



**GCE**

**History A**

**Y209/01: Non-British period study: African Kingdoms c.1400-  
c.1800: four case studies**

A Level

**Mark Scheme for June 2023**

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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**MARKING INSTRUCTIONS****PREPARATION FOR MARKING  
RM ASSESSOR**

1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Assessor Online Training; OCR Essential Guide to Marking.*
2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are posted on the RM Cambridge Assessment Support Portal <http://www.rm.com/support/ca>
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses (“scripts”) and the **number of required** standardisation responses.

**MARKING**

1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 40% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone or the RM Assessor messaging system, or by email.
5. **Crossed Out Responses**  
Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

**Rubric Error Responses – Optional Questions**

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the highest mark from those awarded. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.)*

**Multiple Choice Question Responses**

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate).

*When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.*

**Contradictory Responses**

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

**Short Answer Questions** (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only **one mark per response**)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)*

**Short Answer Questions** (requiring a more developed response, worth **two or more marks**)

If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

**Longer Answer Questions** (requiring a developed response)

Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there then add a tick to confirm that the work has been seen.
7. Award No Response (NR) if:
  - there is nothing written in the answer space

Award Zero '0' if:

- anything is written in the answer space and is not worthy of credit (this includes text and symbols).

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Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your team leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**  
If you have any questions or comments for your team leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or e-mail.
9. *Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.*
10. For answers marked by levels of response: Not applicable in F501
  - a. **To determine the level** – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that matches the answer
  - b. **To determine the mark within the level**, consider the following:


Descriptor	Award mark
On the borderline of this level and the one below	At bottom of level
Just enough achievement on balance for this level	Above bottom and either below middle or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Meets the criteria but with some slight inconsistency	Above middle and either below top of level or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Consistently meets the criteria for this level	At top of level

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## 11. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning of annotation
<b>BP</b>	Blank Page
	Highlight
Off-page comment	
<b>A</b>	Assertion
<b>AN</b>	Analysis
<b>EVAL</b>	Evaluation
<b>EXP</b>	Explanation
<b>F</b>	Factor
<b>ILL</b>	Illustrates/Describes
<b>IRRL</b>	Irrelevant, a significant amount of material that does not answer the question
<b>J</b>	Judgement
<b>KU</b>	Knowledge and understanding
<b>P</b>	Provenance
<b>SC</b>	Simple comment
	Unclear
<b>V</b>	View

## 12. Subject Specific Marking Instructions

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
1	(a)	<p><b>Which was the more important factor in the rise of the Kingdom of Kongo c.1400-c.1709?</b></p> <p><b>(i) Political and administrative centralisation</b>  <b>(ii) Trade and commerce</b></p> <p><b>Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that (i) was of greater importance, answers</b> may refer to power being focused on Mbanza Kongo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers may refer to taxation which was centrally controlled.</li> <li>Answers could consider the way that the six provinces were ruled by centrally appointed governors.</li> <li>Answers could argue that the role of the Mwissikongo ruling class aided the rise.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that (ii) had the greater importance, answers</b> may refer to the growth of trade with Portugal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers could consider the development of international trade with a trade fair at Malebo Pool.</li> <li>Answers could argue that the slave trade was vital to the rise of Kongo, bringing considerable wealth.</li> <li>Answers could consider the political value of commercial ties with Europeans in securing support in preventing or suppressing rebellions.</li> </ul>	10	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.</p> <p><b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No set answer is expected</li> <li>Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material.</li> <li>Only credit material relevant to question.</li> <li>Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable.</li> <li>Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
1	(b)*	<p><b>Assess the importance of the role of the <i>Alafin</i>/King in Oyo and Dahomey.</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that the role was important, answers</b> could refer to the military achievements of the rulers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers could consider the diplomatic role as the kings sent out embassies.</li> <li>• Answers could suggest that kings had a role in improving access to the slave trade which enriched the kingdoms.</li> <li>• Answers might consider the spiritual role of the kings which added to their prestige.</li> <li>• Answers could argue that the absolute power of kings in Dahomey made them very important.</li> <li>• Answers could refer to individual leaders such as Agaja in Dahomey and Abiodun in Oyo who made major contributions.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that the role was not that important, answers</b> could argue that in Oyo especially, a federal system of government restricted the power of the kings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers could suggest that the city states of Oyo and its seven principal chiefs all had political and religious roles in the government.</li> <li>• Answers could consider that there was considerable internal conflict in Oyo between the <i>Alafin</i> and his councillors.</li> <li>• Answers could note that few <i>Alafins</i> died of natural causes which suggests some tension around their role.</li> <li>• Answers could argue that the key factors bringing prosperity to the kingdoms were the slave trade</li> </ul>	20	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.</p> <p><b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set answer is expected.</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates will focus on the extent of importance but at Level 4 may simply list roles of the kings.</li> <li>• At Level 5 there will be judgement as to the extent of importance.</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge the extent of importance.</li> <li>• To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions.</li> <li>• Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>



Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(a)	<p>and the export of cloth, rather than the power of the <i>Alafins</i>.</p> <p><b>Which contributed more to the rise of Oyo and Dahomey?</b></p> <p><b>(i) Military factors</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Individual rulers</b></p> <p><b>Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that (i) contributed more, answers</b> might refer to the successful use of horses in warfare as the terrain favoured cavalry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers might consider the different branches of the army, with cavalry, infantry and archers all working in a unified way.</li> <li>Answers could suggest that the drafting of foot soldiers from the provinces who served under a single commander helped make them a stronger military force.</li> <li>Answers could consider the importance of warfare in securing political and economic interests, not least in the acquisition of slaves to trade with Europeans (further enabled by arms manufactured in Europe).</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that (ii) contributed more, answers</b> might refer to Ojiji of Oyo who completed the conquest of Dahomey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers might argue that Agaja was a key ruler of Dahomey whose power grew rapidly under his government.</li> <li>Answers might consider the key role of individual rulers in securing autocratic systems, and the negative impact of weaker rulers such as Tegbesu of Dahomey and Abiodun of Oyo.</li> </ul>	10	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.</p> <p><b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No set answer is expected</li> <li>Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material.</li> <li>Only credit material relevant to question.</li> <li>Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable..</li> <li>Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(b)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers might consider the importance of relations between the individual ruler and his chief advisers (an important factor in the demise of the Oyo Empire).</li> </ul> <p><b>How important were economic factors in the decline of Benin?</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that economic factors were important</b> answers may refer to the decline in Benin's role in the slave trade as slavers moved elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers could argue that cloth trade flourished less as cotton cloth was produced in European factories, while ivory stocks were exhausted and so this trade ceased.</li> <li>Answers could consider that tribute paid by outlying tribes was reduced.</li> <li>Answers could suggest that the more European traders tried to infiltrate Benin, the more the rulers operated a closed-door policy and relied largely on exports of palm oil, which weakened the economy.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that other factors were important</b> answers could refer to the succession crisis of 1608 which led to a series of weak Obas, who took refuge in their palaces and left government to the nobles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers could argue that dynastic disputes and civil war dominated the 1700s and led to the army being preoccupied with in-fighting, rather than dealing with external enemies.</li> <li>Answers could suggest that the Obas relied heavily on supernatural rituals and human sacrifice to maintain their power and this was not sustainable.</li> </ul>	20	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.</p> <p><b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No set answer is expected.</li> <li>At higher levels candidates will focus on relative importance but at Level 4 may simply list reasons for the decline of Benin.</li> <li>At Level 5 there will be judgement as to which is the most important reason.</li> <li>At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge relative importance.</li> <li>To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions.</li> <li>Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

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Question	Answer	Mark	Guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answers could point to the attacks from the north and west on Benin territory.</li><li>• Answers could argue that the succession struggles led to more titles being given to non-productive nobles to gain their support, which weakened the government further.</li><li>• Answers could point to the decline in population which weakened Benin.</li></ul>		

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APPENDIX 1 – this contains a generic mark scheme grid

	<i>AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.</i>
	<b>Generic mark scheme for Question 1(a) and Question 2(a): Which of the following? [10]</b>
<b>Level 6</b> 9–10 marks	Both factors are thoroughly analysed and evaluated using accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a developed and substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 5</b> 7–8 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 4</b> 5–6 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using relevant knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, however treatment of factors may be un-even with analysis and evaluation of one of the two being only partial. Analysis and evaluation is used to support a reasonable judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 3</b> 3–4 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated in a partial way, using some relevant knowledge of key features of the period, in order to make a basic judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 2</b> 2 marks	Limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a limited analysis or evaluation of both factors, and this is linked to a very simplistic judgement.
<b>Level 1</b> 1 mark	Very limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a very limited analysis or evaluation of one of the factors. The other factor is either not considered or there is very limited information or description of the factor with no attempt to use this knowledge. If there is a judgement, this takes the form of assertion.
0 marks	Nothing of any relevance to the factors.

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	<i>AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.</i>
	<b>Generic mark scheme for Question 1(b) and Question 2(b): Essay [20]</b>
<b>Level 6</b> 17–20 marks	There is a consistent focus on the question throughout the answer. Accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated throughout the answer and is consistently evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated, developed and sustained judgements. There is a well-developed and sustained line of reasoning which is coherent and logically structured. The information presented is entirely relevant and substantiated.
<b>Level 5</b> 13–16 marks	There is a mostly consistent focus on the question. Generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer and is evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated judgements, but these are not consistently well-developed. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and in the most part substantiated.
<b>Level 4</b> 10–12 marks	The question is generally addressed. Generally accurate and sometimes detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer with evaluation and some analysis, and this is used appropriately to support the judgements that are made. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.
<b>Level 3</b> 7–9 marks	The question is partially addressed. There is demonstration of some relevant knowledge and understanding, which is evaluated and analysed in parts of the answer, but in places knowledge is imparted rather than being used. The analysis is appropriately linked to the judgements made, though the way in which it supports the judgements may not always be made explicit. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.
<b>Level 2</b> 4–6 marks	The focus is more on the topic than the specific demands of the question. Knowledge and understanding is limited and not well used, with only limited evaluation and analysis, which is only sometimes linked appropriately to the judgements made. The information has some relevance, but is communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.
<b>Level 1</b> 1–3 marks	The answer relates to the topic but not the specific question. The answer contains only very limited relevant knowledge which is evaluated and analysed in a very limited way. Judgements are unsupported and are not linked to analysis. Relevant knowledge is limited, generalised and poorly used; attempts at argument are no more than assertion. Information presented is basic and may be ambiguous or unstructured. The information is supported by limited evidence.
0 marks	No evidence of understanding and no demonstration of any relevant knowledge.

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