

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
HISTORY

(The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria)

**PREAMBLE**

The syllabus will test candidates’

- (a) knowledge of their National History from the earliest times to 1985 with emphasis on the relationship between the peoples and states.
- (b) intellectual capacity and skills of historical interpretation and analysis.
- (c) ability to use acquired skills in relating the past to the present.
- (d) appreciation of factors that make for national unity and global understanding.
- (e) exposure and appreciation of the similarities and differences in the National, social, economic and political institutions.
- (f) knowledge of the main historical developments in Africa since 1800.
- (g) ability to relate events in their country and Africa to those of the outside world.
- (h) ability to present clear, relevant and logical arguments.

To achieve these aims and objectives, the Syllabus shall consist of two papers both of which must be taken.

PAPER 1: Africa and the Wider World since 1800

PAPER 2: National Histories of The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria from the earliest times to 1985.

**EXAMINATION SCHEME**

PAPER 1: This will be a one-hour (1 hr) multiple-choice (objective) test of fifty (50) items. Candidates must **attempt all** the questions for forty (40) marks.

PAPER 2: This will be a two-and-a-half hour (2 ½ hrs) essay type test made up of three (03) sections of four (04) questions each.

Candidates will be requested to answer **four** questions choosing **at least one** from each section. Paper 2 will carry sixty (60) marks. **Candidates must answer questions on the country in which they are taking the examination.**

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**DETAILED SYLLABUS**

PAPER 1: AFRICA AND THE WIDER WORLD SINCE AD 1800

SECTION A: WEST AND NORTH AFRICA

**1. Islamic Movements and Establishment of Muslim States in West Africa**

The jihad of Usman dan Fodio as an inspiration for other jihads in West Africa : jihad of Seku Ahmadu, Al-haj Umar, activities of Samori Toure, the Muslim states in the face of European colonization.

**2. Christian Missionary Activities in West Africa**

The suppression of the Slave trade and foundation of Sierra Leone and Liberia, Christian Missionary activities and their impact on West Africa.

**3. Nation Building in Egypt**

Egypt from the French invasion to the rise of Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Ali, his reforms, early conquests. Ali and European powers, Muhammad Ali's successors; the era of Said and Ismail.

**4. The Maghreb and Europe**

The nature of Turkish rule in the Maghreb, relations between the Maghreb and Europe, the French occupation of Algeria and Algerian response; French occupation of Tunisia and Morocco; turkey and Italy in Libya.

SECTION B: THE HORN, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

**5. Ethiopia**

Its survival in the age of Scramble for the Partition of Africa; Emperor Theodore II and the establishment of monarchy in Ethiopia. Ethiopia under Menelik II; the survival of Ethiopian independence.

**6. Zanzibar and Buganda**

Sayyid Said and the rise of the Omani empire, European activities and the Omani empire. Buganda in the nineteenth century, New developments and British occupation of Buganda.

**7. The Mfecane and the Rise of New States in Southern Africa**

Internal developments among the Bantu speaking peoples of Southern Africa; the rise of Shaka, Mfecane and its consequences.

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**8. The Great Trek and the Rise of Boer Republics**

The frontier wars and British intervention in Boer-African relations; the Great Trek and its consequences.

**9. The Scramble for, and the Partition of Africa**

The Industrial Revolution, the New Imperialism and Scramble for colonies, colonial subjugation, occupation and African reaction.

**10. Colonial Rule in Africa**

Patterns of colonial rule, consolidation of European culture in Africa; colonial economy and the underdevelopment of Africa; features of settler colonies in Africa, colonial Africa and the two World Wars.

**11. Nationalist Movements and Decolonization in Africa**

Colonial policies and African discontent, formation of political parties and associations; external influence on nationalist movements, patterns of nationalist movements and the regaining of independence.

**12. Apartheid**

Prelude to Apartheid, the rise of Afrikaner nationalism, Apartheid legislation and suppression of African nationalist movements, external reactions to Apartheid; the OAU and Apartheid.

**13. Problems of Independent African States**

Nature of politics; neo-colonialism and political developments; neo-colonialism and economic underdevelopment, unequal development within states and instability, the Military in African politics, boundary disputes and threat to African Unity.

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PAPER 2 : National Histories of Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia up to 1985.

**NIGERIA**  
**(For Candidates in Nigeria)**

**SECTION A: NIGERIA UP TO 1800**

1. Land and peoples of Nigeria: main geographical zones into which Nigeria can be divided; impact of the environment on human activities.
2. Centres of Ancient Civilization:  
  
Nok, Ife, Igbo Ukwu, Benin.
3. (a) Centralized and non-centralized states:
  - (i) Kanem and Borno;
  - (ii) Hausa;
  - (iii) Igala;
  - (iv) Oyo;
  - (v) Benin;
  - (vi) Igbo;
  - (vii) Urhobo and Itsekiri.  
(b) Inter-group relations: economic activities, impact of migrations, war and politics.
4. Indigenous Crafts and Industries: pottery, salt making, iron working, gold mining, soap making, leather works, weaving, carving, bronze casting – technology, social and economic importance.
5. **External influences**
  - (a) Contact with North Africa: trade, Islam and impact
  - (b) Early European contact with coastal states: trade, Christianity and impact.
6. Nigeria and the trans-Atlantic slave trade: Origin, organization and effects

**SECTION B: NIGERIA IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

7. The Sokoto Caliphate: its establishment, administration, relations with its neighbours and impact of the Sokoto jihad on Nigeria.
8. Borno under the Shehu: the emergence of El-Kanemi, developments under El-Kanemi and Shehu Umar, developments under later Shehu, the Fall of Borno.
9. European relations with Nigeria: the suppression of the trans-Atlantic slave trade; activities of European explorers; Christian Missionary activities and their impact; consular and company activities and their impact on coastal states and the hinterland.

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10. **Yorubaland and Benin:** the collapse of the Old Oyo Empire and its aftermath, the era of Ibadan dominance; increased British pressure on Yorubaland; Benin in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
11. **The British conquest of Nigeria: 1851 – 1914.**
12. **British rule in Nigeria 1900 – 1914**
  - (a) The early phase 1900 – 1914
    - (i) the amalgamation of 1914 and its significance
  - (b) Later phase 1914 – 1960
    - (i) central administration;
    - (ii) indirect rule;
    - (iii) the colonial economy;
    - (iv) social developments.
13. **The decolonization process in Nigeria, 1922 – 1960**

Origin of nationalism, nationalist movements and the attainment of independence.
14. **Nigeria since independence**
  - (a) the First Republic, 1960 – 1966;
  - (b) the coups d'état, military rule, civil war and reconstruction, 1966 – 1975;
  - (c) the military administration of 1975 – 1979;
  - (d) the Second Republic, 1979 – 1983;
  - (e) developments up to 1985.
15. **Nigeria and the**
  - (a) United Nations Organization (U.N.O.);
  - (b) Commonwealth of Nations;
  - (c) Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.);
  - (d) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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**SIERRA LEONE**  
(For Candidates in Sierra Leone)

**SECTION A: SIERRA LEONE UP TO 1800**

1. **The peopling of Sierra Leone.**
2. **The Mane invasions.**
3. The Political, social and Economic Organization of the following peoples: the Bullom/Sherbro, Temne, Mende, Limba, Loko, Susu, Mandingo:
4. **Indigenous Industries:** pottery, salt, iron, leather, soap-making, weaving, dyeing, carving – technology, social and economic importance.
5. **Introduction of Islam and Christianity**
6. **Sierra Leone and the trans-Atlantic slave trade:** origin, organization and effects.

**SECTION B: SIERRA LEONE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

7. **The Colony of Sierra Leone**
  - (a) Anti-slave trade movement and establishment of the colony;
  - (b) Company rule;
  - (c) The influence of the Recaptives;
  - (d) The emergence of the Krio;
  - (e) Constitutional developments: 1863 – 1900.
8. **Internal Developments**
  - (a) Commercial and other contacts between the Krio of the colony and the hinterland; and role of the colonial government;
  - (b) Contributions of Christian missionaries in the hinterland;
  - (c) Spread and influence of Islam;
  - (d) Political and trade conflicts in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: e.g. activities of the Yonni;
  - (e) Sherbro-Island in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century;
  - (f) Events leading to the declaration of the protectorate: the Hut Tax War and its effects;
  - (g) The decline of the Krio.

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**SECTION C: SIERRA LEONE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

**9. The Colonial Administration**

- (a) Indirect rule and the role of the traditional rulers.
- (b) Constitutional developments 1900 – 1945.
- (c) The development of local government e.g. the Freetown City/and district councils

**10. Economic and Social Developments in the Colonial Period**

- (a) education;
- (b) health services;
- (c) mining;
- (d) agriculture;
- (e) transport.

**11. Struggle for and the Regaining of Independence**

- (a) Political and Constitutional developments after World War II
  - (i) the Protectorate Assembly;
  - (ii) Formation of Political parties and elections;
- (b) Attainment of Self-government and independence.

**12. Developments after Independence:**

- (a) The Milton and Albert Margai administrations;
- (b) Coups d'état of 1967 and subsequent crises;
- (c) The Siaka Stevens Regime.

**13. Sierra Leone and the**

- (a) United Nations Organization (UNO);
- (b) Commonwealth;
- (c) Organization of African Unity (OAU);
- (d) Mano River Union;
- (e) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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**THE GAMBIA**

**(For Candidates in the Gambia)**

SECTION A: THE GAMBIA (UP TO 1800)

1. **Origins, political, social and economic organization of the following peoples:**  
The Wolof, Mandinka, Fula, Jola, Krio (Aku) and Serahuli.
2. **Indigenous Industries:** salt, iron, gold, soap-making, leather, weaving, carving – technology, and the social and economic importance.
3. **Spread and influence of Islam.**
4. **Early European exploration and trade.**
5. **The Gambia and the trans-Atlantic slave trade:** Origin, organization and effects.

SECTION B: THE GAMBIA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

6. **Suppression of the slave trade and its effects:** campaigns against Kings of Barra, Sabiji, Fulladu.
7. **The founding of Banjul.**
8. **Contributions of Christian Missionaries:** pioneering of Christianity and Western education.
9. **The Soninke-Marabout Wars, Jihadist leaders;** colonial government's reaction to religious disturbances, 1850 – 1880.
10. **Resistance to European Colonialism:**  
Foday Sillah, Foday Kabba and Musa Moloh.

SECTION C: THE GAMBIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

11. **British Colonial Administration: indirect rule and the role of traditional rulers.**
12. **Social and Economic developments:**
  - (a) education;
  - (b) health services;
  - (c) agriculture: attempts at diversification;
  - (d) transport.



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13. **Development of Local Government**
14. **The Struggle for and the regaining of independence:**
- (a) The Struggle for and the regaining of independence;
  - (b) Emergence and role of Trade Unions, Political Parties;
  - (c) Internal Self-government;
  - (d) Independence negotiations;
  - (e) Senegambia relations before independence.
15. **Developments after Independence:**
- (a) attempt at national government;
  - (b) the Republican Constitution;
  - (c) Parliamentary government; Multi-party politics, political realignment;
  - (d) Social and Economic Developments;
  - (e) Senegambia relations.
16. **The Gambia and the**
- (a) United Nations Organization (UNO);
  - (b) Commonwealth;
  - (c) Organization of African Unity (OAU);
  - (d) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).