Western Cape Government

Education

FOR YOU

GRADE 10

TERM 1

HISTORY

RESOURCE PACK

2025



Founder of the Songhai Empire Sunni Ali The Great (1464 – 1492)

READING AND RESPONDING TO SOURCES

When encountering sources, whether in textbooks or online, think critically. **The 5 Skills approach can guide you:** Scan for key information, Analyze details for deeper understanding, Connect ideas to build context, Evaluate sources for reliability, and Summarize to grasp the main points. These skills will not only enhance your learning but also empower you to navigate a world filled with information.

The Approach asks 5 questions when reading through material or sources:

1. Who? (People or Organisations)
2. When? (Dates of historical events)
3. Where? (Places, Town, Cities or Countries)
4. What? (Information in the source/ paragraph about?)
5. Why? (Reasons the historical event/s happened?)

UNDERSTANDING THE COGNITIVE LEVELS

LEVEL 1 (40%)

20 MARKS

- **Extract evidence** from sources
- Selection and organisation of **relevant information** from sources
- **Definition** of historical concepts

LEVEL 2 (40%)

20 MARKS

- **Explanation/Definition of historical concepts**/terms (***in the context of*** …)
- **Interpretation of evidence** from sources
- **Explain information gathered** from sources
- **Analyse evidence** from sources

LEVEL 3 (20%)

10 MARKS

- **Interpret** and **evaluate** evidence from sources
- Engage with sources to determine its **usefulness**, **reliability**, **bias** and **limitations**
- **Compare** and **contrast** interpretations and **perspectives** presented in sources and draw independent conclusions
- **Interpretation**, **evaluation** and synthesis of evidence from relevant sources (**paragraph writing**).

ACTION VERBS	MEANING
SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS	
List, mention, ... according to the source... Quote evidence from the source Definition of the concept ... What do you understand by the concept in the context of…	The answers are in the source • Use 'quotation marks...' when **extracting theanswer from the source** • The concept is defined in the source • The concept as it is understood and used in the content
Explain in your own words...	• Use the information and explain how you understand it. Do not rewrite the information in the source
Compare similarities/differences Compare how the sources support each other regarding...	• Identify the similarities/differences between the two sources in response to the question. • Please note the mark allocation **(2x2)** means two similarities must be given. Your response should be: • Source A indicates... and Source B ...) √√ • Both sources indicate that...) √√ **(2x2)**
Comment on Comment on the usefulness/ reliability/ limitations/bias of the source regarding...	• Give your opinion, reinforcing your point of view using logic and reference to relevant information in the source and your own knowledge **(2 x 2)** • The source is useful/ reliable/ limited/biased because**...** **(2 x 2)**
PARAGRAPH WRITING	
Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph…	• You need to identify all the relevant sources. Use the information in the source that would answer the question. Refer to the sources you obtained your information from. E.g. According to Source 1A … **(8)**

EXAMPLES OF LEVEL 1 AND 2 QUESTIONS

EXAMPLES OF LEVEL 1 EXTRACTION QUESTIONS
IMPORTANT: When you answer these questions, you must extract DIRECTLY from the source. DO NOT paraphrase or write the answers in your own words!

1. **Give** reasons, from the source, **why**…
2. **Quote**… pieces of evidence / reasons from the source…
3. **What** evidence in the source **suggests**…
4. **Name / State /Mention…** any countries/persons/powers/requests from the source…
5. According to the source**, name…**
6. **Who**, according to the source…
7. **When,** according to the source…
8. **Why**, according to the source…
9. **What**, according to the source…
10. **Which…** according to the source**…**
11. **How,** according to the source**…**
12. **Identify** in the source…
13. **Give any**…in the source…
14. **List** any… **/ Make a list** of…in the source…

EXAMPLES OF LEVEL 2 INTERPRETATION & EXPLANATION QUESTIONS
IMPORTANT:
When you answer these questions, you must interpret and explain. DO NOT extract sentences from the source. Write the answers in your OWN words!

1. **Comment** on the slogan/significance/meaning/implication of the statement…
2. **Comment on why…**
3. **Explain** the term/concept**…**
4. **In context of...**explain the term/concept...
5. **In context of…**what is implied…
6. **In context of…**what conclusion can be drawn from the photo/cartoon regarding…
7. **Explain why/how…**
8. **Explain** the messages/meaning…
9. **Explain what the cartoonist means with…**
10. **Why**, do you think…
11. **Why did** the…
12. **Use the information in the source** and your **own knowledge** and **comment** on the statement…
13. **Use the information in the source** and your **own knowledge**, **explain why**…
14. **To what** does the statement **refer**…
15. **What is meant** with…

REVISION: EXAMPLES OF SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

The Source Based Section (Grade 10-12) is always assessed out of 50 marks! This collection of revision questions does not total to 50 marks because the focus is on consolidating various skills in History.

- *Each Source Based section is guided by a KEY QUESTION*
- *Read the key question*
- *Remember it while reading the sources and answering other questions.*
- *This will help you answer the paragraph question.*

KEY QUESTION: HOW DID SUNNI ALI CHANGE SONGHAI FROM A VASSAL STATE TO BECOME AN EMPIRE BETWEEN 1463 AND 1492?

Study Sources 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D and answer the questions that follow.

1.1 Refer to Source 1A.

1.1.1 Which empire, according to the source, is replaced as the most important in West Africa? (1 x 1) (1)

- ***According to the source:*** *use the information from the source to answerthe question.*
- *Extract directly from the source.*
- *Why -provide a reason*



1.1.2 Define the concept "empire" in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

- ***Use your own words*** *to define the concept/word.*
- *You must use your own words as far as possible, even if the definition is in the source.*



1.1.3 Explain why Mali declined as an empire and was eventually replaced by Songhai. (1 x 2) (2)



- *You must interpret and explain the information in the source.*
- ***Explain why/Comment on****: provide a detailed REASON based on facts*

1.1.4 Identify TWO Islamic empires defeated by Sunni Ali. (2 x 1) (1)

- ***Identify/ List/ Name:*** *write down brief answers with no explanation*
- *The answers can be extracted directly from the sources.*



1.1.5 Explain Sunni Ali's attitude toward the Islamic religion (1 x 2) (2)

1.2 Study Source 1B.

1.2.1 Name THREE major cities in the Songhai empire. (3 x 1) (3)

1.2.2 Identify FOUR modern states whose territories (land) are covered by the Songhai empire (4 x 1) (4)

1.2.3 Comment on the usefulness of the source to a historian researching the Songhai empire (2 x 2) (4)

1.3 Consult Source 1C

1.3.1 Who was responsible for the founding of the Songhai empire? (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.2 Explain how Sunni Ali was able to conquer the old Mali empire. (2 x 1) (2)

1.3.3 Identify the non-military innovation (change) that Sunni Ali brought to Songhai to improve food production in many areas. (1 x 2) (2)

1.3.4 Comment on the importance of the Niger river in the development of the Songhai empire.

1.3.5 Define the concept of a vassal state in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

- ***Use your own words*** *to define the concept/word* ***related to the topic.***
- *You must use your own words as far as possible, even if the definition is in the source.*



1.3.6 Explain how Sunni Ali was able to invade the conquered territories and expand as Songhai empire. (1 x 2) (2)

1.4 **Compare Sources 1A and 1C**. Explain how the information in Source 1A supports the evidence in Source 1C regarding the growth of the Songhai empire. (2 x 2) (4)

Comparison questions:

- *Read Source 1B and 1C and look for similarities*
- *Gather information from both sources which correspond to each other*
- *For example, you will say "Source 1B says…" and "Source 1D confirms this by saying…".*
- *Remember: find a link in both sources to compare*
- *If the mark allocation is (2x2) (4) then you must compare the sources TWICE*

1.5 Refer to Source 1D

1.5.1 Define the term absolute monarch in your own words. (1 x 2) (2)

1.5.2 How, according to the source, did Sunni Ali protect his position and power as an absolute monarch? (2 x 1) (2)

1.5.3 Explain how Sunni Ali ensured that the conquered dependent states remained loyal to the Songhai empire. (1 x 2) (2)

How to write a paragraph:

- *Read the sources (addendum) with understanding and see what information you can use to answer the question*
- *Bear the key question in mind as you read and anyalyse each source while you answer the other questions in the Source Based section*
- *Either highlight or underline information in one colour or write-up information in the margin of the source that can be used to answer the paragraph question*
- *When you construct your paragraph, you will evaluate the evidence you gathered and select the most appropriate information*
- *Refer to the sources you obtained your information from e.g. In Source 1C …*
- *'Own knowledge' should be used to help you elaborate on the information that the source gives*
- *Remember: Focus on the key question not the TOPIC*
- *Learners only get 2 out of 6 (max) if they answer the paragraph by using bullet points.*
- *Also, if they split the paragraph, i.e. writing two paragraphs. The marker only marks the first part.*
- *If you copy parts the source/s you will be awarded no marks!*

1.6 Use the source and your own knowledge to write a paragraph of SIX lines (about 60 words) to explain how Sunni Ali changed Songhai from a dependent state to an empire between 1463 and 1492. (6)

ESSAY: EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND CONQUEST IN THE 15TH AND 18TH CENTURIES- THE SPANISH CONQUEST IN THE AMERICAS

Your essay must be about TWO pages long.

The Spanish easily defeated the Aztecs in the 15th and 18th centuries.

Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with relevant arguments.

[50]

The introduction

- *Your introduction must be linked to the question (not the topic)*
- *Show the main argument that you want to develop (stance)*
- *It is important to give a strong and clear introduction*
- *A marker (assessor) can clearly determine for your introduction whether you understand what is required from you to write.*
- *The introduction must be between five to seven lines long.*

- Plan your essay. Create a "mind map" that deals with the main points that you will use to develop and support your argument. We started a 'mind map' for you.

Body of the essay- Use the PEEL-METHOD

The first sentence of the paragraph will usually indicate what the main POINT is.

The rest of the paragraph will support this point with evidence. (EXAMPLES andEXPLANATIONS)
The last sentence can LINK with the content of the previous paragraph or can refer to the question.

Points on style

- *Your essay must have the correct structure (leave a line open between each paragraph)*
- *Remember that someone else will read your work. He/she must understand what you are trying to say. You must write using full sentences and make use of paragraphs to structure your essay.*
- *There must not be any headings!*
- *Avoid using "I" and "We"*
- *"SMS"-language may not be used*

QUESTION 1: HOW DID SUNNI ALI CHANGE SONGHAI FROM A VASSAL STATE TO BECOME AN EMPIRE BETWEEN 1463 AND 1492?

SOURCE 1A

The source below explains the origins of the Songhai Empire.

The Songhai Empire, also known as Songhay, existed from around 1460 to approximately 1591, emerging as the dominant empire in West Africa after the decline of Mali. This vast empire encompassed (spread throughout) regions of present-day Mauritania, Senegal, Nigeria, and Mali. Originating as a smaller kingdom along the eastern banks of the Niger River, the Songhai Empire experienced significant territorial expansion under the rule of King Sunni Ali (1464-1492).

By the 11th century, the Songhai Empire had established a thriving export industry along the Niger River, centered around its administrative hub of Gao. In 1323, the Mali Empire invaded and captured Gao, thus making Songhai a vassal state of Mali. However, during the 15th century, internal conflicts and unchecked growth within the Mali Empire hindered its ability to address the growing desire for independence among its vassal states.

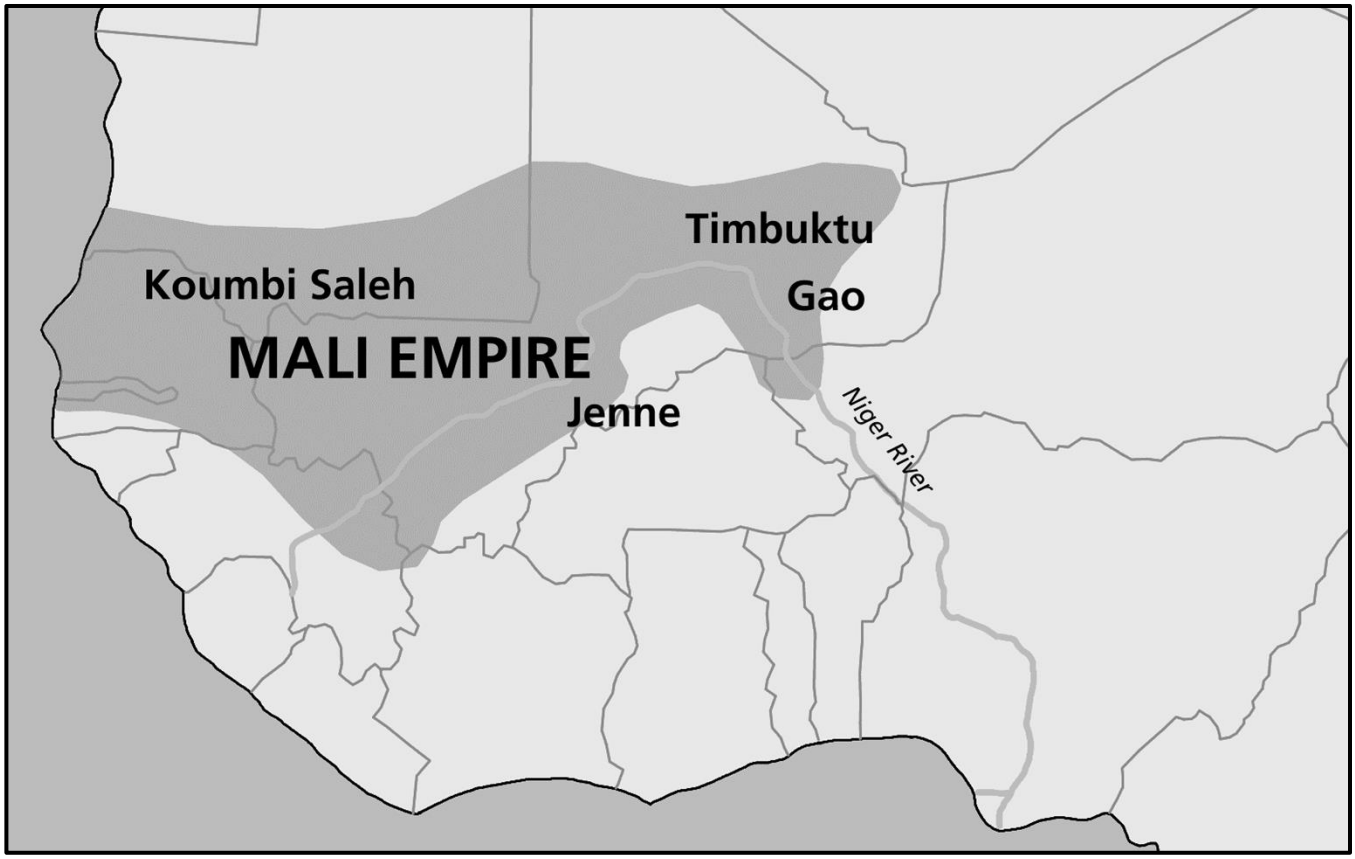
Upon assuming the throne in 1464, Sunni Ali of Songhai took decisive military action to defend Gao against the Mossi kingdom. With Gao secured, the Songhai Empire embarked on an ambitious military campaign, expanding its control to encompass the Niger River delta and dominate the trans-Saharan trade routes. In 1471, Songhai seized the renowned intellectual and cultural center of Timbuktu from the Tuareg, followed shortly by the economic hub of Djenne in 1473. By the 1480s, the Islamic kingdoms of the Tuareg and Mossi had been defeated and integrated into the Songhai Empire.

However, Sunni Ali's rule faced criticism from the Islamic community for his policies that granted equal status to traditional African religions and reduced the influence of Islamic scholars within the empire. This marked a significant aspect of Sunni Ali's administration that drew both praise and disapproval from various quarters within the Songhai Empire.

"The Rise of the Songhai Empire in West Africa" author unknown

SOURCE 1B

The map below shows the Songhai empire and the modern African states it covered.



Accessed: https://worldinterestingfacts2023.blogspot.com/2023/06/ancient-african-empires.html on 8 March 2024

SOURCE 1C

The source below focuses on the role played by Sunni Ali in the establishment of the Songhai Empire.

Around 1468, Sunni Ali, the powerful leader of the Songhai Empire, changed how they fought their enemies. Instead of small attacks, he led big campaigns to expand their territory permanently. With his army of armored horse soldiers and a strong river fleet, Sunni Ali conquered what was left of the old Mali Empire.

Known as a powerful magician in the local African religion, Sunni Ali used this image to scare his enemies. He could be kind to those who surrendered, but also very ruthless. He often invited defeated warriors to join his army and punished those who resisted. This is why people called him "Sunni the Merciless". Sunni Ali's army attacked fast and hard, overwhelming their opponents.

After conquering lands, Sunni Ali divided them into provinces and appointed governors to rule them. He made vassal states pay tributes and arranged marriages between local chiefs to create alliances. Sunni Ali also built dams along the Niger River, which helped improve farming in many areas.

In the Songhai Empire, the Islamic religion had a tough time. Sunni Ali did not like Islam and saw Muslims as outsiders who controlled important trade centers. During his rule, Islam was mostly followed by the rich and city people, while most of the rural communities stuck to their traditional African beliefs.

From *Sunni Ali: The Mighty Emperor of Songhai* by Amina Johnson

SOURCE 1D

The source below describes the government of the Songhai empire.

The Songhai Empire was an absolute monarchy. The entire empire was ruled by one The person emperor, was the direct descendant of the first monarch. The emperor served as head of the state, head of government, and chief commander of the armed forces. The emperor was helped by advisors, religious leaders, security personnel ,and members of the imperial family who assisted in administrative duties. The emperor had final authority over law, which was disseminated by imperial decrees and proclamations, and created treaties with foreign states. The emperor appointed governors to lead the districts with the support of civil servants.

The empire was held together by a powerful emperor, a central government, divided into executive ministers appointed and dismissed by the emperor, and a complex system of taxation.

The Songhai empire was divided into urban districts containing 35 cities and rural communities. The territories furthest from the central region contained conquered vassal states and tribes who were required to pay tributes and contribute soldiers to military expeditions.

[From https://. www.weeby.com. Accessed on 12 April 2019]

SONGHAI EMPIRE QUIZ

15 QUESTIONS

NAME: _____ **SURNAME:** _____

CLASS: _____ **DATE**: _____

1. Where was the Songhai Empire located?

A: Southern Africa

B: Western Africa

C: Eastern Africa

D: North-Central Africa

2. What was Songhai's timeframe

A: 1490 - 1567

B: 1455 - 1898

C: 14th Century - 1591

D: 2000 - 2018

3. What economical system did the Songhai use?

A: The Christianity System

B: The Ban System

C: The Clan System

D: The Democratic System

4. What religion(s) did the Songhai participate In?

A: Islam

B: Muslim

C: Christianity

D: Roman

5. Who Was the first important ruler of Songhai?

A: Muhammad Ali

B: Sonni Ali

C: Muhammad I Askia

D: Askia Mūsā

6. When did Askia Musa overthrow his father?

A: 1524

B: 1528

C: 1518

D: 1624

7. When did their period of prosperity and peace end?

A: 1681

B: 1581

C: 1591

D: 1691

8. What was their government system predicted by?

A: Sharia Law

B: Sharia Lay

C: Shary Law

D: Sharian Law

9. Who Introduced Measures and Weights to Trading?

A: Askia Mohammed Toure

B: Sonni Ali

C: Muhammed I Askia

D: Hillary Clinton

10. What percent of elements did the Muslims introduce?

A: 99.4%

B: 99.2%

C: 99.7%

D: 99.5%

11. What trade route did Sonni Ali take over?

A: Indian

B: Trans-Saharan

C: African

D: Afri-Saharan

12. True or False? The Songhai and Moroccan Empire fought together in a civil war.

A: True

B: False

13. What year did a rebel group kill Askia Musa?

A: 1546

B: 1679

C: 1532

D: 1531

14. True or False? Askia Musa killed his father & brothers.

A: True

B: False

15. How did the people think Sonni Ali died?

A Died of Dehydration and Hunger in the Sahara Desert

B His Nephew Murdered Him

C Drowned In the Nile River

D Suffocated in the Savana

TOTAL: / 15