




STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA HISTORY DEPARTMENT
241/2 History 2 syllabus summary

1. Trades; Trans Saharan trade □ Origin
 - Factors for its growth
 - Organization
 - Roles played by;
 - Berbers
 - Tuaregs
 - Africans
 - Effects of the trade
 - Decline of the trade
2. Ancient empires of western Sudan
 - Ghana
 - Mali } origin, rise and growth, organization, decline and personalities.
 - Songhai
 - ❖ Other states; Sene- Gambian States (Woloff empire), Central Sudanic states (Kanem Bornu and Hausa states)
3. Forest states;
 - Oyo (yoruba)
 - ✓ Yoruba civil wars
 - Dahomey
 - Benin
 - Asante/Ashanti
 - Asante fante wars
 - Asante fante British wars
 - Fante confederation
 - George Maclean's administration in Southern Ghana
4. Religion (Islam and Christianity)
 - Jihads : causes and effects, personalities

- Methods of the spread of Islam
 - Effects of the spread of Islam
 - Reasons for the coming of missionaries
 - Effects
 - Problems they faced
 - Samuel Ajayi Crowther and Shanahan Joseph
5. Scramble and partition of west Africa
- Causes and effects
 - Methods
 - Reaction to colonial rule
 - Jaja of Opobo and Nana of Itsekili
 - Samori Toure
 - French assimilation policy British indirect rule
 - German rule in Togo
6. Trans-Atlantic slave trade/Triangular trade
- Origins
 - Factors for development
 - Organization
 - Effects of the trade
 - Abolition of slave trade
 - Development of legitimate trade
 - Factors and effects
7. Foundation of sierra Leone and Liberia in 1787 and 1821 respectively
- Reasons for foundation
 - Problems faced by early settlers
 - Creoles
 - Temne- mende /hut tax war of 1898
8. Social- economic developments in West Africa and African Nationalism

Origins	Factors for rise and growth	Decline	Organization	Personalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Not clear ✓ Based on myths legends and traditions ✓ Traditions were many ✓ Social political economic ✓ Empire was located in..... ✓ Its capital was ✓ Participated in trade (TST or TAST) ✓ Fertile soils for agriculture ✓ Strong army for expanding the empire ✓ Army was well equipped with arrows, bows and spears ✓ Had local industries e.g. ✓ Strongest king was ✓ Narrate the story for origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Many ✓ Social political economic ✓ Internal \$ external ✓ Gradual process ✓ Strong army ✓ For defense and expansion ✓ To keep law and order ✓ For internal security ✓ Army was trained and alert ✓ Well equipped with arrows, bows and spears ✓ Divided in cavalry and infantry ✓ Capable leaders ✓ E.g ✓ Fertile soils for agriculture ✓ Good climate for agriculture and settlement ✓ Strategic location ✓ Local industries ✓ E.g art and craft, black smithing etc. ✓ Trade ✓ E.g local trade and TST ✓ Taxes from traders ✓ Tributes from vassal states ✓ E.g ✓ Efficient system of administration ✓ Iron smelting ✓ Items like hoes and pangas ✓ Islam (not in Ghana) ✓ Promoted unity ✓ Sound economy ✓ Disunity of conquered states ✓ E.g. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Many ✓ Social political economic ✓ Internal \$ external ✓ Gradual process <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Change all the factors for rise to negative e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the army became weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Many ✓ Social political economic <p>Get them from the factors</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Many ✓ Social political economic ✓ Positive negative ✓ All factors can be applied <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

Summarized table answering questions on Empires

STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA HISTORY DEPARTMENT S.4 HISTORY PAPER TWO (WEST AFRICA) NOTES

Instructions

Read and copy these notes in your books *Continuation*

of forest states

ASANTE/ASHANTI EMPIRE

Guiding questions

1. What were the origins of Asante kingdom?
2. What factors led to the rise and expansion of Asante Kingdom?
3. Explain the organization of Asante Kingdom
4. Describe the contributions of Osei Tutu towards the growth and expansion of the kingdom
5. Why did this empire decline?

The origins of Asante kingdom

- Asante was the creates of all the Akan states of then Gold coast
- Asante was one of the forest states like Dahomey, Oyo, and Benin
- It was also known as Ashanti Empire
- Its origins are not clear because they were based on myths, legends and Oral tradition.
- These oral traditions were quite many. Social, political and economic in nature.

- The empire was originally located around a small lake called “Bosomtwi” in “Amanse” which meant “beginning of nations”
- Here, they built a small town called Asante Amanso and the empire started to rise in the 17th century between 1680-1750
- As the population increased in the area, towns like Bekwai, Kumawu, Nsuta, Mompon and others developed.
- Each town grew into an independent state but all regarded themselves as Asante people. This was because of a common origin of Oyoko
- These Asante states were taken care of by a chief called **Oti Akanten** who created a loose military alliance against the Doma migrants from North west of Asante land after 1650
- In 1660, chief Oti Akanten died and was succeeded by Obiri Yeboa who united the Oyoko people
- Its capital was Kumasi with the Asantehene as its ruler.
- However Obiri Yeboa was killed in around 1660s by Doma while in the war of uniting the Akan states.
- He was succeeded by his Nephew Osei Tutu who was more talented
 - Osei Tutu was the strongest ruler of Asante.
- The empire was strategically located in fertile region to favour the growing of crops.
- The people of Asante participated in trade which boosted the economy of the empire

FACTORS LED TO THE RISE AND EXPANSION OF ASANTE KINGDOM

- ✓ The factors for the rise and expansion of Asante Empire were quite many.
- ✓ These factors were social, political and economic in nature

- ✓ The rise and expansion of the empire was a gradual process not by surprise
- ✓ These factors were both internal and external as explained below
 - The rise of many states with the region such as Tofa, Amakoin, Dwaben etc laid the ground for the formation of the Asante empire since it helped them to forge unity among themselves.
 - The strategic location of the Oyoko states (close to each other) with Kumasi in the nucleus also made the empire to expand. ➤ The need of the Asante people to get independence from the oppressive Denkyira also led to the growth of the empire.
 - Presence of capable, courageous and powerful Asantehene (strong leaders) who controlled the empire effectively. ➤ For example; Obiri Yeboa, Osei Tutu and Opku Ware
 - The empire had a strong army that was made up of able bodied men for expanding and protecting the empire.
 - This army was well equipped with arrows, bows, spears among others.
 - This army was divided in to infantry force and cavalry force ➤ The army was well trained and drilled to expand the frontiers of the empire
 - The Asante people carried out agriculture which enabled the army and the rest of the population to get adequate food.
 - Presence of good climate with reliable rain fall that encouraged crop growing and human settlement.
 - The empire had many local industries that boosted the empire's economy.
 - These industries included; basket weaving iron smelting, wood carving etc.

- The Asante people participated in trade which provided the empire with revenue through taxes. This boosted her economy. They used the revenue to purchase horses and fire arms
- The empire obtained annual tributes from the conquered states which also led to her economic development.
- The empire had a centralized system of government led by the Asantehene which eased administration.
- In conclusion, the factors for the rise and expansion of Asante Empire were social, political and economic organization as explained above.

ORGANIZATION OF ASANTE KINGDOM

- ❖ The empire of Asante was organized in many ways.
- ❖ These ways were social political, social and economic in nature as explained below;
- ❖ **Politically**, the empire was ruled by the Asantehene who was also the religious leader.
- ❖ For purposes of administration, the empire was divided in to three parts. i.e Metropolitan (Kumasi), Amattoo and Provincial Asante.
- ❖ Kumasi was directly under the control of the Asantehene and it had an area of 40 miles radius of Kumasi.
- ❖ The Amattoo states composed of the union states like Dwaben, kokofu, Ofinso among others
- ❖ The Amattoo states and Kumasi formed Proper(metropolitan Asante)
- ❖ The provincial Asante constituted of the conquered states which were left in the hands of their conquered chiefs(Omanhene)

- ❖ These conquered states were forced to pay annual tributes and contributed troops and accepted the Asante Omanhene at the court.
- ❖ Among the Akan states the golden stool was regarded as a symbol of unity which embodied the soul, strength and survival of the Nation.
- ❖ The posts or stools in Kumasi were hereditary however later Osei Kojo and Osei Bonsu introduced reforms making posts competitive and appointive
- ❖ The Asante chiefs became members of the Asante's council (Abrempon) of which the Asantehene was the president.
- ❖ They were only represented in the union council, had no direct access to the Asantehene but only saw him through the Kumasi chief (Abirempong)
- ❖ The Asantehene appointed the governor to each state whose duty was to ensure tax collection, payment of tributes and provision of military assistance
- ❖ The Asantehene controlled all the trade and imposed taxes. He employed the Muslim secretaries who kept government records
- ❖ The empire had a strong army that was organized on a feudal basis with Asantehene as its commander
- ❖ For purposes of defense the army was divided in to wings; the right and left having the Kontihene as its commander in chief, rear and front having Esumegyene as the commander of the left wing and Ejisuhene for the right wing.
- ❖ Military service was made compulsory to all bodied men in the empire.

- ❖ **Economically**, agriculture was carried out by the Asante people and they grew crops like; Kola nuts, yams, among others.
- ❖ The Asante traded with Europeans at the coast. They exchanged Gold and slaves for fire arms
- ❖ **Socially**, the Asantehene always organized the ***Odwira festivals*** which were performed at the capital of Kumasi
- ❖ These festivals, prayers were said for the welfare of the empire. The future plans were drawn and recommendations made.
- ❖ Among the Akan states, the Golden stool was regarded as the symbol of unity which embodied the soul strength and survival of the nation.

The career and contribution of Osei Tutu towards the growth and expansion of Asante Empire

- Osei Tutu was nephew and successor of Obiri Yeboa. He came to power in 1697 after his uncle Obiri Yeboa who was killed in the battle against Doma.
- He ruled the Asante until his death in 1717 and was the first great empire builder of the Asante Empire.
- He was the most famous king/ruler of the Asante.
- He had various roles he played and these were social, political and economic in nature.
- He completed the unification of all the Akan states which were in the radius of 40 miles of Kumasi.
- He shifted his capital from Kwaman to the central site of Kumasi.
- Osei Tutu initiated the spirit of nationalism among the Akan states by uniting the Oyoko clans.

- He gave a constitution for the Asante union; the head of the union was to be the Asantehene and had to come from the line of Obiri Yeboa and Osei Tutu.
- He successfully expanded the political boundaries of Asante by creating an extensive empire.
- He inflicted a crushing defeat on Doma who fled north westwards where they founded the Gyamaan
- He also conquered the Amaakon and Tafo and also defeated the Denkyira making it a tributary state in 1701.
- With the above victory, he took over the port of Elmina at the coast because he had got the agreement between the Dutch and the coastal chiefs.
- He had a personal friend and advisor **Okmfo Anokye**. He was his lifelong friend and chief priest.
- The central government of his metropolitan Asante consisted of a confederacy council with Omanhenes of various divisions and the Asantehene presided over the council.
- He created a direct link between the European coastal traders and the Asante Empire. The Dutch also sent an Ambassador to Asantehenes court.
- He built a powerful army for the empire that was used in peace building and order.
- He set up National festivals annually called Odwira festivals to foster unity.
- He provided the Asante union with a national town (capital)-kumasi and it united the member states.

- At the Odwira festivals, the prayers were said for the peace in the country and the vassal states promised loyalty to the Asantehene during the festival.
- Osei Tutu is remembered for having produced the golden stool which worked as soul and symbol of unity for the Asante.
- He provided the Asante union with a national town (capital) – Kumasi, it united all the member states.
- He also encouraged agriculture in the empire of Asante which provided people with food.
- He also encouraged the promotion of local industries like iron working, basket weaving, others
- He built a strong economy in the empire.
- In conclusion, Osei Tutu had greatly contributed towards the growth and expansion of Asante Empire as explained above.

REASONS WHY THE ASANTE EMPIRE DECLINED

- The factors for the decline of Asante Empire were quite many.
- These factors were social, political and economic in nature.
- The decline of the empire was a gradual process not by surprise. It began in the 17th century and by 20th century the Empire had completely declined.
- These factors were both internal and external as explained below.
- The empire declined after the death of capable leaders like Osei Tutu and Opuku Ware. These were succeeded by incompetent leaders who led to the decline of the empire.
- The empire later became too vast/big to be controlled effectively hence its decline.

- The breaking away of some vassal states which affected the economy of the empire.
- These vassal states included; Gonja, Dagomba and Denkyira who declared themselves independent by breaking off from Kumasi.
- The conquered states were left in the hands of their traditional leaders hence declaring themselves independent.
- The Anokye constitution also led to the decline of the Asante Empire; it only favoured people of Asante origin.
- The army of Asante later weakened due to frequent wars hence could not defend the frontiers of the Empire.
- The rise of other forest states like Oyo, Dahomey and the Fante led to the decline of the Asante.
- The British occupation of Asante land was the final blow to the independence of Asante. The British took the Golden stool and this marked the end of the Asante Empire.
- The Abolition of slave trade led the decline of Asante's economy hence the collapse of the empire.
- Decline in agriculture caused famine and starvation of people leading to death and decline in the empire.
- The Asante-Fante wars led to the decline of Asante Empire as it weakened the army.
- Decline in local industries also affected the economy of the empire hence decline.
- In conclusion, the Asante Empire declined due to various factors which were social, political and economic in nature. [THE ASANTE-](#)

FANTE CONFLICTS/WARS

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