Chapter 5 Test

Part 1: Multiple Choice
Choose the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

1. For many African societies, what were kinship groups?
   a. army          c. healers
   b. government    d. storytellers

2. How did labor specialization affect the economy?
   a. It reduced the number of small farmers, which harmed the economy.
   b. It changed the focus to export of goods.
   c. It attracted specialists from all over the world, creating a booming economy.
   d. It created a diverse economy.

3. As trade in West Africa grew, what else expanded and grew there?
   a. cities         c. fishing
   b. farms         d. storytelling

4. Why did early West African societies record their culture with oral history?
   a. Oral history created a sense of community.
   b. People did not have a system of writing.
   c. People preferred to relate their history in person.
   d. People did not have paper on which to record history.

5. How did the Niger River affect the economy of West Africa?
   a. Annual floods created rich soil, and it was a key route for trade.
   b. It contained rich deposits of gold.
   c. It was an important line of communication to traders.
   d. It was a rich source of fish.

6. Who were the Berbers?
   a. North African nomads who established trans-Saharan trade routes
   b. traders of gold from West Africa
   c. original inhabitants of Ghana
   d. upper-class people of Ghana

7. Who were Ghana’s main converts to Islam?
   a. people who had practiced traditional religion
   b. upper-class people in cities
   c. Ghana’s women
   d. farmers and herdsmen

8. What was one of Sundiata’s accomplishments?
   a. He expanded the empire of Mali.
   b. He made a pilgrimage to Mecca.
   c. He built the Sankore Mosque in Timbuktu.
   d. He defeated the Songhai invaders.

9. How did Mansa Musa help develop the empire of Mali?
   a. He invited many Muslims to Mali to convert the people.
   b. He brought thousands of farmers to his capital city.
   c. His pilgrimage to Mecca encouraged people to come to Timbuktu.
   d. His wars with the Songhai greatly expanded the empire.
CHAPTER 5 TEST CONTINUED

10. How did Ghana’s common people react to Islamic beliefs?
   a. abandoned traditional beliefs
   b. refused to convert to Islam
   c. blended traditional beliefs with Islam
   d. tried to convert Islamic scholars

Part 2: Map Skills
Using the exhibit, choose the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

11. What type of vegetation runs across central Africa?
   a. desert
   b. forest
   c. rain forest
   d. savannah

12. How many rivers run through all or part of the deserts?
   a. one
   b. two
   c. three
   d. four

13. What vegetation zones would a trader cross when traveling east from the Gulf of Guinea to the Indian Ocean?
   a. rain forest, desert
   b. rain forest, savannah, desert
   c. savannah, rain forest
   d. savannah, desert

14. The deserts are located on what part of the continent?
   a. the north, the south
   b. the north, the south, the west
   c. the north, the southwest, the east
   d. the northwest, the southeast, the south

15. What vegetation zone covers most of the island of Madagascar?
   a. desert
   b. forest
   c. rain forest
   d. savannah
Part 3: Document-Based Questions

INTRODUCTION

Historical Context: From the 1200s through the 1500s, West African empires thrived on trade with Muslim traders. These traders crossed the Sahara Desert bringing salt and other goods, and returning with gold, honey, and other items. Trade was extremely profitable for both the Muslim traders and the African kings. The kings came to enjoy a lavish lifestyle based on wealth from the trade.

Task: Read the advice given to merchants in the West African trade and the description of the king of Timbuktu. Discuss the relationship between trade and the wealth of the king.

A. SHORT ANSWER

Study each document carefully and answer the questions that follow. (4 points each)

Document 1: From a guide to success in trade by Ibn Khaldun, a 14th-century Muslim historian

The merchants who dare to enter the Sudan country [West Africa] are the most prosperous and wealthy of all people. The distance and the difficulty of the road they travel is great. They have to cross a difficult desert which is made [almost impassable] by fear [of danger] and beset by [the danger of] thirst. Water is found there only in a few well-known spots to which caravan guides lead the way. The distance of this road is braved only by a very few people. Therefore the goods of the Sudan country are found only in small quantities among us, and they are particularly expensive. The same applies to our goods among them. Thus, the merchandise becomes more valuable when merchants transport it from one country to another. [Merchants who do so] quickly get rich and wealthy.


16. Why is the merchandise that is transported into “the Sudan country,” or West Africa, so valuable?
17. Who appears to be the leader of the caravan in this image? Why?


18. What are some possible reasons why the king rides on a camel, while his soldiers ride on horses?


CHAPTER 5 TEST CONTINUED

B. ESSAY

19. Use information from the documents, your answers to the questions following the documents, and your knowledge of history to write an essay on the following topic. (8 points)

Discuss the trade relationship between the West African kingdoms and the merchants, as well as its religious impact.

Part 4: Essay

Answer the following question(s) on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

20. How did the Berbers’ homeland and way of life make them ideal trading partners with West Africa?

THINK ABOUT:

• their lives as camel-herding nomads of the desert
• their Islamic religion and Arabic language
• their position between West Africa to the south and the Muslim Umayyads to the north

21. Why do you think so many kings of Ghana were willing to embrace Islam?

THINK ABOUT:

• the growth of trade with Islamic regions to the north
• the increasing complexity of Ghana’s Empire and the necessity for written language to govern effectively