helping pass on a legacy to the future generation.

Women were also applauded because, by producing children, they contributed to the expansion of the clan, making it strong and prosperous.

They were considered important for, they and their children did bring respect to the men and his family in the society.

Women were considered mothers of the society for it's them who fed the family even when the going had got tough.

“In African Traditional society, Women were considered inferior to Men.

“Comment Approach:

The question wants the various ways in which Women were undermined or under looked in African Traditional society. The candidate should show examples of societies where Women were treated like that.

THE CHURCH'S EFFORT TO UPLIFT THE STATUS OF WOMEN TODAY

To a large extent, Christianity has contributed to the rise of woman independence movement as shown below;

Christianity advocates for monogamy which gives equal status of women to men.

It discourages payment of bride price which traditionally made women subjects to men.

Christianity has opened up schools allowing girls to study and uplift them socially, politically and economically.

It has organized counseling and guidance sessions for women telling them how much they matter in society.

The church has called upon government to consider women positions in government as a way of uplifting them.

The church has formed women associations and other groups such as mothers unions, young women Christian association etc. to uplift them.

Christianity teaches that Man and Woman are equal because they were created in God's image hence contributing to their independence movements.

The church has given employment opportunities to women with some serving as reverends.

The church has organized weddings which have helped women to have a say and share on family estates/ property of their husbands.

Christianity calls upon husbands to respect, Love and take care of their wives thus giving them a special status.

The church has also supported women projects that help them emancipate economically. Such projects include piggery, poultry etc.

Leadership roles in church are also given to women e.g. reverends, pastors, nuns etc.

The church has put up health centres in order to give special health attention to Women.eg Nsambya hospital, Mengo Hospital, Rubaga Hospital etc.

It has established financial institutions like banks where women are employed as Managers, tellers, receptionists' etc. eg Centenary bank.

OTHER FACTORS

However to a small extent, there are other factors that have contributed to the rise of women independence movement as shown below;

The influence of eastern culture where women are seen playing an equal role to development just like Men.

The influence of formal education that has equipped great skills and talents to Women.

Influence of mass media that continue to expose women as potential contributors to development.

The presence of women role models such as Winnie Byanyima, Rebecca Kadaga in Uganda has inspired young girls to exploit their abilities.

Women groups and associations such as FIDA have helped many women realize their position in today's challenging world.

Political will to uplift women to play equal role in society just like men. In Uganda, Women have been given political offices.

Presence of women rights have also contributed greatly to the rise of women independence movement today.

1. To what extent has Christianity contributed to the rise of Women independence movement today (25 marks?)

Approach:

Two sided question. The large extent part needs ways in which Christianity has uplifted the status of Women.

The small extent side needs other factors that have led to Women independence.

ACHIEVEMENT OF WOMEN EMANCIPATION

MOVEMENT Positive achievements:

Women have acquired public employment and have a chance to earn a wage or salary. This has made them to become economically independent.

Women today enjoy all types of food including fish, eggs and chicken. These were denied before the emancipation.

Both men and women have a right over their children. The constitution emphasizes that a child must not leave the mother before its above 7 years.

Women have the freedom to own property. This property is sometimes worked for or inherited e.g. buildings, land, cars etc.

Religiously, women have enrolled in the church activities e.g. in the Anglican Church women are ordained as Reverends and the Catholic Church women are ordained as sisters.

In political arena women have scored highly as they have the right to vote, voted for and make important decision in the society.

Women today have the right to their marriage partners without the interference of the parents.

Girls like boys have equal access to education. It's no wonder that girls' schools have been established and these are both private and government.

In the cultural settings, women have been appointed as cultural leaders like princess, queens among others.

Women now days have some sex rights for they can determine whether to engage in sex or not. In this way they are no longer regarded as sex objects.

Today women have a say on bride wealth. Sometimes they even contribute bride wealth or they determine what should be brought by the husband to be.

Women have successfully formed a recognized organizations to co-ordinate all women activities, e.g.

National Association of women Organization (NAWOU) which was founded on 29th January 1992.

Culturally there has been abolition of oppressive cultural practices e.g. the sabiny cultural female genital mutilation has been stopped.

Women have started income generating projects due to government financial support. Women have started up poultry, piggery in order to earn a living.

Negative

It has increased cases of domestic violence as the educated women and those in working class have failed to respect their husbands and in the end their husbands have beaten them up.

It has increased the rate of immorality in society as women have resorted to prostitution and others have resorted to cohabiting with young boys.

It has resulted into child neglect since women have to go and work very early in the morning and come back late in the evening when the children are asleep.

It has led to loss of cultures as women fight for equality with men in all aspects like women putting on trouser which culture does not accept.

It has increased cases of divorce in families as women no longer respect their husbands because of the assumed freedom women have today.

It has led husbands marry house girls as these girls do most of the work and wives are busy working to earn a living.

Women have resorted to taking their husband's property using women emancipation eg many seek for divorce in order to share the property with their husbands.

Revision question:

What does Christianity teach about the status of Women? (10 marks)

Christianity teaches the following about the status of Women.

It teaches that male and female were created in the image of God.

It also teaches that Man and Woman were created to be companions and to complement each other.

Christianity strongly emphasizes the idea of equality between Man and Woman.

Jesus himself says that the kingdom of God belongs to all people including Women

It teaches that God's relationship is for all mankind hence including women.

Christianity further shows that Jesus called both men and Women to witness his religious works.

It teaches that women equally can bring about the good news to men. eg the Samaritan Woman.

St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians says that husbands must Love their wives. Therefore, Christianity calls upon husbands to Love their wives.

Christianity calls upon wives to fulfill their responsibility of submitting to their husbands. This is not a demotion but a responsibility.

As seen in Peter's first letter, Christianity calls upon husbands to have respect for their wives.

Christianity teaches that women are a weaker sex and so men should take good care of them.

CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

They were the means by which success and failure of the family was gauged.

Any family that never bore children was cursed, the redeem of which was in many cases polygamy.

Many men married women so that by then, they would get as many as they could.

IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Children ensured the basic Survival of the community. ie through producing children; Life was preserved from one generation to another.

Children made marriage complete. Marriage was incomplete until children were produced.

In case of divorce or death of one of the partners, children became the source of company to the surviving parents.

Many children attracted a lot of prestige and respect to the man. The person was seen more responsible because he had children.

Children were the major source of cheap labour to the family e.g. children went to the garden, they hunted, cooked food etc.

They took care of their parents at old age. They served as insurance covers for their parents at old age.

Children especially boys provided security to the families and the society at large during inter-tribal wars.

Children inspired parents to work hard in order to be able to take care of the children in all aspects.

Children ensured that their parents got decent burial and they performed the necessary rituals.

They helped to avoid divorce. ie Husband and wife would stay together because of the desire to raise their children well.

Through producing children, the family name was preserved from one generation to another.

They took care of the grave yard of their parents by cleaning the bushes.

Producing helped to expand the clan and make it recognized in the community.

Children especially boys inherited their fathers and helped to take care of the property of their dead parents.

Bearing children was a sign to prove that the partners were normal and in good health. Childlessness was considered an abnormality.

Children were a source of company to wives who were always left at home as the fathers were always away on duties e.g. hunting.

Children were a source of happiness to the family especially to the women since failure to produce was regarded as a curse and would lead to family instability.

Children were a source of wealth to the family. The boys could bring wealth through cultivation of crops and the girls through bride wealth such as cattle and goats etc. For example among the Bahima when a girl was getting married, men expected pay dowry in form of cattle.

Children acted as a source of blessings for the marriage. This meant that the partners were in good terms with their ancestral spirits and with their God.

Examine the importance of children in the traditional African society. (13 marks)

Approach:

It wants the roles children played in the African traditional society.

REASONS WHY PARTNERS PREFER FEWER CHILDREN TODAY

Parents prefer fewer children because it is easy for the family head to meet the basic needs of the family members e.g. food, shelter, medical care etc.

It is easy to discipline the children since they are of the same parents and few to have discipline instilled.

Parents prefer few children because dealing with few members, pressure on the family head is reduced due to less demand from the few children.

Parents prefer fewer children because parents can save income since members are few and so call for a low expenditure.

Parents are producing few children due to the nature of their jobs e.g. soldiers, who keep from home, always, produce few and models who want to maintain their shape and size.

The availability of family planning methods which enable parents to have few children has helped so the parent to produce e.g. pills, condom, injectors etc.

Disagreement between couples has also made parents to produce few children for fear of raising them as single parent.

The increasing level of sex abuse e.g. homosexuality and lesbianism which has changed the attitude of people towards the opposite sex has contributed to the production of few children.

Irresponsible parenthood has also made some parents to produce few children for fear of catering for them in terms of basic needs e.g. food, medical care, education etc.

Health complications among the parents also tend to make them to produce few children e.g.

fibroids, cancer etc for fear of them suffering in their absence.

Today parents produce few children because of the freedom or permissive society i.e. they have right to the number of children they can manage.

Poverty among the families which make it difficult to provide the basic needs to many children in the family has contributed to the preference of few children in the family.

The education system which make people to take long time of studying and by the time they complete they are old makes them to produce few children.

POLYGAMY AS AN AFRICAN FORM OF MARRIAGE

Polygamy refers to the practice of marrying two or more women by the man. It can be successive or co-current where a man marries more than one woman and stays with all in one or different locations. In successive, the man picks on an extra wife after a simple disagreement with the first and separating without any legal notification of the woman.

STRENGTH/ ADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY

Polygamy refers to the practice of marrying two or more women by the man. It can be successive or co-current. It had the following merits.

It brought prestige and increased respect of the man in the society because of having many wives.

- It increased the chances of many women to get married hence reducing on the number of idle girls in the society.

It enabled the man to produce children from another woman in case the first wife was barren.

It helped to cool down the first wife in case she was too stubborn and very hard to stay with.

Polygamy also increased the chances of producing children of different sexes and abilities from different women.

Polygamy helped the widows to get help from the brothers of the deceased who took over their brothers' wives.

In case of serious sickness or incapacitation of the first wife, polygamy enabled the men to continue enjoying Life.

It helped the local leaders like chiefs and kings to gain loyalty and protection from different clans and families.

It enabled a man to get society leadership because he was seen as more responsible than monogamous man.

A polygamous man could not suffer from sexual starvation because the different wives could compete to satisfy him sexually.

Marrying many women helped to preserve African culture from one generation to another because monogamy came from western culture.

It reduced on unfaithfulness, prostitution, adultery in society as men were sexually satisfied and all the women would at least be married.

It was a sign of wealth and economic booster. Women were considered as part of the man's wealth and even daughters increased wealth through bride wealth e.g.in western Uganda, every daughter born meant a number of cows secured in the family.

The members were able to defend themselves in case of any outside aggression because of many boys who were born out of the polygamous marriage.

DISADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY

The demerits of polygamy included the following;

It led to unnecessary competition among women that created hatred and disorganized the man so much.

It was too expensive and disturbing to manage more than one home by the man and this hindered family investment and savings.

It was characterized by abandoning of the children by one of the parents and this led to untold suffering of the children.

Some women became unfaith full to their husbands because of the prolonged sexual starvation they experienced.

It increased chances of contracting sexually transmitted disease especially syphilis and Gonorrhea which sometimes cause death to those involved.

Polygamy influenced many women to involve themselves in witchcraft as a way of trying to win the Man's Love.

It increased cases of child battering especially when the man divorced and married other Women.

It was characterized with a lot of Chaos in form of quarrels, fights and blames among women thus leading to insecurity.

Women were considered less human and men tried to mistreat the women by beating them since they had many of them.

When a polygamous man died, he left behind a large number of dependents that bothered the relatives and the society at large.

It was against god's original plan for marriage since and created one man and one woman thus monogamy was the ideal type of marriage by God.

Polygamy made the man over worked sexually and reduced him to a mere robot and a sexual machine to satisfy the wives sexually.

Decision making became difficult on the side of the family head. This was because of too many wives who might fail to agree on particular issues.

Women lived in fear of expecting the husband to bring in a new wife thus leading to division of love between the wives.

Discuss the merits and demerits of Polygamous marriage in Traditional Africa. (25 marks)

Approach:

The question wants the advantages and disadvantages of Polygamy in African Traditional society.

Why is the practice of polygamy dying out in the modern society?

Approach:

The question calls for the disadvantages of polygamy.

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Sex refers to the state of being either male or female. Or

Sex refers to the union between male and the female reproductive organs to form a zygote.

AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF SEX

Sex was supposed to be between people of the opposite sex i.e. between man and woman.

Sex was supposed to take place between adults and in most African societies, adults were people who had gone through initiations.

Sexual intercourse was meant to take place in marriage relations i.e. sex before marriage especially by girls was punishable.

In addition traditional African cultures valued virginity among the girls. They expected them break their virginity only in marriage.

Sex was important for hospitality e.g. among the Bahima of western Uganda where a visitor would be allowed to sleep with some one's or daughter or sister as an expression of hospitality.

Women were expected to satisfy their husband sexually and for this they to give for any time the man demanded.

Sex intercourse was secret and that is why all people were expected to respect sex and conduct it deep in the night to ensure that children noticed nothing.

It was a private game supposed to be played when other people were not aware or seeing.

Sex abuse was highly punishable, people were expected to enjoy sexual intercourse in the right and acceptable ways e.g. among the Bakiga of western Uganda a pregnant girl before marriage would be thrown in a water fall by a brother.

In traditional Africa, men shared women sexually e.g. among the Banyankole, a woman belonged to the clan and brother shared women at own leisure.

Sex was played for companionship and company when men were disappointed; women were expected to provide them with sexual pleasure for recovery.

Sex was important for ritual e.g. during last funeral rites and dancing of twins among the Baganda, cleansing a new house among the Banyankole and Batoro of western Uganda.

Sex was a gate to life as it was important for pro-creation and expansion of the clan.

IMPORTANCE OF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Sex provided satisfaction to the two parties that is to say the man and the woman.

Sex provided enjoyment and pleasure to Africans without shame or guilt.

Sex provided comfort and companionship to African i.e. sex was used to comfort the partners who had problems in marriages.

Sex helped to contain sexual immorality in society for example adultery, prostitution etc.

Sex was used for hospitality purposes e.g. among the Bahima of western Uganda a visitor was offered a wife or sister or daughter or the host to give company to the visitor.

Sex helped in stabilizing marriages i.e. it was used to settle conflicts among married partners as the sex intercourse would restore love for one another. Besides reducing stress and tension among the partners.

Sex helped in the production of children for the expansion of the clan and sources of labour to the family.

Sex was used for reconciliation purposes i.e. when a woman was divorced the process of re-union involved having sexual intercourse.

Sexual intercourse was used to gauge the ability and manhood of the man.

Sex was used to establish the healthy and fertility of the partners involved.

Sexual intercourse boasted intimacy and love between husband and wife.

Sexual intercourse was a bond of unity between man and woman and families in society.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Today sexual intercourse is disrespected and no longer secretly treated.

There is casual sex relations done by any one, any where at anytime without any meaning attached.

Sex before marriage is rampant and an aspect of courtship among couples. Curiosity is also a driver to these sex affairs.

Unfaithfulness among married couples is rampant for wives and husbands alike, done out of varying reasons with negative consequences.

Sex is a commodity sold in hotel and streets; one can have sexual intercourse with any woman as long as you can pay.

Sex education that prepared the youth for marriage is declining and parents have left the job to schools and other forces.

Several sexual deviations are on the rise, e.g. rape, lesbianism, homosexuality, defilement, anal sex, oral sex, quite funny and very negative.

There exist protection and defense for some sexual deviations such as lesbianism and homosexuality by some human rights activists.

Small and sometimes no punishments are effected on some sexual offenders of lesbianism and homosexuality.

Sexual intercourse is becoming a public game well exposed on the internet and videos.

There is rise of group sex where one man can share sexual relations with two or more women at a time.

Some parents are impatient to let the children first sleep, go to bed and have sex when children are hearing.

Sexual satisfaction for women is suffering gaps with women theft, starving and demanding by their husband.

Married partners have become so busy with business and work, that sexual intercourse is given limited time.

Women have gadgets they use to have sex, the artificial sex, due to the lack of satisfaction from their husbands.

a) Shared sex relations for hospitality and women sharing are dying out due to diseases like HIV/AIDS and women emancipation.

THE AFRICAN FAMILY INSTITUTION

Most families in African tradition were extended in nature, i.e. they were made up of the father, mother, biological children, close and distant relatives.

The discipline of the children in the family was for everyone but not only the biological parents.

Children grew up caring about other people's feelings, i.e. they considered the likes and dislikes of other people in the society and family.

The father was the head of the family and he had a lot of authority and he was the decision maker. Culture was highly emphasized in the family i.e. children grew up knowing and practicing their cultural norms and practices. Traditional families loved and so much valued children and that is why families had a lot of children. In traditional families, the male children were more loved and valued than the female children because they were the heirs. The property of the family was in the hands of the husband/ father and the male children. Family work was done according to sex, for example, girls cooked food, cleaned the utensils etc while boys hunted, reared animals etc. Morals were highly emphasized among the children and the children highly respected their parents. The family was a religious institution that emphasized and imparted religious values into the children. The family also acted as an educational institution that imparted informal education into the young children including sex education. The wealthier and bigger the family was in traditional Africa, the more respect the father received. In traditional African families, the father was superior while the mother was inferior. In traditional families, parents usually chose marriage partners for their children and this partly led to stable families.

Explain the African set up of the family institution. (13 marks)

Approach:

The question wants the major features/characteristics of the African traditional family set up.

IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDED FAMILY PATTERN

It was the traditional African family lifestyle highly valued for:

The family helped in creating unity in the society especially where different families were related to one another.

It promoted harmonious living especially among the children, who grew up together and thus well knowing each other.

It promoted cooperation among family members as opposed to the individualism of the nuclear family.

It broke aspects of superiority complex in the family as all members could freely accept their social-economic situation.

Children in the family grew up with the desire and willingness to know and be with their relatives.

Extended families broke the challenge of children knowing their mother tongue as emphasized in the family.

They had labour force for production and any other purpose and as a result, labour was not a problem in extended families.

Such families promoted strict discipline of children because of the upbringing of the children in a collective responsibility.

It helped in the transmission of culture to the children in society. This was done by grandparents who were always present at home.

The elderly, sick could easily be taken care of by the family members. They could be given food, medical care and other needs.

There was the aspect of love promoted among members of a family, the desire and acceptance of one another.

Extended families had free will and ability to assist each other without any one depressed about it.

CHANGES IN FAMILY PATTERNS AND ROLES TODAY

Today nuclear families are replacing extended families i.e. most families today consist of parents and their biological children only.

The discipline of the children is in the hands of the real parents only. i.e. relatives have little said over the children today.

Children grow up considering their own feelings and wants without minding about other people's wants.

There are many families today being headed by mothers/women.

There are also single headed families' today. i.e. families with only one parent-either the father or the mother.

There are many families today headed by the children especially after the death of their parents.

African culture is eroded in today's families and European culture is emphasized.

Most families today produce few children because many children are seen as a burden.

In most families today, both sexes of children i.e. boys and girls are valued unlike in the past where boys were more valued than girls.

In many families today, women and girls own property unlike in the past where property was only owned by the man.

Men/boys in families today are doing the work of women/girls and women are doing the work of men for example cooking driving building etc.

Formal/academic education is highly emphasized in today's families other than informal education of the past.

Children today choose for themselves future marriage partners unlike in the past where parents chose for them.

Women are no longer inferior and some of them are superior to their husbands.

In most families today, there is equality of sexes. ie husbands and wives are equal and to have power to plan for the family.

Child abuse is very common in today's families e.g. children are seriously beaten, burnt etc. on small issues.

Children are too immoral together with their parents in families today. This is seen in their indecent dressing and sexual relationships.

Monogamous marriages are becoming common in the modern families with many women left unmarried.

Marriage breakages and instability is common in families today, caused by women emancipation and declining African culture.

Sex education in families is collapsing due to the growing urbanization, formal education and threats of diseases like HIV/AIDS.

Intermarriages are common in African families today. The members have the freedom to marry from any tribe or race

What are the changes that have taken place in the present family set up? (12 marks)

Approach:

It wants the ways in which family today has changed from that of African traditional society.

REASONS WHY FAMILY PATTERNS ARE CHANGING TODAY (REASONS WHY EXTENDED FAMILIES ARE DYING)

Modern education has had an impact on the size of the family. Children grow up in schools especially in boarding schools and so young people do not know their relatives and so are not close to them.

It has become too much economically demanding to care for such families in terms of education and other basic needs of life.

Increased migrations mainly rural- urban migration, this necessitates one to have a smaller portable family. People leave their relative in villages and go to urban areas for employment.

Increased urbanization with the associated expenses to cater for distant relative has resulted into people neglecting their next of kins.

Moral and cultural disintegrations, people no longer respect their cultural values due to inter-marriages.

People have learnt to be self-sufficient/ support, meaning that there is no need to look for relatives for support.

There is limited space for accommodation especially in towns and cities and not easy to house many people.

Due to increase in population, there is limited space for housing and farming and so difficult to surround oneself with relatives.

The existence of many contagious diseases tends to discourage free association of family members.

The development of modern technology e.g. mobile phones, internet tend to keep people apart, they communicate instead of visiting each other.

Globalization and search for jobs has led to great movement and leaving far from each other, hence loosening families.

Some people have decided to leave single lives and so do not want to be bothered by family obligations and relatives.

The increased indiscipline among many children makes many parents to try to isolate their children.

The changing role of women such as formal employment which makes women stay away from home.

The increased rate of inter-marriages. Some feels uncomfortable to attend to relatives.

The existence of wars has led to the disappearance of extended families e.g. in northern Uganda, many were disorganized due to war between UPDF and the Lord's Resistance Army.

The influence of the women liberation movement and the so called women's right.

DEATH IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Death is the transformation of one's body into spirit. The loss of physical life to spiritual life.

In traditional Africa, death for the very old was counted very normal and went with great celebrations because the person was joining another world, the ancestry world.

It was treated abnormal for the young to die in society and thus such happenings were most often blamed on many other causes but not the normal death.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

Most people in traditional Africa died of old age. At certain time people could wear out and God could choose to call them hence having natural death.

Spiritual disrespect like insulting God and the gods was also a common cause of death in traditional Africa.

Violation of Oaths like swearing to speak the truth and then tell lies could also cause death to people.

Violation of Taboos/norms like having sex with close relative caused death to such people as punishment for the whole community to learn from.

Breaking of blood pacts by those involved annoyed the ancestors killing such people.

Disrespect of elders also caused death. ie the elders cursed those who undermined them which brought death.

Immoral acts such as rape, fornication and others caused death. eg among the Karamojong's, girls could be killed if they had sex before marriage.

Witch craft/sorcery/magic was a common cause of death. The wizards could bewitch others killing them.

Natural calamities such as famine, floods and draught that hit people made many of them to die.

Accidents like falling from trees, drowning in rivers also sometimes caused death.

Diseases like malaria, sleeping sickness, syphilis and others caused a lot of death to people in traditional Africa.

Wars/attacks by enemies could bring death. eg the tribal wars between Buganda and Bunyoro killed many people.

Attacks from wild animals like hyenas, Lions, Leopards and Snake bites also poisoned the people leading to the death of some people.

Failure to fulfill the customary rituals like getting married, sacrificing to spirits caused death among the traditional Africans.

Curses especially by elders were believed to cause death. The elders were believed to be representatives of God and what they said could come to pass.

Insulting of God and dishonoring the mighty places of God through words or deeds could cause death.

In such places like shrines, God's holy messengers resided there and they were meant to be respected.

1. Discuss the causes of death in the African traditional society. (13 marks)

CAUSES OF DEATH TODAY

Old age/ natural death.

Disease and sickness e.g. AIDS, Cancer etc.

Wars/ political instabilities.

Domestic violence e.g. major Kazini.

Poisoning of food.

Suicide.

Capital punishments.

Natural calamities like floods, landslides earthquakes etc.

Drug abuse e.g. Serena Nebanda.

Abortion.

Child birth.

Mob justice.

Armed robbery.

Human sacrifice e.g. Kato Kajubi sacrificed Kasirye Joseph.

BURIAL RITUALS IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

(Treatment of the departed or dead)

There were a number of ceremonies that were performed before and during burial and these included:

Washing or bathing of the dead before burial with water or traditional medicine e.g. among the Baganda they used “Binyirikisi” so as the dead to go to next world while clean.

They also shaved the bodily hair so as to begin a new life in the new world.

They cut off the bodily nails so as to begin a new life in the new world.

Putting oil or barter in the mouth, nostril or any other bodily opening.

The demands of the dead were always honoured to avoid natural calamities e.g. the dead were buried with material things like hoes, saucepan, needles etc.

In some cultures, they could sing and dance. The songs were intended to the people over come the sorrow and pain.

There was lighting of fire in front of the house in the court yard especially elders and candles e.g. among the Banyoro and Batoro, they would light the candle for three days for a woman and four days for the man.

In some cultures, when the partner died, one could sleep with the dead partner to show much respect for him or her.

The dead were granted decent burial at home in the compound or the ancestral burial grounds and burial ceremonies were carried out especially for elders.

The dead were wrapped in the traditional wears e.g. among the Baganda the dead were wrapped in bark cloth locally known as “lubugo.”

During burial the dead were treated with religious rituals of prayers from the priests.

Those who committed suicide were caned or punished and they were buried indecently e.g. among the Baganda their dead body was not allowed to be touched.

Immediately death occurred the dead was closed the eyes and the Jews were tied.

The dead were kept in doors for some time before burial and once removed they could not take it back.

Death of the young was treated with grief and sorrowfulness because it was unexpected.

Death of an old person was treated to be normal because they were useless and went with great celebrations because the person was joining another world.

Young ones were buried earlier to reach quickly in the next world.

The death of the twins was treated with twin rituals of first announcing their death to fellow twins.

They used to bury the dead facing specific direction e.g. the Baise of the Ngabi clan among the

Basoga buried the dead facing the East because the dead had to return where he come from.

They used to tie their waist firmly so as to become firm as they mourn e.g. in Buganda, the orphans were/are tied with banana fibers around the waist to be firm.

There was celebrations of the last funeral rites to make the climax of the mourning and make the mourners for get their sorrows.`

TRADITIONAL AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH

The dead were buried with material things to use them in the next world like food, saucepans etc.eg the Egyptians kings were buried with wives and slaves.

The dead were buried near their homes like in the compounds to keep the communication with the living hence the proof that they were not dead. E.g. among the semia of Eastern Uganda.

Names of the dead were given to the new born babies so that the dead would still be seen through the living.

The grave yards of the dead were kept clean with flowers in order to keep them in a good environment as if they were alive.

Special houses called shrines were built for the dead. This was very common in Buganda hence a proof that the dead were not dead.

Funeral rites were organized for the dead and they were given heirs to keep their names going on.

The dead were granted descent or respected burials as they had requested to stop them from punishing the living.

Food was always given to the dead in the shrines for consumption and this also proved that the dead were not dead.

The living always visited the burial grounds of the dead to check on them and hence the dead were not dead.

Sacrifices of animals, chickenetc. were offered to the departed members of the society.

In some societies, massages were whispered into the ears of the dead meaning that they were not completely dead.eg among the Bemba of Zambia.

The dead were also consulted on sensitive family and clan matters before making any decision.

In some societies, people sang and danced for the departed members in order to appease them.

During ceremonies like weddings, the dead were always invited to attend and enjoy with the living.

Children were prohibited from playing and shouting near the grave yards so as not to disturb the resting ancestors.

“To the Africans, the dead were not dead but they were living dead. “Justify the statement.

(13 marks)

Approach:

The question wants the various ways in which the Africans in the past treated the dead people as if they were still alive.

HOW CHRISTIANS VENERATE/ REMEMBER THE DEAD

Christians pray through the departed Christians e.g. they pray through the Uganda martyrs.

They name and baptize young ones names of the dead Christians e.g. John Paul, Simon peter, Joseph Mukasa, Balikuddembe etc.

They also pray for the dead Christians especially on all saints day.

They have built schools and institutions and named them after the dead Christians .e.g. Uganda Martyrs.sNamugongost. Joseph s.sNsambya etc.

The Church has influenced government to name streets after the dead Christians .e.g.LuwumStreet in Kampala.

Departed Christians are sometimes buried near churches e.g.msgNsoby was buried near Kitovu cathedral.

They make portraits or statues that resemble the dead Christians. E.g. the portraits of John the Baptists at Christ the King church in Kampala

They have written many books about the dead Christians e.g. the book about the Uganda martyrs, saint.Paul’s missionary journeys.

They have built churches and named them after the dead Christians .e.g.St. Paul’s cathedralNamirembe,Uganda martyrs church Namugongo etc.

They carry out ceremonies of canonation for the departed Christians where they are declared as saints.eg the late pope John Paul II

Christians preserve the bodies of the dead Christians to prevent them from decaying for public viewing.eg the body of the late Arch Bishop Kiwanuka was kept in Rubaga Cathedral.

During preaching in the church, the dead Christians aresometimes given as reference to Christians.

Christians compose songs which praise the departed Christians.E.g. the Catholic Church song about the white fathers Amaasi and Mapeera.

In what ways do Christians remember the departed today? OR Show

how the departed Christians are venerated today. (12 marks)

Approach:

Both questions are similar and they are calling for the different ways in which Christians/the church remembers those who died in Christianity.

HOW CHRISTIANS PREPARE FOR UNENDING LIFE

The church prepares people for unending life through praying for them all the time.

It also calls upon people to fast for Jesus' sake as a way of making them ready for Life after death.

By baptizing them in Jesus' name, the church also prepares people for life after here.

The church preaches the good news to the people hence making them ready for unending Life.

The church encourages people to repent off their sins and receive God's forgiveness.

It prepares them, by encouraging them to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus or believe in Life after death.

The church also holds worship services with the people as a way of preparing them for life after her.

By calling for monogamous marriages as well as permanent marriages among couples.

By holding Bible study lessons among Christians where they are taught the meaning of scriptures.

By holding counseling and guidance sessions among all Christians with social challenges.

By encouraging Christians to help one another especially the needy people.

The church also encourages Love and kindness among Christians as a way of preparing them for unending life.

The church encourages Christians to have strong faith in Jesus Christ so as to have life after death.

Through holding crusades, seminars and conferences, the church is preparing people for unending Life.

Show how the church prepares people for unending Life today. (12**marks) Approach:**

It wants the ways the church is helping people to go to heaven after death.

Revision question**How are the dead venerated/ remembered in the contemporary world today? (15 marks)****Approach:**

It wants the various ways in which the dead people are remembered in the secular world today.

Answers:

Through giving their names to the new born babies

By building for the dead special houses called shrines where they are believed to continue staying.

Through organizing for them funeral rites after some time and giving them heirs.

They are venerated through praising their name and the works they did when they were still alive.

Through visiting and cleaning the burial grounds of the departed members to keep them clean.
By sacrificing for the dead members in form of slaughtering animals, chicken etc. For them.
They are remembered through singing and dancing for the dead members in order to appease them.
By naming streets or roads names of the dead e.g. Luwum street in Kampala, Kafumbe Mukasa road etc.
Through building schools, commercial buildings and markets and name them names of the dead. eg Mutaasa Kafeero plaza in Kampala, Kakungulu memorial schools etc.
By redoing their good works like re-singing their songs. eg the songs of the Late Elly Wamala have been re-sung by various artists today.
They are venerated through organizing memorial services for the dead every after a year.
They are remembered through shooting films or videos showing Lives of the dead. eg the film about the Late President of Uganda Iddi Amin Dada.
Through producing and wearing clothes/T-shirts containing the pictures and names of the dead. eg T-shirts of the Late Bob Marley, Lucky Dube etc.
They are remembered by framing the photos of the dead and hanging them in houses and offices. eg Photos of the Late Kabaka of Buganda and First President of Uganda Muteesa II.
In some societies, the dead are remembered through offering them food and drinks in the shrines. eg some Baganda.

ASIAN RELIGION IN EAST AFRICA

ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS FAITH

HINDUISM RELIGIOUS FAITH

JUDAISM RELIGIOUS FAITH

BUDDHISM RELIGIOUS FAITH

Buddhism is a religion with a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama the awakened one.

Buddha lived and taught in northeastern India between 4th century and 6th century B.C.

He is recognized by Buddhist as an awakened or enlightened teacher who shared his insights to help human beings end ignorance.

This religion is most popular in Asia and is found throughout the world with around 350-500 million followers.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BUDDHISM RELIGIOUS FAITH

It is common practice by the Buddhist followers to support monastic community.

They practice meditation e.g. at the age of 35, Gautama meditated under a scared fig tree and vowed not to rise before achieving enlightenment.

Buddhist has scriptures which the followers read to achieve enlightenment.eg the Buddha texts.

They have devotional practices which include bowing and offering to Buddha as a way of worship for blessings, thanksgiving.

Worship involves invocation (call) of Buddha to take part in the daily activities of his followers.

There is emphasis on renouncing the material world in order to become a holy man e.g. refraining from using high or luxurious seats and beddings.

Buddhists call for the middle way, a path of moderation between the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification.

Buddhism believes in fasting but it's against prolonged and painful fasting as it causes extreme suffering and pain, not a solution to worldly problems.

In Buddhism, Karma; the actions of body, speech and mind should cultivate positive actions of ethical conduct.

Liberation/salvation called Nirvana is the main goal of the Buddhist middle path which saves people from worldly suffering.

Buddha is title given to those who have attained Nirvana/salvation and these qualify to serve as religious leaders.

The Dharma is the teaching or law of nature as expounded by Gautama.

The Dharma provides guidelines for the alleviation of suffering and attainment of Nirvana.

It discourages its followers from eating at a wrongtime and it refrains taking of Alcohol as this may stop a person from attaining Nirvana.

Buddhism further discourages eating of meat and it encourages vegetarianism.

It is against worldly enjoyment in form of dancing to worldly Music and attending of shows and other performances.

It refrains people from using perfumes, ointments and application of things that tend to beautify people like wearing of Jewelry and cosmetics.

The Buddhist temples have religious objects symbols and status of different Buddha's.

The religion has a number of hymns which are sang during worship such as the threefold refuge "and the four great vows."

Pilgrimages are made to Mahabodhi temple in India where Gautama Buddha attained Nirvana

1. Examine the main features/characteristics of Buddhism (13 marks)

THE TEACHING OF BUDDHISM ABOUT SUFFERING

Buddhism is a religion found mainly in Asian and it teaches the following about suffering:

The Buddhist understanding of suffering originates from the writings and teachings of Gautama the Buddha.

It teaches that suffering originates from human extremes of poverty and riches.

It says that this makes life and everything in Life painful for humanity and thus suffering.

Buddhism says that pain and suffering are caused by growing human lust and desires for worldly things

It teaches that human life itself is painful because giving birth is a painful experience.

That old age is equally painful and full of suffering as humans strive to continue existing.

It teaches that in life, there is sickness and death which are equally painful and cause suffering.

It therefore says that the very desire for life or to stay alive will always cause future suffering to the individuals.

Buddhism says that the only way to have good Life and avoid suffering is by giving up with worldly desires and Lust.

It calls upon its followers to forsake and detach themselves from the things of the world to avoid suffering.

That prolonged and painful fasting causes extreme suffering and pain.

Discuss the teaching of Buddhism about suffering (10 marks)

STRENGTH OF BUDDHISM



WHY BUDDHISM HAS FEW FOLLOWERS IN EAST AFRICA

The strong African cultures that are embedded with in Africans beliefs make Africans look at Buddhism as a foreign religion and culture.

The early dominance and influence of Christianity among Africans has made Buddhism that came late to have few followers.

The influence of Islam on East Africa that had been already spread earlier.

Buddhism lacks commissioned evangelists that can spread it across East Africa.

The religion lacks social services such as health facilities, schools etc. to attract the east Africans.

The Colonization of East Africa by the western Christian nations over shadowed the spread and teaching of Buddhism.

Food restrictions of the religion like prohibiting of drinks like Alcohol, eating of beef etc. Which most Africans enjoy has also limited its spread.

The lack of belief in God by the Buddhist followers also scared many Africans from joining this religion.

It was and is still being considered as a religious faith of the Asians in India, Japan and China hence being too foreign for Africans.

It's being criticized by both Christianity and Islam as a religion of worshiping idols because Buddha is a human being.

The religion is less indigenised. ie it has nothing in common with African culture hence being neglected by East Africans.

Buddhism was introduced in East Africa very late especially in Uganda and Kenya hence having few followers.

It has strict rules and regulations which Africans cannot follow. eg followers only eat from sunrise to noon.

It discourages worldly entertainment in form of dancing to worldly music and attending of music concerts and shows.

Explain why Buddhism has not had an impact on the peoples of East Africa?

Why has Buddhism registered few followers in East Africa?

Approach:

It wants reasons why Buddhism as a religion has few followers in East Africa.

BAHAI FAITH

39a) Compare Islam with the Bahai faith (15 marks)

Approach:

It needs the similarities and differences between the Islamic religious faith and Bahai faith.

Similarities:

Both are monotheistic religions faith. ie they believe in one God.

Both believe in God's messengers.

Both believe in Holy Scriptures.

They both have holy places of worship. ie Muslims have mosques and Bahai has temples

Both believe in Life after death i.e. resurrection of the spirit.

Both believe in the Judgment day.

Both emphasize justice in society

Both religions fast during certain periods.

Both discourages taking of alcoholic drinks and drugs

Both emphasize unity in worshipping places.

Both have religious symbols like stars; moon etc. for Muslims and Bahai have the ring stone symbol.

Both religions discourage gambling and it can lead to disaster.

Both discourage divorce and encourage gambling and it can lead o disaster.

Both discourage divorce and encourage permanence in marriage.

Both emphasis morality and discourage immorality like adultery and fornication.

Both conduct pilgrimages to holy places e.g. Muslims to Mecca and Bahai to Israel.

Differences:

Bahai faith emphasizes equality of man and woman where as in Islam, men are superior over women.

Muslims fast for 30 days where as in Bahai they only fast for (19) nineteen days.

Islam believes that Muhammad is the last prophet of all where as in Bahai faith is Bahaullah.

Islam allows believer to participate in politics whereas Bahai faith forbids its followers from engaging in partisan politics.

Bhai emphasis monogamy while Islam tolerates polygamy

Bahai followers worship in temples while Muslim worship in mosques.

Bahai is considered to be one of the youngest religions whereas Islam is considered the oldest religion in the world.

The Bahai faith believes in Al-Aqdas as their sacred book where Islam believes in the Quran.

Bahai faith forbids women to wear hijab whereas Islamic faith encourages women to put on veils and Hijab.

In Islamic faith, they pray five times a day while Bahai pray three times a day.

In Bahai, they fast during the last month of their Calendar while Muslims fast during the month of Ramadhan.

b) Explain the reasons why Bahai faith has few followers in East Africa.(10 marks)

The strong African culture has made it hard for Africans to join the Bahai faith which is foreign.

The influence of Christianity in East Africa that came earlier has also limited the followers of Bahai faith

The influence of the Islamic faith on East Africa especially at the coast also explains why Bahai has few followers.

Bahai faith lacks aggressive evangelist in East Africa to spread it hence having few followers.

Limited offer of social services by the Bahai evangelists to the local people has also limited its followers.

Bahai's strong stance against taking of alcohol which is enjoyed by many Africans also accounts for the few followers.

Bhai faith has limited charity services for others especially the non Bahai followers which have limited its converts.

Bahai respects all other religions as true and right in their own sense thus limiting its converts.

The activities of Bahai were disrupted by President Idd Amin Dada of Uganda when he banned the faith in 1977.

Some people say that Bahai is a religion for the primitive people hence discouraging many people from joining it.

The faith was introduced late in East African when Islam and Christianity had already spread.

40) Analyze /assess the impact of missionary activities on East Africa. (25 marks)