

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Marking Scheme**  
**GCE A Level Examinations**  
**November 2002**

Syllabus	Comp
9697	04

**Introduction** The following notes on individual questions should be used in conjunction with the generic Mark Bands for Essay Questions in the General Marking Instructions. This is particularly true of weak answers since the notes emphasise the main points that will be expected for the award of a mark in the higher bands from 1 to 4. In addition, where the notes suggest that a mark from one or other of two mark bands might be awarded, the 'Level of Response' descriptions should be used to help reach a decision on the most appropriate mark.

**1 Explain the development of the House System and analyse its importance in the states of the Niger Delta.**

The House System developed in the city states of the Niger Delta. Houses were a feature of most of these states by the early 19th. century and reached their greatest importance by the mid century. They were essentially co-operative companies whose main function was the organisation and promotion of trade. Though houses existed before the abolition of the slave trade they became more numerous and more important in response to the changing conditions created by the abolition of the slave trade and the challenges resulting from the need to switch from the slave trade to legitimate trade.

The emergence of houses brought about political, economic and social change throughout the area. Increased economic competition emphasised the importance of having men with real ability and economic and military skill to run their affairs. Traditional rulers did not always possess such skills and by the mid-19th. century House heads were often more important than kings to the economic well-being of rival societies. Houses were also composed of ordinary members of society and in some cases ex-slaves rose by merit to become house heads. Such leaders became known as 'new men' and outstanding examples were Alali, an ex-slave in Bonny, and Jaja, also an ex-slave who succeeded Alali in 1863. He ended up in 1869 by setting up his own 'kingdom' of Opobo in a position east of Bonny where he cut off Bonny from most of its trade. He had strong links with Igboland in the interior from which he obtained slaves and palm oil, and his military skills enabled him to dominate the trade of a wide area. Soon he was joined by most of the other House heads from Bonny.

Jaja's importance also lay in his ability to preserve African culture and traditions whilst taking advantage of Western technology and education. He refused to allow missionaries into his kingdom and he increasingly posed a threat to the British who finally removed him from power. In a sense he was so successful that he and others like him in the House System stimulated the imperialist aims of the British. Missionaries and traders pressed the British government to intervene and colonise parts of West Africa whose rulers stood in the way of their objectives.

Answers which show accurate knowledge about the emergence of the house system and illustrate its importance through reference to specific exponents of the system in operation in the second half of the 19th. century will deserve a mark in one of the top three mark bands. Refer to 'Levels of Response' to differentiate.

2 **Why was Dahomey one of Africa's most efficient states in the pre-Colonial period?**

The key words in the title are 'why' and 'efficient' and good answers must focus on the reasons which made Dahomey an efficient state. Given the wording of the question candidates should not be expected to argue about whether she was the **most** efficient state. It should be sufficient to show that, in many respects, she was efficient and to give reasons why this was so.

Dahomey's efficiency owed much to the ability of her two great rulers in the 19th century: Kings Gezo (1818-1858) and Glele (1859-1889.) Since most of Gezo's reign lay outside the syllabus only a few basic references should be made to his contributions to his country's efficiency. Nevertheless it was Gezo who laid the foundations of Dahomey's efficiency. Early in his reign he proclaimed its independence from the weak and increasingly inefficient Oyo Empire. It was he who decided in the 1840s that Dahomey should base its economy on legitimate trade and abandon its dependence on the slave trade. The decision was a wise one and by 1870 palm oil was providing Dahomey with three times the revenue she earned from the export of slaves in 1840. Both monarchs recognised the need for a strong standing army for defence and for acquiring slaves who would provide the labour required to cultivate palm oil trees in Dahomey's poor soil. The army was not strong enough to defeat the more powerful Yoruba states like Abeokuta and Egba but able to defeat her weaker neighbours like Ketu and enslave many of their people.

The main reasons for Dahomey's efficiency lay in its well organised, centralised system of administration. The King was at its head though he was not an arbitrary despot. A group of officials and ministers, each in charge of a particular department, formed a cabinet or council which advised the king. The most important ministers were the Meu (head of the financial system and taxation); the Mingi (chief magistrate and head of police); the Tokpe (minister of agriculture); the Yevogan (foreign and trade minister). Almost as important as the ministers were the Naye or 'King's wives'. One of these was attached to each minister and was responsible for overseeing and checking the efficient conduct of the work of his department. There was also an official in charge of every province. Officials and ministers were all chosen on merit. Perhaps the strongest, most efficient element in the whole system was the planned economy under the direction of the Tokpe. Production of each crop and numbers of all livestock were carefully monitored. Dahomeans were proud of their well run state and a strong national feeling developed. Answers which focus on this kind of explanation for the efficiency of the Dahomean state and give some specific illustrations of the system at work will deserve a mark in one of the two top bands. Candidates who ignore the two key words and fail to show any detailed knowledge will struggle to reach band 6.

**3 Assess the contributions of Johannes IV and Menelik II to the unity, modernisation and preservation of the independence of Ethiopia.**

In effect this is a type of compare/contrast question which requires candidates to make an assessment of the contributions of Johannes IV and Menelik II to each of the three objectives mentioned in the title. It does not explicitly require candidates to decide which made the greater contribution, but most will probably do so. In this respect the question is open ended and it would be reasonable for candidates to conclude that both rulers made major contributions to the preservation of Ethiopia's independence; but that Menelik made the greater contribution to her unity and modernisation. Such assessments should be supported by specific evidence, and a mark in the top band should not be awarded unless answers contain something on each ruler's contribution to all three objectives. For a mark in any of the 3 top mark bands answers should be reasonably balanced in their treatment of the two rulers.

**4 Explain how the building of railways played a crucial part in the economic development of either Central or East Africa.**

Whichever region is chosen a reasonably detailed and accurate description of the railway network in the region up to 1914 is indispensable as a base for the discussion and explanation of how railway building played a crucial role in its economic development. In 1914 the network in East Africa was limited to the two main lines from the coast to the interior: the Uganda Railway in British East Africa and the Central Line in German East Africa. In Central Africa the network was limited to the main line south to South Africa and north to Lusaka and the copper belt; and the link to Beira and the coast in Mozambique. Railway building in the Belgian Congo was restricted to very short sections between Stanleyville and Albertville on Lake Tanganyika built by concessionary companies. Equally important is the need for specific information about the economic activities which the railways promoted and serviced. These would include in either case the agricultural crops which were grown and mineral wealth which was exploited, and the facilities for the transport of goods for export and for the distribution of imported goods. In East Africa railway building brought Indians to the region as labourers and as retailers and also encouraged the first batch of white settlers from Europe and South Africa to come to the region to begin farming. It should not be forgotten, however, that small farming by Africans was largely responsible before 1914 for the Uganda Railway being able to pay its way. Settler farming on a significant scale did not begin until after WW1.

Answers which meet the above requirements will deserve a mark in one of the top 3 bands. Answers which lack a description of the network which existed by 1914 and give no details of the economic activities and progress facilitated by the railways will struggle to reach 10 marks. Consult also 'Levels of Response' descriptions.

**5 Why did the European partition of Africa develop into a 'scramble' between 1875 and 1900?**

By way of introduction good candidates might be expected to emphasise that before 1875 little of tropical Africa had been colonised by the Europeans. European powers were reluctant to annex territory for reasons of expense but most were anxious to trade with Africa. This was the concept of 'informal empire' which brought 'profit without responsibility'. The prospects of this approach being continued were diminished, if not removed, by the activities of Leopold II in the Congo basin after 1876 and the challenge to free trade which these posed. In the decade which followed, Leopold's activities in the area aroused European suspicions about his ultimate aims and how these might affect their own interests in Africa. In 1880, De Brazza, a French explorer, signed a treaty with Makoko but this was not ratified by the French Government until 1882. This decision was triggered by the British occupation of Egypt in 1882, a development which angered the French. The disputes in Africa alarmed Bismarck who in 1884 summoned the Berlin West Africa Conference to which all powers with interests in Africa were invited. During the Conference Bismarck further increased tension by annexing four areas in Africa for Germany: German S.W. Africa; Togo; Cameroon and German East Africa. The Conference laid down 'rules' and guidelines' for the future annexation of African territories. The most important of these stated that future annexations and claims to territory must be preceded by effective occupation of the territory by the power concerned. This conference and its decisions were the final stimulus to over a decade of frantic activity by many European powers and by 1900 most of the African continent had been parcelled out to the various powers. Candidates who identify the 'chain of events' between 1875 and 1885 which explain why the partition developed into a scramble and describe, with examples, some of the main annexations between 1885 and 1900 which constitute the scramble will deserve a mark of 16+. Those who, in addition, show that they are aware of the views of different historians about the relative importance of the various 'accelerating factors' will undoubtedly deserve a mark in Band 1. Candidates who mention none of the accelerators and whose answers merely list, in general terms, the various motives- economic, strategic, philanthropic etc.- that led European powers to partition Africa will hardly have answered the question set and struggle to reach Band 6.

**6 Explain the response of two of the following to the encroachment of Europeans on their territory: Mkwawa of the Hehe; Mwanga, Kabaka of Buganda; Lobengula, King of the Ndebele; Lewanika, King of the Lozi.**

The 4 rulers listed represent a wide range of the possible responses of Africans to Europeans. Some might be labelled 'resisters' (e.g. Lobengula, Mkwawa and Mwanga); one, Lewanika, might be described as a 'collaborator'. The best candidates will

avoid such 'bald' classifications and show that they are too simplistic. The response of all four changed with changing circumstances. For example Lobengula tried very hard to negotiate with Europeans who visited his court and was prepared to meet their demands so long as this did not lead to loss of sovereignty. Be generous to candidates whose answers show an understanding of what the rulers of their choice were trying to achieve and offer more sophisticated explanations of their response than a consistent determination to resist or to collaborate. Use the 'levels of response' definitions to identify the most appropriate mark.

7  
What were Concessionary Trading Companies? With reference to such companies in two countries, explain what role they played in Tropical Africa before 1914.

Part 1 requires a definition; Part 2 a description/analysis of the role they played before 1914. Allocate 7 marks for the definition and the remaining 18 for their role.

**Definition** Concessionary companies operated in the Congo Free State under Leopold II after 1886 and in French Equatorial Africa after 1899. Contracts were signed with these companies by Leopold II and by the French Government. The normal terms of the contract were that the Company was granted land and mineral rights in return for building railways. 1500 hectares of land for every kilometre of track was a typical deal. The company would then make a profit by exploiting the resources of the 'concession', mainly in the form of rubber from wild rubber plants. The Company shared its profits on an agreed basis with the granting authority.

**Role before 1914** The role of these companies, which 'administered' the territories on behalf of Leopold II or the French Government, was a shameful one. In the Congo Free State the initial grant was to the Compagnie du Congo pour le Commerce et l'Industrie (CCCI) in 1886. A railway was built round the Congo rapids from Matadi to Leopoldville. In return the company was granted over 3,000 square miles of land. Two other companies contracted to build railways to Lake Tanganyika and to Katanga and many others to exploit land outwards from the river bank. Leopold and the companies made enormous profits. Leopold made £3 million between 1895 and 1905. A vicious regime was operated to exploit Africans: forced labour; rubber taken as tax; flogging and other forms of torture for failure to produce the 'quota' were common. Africans had no time to cultivate food crops and death from starvation was widespread. Villages decayed and were abandoned and whole areas became depopulated. Forest encroached on cultivated land. In 1900-01 the British Consul exposed these appalling conditions and in 1908 the Belgian Government took over the administration of the Congo. Existing contracts, however, were allowed to continue until they expired.

In French Equatorial Africa De Brazza, the Governor between 1882 and 1898, resisted attempts to introduce the system which operated



in the Congo Free state and protected African interests; but finally in 1898 the French government was forced by pressures from businessmen and politicians to dismiss him. In 1899 forty concessionary companies modelled on those in the Congo were granted 30 year contracts throughout French Equatorial Africa. (See Tidy & Leeming, Vol, 2, Page 149). Company agents took over the running of vast areas from hard pressed administrators. Depopulation began to affect the whole region. and between 1900 and 1921 the population fell from 15 million to 3 million.

- 8 'Africans often expressed their opposition to European rule through religious means.' With reference to at least **three** examples involving different religions, show how far you agree with this claim.

It is important to remember that there were three major religions in Africa: traditional religions, Islam, and Christianity. Opposition to colonial rule could be expressed through all three. Traditional religions were a stimulus to, and a unifying factor in, early resistance movements e.g. the Ndebele-Shona Rising and the Maji Maji Rising. The defeat of these risings did, however, discredit traditional religions and their leaders. The Independent African Church Movement by its very existence was a protest against aspects of colonialism. Independent African Churches sprang up and flourished in various parts of Africa: e.g. in West Africa under leaders like Agbebi of the African Baptist Church in Nigeria and William Harris in the Ivory Coast. In Malawi there were several churches including the Watch Tower movement under Kamwana and the Independent Baptist Mission under John Chilembwe. Early Christians from independent and mission controlled churches protested against many aspects of colonial rule and were prominent in anti-colonial activities. In the case of Islam the mere fact of embracing the religion was an expression of anticolonialism as Islam was free of any association with colonialism. It was significant that the colonial powers were careful not to antagonise Muslims in their colonial territories for fear of arousing serious opposition. This was true of the British in the Sokoto Caliphate in Northern Nigeria and of the French in parts of Senegal. Islam played a small part in persuading the Ngindo to participate in the MajiMaji Rising. One reason why Islam made rapid progress amongst the Yao in the 1890s was that they believed it would strengthen their resistance to the colonial threat at the time.

Answers must refer to all of the three forms of religious protest mentioned above before being awarded a mark in one of the top two Bands. Answers which refer to only one form of protest will not get beyond Band 6 unless the treatment of the one form is very full.

- 9 Explain the spread of either Islam or Christianity in East Africa between 1875 and 1914.

Note that answers must be based on East Africa alone. This should provide candidates with sufficient material for a good, balanced answer. The key word is 'explain' and answers must focus on the

factors which explain the spread of ~~each~~ religion in East Africa. The appeal of the two religions to Africans rarely depended on their religious message alone. Economic, political, social and cultural factors all played a part in explaining their spread. Whether Africans responded negatively or positively depended on their perception of which religion would benefit them most at any particular time.

It would be worth pointing out that Islam started with one great advantage over Christianity. It had been established in the coastal regions of East Africa for many centuries before 1875. Arab-Swahili traders had been carrying Islam into parts of the interior for a long time. As Christian Missions began to penetrate the interior many Africans resented their opposition to the slave trade and preferred Islam's attitude: approval of the trade so long as Muslims were not enslaved. This applied to the Yao many of whom chose to adopt Islam in the last years of the 19th. century because it strengthened their resistance to the threat of colonialism. From a purely religious point of view Islam's message was simpler and far easier to understand than that of Christianity. In addition Islam was socially and culturally more compatible with African traditions and behaviour. It accepted polygamy as did traditional African religions. It was also free from the associations that Christianity increasingly had with colonialism. Against these disadvantages, however, Christianity came to have a growing appeal for other reasons. It came to be associated with progress which was linked with Western education (mission schools) and medical knowledge (mission hospitals).

Decisions taken by rulers often played a major part in the spread of one or other of these religions. Mutesa I of Buganda encouraged trade with Arab-Swahili merchants. This promoted the spread of Islam. Later, however, when he was faced with the threat of Muslim invasion from the Sudan, Mutesa invited Christian missions into the country in the late 1870s. As a result Buganda became one of the major success stories in Africa for conversions to Christianity. This rapid spread of Christianity owed much to the work of young Christian converts who set up 'reading rooms' and churches. Mwangi's attitude to Christians and Muslims changed frequently according to his circumstances, but in the long run his changes in policy led to a religious and political revolution and the triumph of the Christians in the Uganda Protectorate.

For a mark in one of the two top bands answers should cover, *where possible,* with specific examples, the main reasons which encouraged, or inhibited, the spread of the *chosen* religion. Answers which contain few examples will deserve no more than 10/11.

- 10 'Convenience and self-interest rather than principle led Britain to adopt a system of indirect rule in most of her African colonies.' How far do you agree?

The switch by Britain from a form of 'assimilation' to indirect rule came in the last years of the 19th. century and a brief reference should be made to the system which preceded indirect

rule. The decision to adopt indirect rule had something to do with the recently expounded racial theories of Social Darwinism: that Africans, even educated Africans, were inferior to Europeans, and that entrusting power to educated (i.e. assimilated) Africans was unwise and dangerous. Hence the adoption of indirect rule to replace assimilation. To this extent a degree of 'principle' affected Britain's switch to indirect rule. However, it is difficult to argue persuasively against the view expressed in the quotation in the title. Most of the evidence suggests that practical and pragmatic reasons were much more important influences in Britain's decision than any principle. These reasons included: the lack of British personnel in sufficient numbers, partly for health/climatic reasons (Africa 'the white man's grave') but above all for reasons of cost. Lugard, the 'father' of indirect rule, argued that it made practical sense to use traditional African leaders where available to rule colonial people. It was likely to promote stability and diminish the risk of rebellion. He also argued that it was the best way to prepare Africans to assume responsibility for self-government and independence.

Some specific examples should be given to illustrate indirect rule in action and these should go beyond the 'text book' example of indirect rule in Northern Nigeria. They should also make it clear that candidates are aware that indirect rule came in many different forms which depended on existing conditions. They should also show that it was not always easy to implement indirect rule, especially where the existing system was not based on traditional chiefs.

It is difficult to envisage any good answers which would challenge the quotation successfully. Answers which illustrate the working of indirect rule with material from Nigeria alone should not be awarded a mark in Band 1 or 2.