**African Americans A Concise History**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1) Which desert covers the northern third of the African continent?

A) Sonora

B) Sahara

C) Mojave

D) Kalahari

**Answer:** B

2) The origins of humanity lie in which of the following continents?

A) Asia

B) North America

C) Africa

D) Australia

**Answer:** C

3) The concept or term *habilis* in anthropology refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) wearing a habit

B) forming habits

C) using tools

D) living in a home

**Answer:** C

4) The term *homo sapiens* refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) modern humans

B) modern chimpanzees

C) modern swine

D) modern fish

**Answer:** A

5) Based on the image in 1-1, which aspects of the drawing suggest it is a *hominid* with similarities to modern humans?

A) diet and health

B) clothing and shoes

C) food and housing

D) skeletal structures

**Answer:** D

6) The kingdom of Kush was driven out of power by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) Greeks

B) French

C) Persians

D) Assyrians

**Answer:** D

7) Which empire conquered Egypt in 30 BCE?

A) Rome

B) Great Britain

C) Russia

D) Ottoman

**Answer:** A

8) Which of the following transitions did ancient peoples make that first ushered in “civilization?”

A) fishing to hunting

B) the destruction of cities

C) hunting and gathering to agriculture

D) immigration to other countries

**Answer:** C

9) In which era did Egyptian leaders start using the title *pharaoh*?

A) unification

B) cultural decline

C) expansion

D) origin

**Answer:** C

10) Egyptian culture was strongly defined by which of the following attributes?

A) monotheism

B) matriarchy

C) patriarchy

D) class equality

**Answer:** C

11) Which statement best characterizes the power and status of women in ancient Egypt?

A) Women served as the rulers of Egypt because it was a matriarchal society.

B) Women were treated as property and were allowed no legal rights once married.

C) Women held a relatively high status, could own property, and be public officials.

D) Women lived in a separate society from men, rarely interacting with Egyptian society.

**Answer:** C

12) Egyptian religion was characterized by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) monotheism

B) no connections to the state

C) matriarchal priesthood

D) elites buried in royal tombs

**Answer:** D

13) Ancient Egypt received which of the following influences from Nubia?

A) grain production and the concept of monarchy

B) naval warfare and the institution of slavery

C) city and town formation and design

D) highway and canal construction

**Answer:** A

14) Ancient Egyptians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) regarded themselves as "white," but actually exhibited a mixture of racial features

B) influenced the development and culture of Greece and later Western civilizations

C) were dependent on the Amazon for agriculture, transportation and communications

D) left very few remains of their civilization in any form

**Answer:** B

15) How did Egypt and Nubia interact as civilizations during the second millennium BCE?

A) They experienced peaceful coexistence and pacifism.

B) Egypt colonized Nubia.

C) They were allies in warfare.

D) The nations were unknown to each other.

**Answer:** B

16) In a situation similar to Egypt’s, ancient Mesopotamian civilization arose from which of the following natural forces?

A) lightning strikes

B) melting of the polar ice cap

C) earthquakes

D) river valley formation

**Answer:** D

17) The nation of Axum is significant because its people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) overtook the Egyptians while the Great Pyramids were being built

B) were Semitic and it became the first Christian state in sub-Saharan Africa

C) became extremely wealthy through exploiting nearby iron resources

D) enjoyed a success that rested entirely upon trade fell with the decline of Rome

**Answer:** B

**Page Ref:** 6-7

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

18) According to Map 1-2, in what ways did the Egyptians use the Nile River Valley for settlement?

A) They settled along the river and at its mouth.

B) They settled away from the river.

C) They settled at the headwaters of the river.

D) They settled on the river in floating cities.

**Answer:** A

**Page Ref:** 5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

19) What aspects of the image in 1-3 suggest Egyptian influence on the city of Meroe?

A) reddish sands

B) pyramids and hieroglyphics

C) hot temperatures and direct sunlight

D) the mountains in the background

**Answer:** B

**Page Ref:** 6

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

20) The nation of Ghana imported a variety of items from North Africa, particularly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) pepper

B) gold

C) slaves

D) salt

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

21) Who were West Africa's chief trading partners in the trans-Sahara trade before the fifth century CE?

A) the Greeks

B) the Spanish and the French

C) Roman merchants and the Berbers

D) the Egyptians

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 8

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

22) Ghana’s capital, Kumbi Saleh, included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) Islamic mosques, stone houses, and 20,000 people

B) Jewish temples, straw buildings, and 50,000 people

C) Christian churches, wood houses, and 100,000 people

D) pagan prayer rooms, iron barracks, and 200,000 people

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 9

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

23) Mansa Musa, a ruler of the Mali Empire in the fourteenth century, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) was known for his extreme cruelty to his slaves

B) introduced Christianity to the West Sudan region

C) was one of the wealthiest rulers the world has known

D) was massacred by European armies after trying to stop the slave trade

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 10

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

24) Which Songhai leader spread Islam in Africa and established the Sankore Mosque at Timbuktu?

A) Sunni Ali

B) Mansa Musa

C) Sundiata Mali

D) Askia Muhammad Toure

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 11

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

25) African Americans come primarily from which region in Africa?

A) north

B) south

C) east

D) west

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

26) The peoples of the forest regions of West Africa are important in the study of African-American history because they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) were the first region to trade with Egypt and other Mediterranean areas

B) converted to Christianity in significant numbers

C) played an important role in the slave trade as traders and victims

D) were the first areas to receive colonists from the United States in the early 1800s

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 12

**A-head:** West Africa

27) What is the connection between camels and African trade in the first century CE?

A) Camels had no role in shaping trade relations in the first century CE.

B) Camels helped to end trade in the region in the first century CE.

C) Camels facilitated long-distance trade in the first century CE.

D) Camels died out in the desert in the first century CE.

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

28) How did extensive trade in West Africa shape political history in the region over time?

A) Arab merchants and the religion of Islam entered the region.

B) Sudanese empires ignored trade opportunities and embraced European Christianity.

C) The growth of cities declined in the region, leading to civilization collapse.

D) Trade led to greater isolation of the region.

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 10

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

29) How did the Oyo people impose political unity over the Yoruba during the seventeenth century?

A) through free university education

B) through the religion of Christianity

C) with a well-trained cavalry

D) through immigration bans

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 13

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

30) What role did European firearms play in African history?

A) Guns became a trade item that allowed the Akan states to expand.

B) Guns played no role in African politics.

C) Guns were used by Africans to take over the slave trade from Europeans.

D) Guns were used by Africans to sell to Asian civilizations for help against Europeans.

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 13

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

31) Examine the two images in Map 1-3. What major differences existed between the two empires over time?

A) Mali expanded to the southern coast of Africa.

B) Ghana expanded to the Atlantic Ocean.

C) Mali and Ghana remained landlocked.

D) Mali expanded more than did Ghana.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 8

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

32) Regarding Ghana’s decline, cities in ancient Africa were frequently impacted by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) floods

B) earthquakes

C) capture and destruction by foreign enemies

D) Russian invasion

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 8

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

33) Why were the kings of Ghana known to Europeans as some of the richest of monarchs?

A) They had successfully invaded Europe to take Europeans as slaves.

B) They controlled a vast trade network that dealt in many commodities.

C) They sailed to the Americas and formed colonies.

D) They possessed lucrative diamond mines.

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

34) Map 1-4 compares Songhai, the Kongo, and the kingdoms of the West African forest region. In comparison to the other two, the Kongo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) lies the farthest south along the Atlantic coast

B) lies exclusively in the interior of Africa

C) lies in North Africa

D) is the largest African empire

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 11

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

35) Which of the following statements best describes the Akan states?

A) The rulers gave land to settlers and asked nothing in return.

B) The rulers refused to trade with Europeans.

C) The rulers used guns to prevent the Akan states from expanding.

D) The rulers used gold from mines to purchase slaves.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 12

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

36) Why did the kingdom of Benin eventually sell its own people into European slavery?

A) Its prosperity came to depend on the slave trade.

B) It desired access to Christianity.

C) Europeans would not buy other African trade goods.

D) It lacked access to European guns.

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 13

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

37) According to Map 1-5, the routes of the trans-Saharan slave trade were characterized by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) extension to southern Africa

B) connections to the ocean in North Africa and the West African forest region

C) a wide geographical expansion across Saharan and North Africa

D) a direct terminus along the Atlantic Ocean along the West African coast

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 14

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

38) What did Kongo and Angola have in common with West Africa?

A) They established colonies of people in the Americas.

B) They escaped connection to the slave trade.

C) Their people divided labor by gender and lived in villages of extended families.

D) They were similar in size.

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.5

**Page Ref:** 14

**A-head:** Kongo and Angola

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

39) West Africa’s indigenous religions remained strongest in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) Saharan desert

B) forest region

C) Nile River valley

D) Kongo

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 17

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

40) West African artists excelled in the medium of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) gold

B) bronze

C) silver

D) marble

**Answer:** B

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 17

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

41) West Africans used “fetishes” or figurines for rituals related to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) political changes in leadership

B) trade relationships with African governments

C) peace treaties with European governments

D) coming-of-age ceremonies

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 17

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

42) Which musical instrument now commonly used in the U.S. has an African predecessor?

A) trumpet

B) saxophone

C) banjo

D) violin

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

43) In West African culture, poetry became part of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) an oral culture expressed by commoners and elites alike

B) the forbidden culture controlled by women

C) European additions to African culture

D) an exclusively written culture

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

44) How were West African prose tales significant for African-American history?

A) The tales played no role in African-American history.

B) The tales helped African Americans resign themselves to slavery.

C) The tales became allegories for struggles against slavery.

D) The tales helped African Americans become slave masters.

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

45) Which of the following statements about the role of technology in West African culture is true?

A) It played an insignificant role because West Africa had almost no technology.

B) The use of silver to produce agricultural tools was common.

C) West Africans used technology to end African culture.

D) Iron refining and forging were common in the making of religious objects.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

46) Ancient African architecture received its greatest influence from the religion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) Islam

B) Christianity

C) Buddhism

D) Judaism

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

47) Women in West African society \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) had access to formal governmental offices and posts

B) were considered to be free and independent individuals

C) had more sexual freedom than women in Europe

D) were responsible for nothing other than the care of children

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 16

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

48) In the hierarchal society of West Africa, slavery \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) had no place and never existed until Europeans introduced it

B) was a permanent condition and the children of African slaves were always slaves

C) functioned as a means of assimilation into West African societies

D) was introduced by the Greeks and Romans

**Answer:** C

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 17

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

49) In a matrilineal society, rank and power \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) pass through the female line

B) are not passed to future generations

C) pass through the male line

D) are controlled by foreign visitors

**Answer:** A

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 16

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

50) How is power maintained in stateless societies like the Igbo in West Africa?

A) Women maintained absolute power over villages.

B) Foreigners held power over villages.

C) Rulers prevented villagers from leaving.

D) Families, rather than central authorities, ruled villages.

**Answer:** D

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 13

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**True/False Questions**

51) Egyptian women never ruled Egypt as *pharaohs*.

**Answer:** FALSE

**Page Ref:** 5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

52) The first known kingdom in western Sudan was Ghana.

**Answer:** TRUE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

53) The people of Senegambia were politically united but did not speak closely related languages.

**Answer:** FALSE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 12

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

54) A sizable minority of African Americans can trace their ancestry to Central Africa.

**Answer:** TRUE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 14

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

55) Drought was an infrequent occurrence for African farmers on the savanna.

**Answer:** FALSE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 16

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

56) In *patrilineal* societies, social rank and property is passed down in the female line from mothers to sons.

**Answer:** FALSE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 16

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

57) A “call-and-response” style of singing played a vital role in West African rituals.

**Answer:** TRUE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

58) Both court poets and *griots* were women in West African society.

**Answer:** FALSE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

59) Africans possessed stringed instruments in the ancient era.

**Answer:** TRUE

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.6

**Page Ref:** 18

**A-head:** West African Society and Culture

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Fill-in-the-Blank Questions**

60) A large\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stretches across Africa spanning Ethiopia to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Answer:** grassland

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.1

**Page Ref:** 2

**A-head:** A Huge and Diverse Land

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

61) From north to south, Africa is divided into a series of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ zones.

**Answer:** climatic

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.1

**Page Ref:** 2

**A-head:** A Huge and Diverse Land

62) Scientists who study the evolution and prehistory of humans are known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** paleoanthropologists

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.2

**Page Ref:** 2

**A-head:** The Birthplace of Humanity

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

63) Egypt began a long decline as a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s invasion in 331 BCE.

**Answer:** Alexander the Great

**Page Ref:** 5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

64) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Islamic Berbers from Morocco, captured Ghana in 1076 CE.

**Answer:** Almoravids

**Page Ref:** 8

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Remember the Facts

65) The Egyptian religion included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, god of the Nile.

**Answer:** Osiris

**Page Ref:** 5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

66) In 1591, the king of Morocco used Spanish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to capture Gao, capital of Songhai.

**Answer:** mercenaries

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 11

**A-head:** West Africa

67) The Nok, one of the early peoples of the West African forest region, were known for their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ technology.

**Answer:** ironworking

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 7

**A-head:** West Africa

68) Mansa Musa’s connection to Mecca in 1324 entailed making a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Answer:** pilgrimage

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 10

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

69) The people known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_are an example of an Akan state.

**Answer:** Ashantee

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 13

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

**Short Answer Questions**

70) Examine Map 1-1. What aspects of African geography suggest limitations and possibilities for historical settlement?

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.1

**Page Ref:** 3

**A-head:** A Huge and Diverse Land

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

71) Discuss the scholarly debate surrounding the race and extent of influence of the ancient Egyptians.

**Page Ref:** 4-7

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

72) Why is the Nile river called a “gift” for ancient Egypt?

**Page Ref:** 4-5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

73) Based on the *Voices* segment of Al Bakri’s observations of Kumbi Saleh and Ghana’s royal court, explain the connection between physical display and authority within the political system of Ghana.

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 9

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Apply What You Know

74) Examine the *Voices* segment of a Dutch visitor to Benin City in 1602. How does the foreign visitor describe conditions in the city, and what cultural biases are evident in his description?

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.4

**Page Ref:** 15

**A-head:** West Africa

**Skill Level:** Analyze it

**Essay Questions**

75) Why do scholars generate an intense debate surrounding the ancient origin of human beings as explained in the chapter?

**Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should:**

1. Outline the evolution of early hominids: *Ardipithecines*, *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus*.

2. Outline the migration debate: Multiregional model: Modern humans evolved

from regional Homo sapiens and archaic homo erectus populations in Africa, Asia, and Europe

3. Note that the Out of Africa model: Modern humans evolved 200,000 years

ago in Africa and left 100,000 years ago, migrating to Asia and Europe and the Americas.

4. Conclude that both theories are consistent with archaeological evidence.

**Learning Objective:** LO: 1.2

**Page Ref:** 2-3

**A-head:** The Birthplace of Humanity

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

76) How did class, gender, and religion shape Egyptian life?

**Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should:**

1) Describe the Afrocentric debate regarding the racial origins and impact of Egyptian culture on Greece and Rome: Egyptians may or may not have been “black” in skin color, however it is clear that the civilization influenced Greece and Rome in profound ways.

2) Discuss the patriarchal nature of ancient Egyptian culture and the role of women as having some control over earnings, family development, and political power.

3) Explain the role of religion within the Egyptian political and social system as having a central role in augmenting the political power of the pharaoh.

4) Conclude that ancient Egypt was a founding civilization of world history and continues to provide new clues to its existence through archaeological discoveries.

**Page Ref:** 4-5

**A-head:** Ancient Civilizations and Old Arguments

**Skill Level:** Analyze It

77) What were the most important economic, political, and cultural aspects of West African society? In what ways did geography impact cultural differences among West African civilizations?

**Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should:**

1) Describe the major West African kingdoms of the Sudan: Ghana, Mali, Songhai. All were politically competitive and involved in long distance trade relations.

2) Describe the major West African kingdoms of the forest region: Senegambia, Akan, Benin, Igboland. These all played major roles in the development of West African society through warfare, religious expansion, and trade.

3) Outline West African technology (iron production), religion (polytheism and Islam), trade systems based on iron, ivory, textiles; rigid class system, and family-based leadership systems.

4) Explain the role of the Sahara desert in creating North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa; the forests of West Africa provided many slaves to European colonies because of their close proximity to the coastline; the savanna or grasslands of central and southern Africa provided the home to large internal kingdoms involved in shaping West African national histories and the slave trade.

5) Conclude that geographical characteristics, primarily aridity, continue to shape modern African political and socioeconomic development.

78) Explain the role, status, and power of African women in ancient Africa.

**Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should:**

1) Define “African” women as including North Africa and ancient Egyptian culture as well as West, Central, Southern, and Eastern African women.

2) Point out that women were often seen as the property of men, and men dominated African women to the point of widespread enslavement of women and polygamy.

3) Note that women did in some cultures have the right to own property, inherit property, control the income from property, and serve as government officials.

4) Note the irony that women who served as government officials were often slaves.

5) Provide an example of the power of African women: The Ashantee Queen held her own court to decide women’s affairs.

6) Conclude that women held considerable power over their sexuality; secret societies taught women to be virtuous.

79) In what ways did Islam influence ancient African political, economic, and cultural development prior to European arrival? How does that impact manifest itself today?

**Ideal Answer: The ideal answer should:**

1) Define Muslim countries in ancient sub-Saharan Africa as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai. Islam arrived from North Africa by Arab merchants who also brought Arabic culture.

2) Explain that Arabs replaced Romans as the major foreign traders in Africa by the ninth century, leading to the conversion of African leaders to Islam.

3) Note that in Ghana, Arab Muslims dominated the monarchy and introduced writing into the culture.

4) Explain that Islam shaped African slavery. In Islamic regions of West Africa, masters had obligations to their slaves similar to those of a guardian for a ward.

5) Point out that Islam in many areas particularly of North and West Africa influenced African religion and African culture, including architecture, family life, and the roles of men and women in society.

6) Conclude that in modern Africa, the historical imprint of Islam remains strong in cultural, political, and religious influences that define modern national development in a time of expanding democracy.