

KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION

SENIOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENT 2026

GRADE 10 – HISTORY AND CITIZENSHIP

Time: 2 Hours

LEARNER'S DETAILS

Name: _____ School: _____

Assessment Number: _____ Date: _____

School Code: _____ Signature: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write the detail required above
2. This paper consists of two sections: A and B. Answer all questions in section A and section B.
3. Answer the questions in English.
4. All answers MUST be written in the spaces provided in PAPER.
5. Do NOT remove any page from this question paper.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (EXAMINER'S USE)

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	% SCORE	EE1	EE2	ME1	ME2	AE1	AE2	BE1	BE2
SCORE RANGE	30 MARKS	50 MARKS		90-100	75-89	58-74	41-57	31-40	21-30	11-20	1-10
	POINTS			8 POINTS	7 POINTS	6 POINTS	5 POINTS	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
LEARNER'S TOTAL SCORE											

SECTION A: (30 marks)

Answer ALL questions in this section.

1.

a) Define the term **History**. (1 mark)

b) State **one source of historical information**. (1 mark)

c) Give **one importance of studying History and Citizenship**. (1 mark)

2.

a) Name **one major linguistic group** found in Kenya. (1 mark)

b) State **one reason for the migration of the Cushites** into Kenya. (1 mark)

c) State **one effect of migration on the communities that settled in Kenya**. (1 mark)

3.

a) State **one reason why European powers established colonial rule in Africa**. (1 mark)

b) Name **one method used by Europeans to establish colonial rule in Kenya**. (1 mark)

c) State **one feature of the colonial system of administration in Kenya**. (1 mark)

4.

a) What is meant by **public participation**? (1 mark)

b) State **one way in which public participation promotes democracy**. (1 mark)

c) Identify **one challenge facing effective public participation in Kenya**. (1 mark)

5.

a) What is meant by **republican status**? (1 mark)

b) State **one significance of the repeal of Section 2A of the Constitution**. (1 mark)

c) Give **one importance of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010**. (1 mark)

6.

a) Name the body responsible for conducting and supervising elections in Kenya. (1 mark)

b) State **one electoral malpractice** that can undermine free and fair elections. (1 mark)

c) State **one factor that promotes national integration in Kenya**. (1 mark)

7.

a) State **one factor that led to the transition from a migratory to a sedentary lifestyle**. (1 mark)

b) Give **one advancement associated with the Neolithic Revolution**. (1 mark)

c) Name **one ancient African civilisation** that developed before the nineteenth century. (1 mark)

8.

a) State **one major decision made at the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885**. (1 mark)

b) Name **one African leader associated with modern African nationalism.** (1 mark)

c) State **one lesson African countries can learn from African nationalist leaders.** (1 mark)

9.

a) State **one cause of the First World War.** (1 mark)

b) Give **one effect of the World Wars on Africa.** (1 mark)

c) State **one strategy used by international organisations to promote peace.** (1 mark)

10.

a) State **one factor that contributed to the American Revolution.** (1 mark)

b) Name **one form of modern slavery or servitude.** (1 mark)

c) State **one factor that promotes equity and non-discrimination in society.** (1 mark)

SECTION B: 50 MARKS

Answer all questions in this section.

11.

a) Explain **two ways in which different branches of History influence contemporary Kenyan society**. (4 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

b) Explain **three causes of migration of linguistic groups into Kenya**. (6 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

12.

a) Explain **three reasons for the establishment of colonial rule in Kenya**. (6 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

b) Explain **two ways in which the colonial system of administration influenced the development of the modern Kenyan government**. (4 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

13.

a) Explain **three roles of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in Kenya's electoral process**. (6 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

b) Explain **two ways of promoting effective public participation in Kenya**. (4 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

14.

a) Explain **three factors that contributed to the development of early African civilisations**. (6 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

b) Explain **two contributions of ancient African civilisations to modern society**. (4 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

15.

a) Explain **three factors that contributed to the First Industrial Revolution in Britain**. (6 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

b) Explain **two ways in which the United Nations and African Union promote peace and global stability.** (4 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

MARKING SCHEME

1.

a) History is the study of past events and human activities based on evidence. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Oral traditions
- Written records
- Archaeological sources
- Museums
- Artefacts
- Photographs
- Audio-visual records **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Helps learners understand the past.
- Promotes national identity.
- Helps learners appreciate cultural diversity.
- Provides lessons for solving present-day problems.
- Promotes responsible citizenship. **(1 mark)**

2.

a) Any one:

- Bantu
- Nilotes
- Cushites
- Semitic groups **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Search for pasture and water.
- Population pressure.
- Search for fertile land.
- Drought and famine.
- Conflicts.
- Search for trade opportunities. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Led to inter-community trade.
- Promoted intermarriage.
- Resulted in cultural exchange.
- Led to conflicts over resources.
- Increased competition for land and resources. **(1 mark)**

3.

a) Any one:

- Search for raw materials.
- Search for markets.
- Search for areas for investment.
- Strategic interests.
- Missionary activities.
- National prestige and competition among European powers. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Military force.
- Treaties.
- Collaboration.
- Divide-and-rule.
- Use of missionaries.
- Establishment of administrative centres. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Use of provincial and district administration.
- Indirect rule.
- Use of African chiefs and headmen.
- Centralised colonial authority.
- Introduction of colonial laws and taxation. **(1 mark)**

4.

a) Public participation is the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes that affect their lives and society. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Allows citizens to express their views.
- Promotes accountability.
- Promotes transparency.
- Enables citizens to influence government decisions. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Lack of civic awareness.
- Corruption.
- Political interference.
- Poor access to information.
- Inadequate resources.
- Public apathy. **(1 mark)**

5.

a) Republican status refers to a system in which a country is governed as a republic rather than as a colony or monarchy. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Reintroduced multi-party democracy.
- Allowed formation of opposition political parties.
- Increased political competition.

- Promoted political pluralism. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Protects citizens' rights and freedoms.
- Promotes democracy.
- Defines the structure of government.
- Promotes separation of powers.
- Provides for devolution.
- Promotes accountability and good governance. **(1 mark)**

6.

a) Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Vote buying.
- Ballot stuffing.
- Voter bribery.
- Intimidation.
- Multiple voting.
- Electoral violence.
- Manipulation of election results. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- National unity.
- Inter-community interaction.
- Equal distribution of resources.
- Promotion of national values.
- Sports and cultural activities.
- Respect for diversity. **(1 mark)**

7.

a) Any one:

- Development of agriculture.
- Domestication of animals.
- Availability of water.
- Favourable climate.
- Development of permanent settlements.
- Population growth. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Agriculture.
- Domestication of animals.
- Pottery making.
- Weaving.
- Polished stone tools.
- Permanent settlement. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Aksum Empire.
- Wanga Kingdom.
- Kingdom of Rwanda.
- Ancient Egypt.
- Ghana Empire.
- Mali Empire.
- Songhai Empire. **(1 mark)**

8.

a) Any one:

- European powers established rules for claiming territories in Africa.
- European powers agreed on principles governing the occupation of African territories.
- The principle of effective occupation was introduced. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Julius Nyerere.
- Kwame Nkrumah.
- Jomo Kenyatta.
- Thomas Sankara.
- Patrice Lumumba.
- Nelson Mandela.
- Ahmed Ben Bella. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Promote unity.
- Promote self-reliance.
- Protect national resources.
- Promote good leadership.
- Fight corruption.
- Promote patriotism.
- Respect human rights. **(1 mark)**

9.

a) Any one:

- Formation of rival alliances.
- Militarism.
- Imperialism.
- Nationalism.
- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Loss of African lives.
- Economic disruption.
- Growth of African nationalism.
- Destruction of infrastructure.
- Increased taxation.
- Forced recruitment of Africans. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Peacekeeping missions.
- Mediation.
- Dialogue and negotiations.
- Peace agreements.
- Disarmament programmes.
- Conflict resolution. **(1 mark)**

10.

a) Any one:

- Taxation without representation.
- British control over the colonies.
- Influence of Enlightenment ideas.
- Restrictions on colonial trade.
- Boston Tea Party.
- Desire for self-government. **(1 mark)**

b) Any one:

- Forced labour.
- Human trafficking.
- Child labour.
- Debt bondage.
- Forced marriage.
- Domestic servitude. **(1 mark)**

c) Any one:

- Equal treatment of all people.
- Respect for human rights.
- Equal access to education.
- Equal opportunities.
- Fair distribution of resources.
- Enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. **(1 mark)**

11.

a) Explain two ways in which different branches of History influence contemporary Kenyan society. (4 marks)

Award 2 marks for each well-explained point.

1. **Political history** – helps citizens understand the development of Kenya's government and constitutional system, promoting informed political participation. **(2 marks)**
2. **Economic history** – helps society understand the development of economic activities and use past experiences to address current economic challenges. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable branches include:

- Social history
- Cultural history
- Environmental history
- Diplomatic history

b) Explain three causes of migration of linguistic groups into Kenya. (6 marks)

Award 2 marks for each well-explained point.

1. **Search for pasture and water** – pastoral communities moved in search of adequate grazing land and water for their livestock. (2 marks)
2. **Search for fertile land** – communities migrated to areas suitable for cultivation and settlement. (2 marks)
3. **Drought and famine** – shortage of food and water forced communities to move to areas with better conditions. (2 marks)

Other acceptable answers:

- Population pressure
- Epidemics
- Conflicts
- Search for trade opportunities
- Natural disasters
- Need for security

12.

a) Explain three reasons for the establishment of colonial rule in Kenya. (6 marks)

Award 2 marks for each well-explained point.

1. **Search for raw materials** – European industries required raw materials for manufacturing. (2 marks)
2. **Search for markets** – Europeans wanted markets where they could sell manufactured goods. (2 marks)
3. **Strategic interests** – European powers wanted to control important routes and strategic areas. (2 marks)

Other acceptable answers:

- Christian missionary activities
- European nationalism
- Investment opportunities
- Prestige and competition
- Need for settlement areas

b) Explain two ways in which the colonial system of administration influenced the development of the modern Kenyan government. (4 marks)

1. **Administrative structures** – colonial provincial and district administration influenced the organisation of modern government administration. (2 marks)
2. **Centralised government** – colonial rule established centralised systems of decision-making that influenced post-independence government structures. (2 marks)

Other acceptable answers:

- Use of administrative officers.
- Development of legal systems.
- Introduction of taxation.
- Development of local administration.

13.

a) Explain three roles of the IEBC in Kenya's electoral process. (6 marks)

Award **2 marks for each well-explained role.**

1. **Conducting elections** – organises and manages elections at national and county levels. **(2 marks)**
2. **Voter registration** – registers eligible citizens as voters and maintains the voters' register. **(2 marks)**
3. **Electoral boundary review** – reviews constituency and ward boundaries as provided for by law. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Educating voters.
- Regulating political party nominations where applicable.
- Registering candidates.
- Ensuring compliance with electoral laws.
- Announcing and declaring election results as provided by law.

b) Explain two ways of promoting effective public participation in Kenya. (4 marks)

1. **Civic education** – educating citizens enables them to understand their rights, responsibilities and opportunities to participate in governance. **(2 marks)**
2. **Access to information** – providing citizens with timely and accurate information enables them to make informed contributions to public decisions. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Use of public forums.
- Digital platforms.
- Inclusive consultation.
- Protection of freedom of expression.
- Involvement of marginalised groups.

14.

a) Explain three factors that contributed to the development of early African civilisations. (6 marks)

Award **2 marks for each well-explained factor.**

1. **Availability of water** – rivers and other water sources supported agriculture, settlement and domestic activities. **(2 marks)**
2. **Agriculture** – reliable food production supported permanent settlement and population growth. **(2 marks)**
3. **Trade** – exchange of goods generated wealth and encouraged the growth of towns and political centres. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Availability of minerals.
- Fertile soils.
- Strong leadership.
- Skilled labour.
- Development of technology.
- Strategic geographical location.

b) Explain two contributions of ancient African civilisations to modern society. (4 marks)

1. **Architecture and engineering** – ancient Africans developed impressive buildings, monuments and engineering techniques that demonstrate advanced knowledge. **(2 marks)**
2. **Writing and scholarship** – civilisations such as Aksum developed systems of writing and centres of learning that contributed to the preservation and transmission of knowledge. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Trade systems.
- Metalworking.
- Agriculture.
- Governance systems.
- Medicine.
- Mathematics.
- Art and culture.

15.

a) Explain three factors that contributed to the First Industrial Revolution in Britain. (6 marks)

Award **2 marks** for each well-explained point.

1. **Availability of coal and iron** – Britain had abundant coal and iron resources needed for machines, factories and transport. **(2 marks)**
2. **Agricultural Revolution** – improved farming methods increased food production, population and labour availability for industries. **(2 marks)**
3. **Availability of capital** – profits from trade and commerce provided money for investment in industries and machines. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Availability of labour.
- Good transport networks.
- Scientific and technological developments.
- Growing markets.
- Political stability.
- Colonial resources and markets.

b) Explain two ways in which the United Nations and African Union promote peace and global stability. (4 marks)

1. **Peacekeeping and conflict resolution** – the organisations deploy peacekeeping missions and support negotiations to resolve conflicts peacefully. **(2 marks)**
2. **Promotion of cooperation** – they encourage member states to cooperate in addressing security, humanitarian and development challenges. **(2 marks)**

Other acceptable answers:

- Mediation.
- Humanitarian assistance.
- Election observation.
- Sanctions against parties threatening peace.
- Promotion of human rights.

- Support for regional integration.

KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION

SENIOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

TERM 3: PROJECT BASED ASSESSMENT 2026

**GRADE 10 – HISTORY AND CITIZENSHIP
LEARNER'S DETAILS**

Name: _____ School: _____

Assessment Number: _____ Date: _____

School Code: _____ Signature: _____

PRACTICAL PROJECT – 20 MARKS

Topic: African Civilizations and Their Contributions to Society

Project Title:
“Celebrating the Achievements of African Civilizations”

Instructions to the Learner

Select **ONE African civilization/kingdom/empire** that existed before the nineteenth century.

Examples include:

- Aksum
- Wanga Kingdom
- Kingdom of Rwanda
- Mali Empire
- Songhai Empire
- Ancient Egypt
- Great Zimbabwe

Prepare a **display board, chart, booklet or illustrated poster** showing the historical development and achievements of your selected civilization.

Your project should contain the following:

1. Name and Location – 2 marks

- Name the civilization/kingdom/empire. **(1 mark)**
- Show or describe its geographical location in Africa. **(1 mark)**

2. Political Organisation – 3 marks

Explain:

- The system of leadership/rule. **(1 mark)**
- The role of the ruler or leaders. **(1 mark)**
- One method used to maintain order or administer the society. **(1 mark)**

3. Economic Activities – 3 marks

Describe **three economic activities** practised by the people.

Examples:

- Agriculture
- Trade
- Iron working
- Mining
- Fishing
- Cattle keeping

1 mark for each well-explained activity.

4. Social and Cultural Life – 3 marks

Explain **three aspects** of the society's social or cultural life.

Examples:

- Religion and beliefs
- Education
- Family organisation
- Art and crafts
- Architecture
- Music and dance

1 mark for each relevant aspect.

5. Major Achievements/Contributions – 4 marks

Identify and explain **four major achievements or contributions** of the civilization.

Examples:

- Development of trade networks
- Architecture
- Metalworking
- Writing and record keeping
- Education and scholarship
- Government and administration
- Agriculture and technology

1 mark for each well-explained contribution.

6. Historical Evidence – 2 marks

Include **two forms of evidence** that provide information about the civilization.

Examples:

- Archaeological remains
- Artefacts
- Written records

- Oral traditions
- Buildings/monuments
- Coins
- Pottery

1 mark each.

7. Presentation and Creativity – 2 marks

- Neat and well-organised presentation. **(1 mark)**
- Appropriate use of illustrations, maps, photographs, diagrams or drawings. **(1 mark)**

Assessment Area	Marks
Name and location	2
Political organisation	3
Economic activities	3
Social and cultural life	3
Major achievements/contributions	4
Historical evidence	2
Presentation and creativity	2
TOTAL	20 MARKS

Expected Competencies

The project should demonstrate:

- Historical thinking
- Research skills
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Appreciation of African heritage
- Citizenship and cultural identity

Suggested Project Materials

Learners may use:

- Manila paper/cardboard
- Drawing paper
- Coloured pencils/markers
- Printed pictures
- Maps
- Rulers
- Glue
- Recycled materials

Note: Learners should acknowledge the sources of information used in preparing their projects.