

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2020

HISTORY, DIVINITY and GEOGRAPHY

(One and a half hours)

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

The paper is divided into THREE sections. Candidates should answer a total of THREE questions drawn from at least TWO sections.

Each question is worth the same number of marks.

You need not answer the questions in the order set, but you must start each one on a separate piece of paper.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

SECTION 1: HISTORY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

You should refer to examples from any period(s) of history you have studied to answer the essay questions.

1. Source A.

In June 1744, the College of William & Mary in the American colony of Virginia invited nearby Native American tribes to send twelve young men to their college to be ‘properly’ educated. Soon after, the college received the following reply from the Native Americans. What can this letter tell us about the perceptions that European settlers and Native Americans had of themselves and of each other? [No prior knowledge of either the source or the period is required to answer this question.]

Source A. *Letter from the Six Nations to the College of William & Mary (1744)*

We know that you highly esteem the kind of learning taught in Colleges, and that the Maintenance of our young Men, while with you, would be very expensive to you. We are convinced, therefore, that you mean to do us Good by your Proposal; and we thank you heartily. But you, who are wise, must know that different Nations have different Conceptions of things; and you will therefore not take it amiss, if our Ideas of this kind of Education happen not to be the same with yours. We have had some Experience of it. Several of our Young People were formerly brought up at the Colleges of the Northern Provinces; they were instructed in all your Sciences; but, when they came back to us, they were bad Runners, ignorant of every means of living in the Woods, unable to bear either Cold or Hunger, knew neither how to build a Cabin, take a Deer, or kill an Enemy, spoke our Language imperfectly, were therefore neither fit for Hunters, Warriors, nor Counsellors; they were totally good for nothing. We are, however, not the less obliged by your kind Offer, tho’ we decline accepting it; and, to show our grateful Sense of it, if the Gentlemen of Virginia will send us a Dozen of their Sons, we will take care of their Education, instruct them in all we know, and make Men of them.

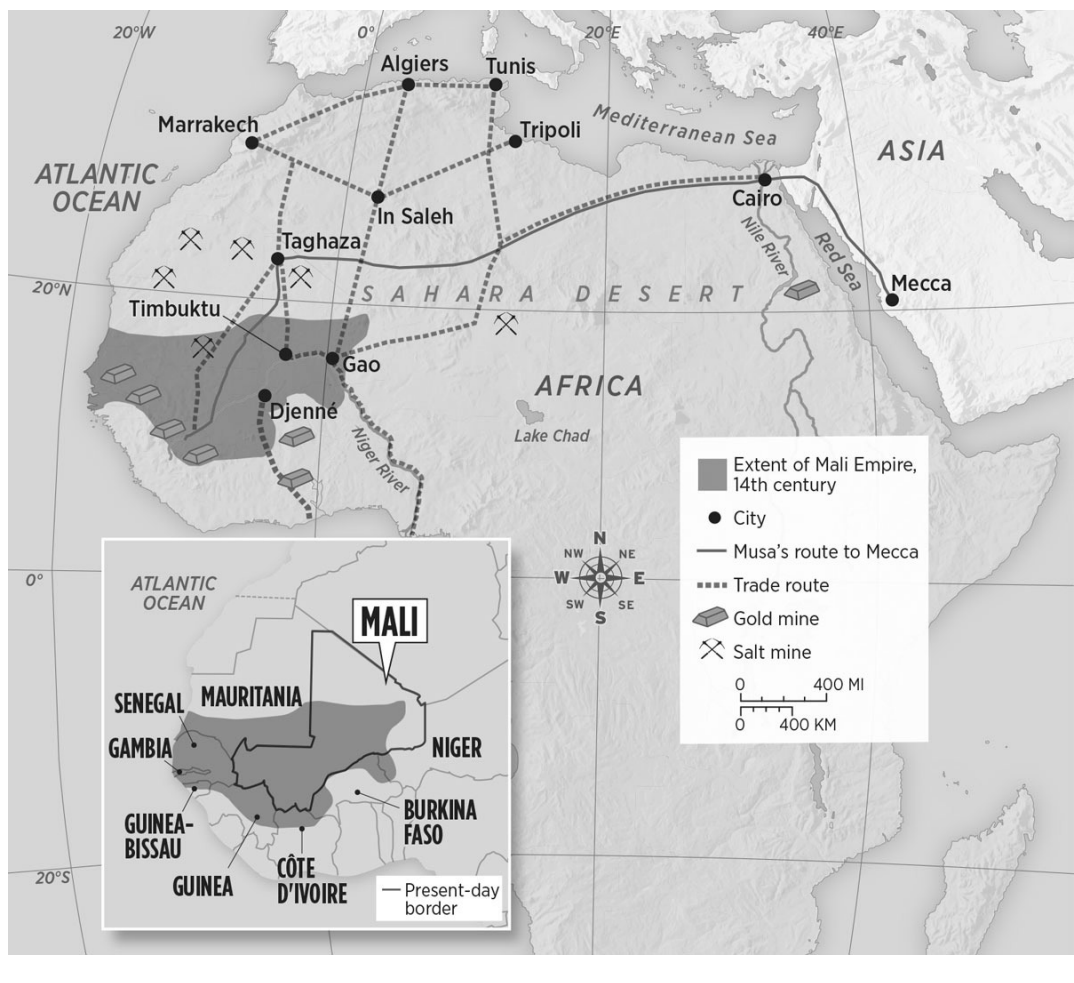
2. ‘History is a set of lies agreed upon,’ said Napoleon. What did he mean by this and do you agree?
3. ‘The only historical constant is change.’ To what extent do you agree?
4. How far is the history of the United Kingdom the history of its monarchy?
5. Are revolutions more important turning points in history than wars? Why or why not?

6. Study sources B to G. What do you think was the most important outcome of Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324-1326? [No prior knowledge of either the source or the period is required to answer this question.]

Background information:

Mansa Musa led the Mali Empire in West Africa from c. 1312 to c. 1337. When he became emperor, his empire covered approximately 500,000 square miles, and it was one of the most powerful states in West Africa, but neither he nor the empire were well known outside of the area until he performed the *hajj* (Muslim pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca). He began the journey of over 4,000 miles each way in 1324 with a huge caravan and gave away enormous quantities of gold en route to Mecca – so much gold that the value of gold fell and local economies were disrupted for many years. On his way home, he recruited scholars, poets, architects, and others. After Mansa Musa returned in 1326, he began a large series of building works in Timbuktu and other areas of the Mali Empire: mosques, schools, libraries, universities, and other urban improvements. Thanks in part to the numerous gold mines in his empire, he is widely acknowledged to be the single wealthiest person in all of history.

Source B. Map showing the extent of the Mali Empire during Mansa Musa's reign and the path of his hajj



Source C. *Description of the caravan*

from Lion of Mali: The Hajj of Mansa Musa by historian David Tschanz

Cairo's residents heard the noise and felt the rumblings in the ground long before the men on horseback arrived, breathlessly warning of its arrival. From miles away the steady tromping of feet mixed in with the bray of camels straining under their loads and the buzz of men moving, talking, and encouraging the beasts, while music played to keep time, shattered the desert quiet.

Leading the host were 500 heralds, clad in Persian silk and bearing four-foot-long golden staffs glistening in the sun and nearly blinding anyone who looked at them. Next came the royal guards, some bearing spears and sword, others the flags of their empire. In their midst Mansa Musa, the ruler of Mali, dressed in fine robes, rode his richly caparisoned horse in regal dignity. Trudging solemnly behind him were 80 camels, each bearing 300 pounds (140 kg) of gold – the modern equivalent of £438,000,000 – extracted from the mines of West Africa.

Behind this vanguard stretched a vast array. There were 60,000 porters, and a retinue of 12,000 of the king's personal slaves. The king's senior wife herself brought 500 maids. In a move to discourage any ideas of insurrection, Mansa Musa ordered the leading citizens and officials of each province journey with him and they brought their slaves and retainers. A vast array of soldiers, doctors, teachers, and *griots* (storytellers) also marched along. Ordinary people walked behind the caravan following it as they travelled just to see so much wealth.

Source D. *Description of Mansa Musa's visit to Cairo written by Al-Umari, who visited Cairo in 1336, twelve years after Mansa Musa stopped in Cairo.*

This man [Mansa Musa] flooded Cairo with his benefactions. He left no court emir nor holder of a royal office without the gift of a load of gold. The Cairenes made incalculable profits out of him and his suite in buying and selling and giving and taking. They exchanged gold until they depressed its value in Egypt and caused its price to fall.

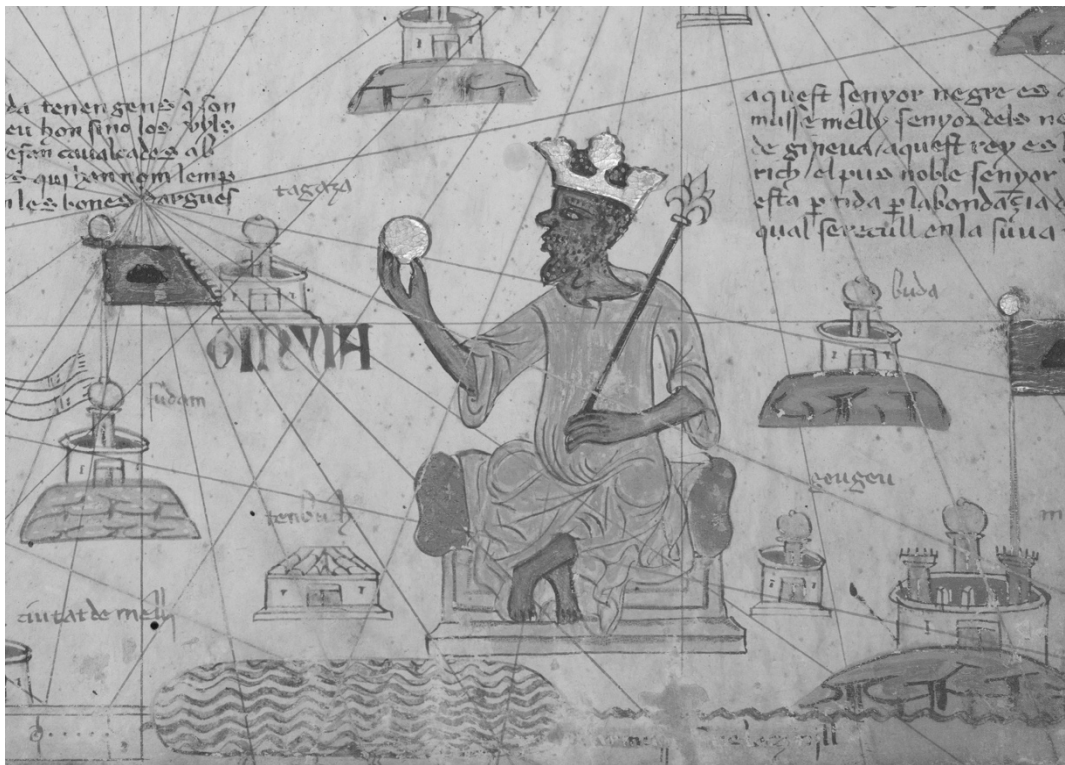
Source E. *Rudolph Ware, associate professor of history at the University of Michigan, explains why people struggled to describe Mansa Musa's wealth.*

This is the richest guy anyone has ever seen, that's the point. They're trying to find words to explain that. There are pictures of him holding a sceptre of gold on a throne of gold holding a cup of gold with a golden crown on his head. Imagine as much gold as you think a human being could possess and double it, that's what all the accounts are trying to communicate.

Source F. *1375 Catalan Atlas* showing an image of Mansa Musa*



Close-up of the image of Mansa Musa holding a gold coin and wearing a gold crown (circled above near the bottom-left corner)



**The Catalan Atlas was a map of the known world commissioned by a Spanish prince to be given as a gift to the King of France*

Source G. *Description of the aftermath of Mansa Musa's hajj in Lion of Mali: The Hajj of Mansa Musa by historian David Tschanz*

Mansa Musa brought back with him an Arabic library, religious scholars, and most importantly the Andalusian Muslim architect al-Sahili, who introduced into Mali a new development in architecture, especially in the building of mosques and palaces. Ambassadors were exchanged with Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, and other countries. The visit also stimulated trade between Egypt and Mali.

Mansa Musa strengthened Islam and promoted education, trade, and commerce in Mali. The foundations were laid for Walata, Jenne, and Timbuktu becoming the cultural and commercial centres of the Western Sudan, eclipsing those of North Africa and producing Arabic-language black literature in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Timbuktu rose to become not only an important city in the trans-Saharan trade route but also the centre of Islamic scholarship. Muslims came from distant countries to receive an education at the Sankore University that he built in Timbuktu. Books were not only written in Timbuktu, but they were also imported and copied there. The universities and private libraries contained unparalleled scholarly works. Timbuktu became a meeting-place of the finest Quranic theologians, poets, scholars, and artists of Africa and the Muslim world. Many of the teachers at these schools were said to be paid from the king's own personal treasury. Timbuktu's sister city of Jenne was also an important centre of learning.

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. 'Abraham's faith shows us more about God than humanity.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.
2. Explain, with reasons, why the Transfiguration of Christ is such an important theological event.
3. 'Plato's theory of reality is persuasive.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.
4. Do humans have a moral duty to protect their environment? Explain your argument and include reasons to support your view.
5. Should people only be considered 'religious' if they have been through a rite of passage? Give reasons to support your view, using appropriate examples from any religion.
6. 'Festivals are the most important part of any religion.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. Why are some countries more affected by tectonic hazards than others?
2. Explain why some places on earth are crowded while others are relatively empty of people.
3. Using examples from your geographical studies, explain what is meant by the term 'global interdependence.'
4. Which is more important: weather or climate? Using examples, give reasons to support your view.
5. Edward Glaeser's 2012 publication '*The Triumph of the City*' extolled the economic and social advantages of urban living. To what extent do cities represent a winning formula?
6. In your view, which is the more significant agent of geomorphological change: coastal erosion or the action of rivers? Justify your choice.

END OF PAPER