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KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HISTORY

TASK 1

QUESTION PAPER

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MARKS: 50

DURATION: 1 HOUR

DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2026

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This Question Paper consists of 04 pages.

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INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1 This question paper consists of SECTION A based on the prescribed content for 2023.

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTION

QUESTION 1: THE WORLD AROUND 1600 – SONGHAI EMPIRE

2. SECTION A consists of one SOURCE-BASED QUESTION. Source material that is required to answer this question can be found in the ADDENDUM.

2 When answering questions, you should apply your knowledge, skills and insight.

3. You will be disadvantaged by merely rewriting the source as answers.

4. Number the answers according to the numbering system used in this question paper.

5. Write neatly and legibly.



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SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: WHAT WERE THE SOCIO- ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT LED TO THE RISE OF THE SONGHAI EMPIRE IN THE 1600s?

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

1.1 Read Source 1A.

1.1.1 According to the source, where was the Songhay empire situated during the 15th and 16th centuries? (1 x1) (1)

1.1.2 Define the term *century* in your own words. (1x2) (2)

1.1.3 What, according to the source, were the THREE factors that made the Songhay empire to thrive? (3x1) (3)

1.1.4 Identify THREE cities in the source that were used by the kingdom as administrative and cultural centres. (3x1) (3)

1.1.5 Using the information in the source and your own knowledge, explain how the Songhay empire was governed during the 15th and 16th Centuries. (1x2) (2)

1.2 Study Source 1B.

1.2.1 List FOUR circumstances from the source, that led to the socio-economic and political stability in the Songhay empire. (4x1) (4)

1.2.2 Quote evidence from the source that suggests that the defeat of Tuaregs and capture of Timbuktu was important towards Songhay Empire? (1x2) (2)

1.2.3 Why, according to the source was the Songhay empire an economically strong? (1x2) (2)

1.2.4 Quote TWO pieces of evidence from the source which indicates that both Sunny Ali and Askia Mohammed were good leaders. (2x1) (2)

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1.3 Use Source 1C.

1.3.1 Identify any THREE trading centres from the source that were involved in Trans-Saharan trade. (3x1) (3)

1.3.2 Why would a historian find the source reliable when researching about the Trans-Saharan trade. (1x2) (2)

1.4 Consult Source 1D.

1.4.1 Explain the concept *Trans-Saharan trade* in the context of Songhay empire. (1x2) (2)

1.4.2 Why do you think the trade routes were important to the economic growth of the Songhay empire? (2x2) (4)

1.4.3 How, according to the source, were Timbuktu and Gao important to the economic and cultural developments of the Songhay empire? (1x2) (2)

1.4.4 Name TWO commodities (goods) that were part of trade routes between Songhay empire and neighbouring states. (2x1) (2)

1.4.5 Why, according to the source, were camels regarded as the 'ships of the desert' by merchants (1x2) (2)

1.5 Refer to Sources 1C and 1D. Explain how the information in Source 1D supports the evidence in Source 1C regarding trade in the Songhay empire. (2x2) (4)

1.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) explaining the socio - economic factors that led to the rise of the Songhai empire in the 1600s (8)

[50]

TOTAL: 50

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