

WASSCE / WAEC HISTORY SYLLABUS

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PREAMBLE

The syllabus will test the candidates’

- (a) knowledge of their National History from earliest times to 2000 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 and political institutions.
- (f) knowledge of the main historical developments in West Africa from earliest times to 2000.
- (g) ability to relate events in their country and West Africa to those of the outside world.
- (h) ability to present clear, relevant and logical arguments.

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There shall be two papers, Papers 1 and 2, both of which will make a composite paper to be taken at one sitting

PAPER 1: This will be a 1 hour multiple-choice objective test of fifty questions, all of which must be answered for 40 marks. The questions will be drawn from the West Africa and the Wider World From the Earliest Times to 2000 portion of the syllabus.

PAPER 2: This will be a 2 hour essay type test made up of three sections, Sections A, B and C. Each section will have three questions. The questions will cover the National Histories of The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone from the earliest times to 2000 portions of the syllabus.

Candidates will be required to answer four questions choosing **at least one** question from each section. The paper will carry 60 marks. **Candidates must answer questions on the country in which they are taking the**

examination.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

PAPER 1: WEST AFRICA AND THE WIDER WORLD FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO 2000

1. Historiography and Historical Skills

What is History and why do we study History?; sources of History; Historical skills (ancient and modern approaches); Prospect of ICT in Historical Studies.

2. Trans – Saharan Trade

Origin, organization and the effects on the development of West African states.

3. Islam in West Africa

Introduction, spread and effects.

4. European Contact with West Africa

Reasons for their coming, immediate effects and West African reaction

5. Trans-Atlantic slave trade

Origin, organization, effects and suppression.

6. Christian Missionary Activities in West Africa

The suppression of slave trade. Christian Missionary activities and their impact on West Africa.

7. The Scramble for and Partition of West Africa

The Industrial Revolution, Scramble for colonies, Colonial subjugation, Occupation and West African reaction.

8. Colonial Rule in West Africa

Patterns of colonial rule, consolidation of European culture in Africa, colonial economy and the underdevelopment of Africa: colonial Africa and the two World Wars.

9. Problems of independent West African States

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

10. West Africa and international organizations

- (i) United Nations Organization (U.N.O.)/United Nations (U.N);
- (ii) Organization of African Unity (O.A.U)/African Union (A.U.);
- (iii) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- Etc.

Membership, Aims and objectives, achievements and failures.

PAPER 2: National Histories of The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone up to 2000

NIGERIA (For Candidates in Nigeria)

SECTION A: NIGERIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO 1800

1. Historiography and Historical Skills

What is History and why we study History; sources of History; Historical skills (ancient and modern approaches); Prospect of ICT in Historical Studies.

2. Land and peoples of Nigeria: main geographical zones in Nigeria: impact of the environment on human activities e.g. hunting, fishing, farming, etc.

3. Centers of ancient civilization:

Nok, Ife, Igbo Ukwu, Benin.

4. (a) Centralized and non-centralized states:

- (i) Kanem and Borno;
- (ii) Hausa;
- (iii) Nupe;
- (iv) Oyo;
- (v) Benin;
- (vi) Igbo;
- (vii) Efik;
- (viii) Tiv.

- (b) Inter-group relations: economic activities, intermarriages, bilingualism, etc.
 - (c) Impact of migrations; wars and politics on inter- group relations.
5. Indigenous crafts and industries; pottery, salt making, iron working, gold mining, soap making, leather works, weaving, carving, bronze casting, tie and dyeing, bead making, boat building – technology; social and economic importance.
 6. **External Influences**
 - (a) Contact with North Africa: trans-Saharan trade, Islam(Borno and Hausaland) and impact
 - (b) Early European contact with coastal states; trade, Christianity and impact
 7. Nigeria and the trans-Atlantic slave trade: origin, organization and effects

SECTION B: NIGERIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY

9. The Sokoto Caliphate: its establishment, administration, relations with its neighbours and impact of the Sokoto jihad on Nigeria.
10. Borno under the Shehus: the emergence of El-Kanemi, developments under El-Kanemi and Shehu Umar, development under the later Shehu, the fall of Borno.
11. Christian Missionary Activities – activities, impact.
12. Yorubaland in the 19th century, era of Ibadan dominance; increased British pressure on Yorubaland;
13. Benin in the 19th century
14. The first phase of the British conquest of Nigeria: 1851-1900

SECTION C: NIGERIA FROM 1900 TO 2000

15. **The second phase of the British conquest in Nigeria 1900- 1960**
 - (i) The early phase 1900-1914: the amalgamation of 1914 and its significance
 - (ii) Later phase 1914-1960
 - (i) central administration;
 - (ii) indirect rule;
 - (iii) the colonial economy;
 - (iv) social developments.
16. **The decolonization process in Nigeria, 1922-1960**

Origin of nationalism, nationalist movements after the Second World War, the road to and the attainment of independence.

17. Nigeria since independence

- (i) the First Republic, 1960-1966;
- (ii) the coups d'etat, military rule, civil war and reconstruction, 1966-1975;
- (iii) the military administration - Murtala/Obasanjo regime of 1975-1979;
- (iv) the Second Republic, 1979-1983;
- (v) the return of military rule - Buhari/Idiagbon regime, 1983-1984
- (vi) The Ibrahim Babangida regime, 1985-1993;
- (vii) Interim national government and Abacha regime, 1993-1998;
- (viii) Transition to fourth republic and Olusegun Obasanjo administration;
- (ix) Emerging issues up to 2000: poverty, corruption, youth unemployment, religious crisis, terrorism, etc.

18. Nigeria and the

- (i) United Nations Organization (U.N.O.)/United Nations (U.N);
- (ii) Commonwealth of Nations;
- (iii) Organization of African Unity (O.A.U)/African Union (A.U.);
- (iv) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- (v) Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

19. Global issues

West Africa in Diaspora; Racism, Debt relief and International aids; Peacekeeping and socio-political interest of developed societies; World peace (armament, nuclear science); Millennium Development Goals (MDGS).

SUGGESTED READING LIST

S/N	AUTHOR	TITLE
1.	Buah, F.K.	A History of West Africa from AD 1000, London: Macmillan Publishers Ltd, 1986.
2.	Crowder, M.	West Africa: An Introduction of its History, London: Longman Group Ltd, 1977.
3.	Eluwa, G.I.C. <i>et al</i>	A History of Nigeria for Schools and Colleges, Onitsha: Africana-First Publishers Ltd, 1988.
4.	Okafor, L.M.	History for Senior Secondary Schools, Books 1 & 2

5.	Okafor, L.M. <i>et al</i>	Nigeria, Onitsha: Jet Publishers (Nig.) Ltd, 1989. History for Senior Secondary Schools Book 3, Africa and the Wider World Since 1800, Onitsha: Jet Publishers (Nig.) Ltd, 1990.
6.	Onwubiko, K.B.C	School Certificate History of West Africa AD 1000-1800 Book One, Onitsha: Africana-FEP Publishers Ltd, 1982.
7.	Webster, J.B and A.A Boahen with M. Tidy	The Revolutionary Years: West Africa Since 1800 New Edition, London: Longman Group Ltd, 1980.