History University Entrance Exam Compiled for Grade 11 Students Attending Cluster-Centered Tutorial Program

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Finfinne/Addis Ababa

GRADE 11 ENTRANCE EXAM QUESTION

Choose the correct answer from the four alternatives given for each question.

1. What was the primary political justification used by Yikuno Amlak to legitimize the overthrow of the Zagwe Dynasty in 1270?
   A. His military superiority and the support of the Ottoman musketeers.
   B. His claim of direct descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba via Dil Naod.
   C. The widespread popularity of the "Kibre Negest" among the Agaw population.
   D. His alliance with the Sultanate of Ifat to restore the Aksumite trade routes.
2. Which specific document, compiled in the 14th century, served as the ideological foundation for the Solomonic monarchs' right to rule?
   A. The Futuh al-Habesha.
   B. The Kibre Negest.
   C. The Gult System Charter.
   D. The UNESCO World Heritage List.
3. Why did the Ethiopian Christian Highland Kingdom maintain "roving capitals" between 1270 and 1636 instead of a permanent city?
   A. To avoid the destruction of religious manuscripts by the Sultanate of Adal.
   B. To facilitate the spread of Islam along the coastal trade routes.
   C. To better control provincial rebellions and manage the consumption of local resources.
   D. Because the Gadaa system prevented the construction of permanent stone fortifications.
4. Who was the most expansionist ruler of the medieval period, responsible for incorporating Damot, Gojjam, and the Felasha regions?
   A. King Zera Yaekob.
   B. King Yikuno Amlak.
   C. King Gelawdewos.
   D. King Amde Tsiyon.
5. What was the function of the "Amba Gishen" (Debre Negest) institution established around 1300?
   A. It served as the primary market center for the Zeyla trade route.
   B. It served as the headquarters for the Abbaa Duulaa during the Oromo expansion.
   C. It was the mobile capital founded by King Zera Yaekob in 1454.
   D. It was a royal prison for male descendants to prevent succession-related civil wars.
6. Under the "Gult" system, what specific right was granted to appointed officials by the King?
   A. The right to collect tribute from hereditary Rist landholders.
   B. The right to own Rist land as hereditary private property.
   C. The right to lead the Abbaa Gadaa assembly during election years.
   D. The right to manage the port of Zeyla independently of the Walasma dynasty.

7. Which monarch attempted to move toward a settled capital by founding Debre Birhan in 1454?
   A. Libne Dingil. B. Sertse Dingil. C. Amde Tsiyon. D. Zera Yaekob.
8. What was the relationship between "Rist" and "Gult" land in the medieval feudal administration?
   A. Rist was land held by the state, while Gult was land held by the church.
   B. Gult was a military rank, while Rist was a religious title for monks
   C. Rist was hereditary family land, while Gult was the right to tax that land.
   D. Rist land was located in the lowlands, while Gult was reserved for the highlands.
9. Where was the political center of the Christian Kingdom shifted to after the collapse of the Zagwe?
   A. From Lalibela to the Lake Hayk area and later toward Shewa.
   B. From Gondar to the southern highlands of Bale.
   C. From the port of Massawa to the Sultanate of Ifat.
   D. From Axum to the walled city of Harar.
10. What role did monastic centers like Debre Libanos and Hayk Istifanos play in the 14th century?
   A. They acted as the primary military barracks for the King's standing army.
   B. They were the centers for Christian evangelization and legitimized royal authority.
   C. They served as the main gateways for the export of gold to Greece and Rome.
   D. They were the assembly points for the Barantu Oromo confederacy.
11. Why did the Christian Highland Kingdom experience a decline in dominance in the late 15th century?
   A. The restoration of the Zagwe Dynasty in the Lake Tana region.
   B. The total conversion of the Amhara ruling elite to Islam
   C. Internal succession disputes and the rising power of the Sultanate of Adal.
   D. The loss of the port of Massawa to the Portuguese Navy.
12. When did the Solomonic Dynasty officially end, following over 700 years of rule?
   A. 1270. B. 1529. C. 1855. D. 1974.
13. Which title was given to the governor of the northern maritime territories during the expansionist era?
   A. Bahire Negash (Ma'ikele Bahr) C. Sultan of Adal.
   B. Abbaa Bokku. D. Garad of Hadya.
14. What motivated the Christian Kingdom to expand into the southeastern lowlands?
   A. To convert the Somali pastoralists to the Gadaa system.
   B. To escape the environmental degradation caused by roving capitals.
   C. To establish a permanent capital at the port of Mogadishu.
   D. To control the lucrative trade routes leading to the port of Zeyla.
15. Which of the following describes the "moving capitals" of the medieval period?
   A. Permanent stone cities that were abandoned due to drought.

B. Fortified islands on Lake Tana used only during wartime.
C. Temporary royal camps including locations like Tegulet, Bulga, and Menz.
D. Islamic market centers along the Gulf of Aden.

16. How did the religious of Islam primarily enter the Ethiopian region and the Horn of Africa?
A. Through military conquest by the Ottoman Empire in the 13th century.
B. Through the migration of the Gonga people from the Abay River.
C. Through the Red Sea coast, Dahlak Islands, and the Port of Zeyla via trade.
D. Through the expansion of the Borana Oromo confederacy.

17. What was the most important trade outlet for the medieval Muslim Sultanates?
A. Zeyla. B. Mogadishu. C. Massawa. D. Adulis.

18. Which dynasty ruled the Sultanate of Ifat and later founded the Sultanate of Adal**?**
A. The Solomonic Dynasty C. The Makzumate Dynasty
B. The Walasma Dynasty. D. The Zagwe Dynasty.

19. What was a common political feature shared by most Muslim Sultanates in the region?
A. Rulers (Sultans or Garads) held both religious and political authority
B. They used the Gadaa system to elect their Sultans every eight years.
C. Rulers held only secular power, while monks held religious authority.
D. Their rulers exercised both religious and political powers.

20. Why was the Sultanate of Hadya significant in the medieval period?
A. It was the only Sultanate that practiced indigenous Gonga religions.
B. It was the original homeland of the Afar people before the 16th century.
C. It served as the permanent capital of the Christian Kingdom until 1540.
D. It was a westernmost Sultanate with a mixed economy and ties to Queen Mother Elleni.

21. Where did the Walasma family move their capital in 1520 to strengthen the Adal Sultanate?
A. Dakar. B. Awsa. C. Harar. D. Zeyla.

22. Which Sultanate was used by Christian kings as an exile site for monks?
A. Bali. B. Fatagar. C. Arababni. D. Darha (Dera).

23. What primary factor transformed the Sultanate of Adal into the strongest challenger to the Christian Kingdom?
A. Its ability to control the inland trade routes connected to Zeyla.
B. The loss of Harar to the Oromo expansion.
C. Its adoption of the Ethiopian feudal system of Bale Gult.
D. The conversion of its population to Christianity under King Dawit.

24. Who was the founder of the Sultanate of Ifat in the mid-13th century?
A. Umar Walasma. B. Ahmad Badlay. C. Imam Ahmad D. Emir Mahfuz.

25. What was the economic foundation of most Sultanates located in the southeastern lowlands?
A. Purely gold mining for export to Rome.
B. Monopoly over the incense trade of the Mediterranean.
C. Large-scale coffee plantations.

D. Trade-based economies supplemented by pastoralism and mixed farming.

26. Why did the control of trade routes lead to conflict between the Christian Kingdom and Muslim Sultanates?
    A. Because trade was the primary source of wealth, tribute, and political power.
    B. Because the Bible forbade Christians from engaging in trade.
    C. Because the Sultanates refused to allow gold to be used in churches.
    D. Because the Oromo people blocked all routes to the Red Sea.
27. Which Sultanate was located in the present-day Arsi region and became tributary to the Christian Kingdom?
    A. Sharkha. B. Bizamo. C. Gojjam. D. Dawaro.
28. What was the role of Muslim merchants in the spread of Islam in the interior**?**
    A. They acted as military generals for the Walasma dynasty.
    B. They were responsible for the destruction of the Aksumite obelisks.
    C. They established market centers and converted communities through long-term interaction.
    D. They prevented the migration of the Somali people to the highlands.
29. Which group of peoples inhabited the Sultanate of Dawaro before migrating during the 16th - century wars?
    A. The ancestors of the Sidama and Dawro peoples.
    B. The Macha Oromo confederacy.
    C. The ancestors of the Welayita and kembata peoples.
    D. The followers of Abba Iyasus Moa.
30. Why did the Sultanate of Adal eventually move its capital to Awsa in 1576/77?
    A. To be closer to the port of Mogadishu.
    B. Pressure from the Oromo population movements and internal weakness.
    C. Because Harar was destroyed by the Ottoman Turks.
    D. To establish a new trade route to the Kingdom of Ennarya.
31. Which ethnic group primarily inhabited the Kingdom of Gojjam before its incorporation into the Christian Kingdom?
    A. The Amhara. B. The Somali. C. The Agew. D. The Oromo.
32. What made the Kingdom of Ennarya a vital economic asset for regional trade**?**
    A. Its monopoly over the coastal salt trade in Zeyla.
    B. Its invention of the Gadaa system of governance.
    C. Its role as the primary source of ivory for the Ottoman Empire.
    D. Its production of pure gold exported to Egypt, Greece, and Rome.
33. Which royal title was used by the kings of the Gonga states, such as Kafa and Shekka?
    A. Sultan. B. Garad C. Tato. D. Qats.
34. What common defensive feature was shared by Gonga states like Ennarya and Kafa during the 16th century?
    A. The use of Ottoman musketeers to guard the borders.

B. The construction of trenches, stone fortifications, and defensive enclosures.
C. The reliance on the moving capital system of the Christian kings.
D. The signing of peace treaties with the Portuguese navy.

35. What happened to the state of Bizamo after the Macha Oromo expansion in the 16th century?
A. It became the new capital of the Solomonic Dynasty.
B. It successfully resisted the Oromo for over 400 years.
C. It converted to Islam and joined the Sultanate of Adal.
D. Its population crossed the Abay River into Gojjam or was assimilated.

36. Who was the leader of Adal killed by the army of King Libne Dingil in 1517?
A. Imam Ahmad ibn Ibrahim. C. Emir Mahfuz.
B. Ahmad Badlay. D. Sultan Hanfare.

37. At which battle in 1529 did Imam Ahmad achieve a major victory over the Christian army**?**
A. Battle of Woyna Dega. C. Battle of Lake Tana.
B. Battle of Debre Birhan. D. Battle of Shimbra Kure.

38. Why did foreign powers like Portugal and the Ottoman Empire get involved in the Ethiopia-Adal war?
A. They were protecting their strategic and commercial interests in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.
B. They wanted to learn the Gadaa system of democracy.
C. They were invited by the Oromo to mediate the conflict.
D. They sought to colonize the Kingdom of Ennarya for its gold.

39. Who was the Christian monarch that finally defeated and killed Imam Ahmad in 1543?
A. King Amde Tsiyon. C. King Libne Dingil.
B. King Zera Yaekob. D. King Gelawdewos.

40. What was a major consequence of the long conflict between the Christian Kingdom and Adal**?**
A. The permanent establishment of Zeyla as the capital of Ethiopia.
B. The total unification of the Oromo under the Christian Church.
C. The discovery of new gold mines in the Sultanate of Bali.
D. The massive destruction of cultural heritage and weakening of both states.

41. Which group did Imam Ahmad unify to form his large and disciplined army**?**
A. The Amhara and Agew. C. The Portuguese and the Ottoman Turks
B. The Gonga and Shinasha peoples. D. The Afar, Somali, and Harari groups.

42. What led to the eventual collapse of the Kingdom of Ennarya, later known as Limmu-Ennarya?
A. A drought that destroyed the gold mines.
B. Defeat by the Limmu Oromo, a subgroup of the Macha confederacy.
C. Incorporation into the Sultanate of Ifat.
D. The death of King Amde Tsiyon.

43. Where the polity of Wajj was located, which later became an important military center?
    A. Around Lake Tana in the north. C. Around Lake Ziway, west of Fatagar.
    B. Near the port of Zeyla. D. In the lowlands of the Abay River.
44. What caused the "Shimbra Kure" battle to be a turning point in 1529?
    A. It was the first time the Oromo used cavalry in the highlands.
    B. It led to the founding of the Solomonic Dynasty.
    C. It resulted in the death of King Gelawdewos.
    D. It marked the start of Adal's temporary supremacy over the region.
45. What was the original homeland of the Oromo people before their 16th -century movement?
    A. The lowlands of Zeyla. C. The Bale Highlands.
    B. The Lake Tana region. D. The Northern Shewa mountains.
46. Which Oromo confederacy moved in a northeastern direction toward Awash and Harar?
    A. The Borana Confederacy. C. The Macha Confederacy
    B. The Tulama Confederacy. D. The Barantu Confederacy.
47. What was the "Moggassa" system in Oromo culture?
    A. A system of group adoption that integrated other groups into the Oromo.
    B. A ritual for electing the Abbaa Gadaa.
    C. A military tactic using stone fortifications.
    D. A religious ceremony held every 80 years.
48. Which Gadaa institution was responsible for making laws and discussing community affairs?
    A. The Chaffee. C. The Abbaa Duulaa.
    B. The Siinqee. D. The Buqqisu.
49. What is the role of the "Abbaa Duulaa" within the Gadaa system?
    A. The chief judge of the community.
    B. The leader of the women's rights institution.
    C. The person who removes corrupt leaders.
    D. The military commander who led expansion and defense.
50. At what age set (Gadaa Grade) do Oromo males typically exercise power and enforce laws?
    A. Dabale (0–8 years). C. Gadaa (40–48 years).
    B. Kusa (24–32 years). D. Raba-Doori (32–40 years).
51. Why did the Gadaa system begin to decline after the 16th -century expansion?
    A. Because the Oromo were defeated by the Sultanate of Adal.
    B. Because the Siinqee institution was abolished by the Portuguese.
    C. Because the Oromo decided to return to the Bale Highlands.
    D. Due to wide territorial expansion, trade wealth, and the rise of monarchies.
52. What did the "Siinqee" institution represent in Oromo society?
    A. The authority of the military commander.
    B. The rights and authority of women in promoting peace and social harmony.
    C. The process of individual adoption of Guddifacha
    D. The eight-year cycle of power rotation for exercise power and enforce laws

53. Which phase of the Oromo population movement was characterized by rapid, forceful expansion?
    A. The second phase the mid-16th century to 1618.
    B. The first phase early 16th century.
    C. The third phase after the death of King Gelawdewos.
    D. The fourth phase during the reign of Zera Yaekob.
54. What was a major impact of the Oromo movement on the Christian Kingdom?
    A. The total conversion of the Oromo to the Solomonic lineage.
    B. The relocation of the political center to Lake Tana and Gondar.
    C. The expansion of the Gult system into the port of Zeyla.
    D. The permanent settlement of the King in the Bale Highlands.
55. Which Oromo institution allowed for the removal of corrupt or unjust leaders?
    A. Abbaa Sera. B. Gadaa. C. Buqqisu. D. Game-Titiko.
56. What was the cause of the Somali population movement before the 16th century?
    A. The search for gold in the Kingdom of Ennarya.
    B. The collapse of the Gadaa system in the lowlands.
    C. The instruction of the Walasma dynasty to move to the Lake Tana region.
    D. Conflicts and the need for pasture.
57. How many years does a full Gadaa cycle last, and how often does power rotate?
    A. 100 years cycle; 10 years rotation. C. 80 years cycle; 8 years rotation.
    B. 40 years cycle; 5 years rotation. D. 60 years cycle; 12 years rotation.
58. Which groups of people were early converts to Islam and served as trade agents in the Horn?
    A. The Argoba. B. The Agew. C. The Shinasha. D. The Amahara.
59. What was the "Jegol Gimb" in the context of the Sultanate of Adal's decline?
    A. A new trade route to the Red Sea and the Indian ocean
    B. The title given to the successor of Imam Ahmad and his families
    C. A specific Gadaa grade for young warriors.
    D. The walled town of Harar to which the Sultanate was eventually reduced.
60. How did the death of Christopher da Gama affect Portuguese involvement?
    A. It strengthened Portuguese dominance C. It weakened Christian resistance temporarily
    B. It ended the war instantly D. It caused Ottoman withdrawal