

**GCE**

**History A**

**Y209/01: Non-British period study: African Kingdoms c.1400-  
c.1800: four case studies**

A Level

**Mark Scheme for June 2024**

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of candidates of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

© OCR 2024

## MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

### PREPARATION FOR MARKING

#### RM ASSESSOR

1. Make sure that you have accessed and completed the relevant training packages for on-screen marking: *RM Assessor Assessor Online Training*; *OCR Essential Guide to Marking*.
2. Make sure that you have read and understood the mark scheme and the question paper for this unit. These are posted on the RM Cambridge Assessment Support Portal <http://www.rm.com/support/ca>
3. Log-in to RM Assessor and mark the **required number** of practice responses (“scripts”) and the **number of required** standardisation responses.

YOU MUST MARK 5 PRACTICE AND 6 STANDARDISATION RESPONSES BEFORE YOU CAN BE APPROVED TO MARK LIVE SCRIPTS.

### MARKING

1. Mark strictly to the mark scheme.
2. Marks awarded must relate directly to the marking criteria.
3. The schedule of dates is very important. It is essential that you meet the RM Assessor 50% and 100% (traditional 40% Batch 1 and 100% Batch 2) deadlines. If you experience problems, you must contact your Team Leader (Supervisor) without delay.
4. If you are in any doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader by telephone or the RM Assessor messaging system, or by email.
5. **Crossed Out Responses**  
Where a candidate has crossed out a response and provided a clear alternative then the crossed out response is not marked. Where no alternative response has been provided, examiners may give candidates the benefit of the doubt and mark the crossed out response where legible.

#### **Rubric Error Responses – Optional Questions**

Where candidates have a choice of question across a whole paper or a whole section and have provided more answers than required, then all responses are marked and the highest mark allowable within the rubric is given. Enter a mark for each question answered into RM assessor, which will select the

highest mark from those awarded. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate has penalised themselves by attempting more questions than necessary in the time allowed.)*

### Multiple Choice Question Responses

When a multiple choice question has only a single, correct response and a candidate provides two responses (even if one of these responses is correct), then no mark should be awarded (as it is not possible to determine which was the first response selected by the candidate).

*When a question requires candidates to select more than one option/multiple options, then local marking arrangements need to ensure consistency of approach.*

### Contradictory Responses

When a candidate provides contradictory responses, then no mark should be awarded, even if one of the answers is correct.

### Short Answer Questions (requiring only a list by way of a response, usually worth only **one mark per response**)

Where candidates are required to provide a set number of short answer responses then only the set number of responses should be marked. The response space should be marked from left to right on each line and then line by line until the required number of responses have been considered. The remaining responses should not then be marked. Examiners will have to apply judgement as to whether a 'second response' on a line is a development of the 'first response', rather than a separate, discrete response. *(The underlying assumption is that the candidate is attempting to hedge their bets and therefore getting undue benefit rather than engaging with the question and giving the most relevant/correct responses.)*

### Short Answer Questions (requiring a more developed response, worth **two or more marks**)

If the candidates are required to provide a description of, say, three items or factors and four items or factors are provided, then mark on a similar basis – that is downwards (as it is unlikely in this situation that a candidate will provide more than one response in each section of the response space.)

### Longer Answer Questions (requiring a developed response)

Where candidates have provided two (or more) responses to a medium or high tariff question which only required a single (developed) response and not crossed out the first response, then only the first response should be marked. Examiners will need to apply professional judgement as to whether the second (or a subsequent) response is a 'new start' or simply a poorly expressed continuation of the first response.

6. Always check the pages (and additional objects if present) at the end of the response in case any answers have been continued there. If the candidate has continued an answer there, then add a tick to confirm that the work has been seen.
7. Award No Response (NR) if:
  - there is nothing written in the answer space

Award Zero '0' if:

- anything is written in the answer space and is not worthy of credit (this includes text and symbols).

Team Leaders must confirm the correct use of the NR button with their markers before live marking commences and should check this when reviewing scripts.

8. The RM Assessor **comments box** is used by your team leader to explain the marking of the practice responses. Please refer to these comments when checking your practice responses. **Do not use the comments box for any other reason.**  
If you have any questions or comments for your team leader, use the phone, the RM Assessor messaging system, or e-mail.
9. Assistant Examiners will send a brief report on the performance of candidates to their Team Leader (Supervisor) via email by the end of the marking period. The report should contain notes on particular strengths displayed as well as common errors or weaknesses. Constructive criticism of the question paper/mark scheme is also appreciated.
10. For answers marked by levels of response:
  - a. **To determine the level** – start at the highest level and work down until you reach the level that matches the answer
  - b. **To determine the mark within the level**, consider the following

Descriptor	Award mark
On the borderline of this level and the one below	At bottom of level
Just enough achievement on balance for this level	Above bottom and either below middle or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Meets the criteria but with some slight inconsistency	Above middle and either below top of level or at middle of level (depending on number of marks available)
Consistently meets the criteria for this level	At top of level

## 11. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
<b>BP</b>	Blank Page
	Highlight
Off-page comment	
<b>A</b>	Assertion
<b>AN</b>	Analysis
<b>EVAL</b>	Evaluation
<b>EXP</b>	Explanation
<b>F</b>	Factor
<b>ILL</b>	Illustrates/Describes
<b>IRRL</b>	Irrelevant, a significant amount of material that does not answer the question
<b>J</b>	Judgement
<b>KU</b>	Knowledge and understanding
<b>SC</b>	Simple comment
<b>?</b>	Unclear
<b>V</b>	View

1	(a)	<p><b>Which of the following contributed more to the strength of the Songhay Empire?</b></p> <p><b>(i) Centres of learning</b></p> <p><b>(ii) The economy</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that (i) contributed more, answers might consider that</b> Timbuktu was famed even in the west as a centre of scholarship so its prestige helped the Empire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the scholars of Timbuktu were influential throughout northern Africa</li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the Ulemas were often consulted over appointments and their sound advice helped the Empire</li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the collective observance of Islam as defined by the scholars helped cement the Empire.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that (ii) contributed more, answers might consider that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the role of Songhay in the Trans-Saharan trade was vital.</li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> towns were established as a result of the trade and made the Empire richer</li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the taxes were raised from agriculture and</li> </ul>	10	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.  <b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set answer is expected</li> <li>• Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material.</li> <li>• Only credit material relevant to question.</li> <li>• Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable.</li> <li>• Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>
---	-----	--	----	--

			<p>merchandise so the income base was secure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the trade in gold made a large contribution to the wealth of the Empire.</li></ul>		
--	--	--	--	--	--



Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
1	(b)*		<p><b>How important was Mbanza Kongo in the centralisation of power in Kongo?</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that Mbanza Kongo was important, answers could suggest that</b> it was the largest town in the whole area and impressed visitors with its strength and as it grew, it became the centre of government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxes were collected and taken there</li> <li>• The ruling class tended to live there and so government coalesced around them</li> <li>• It was well-defended with stone walls which made it a suitable central base</li> <li>• It had fine buildings and a two-storied royal palace which added to its prestige and enabled it to develop as a centralising base</li> <li>• It boasted many churches and chapels and was the place of coronation of the rulers, which gave it a prime position and allowed the development of centralisation.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that there were other factors which enabled centralisation, answers could suggest that</b> the province of Mbata was also a focus of centralisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ruling class favoured centralisation as it increased their power</li> <li>• The development of slavery led to greater centralisation to control the trade</li> </ul>	20	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.  <b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set answer is expected.</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates will focus on the relative importance of the different impacts but at Level 4 may simply list them</li> <li>• At Level 5 there will be judgement as to which is the main impact</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge the relative importance of the various impacts</li> <li>• To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions.</li> <li>• Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Centralised government could raise more taxes</li><li>• The development of trade was assisted by more centralised government</li><li>• Both taxation and labour were organised through lineages and these provided a framework for more centralised administration.</li></ul>		

Question		Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(a)	<p><b>Which of the following was more important in maintaining the power of the <i>Oba</i> in Benin?</b></p> <p><b>(i) Military developments</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Religion</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that (i) was more important, answers might consider that the <i>Obas</i> had the power of declaring war, a key function in the state</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the <i>Obas</i> were in command of the high-ranking officers so could ensure their loyalty</b></li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the standing army and reserves were substantial in number, making the <i>Obas</i> secure</b></li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the expansion of Benin as a result of military strength kept the <i>Obas</i> popular</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that (ii) was more important, answers might consider that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the <i>Obas</i> were seen as holding divine power, so to rebel was an act against the gods</b></li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the <i>Obas</i> emphasised their religious role by only leaving the palace for festivals</b></li> <li>• <b>Answers might consider that the artistic representations of the divine power of the <i>Obas</i> boosted their prestige</b></li> </ul>	10	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.  <b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set answer is expected</li> <li>• Judgement must be supported by relevant and accurate material.</li> <li>• Only credit material relevant to question.</li> <li>• Answers may deal with each factor in turn, then compare them to reach a judgement, or take a continually comparative approach. Either approach is acceptable.</li> <li>• Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation, in line with descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Answers might consider that</b> the <i>Obas</i> encouraged new shrines and the cult of <i>Olokun</i></li></ul>		

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
2	(b)*		<p><b>How similar were the economies of Oyo and Dahomey?</b></p> <p><b>In arguing that they were similar, answers might consider</b> both were sophisticated economies with markets and trading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both had a considerable agricultural output</li> <li>• Both economies relied on slavery</li> <li>• Both had urban centres</li> <li>• As slave trading states the economies of both were reliant on military power</li> <li>• In both Oyo and Dahomey political power was inextricably linked to commercial power</li> <li>• In both economies contact with Europe led to cultural change in the importation of guns and gunpowder.</li> </ul> <p><b>In arguing that there were differences, answers might consider</b> the infrastructure in Dahomey was more extensive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dahomey had a key port in Ouidah through which most trade went and through which it dealt directly with European powers engaged in the Atlantic trade</li> <li>• As an inland state, Oyo's commercial interests were instrumental in its attempts to achieve direct participation in the Atlantic trade.</li> </ul>	20	<p>The indicative content lists features of the period studied that relate to the question set.  <b><u>Neither significance nor relative importance are attributed to the features listed.</u></b></p> <p>The indicative content is intended to reflect the knowledge and understanding a candidate is likely to analyse and evaluate in order to arrive at a judgement in line with the question set.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No set answer is expected.</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates will focus on assessing the similarities but at Level 4 may simply list aspects of the economies</li> <li>• At Level 5 there will be judgement as to the extent of similarities</li> <li>• At higher levels candidates might establish criteria against which to judge similarity.</li> <li>• To be valid judgements, claims must be supported by accurate and relevant material, if not they are assertions.</li> <li>• Knowledge must not be credited in isolation, it should only be credited where it is used as the basis for analysis and evaluation in line with the descriptions in the levels mark scheme.</li> </ul>

Question			Answer	Mark	Guidance
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cloth production was a speciality of Oyo whereas Dahomey was more focused on food and tobacco</li> <li>• Dahomey's markets had officials in charge to ensure honest trading and good order</li> <li>• The various economic interests of Oyo were administered by often competing regional chiefs across a sprawling empire, whereas in Dahomey commercial activities, ultimately, were controlled by the king.</li> </ul>		

## APPENDIX 1 – this contains a generic mark scheme grid

	<i>AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.</i>
	<b>Generic mark scheme for Question 1(a) and Question 2(a): Which of the following? [10]</b>
<b>Level 6</b> 9–10 marks	Both factors are thoroughly analysed and evaluated using accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a developed and substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 5</b> 7–8 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, in order to reach a substantiated judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 4</b> 5–6 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated using relevant knowledge and understanding of key features of the period, however treatment of factors may be un-even with analysis and evaluation of one of the two being only partial. Analysis and evaluation is used to support a reasonable judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 3</b> 3–4 marks	Both factors are analysed and evaluated in a partial way, using some relevant knowledge of key features of the period, in order to make a basic judgement in relation to the question.
<b>Level 2</b> 2 marks	Limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a limited analysis or evaluation of both factors, and this is linked to a very simplistic judgement.
<b>Level 1</b> 1 mark	Very limited and generalised knowledge of the period is used to attempt a very limited analysis or evaluation of one of the factors. The other factor is either not considered or there is very limited information or description of the factor with no attempt to use this knowledge. If there is a judgement, this takes the form of assertion.
0 marks	Nothing of any relevance to the factors.

	<i>AO1: Demonstrate, organise and communicate knowledge and understanding to analyse and evaluate the key features related to the periods studied, making substantiated judgements and exploring concepts, as relevant, of cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance.</i>
	<b>Generic mark scheme for Question 1(b) and Question 2(b): Essay [20]</b>
<b>Level 6</b> 17–20 marks	There is a consistent focus on the question throughout the answer. Accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated throughout the answer and is consistently evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated, developed and sustained judgements. There is a well-developed and sustained line of reasoning which is coherent and logically structured. The information presented is entirely relevant and substantiated.
<b>Level 5</b> 13–16 marks	There is a mostly consistent focus on the question. Generally accurate and detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer and is evaluated and analysed in order to reach substantiated judgements, but these are not consistently well-developed. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and in the most part substantiated.
<b>Level 4</b> 10–12 marks	The question is generally addressed. Generally accurate and sometimes detailed knowledge and understanding is demonstrated through most of the answer with evaluation and some analysis, and this is used appropriately to support the judgements that are made. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.
<b>Level 3</b> 7–9 marks	The question is partially addressed. There is demonstration of some relevant knowledge and understanding, which is evaluated and analysed in parts of the answer, but in places knowledge is imparted rather than being used. The analysis is appropriately linked to the judgements made, though the way in which it supports the judgements may not always be made explicit. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.
<b>Level 2</b> 4–6 marks	The focus is more on the topic than the specific demands of the question. Knowledge and understanding is limited and not well used, with only limited evaluation and analysis, which is only sometimes linked appropriately to the judgements made. The information has some relevance, but is communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.
<b>Level 1</b> 1–3 marks	The answer relates to the topic but not the specific question. The answer contains only very limited relevant knowledge which is evaluated and analysed in a very limited way. Judgements are unsupported and are not linked to analysis. Relevant knowledge is limited, generalised and poorly used; attempts at argument are no more than assertion. Information presented is basic and may be ambiguous or unstructured. The information is supported by limited evidence.
0 marks	No evidence of understanding and no demonstration of any relevant knowledge.



## Need to get in touch?

If you ever have any questions about OCR qualifications or services (including administration, logistics and teaching) please feel free to get in touch with our customer support centre.

### Call us on

**01223 553998**

### Alternatively, you can email us on

**support@ocr.org.uk**

### For more information visit



**ocr.org.uk/qualifications/resource-finder**



**ocr.org.uk**



**Twitter/ocrextams**



**/ocrextams**



**/company/ocr**



**/ocrextams**



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored. © OCR 2024 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA.

Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.

OCR provides resources to help you deliver our qualifications. These resources do not represent any particular teaching method we expect you to use. We update our resources regularly and aim to make sure content is accurate but please check the OCR website so that you have the most up-to-date version. OCR cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in these resources.

Though we make every effort to check our resources, there may be contradictions between published support and the specification, so it is important that you always use information in the latest specification. We indicate any specification changes within the document itself, change the version number and provide a summary of the changes. If you do notice a discrepancy between the specification and a resource, please [contact us](#).

Whether you already offer OCR qualifications, are new to OCR or are thinking about switching, you can request more information using our [Expression of Interest form](#).

Please [get in touch](#) if you want to discuss the accessibility of resources we offer to support you in delivering our qualifications.