

4. Which of the following was among the major developments of the Renaissance period? (1)
- A. The decline in wealth of towns and cities
 - B. The birth of feudal society in Western Europe
 - C. The granting of full freedom of religion
 - D. ✓ **The use of reason and questioning attitude**

Answer: D

The Renaissance, meaning rebirth, was the cultural movement of the 14th to 16th centuries that rediscovered Greek and Roman learning. Its central habit of mind was reason, free inquiry and a questioning attitude.

Option A is the reverse of what happened, because Renaissance Italy grew rich on town trade. Full freedom of religion is much later, and feudal society had been born centuries before.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 4, section 4.6 The Renaissance (page 106).

5. Which one of the following was an achievement of Muslim Arab Civilization? (1)
- A. ✓ **Calligraphy**
 - B. Gothic paintings
 - C. Use of Latin grammar
 - D. Democracy

Answer: A

Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, is one of the best known achievements of Muslim Arab civilisation, alongside algebra, medicine and astronomy.

Gothic painting belongs to Western Europe, Latin grammar to Rome, and democracy to ancient Greece.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 4, section 4.2.1 The Rise and Expansion of Islam (page 69).

6. Which one of the following is best describes history? It (1)
- A. the study of human culture prior to written records.
 - B. ✓ **studies and interprets what people did in the past.**
 - C. is the study of societies with writing.
 - D. is the study of events before the beginning of writing.

Answer: B

History is the study and interpretation of what people did in the past, based on evidence. Interpretation is the key word: the historian does not only collect facts, he explains them.

Options A and D describe prehistory, the time before writing. Option C is too narrow, because history is not limited to societies that wrote.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 1, sections 1.1 and 1.2 The Discipline of History (pages 2 to 4).

7. The availability of one of the following is irreplaceable or a mandatory requirement in academic history. Which one? (1)
- A. ✓ **Correct evidence**
 - B. Written sources
 - C. Quantitative data
 - D. Oral traditions

Answer: A

Academic history stands on evidence that has been checked. The steps of writing history are collecting evidence, criticising the source, interpreting it and writing objectively.

Written records, figures and oral tradition are only types of source. A history can be written without any one of them, but not without correct evidence.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 1, section 1.1 History and Historiography (pages 5 to 6).

8. Experts of the field agree that the periodization known as the "Pre-historic period" coincides with one of the following. Which one? (1)
- A. Bronze Age
B. Copper Age
C. ✓ **Stone Age**
D. Iron Age

Answer: C

Prehistory is the long stretch before writing, and its tools were made of stone. That is why the prehistoric period matches the Stone Age, divided into Old, Middle and New Stone Age.

The Bronze, Copper and Iron ages come later, when metal working and, in most regions, writing had already started.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 1, sections 1.1 and 1.6 The Stone Age (pages 2 and 14).

9. Where did the earliest agricultural population who started food production in human history live during the Neolithic period? (1)
- A. The Indus Valley
B. ✓ **The Fertile Crescent**
C. The Balkan Region
D. The Nile Valley

Answer: B

The textbook names the Middle East, and in particular the Fertile Crescent, as the best known place where farming first began about 10,000 years ago. That belt covers today's Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and parts of Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

The Nile valley and the Indus valley grew into farming civilisations later, so they are the tempting but wrong picks.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 1, section 1.2 Origin of Human Beings (page 15).

10. Which one of the following is true about early states? They (1)
- A. had institutions like constitutions and parliaments.
B. had similar size, power and level of technology.
C. bad mechanism of representative government and rule of law.
D. ✓ **had people with specialized skills and differentiation in to classes.**

Answer: D

The textbook says that states in antiquity had populations divided into classes and people with specialised skills such as craftsmen, soldiers and officials. That division of labour is what marks an early state.

Option B fails on the same page, because ancient states differed in size, power and level of technology. Constitutions, parliaments and rule of law are modern institutions.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 1, section 1.3 The Emergence of States, Main Features of the Early States (page 19).

11. Which statement is true about the introduction and expansion of Islam in Ethiopia and the Horn? (1)
- A. The jihad along the trade routes played a role.
B. ✓ **The agents were Muslim clerics and merchants.**
C. The earliest area of entry was the Port of Bebera.
D. The port of Metama was the main gateway of Islam.

Answer: B

Islam spread into Ethiopia and the Horn peacefully, carried inland from the coast by preachers, that is Muslim clerics, and by traders.

The two doors were the Dahlak Islands on the Red Sea and the port of Zeila on the Gulf of Aden, not Berbera and not Metema, which is an inland town on the Sudanese border. Jihad along the trade routes belongs to the 16th century wars, long after the introduction of Islam.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.1.2 Major Religions of Ethiopia (page 55).

12. Which one of the following best describes the main features of the Omotic states in the Ethiopian region and the Horn? (1)
- A. The large-scale cultivation of cereals was a basis of their agriculture.
 - B. Their communities mainly followed the religion of Judaism.
 - C. The founders of the state were migrants from northern Ethiopia.
 - D. ✓ **The populations and states drive their names from their location.**

Answer: D

The Omotic peoples and their states are named after where they live, the Omo river basin in southern and south western Ethiopia. Wolayta, Kafa, Gamo, Gofa, Dawuro, Konta and Yem all sit in that area.

Their farming rested on enset and root crops rather than large fields of teff, most of them followed indigenous religions rather than Judaism, and the peoples themselves are of the region, so options A, B and C fail.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.1.1 Language Families (page 53) and Unit 8, section 8.1 (page 203).

13. Which of the following is true about the relationship between the Christian Highland Kingdom and the Omotic states during the Medieval period? (1)
- A. The Christian highland kingdom paid tribute to Omotic states.
 - B. There was strong understanding between them.
 - C. ✓ **There was interaction between the two peoples.**
 - D. There were a series of agreements between them.

Answer: C

The two sides were in contact through trade, tribute and, at times, war. Gold, ivory and civet from the south moved north along the trade routes, and the Christian kingdom pushed its authority into some Omotic areas.

Option A reverses the direction of tribute, and there is no record of a lasting understanding or of a series of treaties between them, so B and D are too strong.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 8, section 8.1 Peoples and States of Southern, Western and Eastern Ethiopia (page 203).

14. Which one of the following was the main cause for the expansion of the Christian Highland Kingdom in the Medieval period? (1)
- A. The alliance between the Christian Kingdom and Europe
 - B. The restoration of the territories of the Aksumite empire
 - C. The existence of peaceful relations with all its neighbors
 - D. ✓ **The maintenance of strong army and economic strength**

Answer: D

The Christian highland kingdom expanded because it kept a large standing army and drew wealth from tribute and from control of the trade routes. Amde Tsiyon, who ruled from 1314 to 1344, used that strength to take Damot in 1316 or 1317, Gojjam in 1323 or 1324 and the Felasha area in 1332.

An alliance with Europe never materialised in this period, and relations with the neighbouring sultanates were anything but peaceful, so A and C fail.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 7, section 7.1 The Christian Highland Kingdom under the Restored Solomonic Dynasty (page 175).

15. Why did Portugal and Ottoman Turkey take part in the conflict between Christians and Muslims of Ethiopia in the 16th century? It was to (1)
- A. facilitate the spread of their respective religions.
 - B. participate in the slave trade of the Red Sea region.
 - C. ✓ **advance their own economic and political interests.**
 - D. colonize Ethiopian region and the Horn of Africa.

Answer: C

In the 16th century Portugal and Ottoman Turkey were rivals for control of Red Sea trade and of the routes to India. Portugal backed the Christian kingdom and the Ottomans supplied Imam Ahmed of Adal with firearms, but each was serving its own economic and political interest.

Religion was the cover, not the motive, and neither power was in a position to colonise the region at that date, so A and D fail.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 7, section 7.4 Relationship between the Christian Highland Kingdom and the Muslim Sultanate of Adal (page 188).

16. Which of the following best describes the major features of the Aksumite state? (1)
- A. For over half a millennium Aksum had control over South Arabia.
 - B. ✓ **The Aksumite state structure was more or less monarchical.**
 - C. The Aksumite kings owned large plantations farmed by slaves.
 - D. Aksum expanded its territory as far as the Mediterranean Sea.

Answer: B

Aksum was ruled by a king whose power passed within a royal line, so its state structure was monarchical. The king minted coins in his own name and took the title king of kings.

Aksum held parts of South Arabia only in short spells, mainly in the 3rd century and again from 525 to about 570, so half a millennium is far too long. Its territory never reached the Mediterranean.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.3 The Aksumite Kingdom (page 63).

17. Which cultural element showed that the Zagwe period had continuity with Aksumite traditions? (1)
- A. The developments of crafts and literature
 - B. The prevalence of ship building technology
 - C. ✓ **The use of Geez as the language writing**
 - D. The use of gold and amole for trade purpose.

Answer: C

The Zagwe kept Geez as the language of writing and of the church service, exactly as Aksum had used it. That is the clearest cultural thread joining the two periods, together with Christianity and rock architecture.

Ship building went with Aksum's Red Sea trade through Adulis and did not continue under the inland Zagwe, so option B is the trap.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.5 Zagwe Dynasty (page 67).

18. What led to the establishment of the prison of Amba Geshen during the medieval period was (1)
- A. ✓ **the succession problem that ravaged the highland Christian state.**
 - B. the power rivalry war that disturbed the Zagwe state.
 - C. theft and robbery that reached the highest point in the 14th century.
 - D. the growing ambition of the nobility to ascend to the throne.

Answer: A

After Yekuno Amlak died in 1285 his sons and grandsons fought over the throne, and between 1294 and 1299 five kings followed one another in quick succession. To end that, the royal prison of Amba Gishen, also called Debre Negest, was set up around 1300 under Widim Raad.

Male members of the royal family were kept there under guard until one of them was called to the throne. The practice lasted until Imam Ahmed's forces destroyed the amba in 1540.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 7, section 7.1, Succession Problem and Its Solution (page 175).

19. What was the main factor led to the restoration of the "Solomonic" Dynasty in 1270 A.D? (1)
- A. Military alliance between the Tigrean and Amhara regions
 - B. ✓ **The spread of the legend of Queen Sheba and King Solomon.**
 - C. Yekuno-Amlak's kingship ties with the last Aksumite ruler
 - D. Strong economic and political position of Yekuno-Amlak

Answer: B

The Zagwe kings were called illegitimate rulers on the strength of the legend in the Kibre Negest, which tells of the union of King Solomon of Israel and the Queen of Sheba. Because that legend was widely accepted, Yekuno Amlak's claim of descent from the last Aksumite king could be presented as a restoration when he took power in 1270.

Yekuno Amlak's own strength and his church allies explain how he won the fight, but only the legend explains why the dynasty is called restored.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.5 Zagwe Dynasty (pages 67 to 68).

20. Which one the following was the main feature of the Muslim states of Ethiopia and the Horn? (1)
- A. ✓ **Their rulers exercised both religious and political powers**
 - B. There were Muslim and Christian communities
 - C. Their economic activity mainly depended on agriculture
 - D. Their emergence was related to support from Ottomans

Answer: A

In the Muslim states of Ethiopia and the Horn the sultan held religious and political authority in the same hands, and Islamic law guided the running of the state.

Their wealth came mainly from the Zeila trade rather than from farming, so option C fails, and they had already emerged long before the Ottomans reached the Red Sea in the 16th century, so option D fails.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 7, section 7.2 The Expansion of Islam and the Emergence of Muslim Sultanates (page 179).

21. Which of the following is NOT among the known distinguishing characteristics of the "Civilized States" of the ancient World? (1)
- A. Having one from of cities and some degree of literacy
 - B. ✓ **The existence of democracy and federal government**
 - C. The availability of wealth and some degree of technology
 - D. The existence of religion and some sort of secular philosophy

Answer: B

The textbook defines a civilized state of antiquity as one with cities, literacy, reasonably developed technology, enough wealth for monumental building, and a developed religion or secular philosophy.

Democracy and federal government are not on that list. Ancient empires were ruled by kings and emperors who were treated as representatives of the gods, and a person's place was fixed by birth.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 1, section 1.3, Main Features of the Early States (page 19).

22. Which one of the following combinations of an ancient civilization and its achievements is correct? (1)
- A. India Confucianism.
 - B. China Hieroglyphic.
 - C. ✓ **Sumerian Cuneiform.**
 - D. Egypt logo graphic

Answer: C

The Sumerians of Mesopotamia wrote in cuneiform, wedge shaped signs pressed into wet clay tablets. That pairing is the correct one.

The others are swapped: Confucianism is Chinese, not Indian, and hieroglyphics are Egyptian, not Chinese.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 2, section 2.2.1 Mesopotamia (page 26).

23. Where did most ancient civilizations emerged? They emerged in (1)
- A. ✓ **river valleys**
 - B. savannas
 - C. mountains
 - D. rain forests

Answer: A

The first civilisations grew in river valleys, because the yearly flood left fertile silt and the river gave water for irrigation and a road for trade. Egypt on the Nile, Sumer on the Tigris and Euphrates, Harappa on the Indus and China on the Huang He all fit the pattern.

Savannas, mountains and rain forests could not support the dense farming population an early state needed.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 2 Ancient World Civilizations, section 2.1 (page 23).

24. Which one of the following has connection with ancient Asian civilization? (1)
- A. Olympic
 - B. ✓ **Symbol for Zero**
 - C. Democracy
 - D. Latin alphabet

Answer: B

The symbol for zero, together with the decimal number system, came from ancient India and reached Europe through Arab scholars.

The Olympic games and democracy belong to ancient Greece, and the Latin alphabet to Rome, so the other three options are all European.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 2, section 2.2.3 India (page 27).

25. Which one of the following does NOT describe the main features of the Byzantine Empire?

(1)

- A. Eastern Orthodox Church was its national church.
- B. ✓ **Its economy was dependent on export of spices.**
- C. It was a feudal empire ruled by an autocratic emperor.
- D. Latin language was largely used instead of Greek.

Answer: B

The economic base of the Byzantine Empire was agriculture, together with trade and crafts. It did not live on exporting spices, which came from India and the East Indies, so option B is the statement that does not fit.

Options A and C are true of the empire: the Orthodox Church became its national church after the split of 1054, and an autocratic emperor ruled over a society divided into estates.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 4, section 4.1.3 Byzantine Empire (page 67).

26. Which one of the following was the main achievement of China, India and Japan in the Medieval period, respectively?

(1)

- A. Construction of churches, advancement of Confucian Philosophy and introduction of civil service examination.
- B. Construction of great pyramids, drainage technology and introduction of seclusion policy
- C. ✓ **Development of landscape paintings system of great literature and land distribution program**
- D. Introduction of Democracy, invention of Hieroglyphics, and construction of Hanging Gardens

Answer: C

Taking the three countries in the order asked, the fit is China with landscape painting, which flourished under the Song, India with its great literature, and Japan with the land distribution reform.

The other combinations mix periods and places: pyramids and hieroglyphics are ancient Egyptian, the hanging gardens Babylonian, democracy Greek, and the civil service examination Chinese rather than Japanese.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 4, section 4.3 The Middle Ages in Asia (pages 87 to 99).

27. Which statements best describes limitations in Ethiopian historiography?

(1)

- A. The balance of sources in different parts of the country enabled scholars to present the facts on the country.
- B. Scholar's sufficient knowledge on various aspects of the country led to the availability of reliable historical sources.
- C. Most studies focus on political, economic, social and cultural histories of the country's past
- D. ✓ **Because an imbalance of sources many writers were attracted to the study of the northern parts of the country.**

Answer: D

The textbook names imbalance of sources as a limitation of Ethiopian historiography. Until the early 1960s few scholars worked on the south, while many were drawn to the north, where written sources such as chronicles and hagiographies were easier to find.

Option C is the reverse of the truth, because most studies concentrated on political history and left social and cultural history almost untouched.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 1, section 1.1, Ethiopian Historiography (pages 6 to 7).

28. Which of the following events show the main features of the Neolithic Revolution in Ethiopia and the Horn? (1)

- A. ✓ **The communities evidently started sedentary life.**
- B. The culture of the Neolithic Revolution is clearly known.
- C. The discovery of fire was a major achievement.
- D. The beginning of writing and recording of past events.

Answer: A

The Neolithic revolution in Ethiopia and the Horn shows itself in settled village life, which came with the domestication of plants and animals, polished stone tools and pottery.

The control of fire is a much older Stone Age achievement, and writing belongs to the historic period after the Neolithic, so C and D fall outside the period.

Textbook: History Grade 9, Unit 1, section 1.6 The Stone Age (page 16).

29. Which of the following is NOT true about the languages of Ethiopia and the Horn? (1)

- A. The variety of languages spoken by peoples in the region descended from two super-families.
- B. Languages spoken in the region, more than any other cultural aspects, determined people's identity.
- C. Ethiopia and the Horn consist of peoples who are ethnically and linguistically diversified.
- D. ✓ **The majority of the people of Ethiopia and the Horn are speakers of the Semitic family.**

Answer: D

The majority of the peoples of Ethiopia and the Horn speak Cushitic languages, such as Afan Oromo, Somali, Afar and Sidama. So the claim that most are Semitic speakers is the false one.

Amharic and Tigrinya are widely spoken Semitic languages, which is why this option tempts students, but they do not add up to the majority in the region.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.1.1 Language Families (pages 52 to 53).

30. The first locally known pre-Aksumite state in the Ethiopian regions was (1)

- A. Aksum
- B. Punt
- C. Adal
- D. ✓ **Damat**

Answer: D

Damat, also written Dimt, was the first pre-Aksumite state known from local evidence, with its own inscriptions, temples and stone buildings in what is now northern Ethiopia and Eritrea, around the 10th to 5th centuries BC.

Punt is older in the record, but everything we know about it comes from Egyptian sources, so it is not locally known. Aksum came after Damat, and Adal is a medieval sultanate.

Textbook: History Grade 11, Unit 3, section 3.2 Pre-Aksumite States and their Geographical Setting (pages 61 to 62).

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