

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
HISTORY

(The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria)

PREAMBLE

The syllabus will test candidates’

- (a) knowledge of their National History from the earliest times to 1985 with emphasis on the relationship between the peoples and states.
- (b) intellectual capacity and skills of historical interpretation and analysis.
- (c) ability to use acquired skills in relating the past to the present.
- (d) appreciation of factors that make for national unity and global understanding.
- (e) exposure and appreciation of the similarities and differences in the National, social, economic and political institutions.
- (f) knowledge of the main historical developments in Africa since 1800.
- (g) ability to relate events in their country and Africa to those of the outside world.
- (h) ability to present clear, relevant and logical arguments.

To achieve these aims and objectives, the Syllabus shall consist of two papers both of which must be taken.

PAPER 1: Africa and the Wider World since 1800

PAPER 2: National Histories of The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria from the earliest times to 1985.

EXAMINATION SCHEME

PAPER 1: This will be a one-hour (1 hr) multiple-choice (objective) test of fifty (50) items. Candidates must **attempt all** the questions for forty (40) marks.

PAPER 2: This will be a two-and-a-half hour (2 ½ hrs) essay type test made up of three (03) sections of four (04) questions each.

Candidates will be requested to answer **four** questions choosing **at least one** from each section. Paper 2 will carry sixty (60) marks. **Candidates must answer questions on the country in which they are taking the examination.**

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DETAILED SYLLABUS

PAPER 1: AFRICA AND THE WIDER WORLD SINCE AD 1800

SECTION A: WEST AND NORTH AFRICA

1. Islamic Movements and Establishment of Muslim States in West Africa

The jihad of Usman dan Fodio as an inspiration for other jihads in West Africa : jihad of Seku Ahmadu, Al-haj Umar, activities of Samori Toure, the Muslim states in the face of European colonization.

2. Christian Missionary Activities in West Africa

The suppression of the Slave trade and foundation of Sierra Leone and Liberia, Christian Missionary activities and their impact on West Africa.

3. Nation Building in Egypt

Egypt from the French invasion to the rise of Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Ali, his reforms, early conquests. Ali and European powers, Muhammad Ali's successors; the era of Said and Ismail.

4. The Maghreb and Europe

The nature of Turkish rule in the Maghreb, relations between the Maghreb and Europe, the French occupation of Algeria and Algerian response; French occupation of Tunisia and Morocco; turkey and Italy in Libya.

SECTION B: THE HORN, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

5. Ethiopia

Its survival in the age of Scramble for the Partition of Africa; Emperor Theodore II and the establishment of monarchy in Ethiopia. Ethiopia under Menelik II; the survival of Ethiopian independence.

6. Zanzibar and Buganda

Sayyid Said and the rise of the Omani empire, European activities and the Omani empire. Buganda in the nineteenth century, New developments and British occupation of Buganda.

7. The Mfecane and the Rise of New States in Southern Africa

Internal developments among the Bantu speaking peoples of Southern Africa; the rise of Shaka, Mfecane and its consequences.

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8. The Great Trek and the Rise of Boer Republics

The frontier wars and British intervention in Boer-African relations; the Great Trek and its consequences.

9. The Scramble for, and the Partition of Africa

The Industrial Revolution, the New Imperialism and Scramble for colonies, colonial subjugation, occupation and African reaction.

10. Colonial Rule in Africa

Patterns of colonial rule, consolidation of European culture in Africa; colonial economy and the underdevelopment of Africa; features of settler colonies in Africa, colonial Africa and the two World Wars.

11. Nationalist Movements and Decolonization in Africa

Colonial policies and African discontent, formation of political parties and associations; external influence on nationalist movements, patterns of nationalist movements and the regaining of independence.

12. Apartheid

Prelude to Apartheid, the rise of Afrikaner nationalism, Apartheid legislation and suppression of African nationalist movements, external reactions to Apartheid; the OAU and Apartheid.

13. Problems of Independent African States

Nature of politics; neo-colonialism and political developments; neo-colonialism and economic underdevelopment, unequal development within states and instability, the Military in African politics, boundary disputes and threat to African Unity.

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PAPER 2 : National Histories of Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia up to 1985.

NIGERIA
(For Candidates in Nigeria)

SECTION A: NIGERIA UP TO 1800

1. Land and peoples of Nigeria: main geographical zones into which Nigeria can be divided; impact of the environment on human activities.
2. Centres of Ancient Civilization:
Nok, Ife, Igbo Ukwu, Benin.
3. (a) Centralized and non-centralized states:
 - (i) Kanem and Borno;
 - (ii) Hausa;
 - (iii) Igala;
 - (iv) Oyo;
 - (v) Benin;
 - (vi) Igbo;
 - (vii) Urhobo and Itsekiri.
- (b) Inter-group relations: economic activities, impact of migrations, war and politics.
4. Indigenous Crafts and Industries: pottery, salt making, iron working, gold mining, soap making, leather works, weaving, carving, bronze casting – technology, social and economic importance.
5. **External influences**
 - (a) Contact with North Africa: trade, Islam and impact
 - (b) Early European contact with coastal states: trade, Christianity and impact.
6. Nigeria and the trans-Atlantic slave trade: Origin, organization and effects

SECTION B: NIGERIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY

7. The Sokoto Caliphate: its establishment, administration, relations with its neighbours and impact of the Sokoto jihad on Nigeria.
8. Borno under the Shehu: the emergence of El-Kanemi, developments under El-Kanemi and Shehu Umar, developments under later Shehu, the Fall of Borno.
9. European relations with Nigeria: the suppression of the trans-Atlantic slave trade; activities of European explorers; Christian Missionary activities and their impact; consular and company activities and their impact on coastal states and the hinterland.

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10. **Yorubaland and Benin:** the collapse of the Old Oyo Empire and its aftermath, the era of Ibadan dominance; increased British pressure on Yorubaland; Benin in the 19th Century.
11. **The British conquest of Nigeria: 1851 – 1914.**
12. **British rule in Nigeria 1900 – 1914**
 - (a) The early phase 1900 – 1914
 - (i) the amalgamation of 1914 and its significance
 - (b) Later phase 1914 – 1960
 - (i) central administration;
 - (ii) indirect rule;
 - (iii) the colonial economy;
 - (iv) social developments.
13. **The decolonization process in Nigeria, 1922 – 1960**

Origin of nationalism, nationalist movements and the attainment of independence.
14. **Nigeria since independence**
 - (a) the First Republic, 1960 – 1966;
 - (b) the coups d'état, military rule, civil war and reconstruction, 1966 – 1975;
 - (c) the military administration of 1975 – 1979;
 - (d) the Second Republic, 1979 – 1983;
 - (e) developments up to 1985.
15. **Nigeria and the**
 - (a) United Nations Organization (U.N.O.);
 - (b) Commonwealth of Nations;
 - (c) Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.);
 - (d) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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SIERRA LEONE
(For Candidates in Sierra Leone)

SECTION A: SIERRA LEONE UP TO 1800

1. **The peopling of Sierra Leone.**
2. **The Mane invasions.**
3. The Political, social and Economic Organization of the following peoples: the Bullom/Sherbro, Temne, Mende, Limba, Loko, Susu, Mandingo:
4. **Indigenous Industries:** pottery, salt, iron, leather, soap-making, weaving, dyeing, carving – technology, social and economic importance.
5. **Introduction of Islam and Christianity**
6. **Sierra Leone and the trans-Atlantic slave trade:** origin, organization and effects.

SECTION B: SIERRA LEONE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

7. **The Colony of Sierra Leone**
 - (a) Anti-slave trade movement and establishment of the colony;
 - (b) Company rule;
 - (c) The influence of the Recaptives;
 - (d) The emergence of the Krio;
 - (e) Constitutional developments: 1863 – 1900.
8. **Internal Developments**
 - (a) Commercial and other contacts between the Krio of the colony and the hinterland; and role of the colonial government;
 - (b) Contributions of Christian missionaries in the hinterland;
 - (c) Spread and influence of Islam;
 - (d) Political and trade conflicts in the 19th Century: e.g. activities of the Yonni;
 - (e) Sherbro-Island in the 19th Century;
 - (f) Events leading to the declaration of the protectorate: the Hut Tax War and its effects;
 - (g) The decline of the Krio.

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SECTION C: SIERRA LEONE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

9. **The Colonial Administration**
- (a) Indirect rule and the role of the traditional rulers.
 - (b) Constitutional developments 1900 – 1945.
 - (c) The development of local government e.g. the Freetown City/and district councils
10. **Economic and Social Developments in the Colonial Period**
- (a) education;
 - (b) health services;
 - (c) mining;
 - (d) agriculture;
 - (e) transport.
11. **Struggle for and the Regaining of Independence**
- (a) Political and Constitutional developments after World War II
 - (i) the Protectorate Assembly;
 - (ii) Formation of Political parties and elections;
 - (b) Attainment of Self-government and independence.
12. **Developments after Independence:**
- (a) The Milton and Albert Margai administrations;
 - (b) Coups d’etat of 1967 and subsequent crises;
 - (c) The Siaka Stevens Regime.
13. **Sierra Leone and the**
- (a) United Nations Organization (UNO);
 - (b) Commonwealth;
 - (c) Organization of African Unity (OAU);
 - (d) Mano River Union;
 - (e) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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THE GAMBIA

(For Candidates in the Gambia)

SECTION A: THE GAMBIA (UP TO 1800)

1. **Origins, political, social and economic organization of the following peoples:**
The Wolof, Mandinka, Fula, Jola, Krio (Aku) and Serahuli.
2. **Indigenous Industries:** salt, iron, gold, soap-making, leather, weaving, carving – technology, and the social and economic importance.
3. **Spread and influence of Islam.**
4. **Early European exploration and trade.**
5. **The Gambia and the trans-Atlantic slave trade:** Origin, organization and effects.

SECTION B: THE GAMBIA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

6. **Suppression of the slave trade and its effects:** campaigns against Kings of Barra, Sabiji, Fulladu.
7. **The founding of Banjul.**
8. **Contributions of Christian Missionaries:** pioneering of Christianity and Western education.
9. **The Soninke-Marabout Wars, Jihadist leaders;** colonial government's reaction to religious disturbances, 1850 – 1880.
10. **Resistance to European Colonialism:**
Foday Sillah, Foday Kabba and Musa Moloh.

SECTION C: THE GAMBIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

11. **British Colonial Administration: indirect rule and the role of traditional rulers.**
12. **Social and Economic developments:**
 - (a) education;
 - (b) health services;
 - (c) agriculture: attempts at diversification;
 - (d) transport.

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13. **Development of Local Government**
14. **The Struggle for and the regaining of independence:**
- (a) The Struggle for and the regaining of independence;
 - (b) Emergence and role of Trade Unions, Political Parties;
 - (c) Internal Self-government;
 - (d) Independence negotiations;
 - (e) Senegambia relations before independence.
15. **Developments after Independence:**
- (a) attempt at national government;
 - (b) the Republican Constitution;
 - (c) Parliamentary government; Multi-party politics, political realignment;
 - (d) Social and Economic Developments;
 - (e) Senegambia relations.
16. **The Gambia and the**
- (a) United Nations Organization (UNO);
 - (b) Commonwealth;
 - (c) Organization of African Unity (OAU);
 - (d) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).