

# KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION (K.C.B.E)

## MARKING SCHEME

### GRADE 10: HISTORY – TERM 1 – JANUARY 2026

#### SECTION A: (35 Marks)

1. A team of Form 2 students visited the National Museums of Kenya.

a) Define the term history. (2 marks)

- ✓ History is the study of past events and human activities.
- ✓ It is the record and interpretation of past societies and civilizations.

b) Identify three major linguistic groups found in Kenya. (3 marks)

- i. Bantu
- ii. Nilotic
- iii. Cushitic

c) State two reasons why it is important to study linguistic groups in Kenya today. (2 marks)

- i. To promote national unity by understanding cultural diversity.
- ii. To preserve languages and cultural heritage.
- iii. To understand migration patterns and settlement history.
- iv. To help in planning education and resource distribution.

2. The Cushites were among the earliest groups to migrate into Kenya.

a) Identify two original homelands of the Cushites before migrating to Kenya. (2 marks)

- i. Ethiopia
- ii. Somalia
- iii. Sudan (additional possible answer)

OR

Horn of Africa

b) Give three reasons that led to the migration of Cushitic communities into Kenya. (3 marks)

- i. Search for fertile land for agriculture and grazing.
- ii. Escaping harsh climatic conditions or drought.
- iii. Conflicts or wars with neighboring communities.
- iv. Trade opportunities or search for new resources.

c) Use the map of Kenya: Which community followed the route marked Q? (1 mark)

- Somali / Borana / Orma
- Or Cushites

### 3. The Nilotic people of East Africa.

**a) Identify the original homeland of the following communities: (3 marks)**

- i. Bantu: West/Central Africa (around present-day Nigeria and Cameroon)
- ii. Cushites: Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia)
- iii. Nilotes: South Sudan / Nile Valley

**b) Name one community found in each class: (3 marks)**

- i. Plain Nilotes: Maasai, Kalenjin, Turkana
- ii. River-lake Nilotes: Luo, Luhya, Alur
- iii. Highland Nilotes: Kikuyu, Embu, Meru

### 4. Expansion of the Bantu communities in Kenya.

**a) Mention three original homelands of the Bantu before entering Kenya. (3 marks)**

- i. Nigeria
- ii. Cameroon
- iii. Congo Basin / Central Africa

**b) Identify any three Eastern Bantu communities in Kenya. (3 marks)**

- i. Ambeere
- ii. Ameru
- iii. Ambu
- iv. Kamba

### 5. Effects of migration.

**a) State two effects of migration on the communities that moved. (2 marks)**

- i. Acquisition of new land for settlement and farming.
- ii. Cultural exchange and adoption of new technologies.
- iii. Formation of new social and political structures.

**b) Give two effects of migration on the communities that received migrants. (2 marks)**

- i. Conflicts over land and resources.
- ii. Enrichment of culture through intermarriage and trade.
- iii. Introduction of new skills and knowledge.

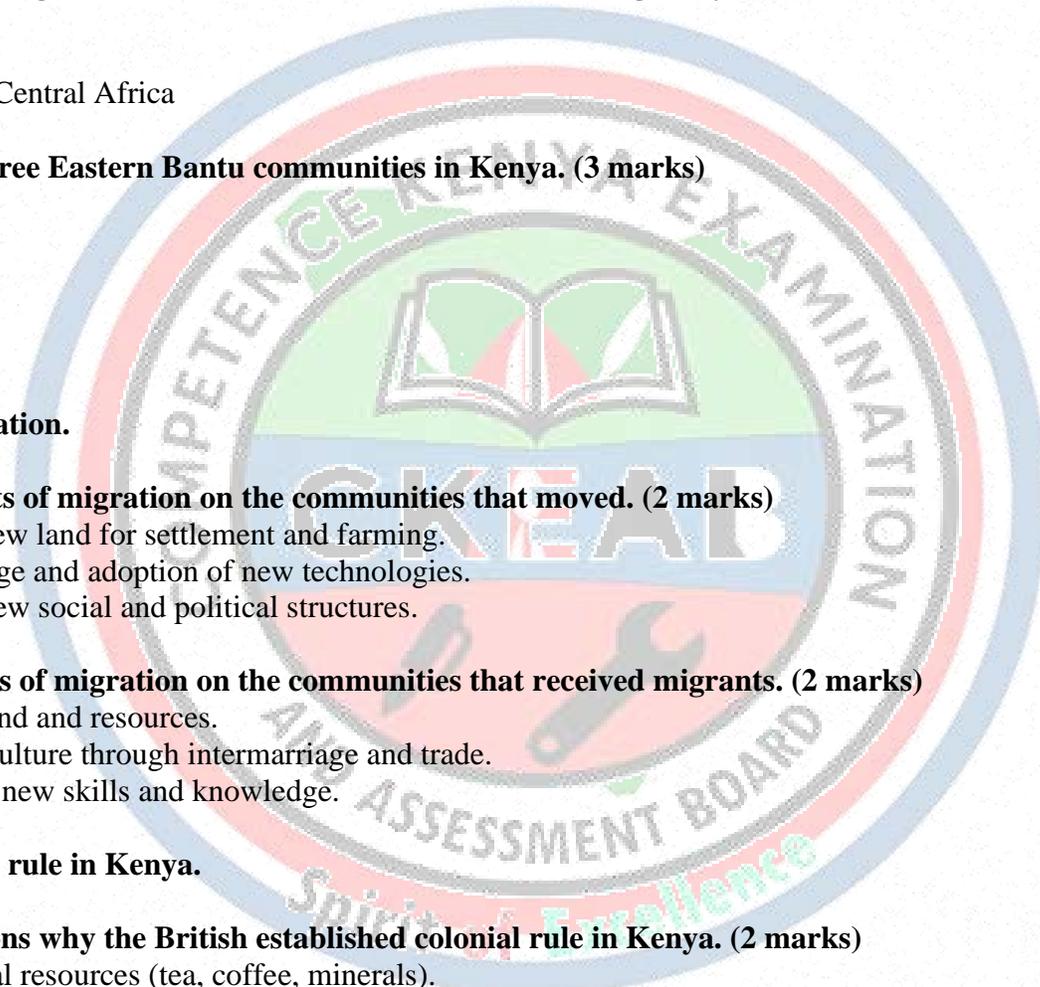
### 6. British colonial rule in Kenya.

**a) State two reasons why the British established colonial rule in Kenya. (2 marks)**

- i. To exploit natural resources (tea, coffee, minerals).
- ii. To control strategic trade routes and establish political dominance.
- iii. To spread European civilization and Christianity.
- iv. To secure labor for settler farms.

**b) Identify two methods used by the British to establish colonial rule in Kenya. (2 marks)**

- i. Treaties with local communities / Chiefs.
- ii. Use of military force and suppression of resistance.
- iii. Imposition of taxation and land alienation.
- iv. Establishment of administrative structures and settler colonies.



## SECTION B: (60 Marks)

Answer ANY THREE questions.

### 7. Bantu migration and settlement.

a) Describe any five routes taken by the Bantu as they migrated into Kenya. (10 marks)

- i. From Congo Basin through western Kenya into Nyanza and Western regions.
- ii. From Uganda via central Kenya into the Kikuyu and Embu areas.
- iii. From southern Tanzania into coastal regions (Mijikenda settlements).
- iv. From Central Africa through the Rift Valley into Western Kenya.
- v. Through northern Tanzania into central and eastern Kenya.

b) Explain five factors that influenced the settlement patterns of migrating communities. (10 marks)

- i. Availability of fertile land for farming.
- ii. Presence of water sources (rivers, lakes).
- iii. Climate suitable for crops and livestock.
- iv. Security from hostile neighbors or wild animals.
- v. Trade opportunities and accessibility to other communities.

### 8. Causes and effects of migration.

a) Explain five causes of migration among early communities in Kenya. (10 marks)

- i. Search for fertile land and grazing pastures.
- ii. Drought or adverse climatic conditions.
- iii. Conflicts or wars with other communities.
- iv. Population pressure in original homeland.
- v. Trade and economic opportunities.
- vi. Disease or pest outbreaks affecting crops or livestock.

b) Describe five social and economic effects of migration. (10 marks)

- i. Cultural exchange and diversity.
- ii. Introduction of new technologies (tools, farming techniques).
- iii. Expansion of trade networks.
- iv. Conflicts over land leading to wars.
- v. Growth of new settlements and towns.
- vi. Inter-marriage and assimilation between communities.

### 9. Establishment of colonial rule in Kenya.

a) Explain five reasons why the British established colonial rule. (10 marks)

- i. To control fertile highlands for European settlers.
- ii. To exploit natural resources such as coffee, tea, and minerals.
- iii. To secure strategic trade routes to the interior of Africa.
- iv. To spread Christianity and European culture.
- v. To suppress rival European powers and secure British dominance.

b) Describe five methods used by the British to establish colonial rule. (10 marks)

- i. Signing treaties with chiefs and local leaders.
- ii. Use of force to suppress resistance (e.g., the Nandi resistance).
- iii. Alienation of land and forced relocation of communities.
- iv. Imposition of taxes (hut tax) to force labor.
- v. Establishment of administrative centers and infrastructure (railways).

## 10. Steps and challenges during British colonial rule.

### a) Outline five steps followed by the British in establishing colonial rule. (10 marks)

- i. Exploration and mapping of Kenya by British agents.
- ii. Signing of treaties with local leaders.
- iii. Establishment of military posts and administrative stations.
- iv. Alienation of land for European settlers.
- v. Imposition of taxes and forced labor policies.

### b) Explain five challenges faced by Kenyan communities. (10 marks)

- i. Loss of fertile land to European settlers.
- ii. Forced labor and exploitation.
- iii. Suppression of cultural and political systems.
- iv. Conflicts and wars with colonial forces.
- v. Displacement and migration to marginal lands.

## 11. Features of Bantu and Nilotic communities.

### a) Describe five features of the Bantu communities. (10 marks)

- i. Practiced settled agriculture (farming crops like millet, sorghum, yams).
- ii. Lived in permanent villages with organized leadership.
- iii. Spoke Bantu languages.
- iv. Practiced iron-smelting and pottery.
- v. Had complex social structures (clans and age-sets).
- vi. Practiced trade with neighboring communities.

### b) Discuss five characteristics of the Nilotes. (10 marks)

- i. Practiced pastoralism (raising cattle, goats, sheep).
- ii. Spoke Nilotic languages.
- iii. Highly mobile and moved in search of pastures.
- iv. Lived in clans with elders as leaders.
- v. Skilled in cattle raiding and defense.
- vi. Practiced circumcision and age-set initiation systems.

## NOTE TO FACILITATORS (TEACHERS):

*The marking scheme provided is not exhaustive. Facilitators are advised to use their professional judgment when awarding marks. Any correct, relevant, and scientifically or contextually acceptable answer that demonstrates understanding of the concepts should be credited. Where examples are required, learners may provide other valid examples apart from those listed in the scheme.*

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