

**World Civilizations: The Global Experience, AP Edition, 6e (Stearns)**  
**Chapter 8 African Civilizations and the Spread of Islam**

**Multiple-Choice Questions**

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1) Between 800 and 1500, as the frequency and intensity of contact with the outside world increased, which of the following had the most significant impact on sub-Saharan Africa?

- A) The arrival of the Portuguese
- B) The arrival of Christianity
- C) The arrival of Islam
- D) The arrival of Chinese merchants

Answer: C

Page Ref: 184

Topic: Introduction

Skill: Conceptual

2) What was one of the major differences between African civilizations and other postclassical societies?

- A) African civilizations built somewhat less clearly on prior societies than did other post-classical societies.
- B) African civilization was almost entirely dependent on cultural importations from Islam and the Arabic world.
- C) Prior to 800, African civilizations had no contact with civilizations outside of the African continent.
- D) African civilizations were based on hierarchal and patrilineal models, not democratic and matrilineal ones.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 184

Topic: Introduction

Skill: Conceptual

3) Which of the following statements concerning political and religious universality in Africa is most accurate?

A) Although a universal empire did not develop in Africa, Islam provided a principle of universality in the continent.

B) During the post classical period, Africa was politically united under a single government but remained religiously diverse.

C) Universal religions found no adherents in Africa, a fact that helps to account for the failure of a universal political system to develop.

D) Neither universal states nor universal religion characterized Africa, but both Christianity and Islam did find adherents in Africa.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 184-185

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

4) African societies organized around kinship or other forms of obligation and lacking the concentration of political power and authority were referred to as

A) stateless societies.

B) pastoral groupings.

C) Bantu conical clans.

D) Islamic tribes.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 185

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

5) What was the function of secret societies in African culture?

A) They smuggled valuable gold across the Sahara and established vital trade routes with the Mediterranean.

B) Because secret societies were restricted to females, they permitted women to have an invisible, but powerful, role in political affairs within African societies.

C) Because their membership cut across lineage divisions, they acted to maintain stability within the community and diminish clan feuds.

D) They served as a disruptive and revolutionary force in African society forestalling the formation of larger states.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 185

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

6) Which of the following statements best describes the indigenous religion of much of sub-Saharan Africa?

- A) Much of sub-Saharan Africa was Christian but later converted to Islam under military pressure.
- B) Animistic religion, belief in the power of natural forces personified as deities, characterized much of Africa.
- C) African religion prior to the arrival of the Muslims was typified by an independent form of monotheism characterized by worship in monumental temple complexes.
- D) Sub-Saharan groups were influenced by Hindu beliefs brought in through east African trading ports such as Kilwa.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 186

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

7) Which of the following statements concerning the economies of Africa is NOT correct?

- A) North Africa was fully involved in the Mediterranean and Arab economic world.
- B) Settled agriculture and iron working had been established in many areas before the postclassical period.
- C) Trade was handled by professional merchants, often in kinship groupings.
- D) Much of the region lacked a market economy and was based on self-sufficient agricultural units.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 187

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

8) Which of the following was NOT a belief shared by practitioners of many indigenous African religions?

- A) The idea of a creator deity
- B) A moral code based on one supreme god
- C) The veneration of ancestors
- D) The view that the land had religious significance

Answer: B

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Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

9) What region of Africa was first converted to Islam by 700 C.E.?

- A) East Africa
- B) Central Africa
- C) West Africa
- D) North Africa

Answer: D

Page Ref: 187

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Factual

10) The puritanical reform movements of the Almoravids and Almohadis arose among what groups of people in Africa?

- A) The Berbers, native desert dwellers of North Africa
- B) The Arabs during the conquest of North Africa
- C) The Nubians of the early Sudan
- D) The inhabitants of the empire of Mali

Answer: A

Page Ref: 187

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Factual

11) What does the phrase "equality before God and inequality within the world" mean?

- A) It refers to the indigenous African religions' emphasis on social equality.
- B) It refers to the powers exercised by the African rulers.
- C) It refers to the equality that all clan heads enjoyed within African society.
- D) It refers to the disparity between law and practice in many African societies.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 188

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

12) What was the most important Christian kingdom in Africa?

- A) Mali
- B) Songhay
- C) Kongo
- D) Ethiopia

Answer: D

Page Ref: 188, 189

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Factual

13) Which of the following regions was NOT one of the important points of cultural contact between Africa and Islam?

- A) The Atlantic Ocean
- B) The Indian Ocean
- C) The Persian Gulf
- D) The Sahara

Answer: C

Page Ref: 189

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

14) The Sahel refers to the

- A) grassland belt at the southern edge of the Sahara that served as a point of exchange between the forests of the south and north Africa.
- B) East African coastline that became the primary point of contact for Muslim merchants from India and southeast Asia and African traders.
- C) series of trading ports that rapidly developed along the Atlantic coast to support the trade in African slaves.
- D) part of the Sahara that borders Egypt on the east, Tunisia in the west, and the Mediterranean on the north.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 189

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

15) What Sudanic kingdom declined in 1076, making way for new political organizations in the region?

- A) Mali
- B) Songhay
- C) Ghana
- D) Axum

Answer: C

Page Ref: 189

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

16) Which of the following statements concerning the Sudanic states of Mali and Songhay is most accurate?

- A) Although powerful, the Sudanic states never reached the level of empires.
- B) Sudanic states had territorial core areas in which the people were of the same ethnic background, but their power extended over subordinate communities.
- C) What provided the cultural unity necessary for the establishment of states in the Sudan was the conversion of many people to Christianity.
- D) The Sudanic states were distinguished from other African civilizations by the peculiar lack of family or clan lineages as an organizing principle of society.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 190

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

17) What was the geographical location of the empire of Mali?

- A) Between the Zambezi and Congo rivers
- B) Between the cities of Mogadishu and Mombasa
- C) Between the Niger and Senegal rivers
- D) Along the Nile river valley

Answer: C

Page Ref: 190

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

18) What monarch is credited with beginning Malinke expansion and creating the Mali Empire?

- A) Sundiata
- B) Mahmud of Ghur
- C) Mansa Kankan Musa
- D) King Lalibela

Answer: A

Page Ref: 190

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

19) Which of the following statements concerning the social organization of the Malinke people is most accurate?

A) Following their conversion to Islam, the Malinke removed the worst aspects of social stratification in order to achieve social equality.

B) The Malinke recognized only two sorts of people, those who were free and slaves.

C) The Malinke regarded all members of the tribal group as children of the ruler and thus essentially equal.

D) Malinke society was divided into three groups: clans of freemen, people devoted to religion, and specialists and tradesmen.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 190

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

20) The African traders associated with the Mali Empire were called

A) Soninke.

B) Zimbabwe.

C) Jenne.

D) Juula.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 190

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

21) What was the social and political function of the griots?

A) Griots were religious diviners whose function was to foretell the future and guide the decisions of kings.

B) Griots were the classes of people of the conquest states of the Mali kings who were consigned to labor within the empire's mines.

C) Griots mastered the oral traditions of the Malinke and by knowing the past were considered excellent advisors of kings.

D) Griots were Islamic religious leaders in African empires and, as such, played a powerful role in government.

Answer: C

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

22) What was the nature of urbanization within the Mali Empire?

- A) As a conquest empire, Mali possessed garrison cities for its soldiers, but failed to develop commercial centers.
- B) Mali possessed "port cities" along the Niger River such as Jenne and Timbuktu, which flourished both commercially and culturally.
- C) The "cities" of Mali were essentially religious and palace complexes that lacked populations of specialists other than men devoted to religious observances.
- D) Mali failed to develop cities prior to the rise of a strong monarchy under Sundiata.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 191

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

23) Which of the following statements concerning the agricultural economy of Mali is most accurate?

- A) Because of the poor soil, the majority of the people of Mali abandoned agriculture for trade.
- B) Land in Mali was owned communally and farmed in clan groups.
- C) Because of the early introduction of iron working in Mali's culture, the agricultural economy was able to take advantage of extremely advanced technology.
- D) The farmers of Mali were barely able to provide the basic foods that supported the imperial states.

Answer: D

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

24) What ruler was responsible for the creation of the Songhay Empire?

- A) Sundiata
- B) Sunni Ali
- C) Mansa Kankan Musa
- D) Muhammad the Great

Answer: B

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual



25) Songhay was originally dominated by which African empire?

- A) Ethiopia
- B) Axum
- C) Mali
- D) Zimbabwe

Answer: C

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

26) What was the military title taken by the later rulers of Songhay?

- A) Dhow
- B) Askia
- C) Sultan
- D) Caliph

Answer: B

Page Ref: 193

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

27) What accounted for the downfall of Songhay?

- A) The collapse of the irrigation system on which the agricultural economy depended
- B) Invasion by a Moroccan Muslim army equipped with firearms, followed by internal revolts
- C) Defeat and incorporation within the Mali Empire
- D) The rise of the Swahili coast power states such as Kilwa and others

Answer: B

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

28) Following the decline of Songhay, smaller states developed east of Mali and Songhay among what people?

- A) Nok
- B) Almoravid
- C) Hausa
- D) Masai

Answer: C

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Factual

29) Why was Islam so readily adopted by rulers within the Sudan?

- A) They were all conquered by overwhelming Muslim armies and forcibly converted to Islam.
- B) The Muslim concept of a ruler who united civil and religious authority reinforced traditional ideas of kingship.
- C) The Muslim concept of religious equality allowed rulers to dispose of the traditional clans and lineages of Africa.
- D) As a monotheistic religion, Islam was much like the traditional religions of Africa.

Answer: B

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

30) What was the relationship between Islam and the indigenous religions of Africa?

- A) Islamic teachers attempted to eradicate the animist indigenous religions of Africa.
- B) Because both indigenous African religion and Islam were monotheistic, the two became inextricably intertwined.
- C) Islam was able to accommodate pagan practices and beliefs in the early stages of conversion
- D) Islam successfully overcame indigenous religious beliefs, and almost all Africans converted to Islam.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 193, 194

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

31) How did contact with the Muslim world affect the African slave trade?

- A) Because of the Muslim emphasis on equality of all believers, early Muslim rulers suppressed the slave trade.
- B) Slavery was unknown in African society until the Muslims introduced it.
- C) Slavery became a more widely diffused phenomenon and the slave trade developed rapidly.
- D) Muslims forced southern Africans to give up slavery.

Answer: C

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

32) How was the institution of slavery viewed in Muslim society?

- A) In theory, slavery was seen as a stage in the process of conversion of pagans to Islam.
- B) Slavery was believed to be a permanent condition that rendered the enslaved incapable of entering heaven.
- C) Slavery was viewed as so demeaning that those who were enslaved were good for nothing beyond labor in the fields or the mines.
- D) Slavery was eradicated in Islamic society because of the emphasis on the equality of believers.

Answer: A

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Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

33) Which of the following groups did NOT migrate to the coastal region of East Africa?

- A) Bantu
- B) Seaborne immigrants from Indonesia and Malaya
- C) Refugees from Oman
- D) Berbers from north Africa

Answer: D

Page Ref: 195-197

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Factual

34) The Arabic term for the east African coast was

- A) Zehnj
- B) Dhow.
- C) Askia.
- D) Mandala.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 196

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Factual

35) What was the common cultural trait of the urbanized trading ports of the east African coast?

- A) Membership in the Soninke tribe
- B) The artistic style of the Nok culture
- C) Bantu-based and Arabic-influenced Swahili language
- D) A single ruling family from the Malinke tribe

Answer: C

Page Ref: 196

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Conceptual

36) What was the nature of trade for the towns of east Africa?

- A) Most trade was focused on caravans crossing the Sahel to north Africa.
- B) Trade was limited to local commerce among the towns and with the hinterlands lying west of the urbanized coast.
- C) There was active trade to the Persian Gulf and Egypt, but little beyond those points.
- D) International trade flourished in the urbanized ports of east Africa, including commerce with India and China.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 196

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Factual

37) How did the expansion of Islam aid in the creation of international trade on the east African coastline?

- A) Islam expanded to India and southeast Asia, providing a religious bond of trust between those regions and the converted rulers of the cities of east Africa.
- B) Because Islam regarded Christians as peoples of the book, Muslim merchants came to trade at the Christianized ports of east Africa.
- C) The connection with the Islamic states of north Africa permitted the urbanized ports of east Africa to trade widely with northern Europe.
- D) The direct trade routes between the African states of west Africa and the coast of east Africa stimulated commerce between the cities of the east and the Atlantic Ocean.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 196, 197

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Conceptual

38) To what extent did Islam successfully penetrate the populations of east Africa?

- A) As in Asia, the conversion of the coastal cities led to almost complete conversion of the populations lying inland.
- B) Most clans and the most important lineage groups outside of the east African cities were converted to Islam in order to participate in trade.
- C) Islam penetrated very little into the interior among the hunters, pastoralists, and farmers, and even the areas near the trading towns remained relatively unaffected.
- D) Islam spread from the cities to the hinterland in such a way that eventually the countryside was more Islamic than were the cities.

Answer: C

Page Ref: 196, 197

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Conceptual

39) What was the impact of the Portuguese arrival on the trading patterns of the east African coast?

- A) Despite great effort to shift the focus of trade into their hands, the Portuguese were never able to control trade on the northern Swahili coast.
- B) The Portuguese arrival disrupted normal trade lines so severely that African trade with India and southeast Asia ceased to exist for centuries.
- C) The Portuguese rapidly used military superiority to control all aspects of trade along the east African coast.
- D) The Portuguese allied themselves with Christians from Ethiopia in a combined assault on the east African coast.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 197

Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Conceptual

40) The study of population is referred to as

- A) demography.
- B) political science.
- C) populism.
- D) positivism.

Answer: A

Page Ref: 198

Topic: Thinking Historically: Two Transitions in the History of World Population

Skill: Factual

41) The "Demographic Transition" is often associated with what change in society?

- A) The militarization of society
- B) The adoption of private property
- C) Industrialization
- D) Agricultural revolution

Answer: C

Page Ref: 198, 199

Topic: Thinking Historically: Two Transitions in the History of World Population

Skill: Conceptual

- 42) Many African societies unaffected by either Christianity or Islam developed states without
- A) much success.
  - B) monumental architecture.
  - C) systems of government.
  - D) systems of writing.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 197

Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Factual

- 43) What was the form of political organization of the Yoruba people of Nigeria?
- A) The Yoruba were organized in small tribal villages under the rule of individual headmen.
  - B) The Yoruba were organized in a number of small city-states under the authority of regional kings.
  - C) The Yoruba state was strongly centralized under a divine emperor who ruled from Ile-Ife.
  - D) The Yoruba were part of the Mali Empire and accepted Mali's king as their king.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 198, 199

Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Factual

- 44) What was the form of political organization of the Kingdom of Kongo?
- A) The Kingdom of Kongo was a confederation of smaller states brought under the control of the king and divided into eight provinces.
  - B) The Kingdom of Kongo was organized into a number of city-states ruled from Ile-Ife.
  - C) The Kingdom of Kongo was part of the Mali Empire until it broke away in 1550.
  - D) The Kingdom of Kongo was a strongly centralized empire ruled by a divine king in Great Zimbabwe.

Answer: A

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Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Factual

- 45) Which of the following statements concerning Great Zimbabwe is NOT correct?
- A) Great Zimbabwe was both the capital of the kingdom and a religious center.
  - B) Great Zimbabwe was constructed by Arab Muslims who were trading with the Bantu residents of the region.
  - C) By the 15th century, a centralized state had begun to form centered on Great Zimbabwe.
  - D) Sofala on the east coast of Africa was the entry point for Zimbabwean goods.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 201, 202

Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Factual

- 46) The ruler of the kingdom centered on Great Zimbabwe took the title of
- A) mansa.
  - B) askia.
  - C) alafin.
  - D) mwene mutapa.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 201, 202

Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Factual

- 47) In what region of Africa was the influence of Islam most profound?
- A) Central Africa
  - B) West Africa among the Yoruba and at Benin
  - C) Ethiopia
  - D) Sudan and Swahili coast

Answer: D

Page Ref: 202

Topic: Global Connections: Internal Development and External Contacts

Skill: Factual



48) Which of the following states represents the development of Bantu concepts of kingship and state-building?

- A) Mali
- B) Kingdom of Kongo
- C) Songhay
- D) Mombassa

Answer: B

Page Ref: 202

Topic: Global Connections: Internal Development and External Contacts

Skill: Conceptual

49) Which of the following statements concerning the impact of Islam on sub-Saharan Africa is most accurate?

- A) Islam cut off north Africa from the regions of sub-Saharan Africa.
- B) The spread of Islam into Africa brought large areas into the global community.
- C) With the conversion of regions of the continent to Islam, Africa became the center of the Islamic world.
- D) Despite widespread conversion of Africans to Islam, the continent remained outside the trading sphere of the Islamic world.

Answer: B

Page Ref: 202

Topic: Global Connections: Internal Development and External Contacts

Skill: Conceptual

## Essay Questions

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1) What were the common elements of African society prior to the incursion of Islam?

Answer: Existence of stateless societies throughout Africa based on tribal and clan organizations typical of chiefdom; Bantu as common language base; widespread acceptance of animist religion based on natural forces and deities associated with them; significance of class of diviners; emphasis on religious quality of land; veneration of ancestors; evidence for vital local trade networks; tendency to exchange raw materials for manufactured products.

Page Ref: 185, 186

Topic: African Societies: Diversity and Similarities

Skill: Conceptual

2) By what means was conversion of sub-Saharan Africa carried out? What were the primary avenues of Islamic entry into sub-Saharan Africa?

Answer: Primarily conversion by traders and merchants rather than by conquest; three primary points of entry: Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, and the Sahel.

Page Ref: 189-197

Topic: Kingdoms of the Grasslands

Skill: Conceptual

3) Islamic influence was strongest in the Sudanic states and the Swahili coast. Compare and contrast the political forms of these regions. What does comparison suggest about the nature of Islamic influence in Africa?

Answer: Sudanic states: empires under strong central rulers with provincial sub-kings; social stratification into clan groups associated with occupational specialization; primarily agricultural economy. Swahili coast: city-states rather than centralized empire; based on trade, often international in scope. Islam did not impose a form of government; provided strength for indigenous institutions and royal authority, legal code; connected Africa to Muslim trade world.

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Topic: The Swahili Coast of East Africa

Skill: Conceptual

4) Compare and contrast the political forms of the African states not affected by Islam (Yoruba, Benin, Kongo, Zimbabwe) with those that were (the Sudanic states and the Swahili coast).

Answer: Yoruba and Benin were based on city-state organization similar to Swahili coast; Kongo and Zimbabwe were lesser imperial forms of government similar to the Sudanic states. Suggests again that Islam did not seriously affect nature of political development.

Page Ref: 197-202

Topic: Peoples of the Forest and Plains

Skill: Conceptual

5) Given the geographical location of those African states most affected by Islam, what were the most important points of contact between African and Islamic societies? What does this suggest about the nature of Islamic conversion?

Answer: The Sudanic states just south of the Sahara and the Swahili coast were most affected by Islam; indicates primary importance of Indian Ocean trade routes and commercial routes connecting Sahel with Mediterranean. Although there is some early evidence of military penetration of sub-Saharan Africa (Almoravids, Almohades) from Mediterranean, most contact was probably through trade and commerce.

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Topic: Introduction

Skill: Conceptual

### **Document-based Questions**

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1) Sundiata ruled

A) Guinea.

B) Kongo.

C) Niger.

D) Mali.

Answer: D

Page Ref: 192

Topic: The Great Oral Tradition and the Epic of Sundiata

Skill: Factual

2) What does NOT describe Sundiata at age 18?

A) His eyes were live coals.

B) His hair was long and braided.

C) His arm was iron.

D) His voice carried authority.

Answer: B

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Topic: The Great Oral Tradition and the Epic of Sundiata

Skill: Factual