

GCE

History A

Y209/01: African Kingdoms c.1400-c.1800: four case studies

Advanced GCE

Mark Scheme for June 2019

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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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1. Here is the mark scheme for this question paper.

MARK SCHEME

Question		Answer/Indicative content	Mark	Guidance
1	(a)	<p>Which of the following was a more significant reason for the rise of the Kingdom of Benin by c.1550?</p> <p>(i) Its geographical location (ii) Its military strength</p> <p>Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In dealing with its geographical location, answers might consider the impact of its coastal location on enabling trade with both its West African neighbours and with Europeans. • Answers might consider the multiplicity of produce and resources produced in Benin, which facilitated trade. • Answers might consider the protection that swathes of coastal forest afforded. • Answers might consider its strong political, economic and spiritual links to Yorubaland. • In dealing with its military strength, answers might consider that military strength allowed Benin to expand east to the lands of the Ibo and Ijo on the right bank of the Niger, south to the ocean, and west towards the Lagos lagoon. It also meant that Benin successfully repelled invasions from neighbouring Kingdoms. • Answers might consider the importance of a 'warrior' reputation in consolidating the power of <i>Obas</i> like <i>Ewuare</i>. • Answers might consider the importance of firearms obtained from European traders. 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected • Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Only credit material relevant to the reasons for the rise of the Kingdom of Benin by c.1550. • Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or make take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable. • 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 marks scheme.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers might consider that, as the sale of adult males from Benin was forbidden, obtaining slaves to trade through war was the only way in which Benin could participate in, and profit from, this trade. <p><i>While candidates may choose to select only material from c.1500 onwards, in line with the date range indicated in the specification, a consideration of material from c.1440 onwards is relevant to this question and is implied through the inclusion of Oba Ewuare (enthroned 1440) on the specification. Therefore material spanning either 1500-c.1550, or c.1440-1550 should be credited.</i></p>		
1	(b)*	<p>‘There were few similarities between the Kingdoms of Oyo and Dahomey in the years c.1730 – c.1800.’ How far do you agree?</p> <p>In arguing that there were few similarities, answers might consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power operated quite differently in Oyo and Dahomey. In Oyo, there was a federal system of power and frequent power struggles between the Alafins and councillors; in Dahomey, however, the king’s power was absolute. Differences in the exercising of royal power and the ceremony and ritual that accompanied it. For example, the important of slaves and eunuchs in Oyo compared with the centrality of the King’s wives in Dahomey. Religious differences; different religious cults and belief systems. Military differences, with Oyo relying mainly on cavalry and Dahomey using firearms, with Oyo by far the dominant military force for most of the period. Economic differences, for example with Oyo having well 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No set answer is expected. At higher levels candidates will focus on ‘how far’, but at Level 4 may simply list the similarities/differences. At Level 5 and above there will be judgement as to the extent of similarity. At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge similarity/difference. To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by relevant and accurate material. If not, they are assertions. 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.

		<p>developed manufacturing, especially of textiles, which was not present to any great extent in Dahomey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The differing fortunes of the Kingdoms: the growth of Dahomeyan political and military power in parallel with the beginnings of the decline of Oyo. <p>In arguing that there were similarities, answers might consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That although Dahomey was a tributary of the even more powerful Oyo for much of the period in question, Dahomey itself also had a number of client states. • The centrality of the king and the royal palace to the system of politics and government in both Oyo and Dahomey. • Similarities and interchange in some important religious cults and other cultural practices. • Their strong economic and trading connections, due to their shared intermediary position between trans-Atlantic and trans-Saharan commerce, leading to economic similarities; the importance of trade in both. • The social, economic and political importance of slavery in both Kingdoms. • That there were significant internal political, social and economic changes in both Kingdoms during this period, some of which shared similar origins. • The similarities of their geographical location and topography, which influenced aspects of their development in similar ways. 		
2	(a)	<p>Which of the following was a greater cause of instability in the Kingdom of Kongo 1600-c.1709?</p> <p>(i) Disputes over the succession (ii) The influence of the Portuguese</p>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected • Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material. • Only credit material relevant to causes of instability in the Kingdom of Kongo 1600-c.1709. • Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare

		<p>Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In dealing with disputes over the succession, the battles which raged throughout most of the second half of the 17th century, fought by both <i>Kinlaza</i> and <i>Kimpanzu</i>, and a third group known as the <i>aguas rosadas</i> who were formed by descendants of both. • Answers might consider that the succession crises and power vacuum that resulted meant that Kongo was beset with rival indigenous groups engaging in frequent slave raiding and looting of rival <i>Mbanzas</i>. • Answers might consider the symbolic and practical impact of the abandonment of <i>Mbanza Kongo</i>, the centre of royal power. • In dealing with the influence of the Portuguese, answers might consider the series of military confrontations between the Portuguese and the Kongolese in the 1620-1640s and again in the 1660s, ultimately resulting in the loss of most of the <i>Mwissikongo</i> aristocracy. • Answers might consider the difficulties that the Kingdom faced managing the activities of slave traders and the impact of the slave trade and increasingly brutal slave raids. • Answers might consider economic instability caused by rapid inflation of its <i>nzimbu</i> shell currency once the Portuguese began to import large numbers of <i>nzimbu</i> from their colonies in Brazil, as well as changes to the economy wrought through the slave trade. 		<p>them to reach a judgement, or make take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 marks scheme.
2.	(b)*	<p>Assess the reasons why Benin was so politically stable in the period 1500-c.1608.</p> <p>In arguing that the nature of royal rule was the main reason, answers might consider:</p>	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set answer is expected. • At higher levels candidates will focus on 'assess', but at Level 4 may simply list the reasons. • At Level 5 and above there will be judgement as to the extent of success.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unquestioned belief in the divine power of the <i>Oba</i>, which was emphasised through extensive ceremony and ritual. • The importance of the myth of the origin of Benin and the <i>Oba</i>, and the line of continuous succession of the <i>Oba</i>, in creating social and political cohesion. • The importance of the city of <i>Edo</i> and the royal court within it, as a symbol of the power of the <i>Oba</i> and of Benin more generally. • The value of the empire in providing opportunities for younger members of the royal household, for example governing tributary provinces, and thus minimising conflict and succession crises in the royal court. • The connection between art and royal power and how this engendered political stability, for example the casting of bronzes to record ‘official histories’. • The religious power of the <i>Oba</i> and the elaboration of shrines and the evolution of religious cults to reinforce political power. • The effective management of the succession during this period (which ended in 1608 with a major succession dispute – evidence of ‘stability’ after this date should not be credited as the Kingdom suffered a series of very serious succession crises). <p>In arguing that other reasons were more important, answers might consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of the state and the importance of political structures, for example links between the centre at <i>Edo</i> and the regions (e.g. provincial governors), particularly in terms of facilitating taxation. • The importance of the tribute system and the way this was carried out in ensuring loyalty to the centre, as well as providing opportunities for royal officials to benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge reasons. • To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by relevant and accurate material. If not, they are assertions. • 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.
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			<p>from their roles and thus ensuring their loyalty to the <i>Oba</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of religious cults and festivals in ensuring loyalty to the <i>Oba</i> and a sense of shared identity.• The military strength of the Kingdom, with a standing army of 20,000 people, which created confidence of the people of the city-state in their rulers, and made rebellions from tributary states unlikely to succeed.• The stability afforded by social, kinship and local governance structures, across both Benin city-state and the empire.• The strength of the economy, which facilitated the growth of currency systems, which in turn provided opportunities for taxation and political consolidation.• The largely beneficial impact of trade with Europeans, as compared to the highly destabilising impact that this had in other Kingdoms such as Kongo.		
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