

## ANSWERS TO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN SOCIETIES

### 1. Give two functions of the Buganda traditional parliament

- (i) Made laws
- (ii) Advised the Kabaka
- (iii) Directed collection of taxes
- (iv) Planned expenditure
- (v) Represented peoples concerns &
- (vi) Settled disputes in their areas.
- (vii) Acted as the final courts to try cases under them

Any 2 x 1 = 2 marks

### 2. a) Give three economic factors which contributed to the growth of Ashante in the precolonial period.

- (viii) Trading activities i.e. trade in gold
- (ix) Agricultural activities e.g. cultivation of kola nuts
- (x) Mining of gold.
- (xi) Hunting i.e. obtained ivory from forest kingdoms.
- (xii) Taxes collected from merchants
- (xiii) Revenue collected from the provincial states (Vassal states)

Any 3 x 1 = 3 marks

### b) Describe the political organisation of the Shona in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

- (i) The kingdom was ruled by a king/emperor who was both head of state and government.
- (ii) Kingship was hereditary
- (iii) King was the chief priest/semi divine.
- (iv) King was commander in chief of the army
- (v) The king was assisted in administration by the queen mother, head drummer, kings sisters, kings principal wives, & military commander, chief cook, & gate keeper.
- (vi) The empire was divided into provincials led by lesser kings who were directly answerable to the emperor.
- (vii) The kingdom had a standing army for defence & expansion.
- (viii) Religion created political unity in the kingdom.
- (ix) Priests acted as a link between people & the emperor.
- (x) Conquered/vassal states were ruled by lesser chiefs who paid tribute to the king.
- (xi) The emperor controlled trading activities whose revenue was used to sustain the empire and the army.

Any 6 x 2 = 12 marks

### 3. Differentiate between the golden and black stool in the Asante empire

- the golden stool was the symbol of unity for the entire empire while the black stools were the symbols within the states of the empire. I point x2 = 2mks

4. a) It emerged after the disintegration of the Bunyoro Kitara kingdom

- Its smallness in size helped it to hold together
- Had able Kabakas
- Had a good geographical location with adequate rain, fertile soils which favoured agriculture
- Had a centralized system of government under Kabaka
- Acquired guns through trading with waswahili and Arabs
- Had a standing army
- They derived wealth from Buddu, Kyagwe and Busoga which were rich in ivory, iron ore and slaves
- Land traditions boosted growth where labour was shared. Women took part in farming while men participate in war.

Any 5x1 = 5mks

b) were influenced by religion

- Mwari was the supreme being – his worship was led by priest
- Priest came from Rozwi clans
- Were divided into clans
- Had a national spirit called chamiruka who settled disputes
- Had kingship system which was patrilineal
- Practiced polygamy
- Lived in stone building
- Had informed education. Any 5x2 = 10mks

**5. Two functions of the Lukiko in Buganda**

- Making laws
- Representing people
- Advised the Kabaka
- Regulated collection of taxes
- Controlled activities of the government 2 x 1 = 2 Marks

**6. - It enhanced effective control of the Kingdom**

- It promoted control of the other traditional leaders eg clan heads
- It enhanced loyalty to one single leader
- It led to the emergence of able Kabakas who propelled the Kingdom from strength to strength

Any 2 points, 2 x 1 = 2mks, 2 x 1 = 2mks)

**7. State two functions of the Lukiko in the Buganda kingdom in the 19th century. (2 mks)**

- Advised the Kabaka.
- Made law.
- Helped the Kabaka to rule. (2 x 1 = 2mks)

**8. a) Identify three social features of the Asante empire in the 19th Century. (3mks)**

- Worshipped many gods/polytheism.
- King was believed to be semi-divine.
- Golden stool was a sign of unity/social bond.
- Held Odwira festival annually.
- Practiced polygamy.
- Practiced exagamous marriage.
- Inheritance was
- Organized into clans.
- Spoke the Akhan or Tui language. (3 x 1 = 3 mks)

**b) Describe the political organization of the Shona Kingdom in the 19th century.**

**(12mks)**

- The Emperor/King was the head of the government and the head of the state.
- Office of the Emperor was hereditary.
- The Emperor was assisted by the Queen mother, the Head drummer, emperor's sister, his Principle wives and the military commander.
- The empire was divided into provinces under the rule of lesser Kings/Chiefs.
- The empire had a standing army for defence and expansion.
- Priests acted as a link between the people and the emperor.
- The king was a military leader/Commander in Chief of the army.
- The King was considered a semi-divine ruler.

- Administration of the empire was financed by trade. (6 x 2 = 12 mks)

9. Describe the political organization of the Shona kingdom in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. (12 mks)

- Shona Kingdom was ruled by an emperor was hereditary and served as the head of states.
- The emperor was assisted to rule by many officials including the queen mother, emperors sister, nine principals wives, chief drummer etc.
- The king had had an advisory council made up of he kings of Guruswa mbire utere, Barue and Manyika.
- Religion played an important role as it was a unifying factor.
- The king Mwene mutapa was the chief religious authority in the land clan spirits helped to settle national issues.
- The royal fire was a symbol of national unity.It never went till the end of the king's reign.
- The emperor was divided into provinces which were ruled by lesser chiefs.
- The kingdom has a standing army which was used for defenses and expansion. The army was sustained by the profit from trade.

( Any 6 x 2 – 12 mks)

10. Main role of the golden stool among the Asante

-Symbol of unity

1x1=1mk

11. a) **Describe the social organization of the Shona during the pre – colonial period (5mks)**

- i) The Shona believed in a God called Mwari / Mulimo.
- ii) They believed in existence of ancestral spirits whom they consulted.
- iii) They communicated with spirits through mediums / oracles
- iv) The priests presided over religious functions such as offering sacrifices to God.
- v) The Shona elders were highly respected

- vi) The Shona were organized in clans each with a function to perform e.g priest came from the Rowzi.
- vii) The Shona lived in circular stone houses.
- viii) It was a polygamous society, practicing exogamy
- ix) Their names were derived from those of animals
- x) Each clan had a totem – Animal
- xi) It was a patrilineal society.

**b) Describe the political organization of Mwene Mutapa Kingdom (Shona Kingdom)**

**during the pre- colonial period.  
(10mks)**

- i) The empire was ruled by an emperor who was both head of state and government
- ii) The office of the emperor was hereditary
- iii) The empire was divided into provinces ruled by lesser Kings / chief who were directly answerable to the King.
- iv) The empire had a standing army which was used for defense and expansion
- v) Religion created political unity in the empire
- vi) The emperor controlled trade activities whose revenue was to sustain the empire and the army
- vii) The priest acted as links – spies between the people and the emperor.
- viii) The emperor was a military leader.
- ix) The emperor was a chief priest / had semi- divine powers.
- x) The vassal states were ruled by chief who paid tribute to the emperor / king.

**5 x 2 = 10mks**

**12. Give two ways through which trade contributed to the rise of the Asante Kingdom during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (2mks)**

- i) Acquired weapons used to expand the kingdom
- ii) Wealth from trade boosted the growth of the Kingdom
- iii) Rulers used wealth to reward loyal rulers

- iv) Rulers conquered other territories in search of trade goods  
Any 2x1 = 2marks

13. a) Give three reasons why the Odwira festival in ancient kingdom of Asante was important  
(3mks)

- i. It promoted unity of the people
  - ii. It brought the provincial kings together to pledge loyalty to the Asantehene
  - iii. It provided an opportunity for the kings to solve / settle disputes
  - iv. It provided an opportunity for the kings to honour the dead
- Any 3x1 = 3marks

b) Describe the social organization of Asante kingdom in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (12mks)

- i. The communities spoke the Akan language
  - ii. They were organized into clans
  - iii. Inter – clan marriage was prohibited
  - iv. Inheritance and kinship system was matrilineal
  - v. The golden stool bound the community together
  - vi. They had annual cultural festival (ordwira) held at Kumasi to honour the dead ancestors
  - vii. They were polytheists but had one supreme god called Nyawe
  - viii. The ancestors mediated between the gods and the people
  - ix. The kings were regarded as semi – divine beings
  - x. The society was stratified – divided in social classes
- Any 6x2 = 12marks

14. Lubaale. (1x1= 1mk)

15. i) The empire was ruled by all emperor who was head of state and government.

ii) The office of emperor / Asantehene was hereditary.

iii) The emperor /Asantehene was commander in chief of army.

iv) The emperor was assisted by state kings (omanhene)

v) There was a standing army for defence & expansion.

vi) The golden stool united the empire

vii) The Odwira festival was organized for state rulers to pay alliegence to the

emperor.

( Any 5x1 = 5mks)

b) i) Constant rebellions by vassal states that wanted independence.

ii) The empire had grown too large for rulers to control effectively.

iii) The vassal states were not fully incorporated into the kingdom thus creating

weakness in the system.

iv) The forcing of the Asante ruler Osei Tutu to grant independence to southern states weakened the empire.

v) The Asante's strained relations with Fante and the British affected Asante's trade.

vi) During the Asante – Fante war, the British supported the Fante, to fight the Asante, thus weakening the empire. (Any 5 x 2 = 10 mks )

16. Assisted Kabaka in administration.

- Advised Kabaka
  - Directed collection of taxes.
  - Made laws.
  - Acted as court of appeal.
  - Represented the people in Buganda
- 2x1=2mks

17. Economic activities of the Baganda.

(i) Grew crops.

(ii) Kept animals.

(iii) Hunters / gatherers

(iv) Traders

(v) Fishing.

(vi) Cloth making.

(vii) Basketry

(viii) Pottery

(ix) Carpentry/ sculptures 2x1= (2mks).

18 Symbols of national unity in Shona kingdom.

(i) Kingship / Mwene Mutapa.

(ii) The royal fire.

2x1= (2mks).

19. Give one role of omanhenes amongst the Asante in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (1mk)

- ❖ *They were the heads of Amattoo states.*
- ❖ *They gave rights of declaring war on other communities.*
- ❖ *They recognized the rights of the Asantehene to improve national rules or taxes.*
- ❖ *They attended the annual Odwira festival to pledge loyalty to the Asante.*
- ❖ *They were to grant their own subjects to appeal to the high court set up for the union in the capital.*

2 x 1 = 2mks

20. Apart from the Katikiro, mention two other chief officials who assisted the Kabaka in the administration of Buganda. (2mks)

- Omulamuzi (chef justice)
- Omuwanika (treasurer)

21. (a) State five factors that led to the decline of the Asante kingdom (5 mks)

- states around Kumasi struggled to regain their independence
- Several wars with the British weakened the army.
- the use of weak leaders
- wars with her neighbours weakened the kingdom
- Succession dispute after the death of Osei Tutu.
- It was too large to be ruled effectively.
- The abolition of slave trade which Asante depended on her revenue.

(b) How was the Asante Empire organized politically in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? (10 mks)

- The Asante kingdom had a centralised form of government headed by Asante hene.
  - It was divided into nucleus (Kumasi states). The states outside Kumasi (amatos and the conquered state)
  - Two levels of government-metropolitam Asante directly under the King and provincial Asante comprising of all conquered states.
  - The golden stool a symbol of unity was sacred.
  - The asante rules with the help of the confederacy council made of kings (omahene) of various states. Each state had its own black stool symbolizing their power.
  - Omahene declared war on behalf of the Asantehene.
  - A national festival (Odwira festival) was held annually to strengthen National Unity.
  - The kingdom was a standing army.
  - Had a judicial system based in Kumasi headed by the Asantehene.
  - Omahene had powers to try minor case at the provincial level.
  - Kumasi was the administrative headquarters.

22. Two functions of the Kabaka of Buganda

- He was the Head of Government



- Was the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
- Appointed senior officials in the government.
- Was a supreme judge
- He was incharge of all religious activities
- He controlled trade  $2 \times 2 = 4 \text{mks}$

23. a) Three functions of the Buganda traditional parliament

- It made laws for the Kingdom
- It checked on activities of the government
- It presented the interests of the people
- It advised the Kabaka  $3 \times 1 = 3$

b) The political organization of the Mwene Mutapa Kingdom during the pre-colonial period.

- The empire was ruled by an emperor who was both head of state and government.
- The office of the emperor was hereditary
- The emperor was assisted in administering by the queen military head drummer emperor's, sister etc
- The empire was divided into provinces which were ruled by lesser chiefs who were directly answerable to the emperor.
- The empire had a standing army which was used for defense and expansion of the Kingdom.
- The emperor controlled trade activities whose revenue was used to sustain the empire and the army.
- Priests acted as a link between the people and the emperor.
- The King was a military leader.
- The King was a religious leader.
- The prestige and loyalty to the King was maintained and expressed
- Through a strict ceremonial behaviour of lighting the royal fire in the royal court and the carrying of the flame of the same by chiefs to their chiefdoms.
- The King controlled the Kingdom from his royal palace/capital based at Great Zimbabwe/Mapungubwe and later from Dande.  $(2 \times 6 = 12 \text{ mks})$

24. a) - Agriculture provided food to the population

- Centralized government with few disputes
  - Trade with Portuguese
  - Guns from E. African coasts armed their army
  - Alliances with Portuguese explorers
  - Weak neighbours offered little external threat
- (Any 5x1=5mks)*

- b) -It consisted of Kumasi and Oyoko clans 35 miles radius
- It was made up of Kumasi, Juaben, Bekinai, Kokofu, Insuta, Manipor, each headed by

Omanihenes

- Asante-hene had a golden stool and Omani henes each a black stool to signify their powers
- They attended annual Odwira ceremony in Kumasi to:
  - celebrate Asante unity
  - solve disputes
  - pay loyalty to Asante hene
  - Honor the dead
- Omani henes – paid tributes
  - declared war/peace with each other
- Each state had a standing army under omanihene but Asante army was under Asantehenes deputy (manpohene).

*(Any 5 x 2=10mks)*

25. i) Kings met in Kumasi and pledged loyalty to Omanhene

ii) Strengthened the spirit of solidarity / symbol of unity

iii) Honouring the dead (any 1x1=1mk)

26. - The royal fire in the palace

- The King – Mwene Mutapa (2x1=2mks)

27. **What was the most important symbol of unity among the Asante? (1mark)**

- The Golden stool (1mark)

28. **a) Identify three ways in which trade contributed to the growth of kingdoms in Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C (3mks)**

(a) Wealth from trade boosted the growth of kingdoms

(b) Kings imposed taxes and other levies on the traders who passed through their territories.

- (c) Kings acquired arms and ammunition from trade that they used to protect and expand their frontiers.
- (d) Kings used the trade items e.g. clothes as gifts to win the loyalty of their subject chiefs.  
**(3pts x 1 = 3 marks)**

**b) Explain six factors that led to the rise and growth of the Buganda Kingdom (12marks)**

- (a) The fall of the Bunyoro – Kitara kingdom her traditional enemy.
- (b) The Buganda had able Kabakas
- (c) The idea geographical location with adequate rainfall and fertile soils favoured agriculture.
- (d) The small size of the kingdom enabled it to hold together.
- (e) They had a centralized system of government under the Kabaka that ensure unity.
- (f) Their participation in the long distance trade with the Arabs and Waswahili boosted growth. They acquired firearms through trade.
- (g) They had a strong army which enabled them to conquer the weaker neighbouring states such as Buddu and Busonga.
- (h) Baganda traditions boosted growth women worked in the farms, while men took part in politics and wars.
- (i) She got wealth from the kingdoms she had conquered which were rich in ivory, slaves and iron ore.  
**(any 6pts x 2= 12marks)**

**29. How was the odwira festival vital in the Asante kingdom (2mks)**

- All Omanhene's showed their loyalty to the Asantehene
- It gave people a chance to honour the dead
- The Asante solved disputes amongst themselves during the festival
- It enhanced Unity among the Asante