

Chapter 5 Test

Part 1: Multiple Choice

Choose the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. What role did kinship groups play in West African society?
- a. source of labor
 - b. basis of government
 - c. preserved history
 - d. replaced clans
- _____ 2. What led to the rise of kings in West African societies?
- a. The people felt their clan elders were not strong enough.
 - b. West Africans wanted to establish an empire.
 - c. Societies needed specialized leaders.
 - d. Societies developed complex trade systems.
- _____ 3. What trade goods did West Africa supply to North Africa?
- a. cloth, hides, and metal
 - b. gold, cloth, and salt
 - c. gold, slaves, ivory
 - d. metal, salt, cloth
- _____ 4. What skills do you think would be most important for a griot?
- a. good memory
 - b. knowledge of farming
 - c. knowledge of trade
 - d. ability to write clearly
- _____ 5. How did Berber traders influence Ghana?
- a. introduced written language
 - b. introduced gold
 - c. introduced storytelling
 - d. introduced salt
- _____ 6. What religion did Ghana's kings follow?
- a. Islam and traditional religion
 - b. traditional religion
 - c. Islam and Christianity
 - d. Ghanaism
- _____ 7. How did Islam influence Ghana's rulers?
- a. Islam's use of storytelling helped Muslims gain power in the government.
 - b. Islam's use of written language helped Muslims gain power in the government.
 - c. Islam's lack of laws enabled Ghana's rulers to do whatever they wanted.
 - d. Islam's many laws kept Ghana's rulers very weak.
- _____ 8. Which is NOT a reason for Timbuktu's importance to the Mali Empire?
- a. where desert and savannah met
 - b. home of Berbers
 - c. center of learning
 - d. located on trade route
- _____ 9. Why do you think Mansa Musa brought such an elaborate caravan to Mecca?
- a. He needed it to supply his needs on the journey.
 - b. He wanted people to know he was an important traveler.
 - c. He wanted to increase trade by showing his wealth.
 - d. He needed it to protect him on the journey.

CHAPTER 5 TEST CONTINUED

- ____ 10. Why was Askia Muhammad an important ruler?
- He took control of the camel trade.
 - He seized the throne of the Songhai empire.
 - He organized the government of the Songhai empire.
 - He personally converted many people to Islam.

Part 2: Map Skills

Using the exhibit, choose the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- ____ 11. What type of vegetation zone covers most of the continent of Africa?
- forest
 - desert
 - rain forest
 - savannah
- ____ 12. Which vegetation zone or zones borders the Mediterranean Sea?
- rain forest
 - rain forest and savannah
 - savannah
 - savannah and desert
- ____ 13. What vegetation zones would a trader pass through when leaving the Gulf of Guinea and traveling to the Red Sea?
- rain forest, savannah
 - rain forest, savannah, desert
 - savannah
 - savannah, desert
- ____ 14. How many rivers would a trader cross when traveling from the Gulf of Guinea north to the Mediterranean Sea?
- one
 - two
 - three
 - four
- ____ 15. If you traveled from the Red Sea to the west coast of Africa, about how many miles would you cover?
- almost 2,000 miles
 - almost 3,000 miles
 - almost 4,000 miles
 - almost 5,000 miles



CHAPTER 5 TEST CONTINUED

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.

Source: The Horizon History of Africa, Vol. I, New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., 1971, p.182

16. What does the writer of this passage seem to be recommending?

CHAPTER 5 TEST CONTINUED

CHAPTER 5

Document 2: Image of a caravan approaching Timbuktu

17. What do you think is happening in this image of a caravan approaching Timbuktu?

Document 3: From an eye-witness account from the 1500s describing the king of Timbuktu

The rich king of [Timbuktu] has many plates and scepters of gold, some whereof weigh 1300 pounds . . . and he keeps a magnificent and well furnished court. When he travels anywhere he rides upon a camel, which is led by some of his noblemen; and so he does likewise when he goes to war, and all his soldiers ride upon horses. Whosoever will speak to this king must first fall down before his feet, and then taking up earth must sprinkle it upon his own head and shoulders, which custom is ordinarily observed by them that never saluted the king before or come as ambassadors from other princes.

Source: *The Horizon History of Africa*, Vol. I, New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., 1971, p.183

18. Why do you think the king demands such an elaborate salute?

Name _____

Period _____

Date _____

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 cultural 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.** West African people passed on their culture through the oral tradition. What do you think might be some advantages of an oral tradition over written history?
- 21.** Why do you think the Malinke people of West Africa still consider the Mali ruler Sundiata a hero?