

## CHAPTER 8

### STATES IN THE LAKE REGION (INTERLASTRINE REGION)

The Interlacustrine region was that area found around Lake Victoria or surrounding Lake Victoria. A number of Kingdoms were founded in the area and they included Tembuzi, Chwezi, Buganda, Ankole, Karagwe, and Bunyoro among others.

#### THE ABATEMBUZI

##### THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF BUNYORO KITARA KINGDOM

1. Available History has it that the first inhabitants of the interlacustrine region were the Tembuzi.
2. The explanation of their origin is surrounded by so many myths.
3. The Bachwezi are said to have been Demi gods.
4. That they were capable of performing miracles.
5. It is said that their empire lasted about 4-5 generations.
6. The Batembuzi were referred to as Abakama.
7. Other traditions say that they came before the Chwezi and they had lived since the time of creation.
8. Yet other traditions say that the Batembuzi just dropped from heaven and this could be the reason why they were capable of performing miracles.
9. More traditions add that the Batembuzi could not die. That at the end of their rule, they either disappeared or went back to heaven where they fell from.
10. The Batembuzi were the ones who established the Kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara that developed around the ancient Kingdom of Bunyoro, Ankole, Buganda, Tooro, Karagwe, Wanga, Urundi and mostly around Lake Victoria.
11. The ruler of the Batembuzi is said to have been Ruhanga also called Creator or God.
12. In his leadership he got assistance from his brother called Nkya.
13. The above belief is common in Western Uganda among the Nkole and the Nyoro.
14. They say that Ruhanga had no son while his brother Nkya had four.
15. The four children of Nkya were: Kintu, Kakama Ntwale, Kairu, and Kahuma.
16. Kahuma is believed to be the ancestor of the Cattle Keepers or herdsmen.
17. Kairu was the ancestor of the Farmers in western Uganda.

18. Kakama Ntwale became the ancestor of rulers.
19. The tradition adds that Ruhanga and Kintu went back to heaven.
20. They left behind Kakama Ntwale to be the ruler of the early kingdom.
21. That Kakama Ntwale also disappeared and was replaced by his son Baba.
22. Baba was succeeded by Ngonzaki.
23. Ngonzaki was succeeded by Isaza whom record has it that he was the last king of the Tembuzi.
24. The end of the Tembuzi just like their origin is mysterious. They are believed to have disappeared or gone back to heaven where they had come from.
25. They were succeeded by the Chwezi who set up their own kingdom.

### **Revision question**

What were the contributions of the Batembuzi in the history of the interlacustrine region?

## **THE CHWEZI EMPIRE**

### **WHO WERE THE CHWEZI?**

1. Indeed the Chwezi origin is not clear.
2. The Chwezi are said to have been of the Galla origin.
3. They are also believed to be of Cushitic origin.
4. Others say they could have been of the Greek origin.
5. They are also claimed to have been Portuguese.
6. Still the Chwezi are believed to have been similar to Egyptians or simply Egyptians.
7. The Chwezi were semi-gods
8. They had super-natural powers, that is to say they performed miracles with a lot of ease.
9. The Chwezi were tall and light skinned people.
10. They were the people who established Bunyoro- Kitara Kingdom.
11. The Chwezi are believed to have been herdsmen who kept long horned cattle.
12. They were also great sportsmen who enjoyed games like wrestling among others.
13. The Chwezi were known by various names such as Hinda, Hima, and so on.
14. They were organized on clan basis socially and politically.

15. The Chwezi are believed to have disappeared when annoyed.
16. They were great hunters who used long spears
17. The Chwezi were skilled in pottery. They made round bowls, Jars and decorated dishes.
18. The Chwezi were people who established a dynasty that ruled over in the lake region before coming of the Luo.
19. The Chwezi constructed reed palaces.
20. They had royal regalia that included among others arrows, drums, spears, and so on.
21. The Chwezi historical settlement sites can still be found in places like Tooro, Rwanda, Burundi, and other places around the interlacustrine region.
22. The Chwezi's first leader was Ndahura a grandson of Isaaza, the last Tembuluzi ruler.
23. The Chwezi were people who dug long trenches around their palaces and Kraals for defensive reasons.
24. The Chwezi had a capital at a place called Bigobyamugenyi.
25. The Chwezi constructed a gigantic or very large empire that included areas such as Bunyoro, Ankole, Buganda, Karagwe and others.
26. Ndahura who was their first leader was succeeded by Wamara, who was the last Chwezi ruler.

#### **WHY THE CHWEZI ARE REMEMBERED IN THE HISTORY OF BUNYORO KITARA**

**Note that** the topic is similar to the importance, significance, effects / impacts of the Chwezi in the history of Bunyoro Kitara.

1. The Chwezi are remembered because of several effects some of which were positive and others negative.
2. They introduced the long horned cattle in the interlacustrine areas.
3. The Chwezi introduced games like "Omweso", that is to say a board game and wrestling among others.
4. They introduced the digging of trenches around palaces for defence purposes.
5. They introduced the construction of reed-palaces around the homes.
6. The Chwezi also introduced the growing of coffee which improved economic potentials in Bunyoro and East Africa at large.
7. They introduced royal regalia, for example, drums, spears, that acted as symbols of power.

8. The Chwezi introduced wonderful pottery making especially in Bunyoro.
9. They also introduced iron working and smelting among the people whom they settled.
10. The Chwezi introduced the idea of building grass thatched huts that were smeared with cow dung.
11. Their capital at Bigo byamugenyi even up to date fetches foreign exchange as it is a wonderful historical site.
12. They performed miracles, that is to say they could disappear when annoyed, hence indeed, and they are still remembered for that miraculous act.
13. They are important for having established the kingdom of Bunyoro Kitara.
14. They established an extensive empire far bigger than Bunyoro.
15. The Chwezi led to population increase in the area.
16. They also gave room for the establishment of Kingdoms like Bunyoro, Buganda, Ankole, and Tooro among others.
17. They were great sportsmen hence East Africans learnt from them skills of Sportsmanship.
18. The Chwezi introduced centralised monarchies in Buganda, Bunyoro and other areas.

#### **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF THE CHWEZI OF BUNYORO KITARA**

1. **Socially** the Chwezi lived in grass thatched houses.
2. They were great sportsmen and therefore had a lively social life.
3. They had miraculous powers.
4. The Chwezi believed in the Supreme Being, God.
5. The Chwezi used to put on cowhide sandals.
6. They believed in witch craft, that is to say, the use of “juju”.
7. The Chwezi decorated their huts with cow dung.
8. The Chwezi leaders’ were highly respected by the members of the society.
9. They fed on milk and meat.
10. **Economically** the Chwezi made iron implements.
11. They were great fishermen since they lived near lakes.
12. The Chwezi kept long horned cattle.
13. They lived a pastoral kind of life, that is to say they moved from one place to another in search for pastures and water of their animals.

14. The Chwezi also cultivated crops like coffee.
15. In addition, they chewed coffee as a stimulant.
16. The Chwezi were involved in the making of pottery.
17. **Politically** the Omukama was a political leader and was highly respected.
18. The Chwezi had centralised monarchies
19. The empire was ruled on blood kinship, that is to say the brothers were held together by family ties.
20. The political capital of the Chwezi was at Bigo byamuganyi.
21. The Chwezi had a large army for protection purposes.
22. The Chwezi had royal regalia that consisted of Drums, spears, stools and so on.
23. The Omukama who was the Chwezi leader lived in a palace made out of reeds.
24. The Chwezi had Ndahura as their first leader and Wamara as the last leader.

#### **COLLAPSE OF THE CHWEZI EMPIRE**

1. It is not very clear as to why the Chwezi Empire collapsed.
2. By 1500, the Chwezi Empire had collapsed due to a number of reasons.
3. The Luo invasion of more stronger and organised people led to collapse of the Chwezi Empire.
4. The Chwezi Empire had become too big for effective administration.
5. Chwezi rulers were very aggressive and greedy, which annoyed the ruled people.
6. The empire had weak rulers who could no longer administer it.
7. Internal rebellions of people wanting to break away also distablised the kingdom hence collapse, for example Bantu.
8. There was epidemic like small pox that claimed the lives of many subjects causing the collapse of the Chwezi Empire.
9. There were also misunderstandings between chiefs and ruling princes.
10. Misfortunes such as death of Bihogo the beloved or darling cow of the princess also caused the collapse of the Chwezi empire, as they moved away linking the place to bad luck.
11. Outbreak of famine that led to starvation of the people forced the Chwezi to leave.

12. There was also the death of able leaders like Wamara.
13. There is a legend that argues that the Chwezi simply disappeared and gave way freely to the Luo.
14. The rise of small but aggressive kingdoms at the time like Buganda was yet another factor for the Chwezi collapse.
15. There was lack of a standing army to protect the empire at a time when there were invaders.
16. The practice of nomadic pastoralism made the Chwezi Empire unsteady.

### **Revision questions**

- i. Who were the Chwezi?
- ii. Why are the Chwezi remembered in the history of Bunyoro Kitara?
- iii. Describe the social, political, economic organisation of Bunyoro-Kitara under the Chwezi.
- iv. Why did the Chwezi Empire collapse?

## **THE KINGDOM OF KARAGWE UNDER RUHINDA**

### **THE ORIGIN OF KARAGWE KINGDOM UNDER RUHINDA**

1. Karagwe was another important interlacustrine state that was between Rwanda and Lake Victoria, that is to say the north western part of Tanzania.
2. Karagwe was established in around the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Karagwe had some Chwezi who joined up with some Luo.
4. Before the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Ruhinda led his Chwezi immigrant and moved into Karagwe.
5. When Ruhinda reached Karagwe, he deposed the local leader, Nono the son of Malija of the Basitaa and set up his Hinda dynasty.
6. Later, Ruhinda sent his sons with spears cows and shields to establish Hinda dynasty in the neighboring areas.
7. As a result, the sons of Ruhinda led to the establishment of the Gisaka - Kyamtware, Ihange Businza, Busubi, and so on.
8. On the death of Ruhinda, each of the above became independent.
9. The pastoral aristocracy ruled over the agricultural Banyombo.

10. These new corners, it is believed were welcomed because of their intelligence and administrative qualities.
11. The capital was equally established at Isingiro.
12. Their subjects were easily bribed with gifts of cattle hence governing them.

#### **THE CHANGES THAT RUHINDA INTRODUCED TO THE PEOPLE OF KARAGWE**

1. Ruhinda's reforms or changes were political, economic and social.
2. He introduced religious beliefs, that is to say the importance of ancestral spirits.
3. Boys of the same age were gathered at the local chiefs' residences which led to simplification of work and duties.
4. Such boys were taught good manners towards their equals and elders.
5. They also received military training from the local chief's residence.
6. Ruhinda introduced long horned cattle.
7. Under Ruhinda, the clans were grouped into bigger units including Kyamtwaru, Ihangiro, and Bukara among others.
8. Iron working was introduced where spears, hoes and arrows were made.
9. He developed trade in the area where goods were exchanged with others, for example iron products were exchanged for beads.
10. He introduced a class system in the society with the Hima as the rulers, who ruled over the lower classes of Banyambo.
11. He settled conflicts and disputes through the clan heads.
12. He gave powers to the clan heads to collect taxes and tributes.
13. Ruhinda introduced a centralised administration in the area which replaced the clan based system.
14. Ruhinda brought royal- regalia in the region that included spears drums and shields.
15. Ruhinda introduced new crops which included yams, millet and sorghum.

#### **POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF KARAGWE**

1. Politically Karagwe was a centralized state.
2. It was ruled by a ruling family called the Hinda.
3. It fell under eight groups called Chiefdoms and each of chiefdoms was ruled by a clan leader.
4. Among the Karagwe, clan courts handled criminal and civil cases.

5. The chiefs had power over land. It was upon him to either give or take away land for the land user.
6. They had age sets among which soldiers were got to meet any external attack.
7. The highest political unit was the clan.
8. It was the Bahima who provide rulers among the people of Karagwe.
9. **Economically** the people Kept long-horned cattle from which they got milk, meat, for consumption and sale.
10. Skins were also got for sale and making clothes.
11. The chief controlled land on behalf of the people.
12. The leaders of Karagwe collected taxes to get more income for the development of the society.
13. The people of Karagwe were also farmers. They cultivated crops like Yams, millet, sorghum among others.
14. They were also iron workers from which spears, arrows, and hoes among others items were produced.
15. They traded with Burundi, Rwanda and Nyamwezi.
16. They carried out crafts where items like Baskets and wooden tools were made.
17. **Socially** Karagwe was divided into two classes, the pastoral Bahima and farmers Banyambo.
18. They royal regalia made up of the drums, spears and arrows.
19. Among the people of Karagwe respect for elders was highly valued.
20. Marriage took place but bride price must follow.
21. They believed in the spirits of their departed ones and sacrifices were offered to appease them.
22. They also believed in medicine men and herbalists for their protection and security.
23. Their main food was milk and millet.

#### **REASONS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE KINGDOM OF KARAGWE**

1. The Karagwe kingdom declined due political, social and economic factors.
2. Other factors were internal and external in nature.
3. The Kingdom was too large and it became difficult to have it in one piece.
4. The kingdom did not have a strong economy which could be used to uphold it.



5. Weak leaders that came after Ruhinda could also not maintain the large empire hence it crumbled.
6. The conquered states like Nasa, Busubi, and Ihangiro that made the provinces of Karagwe kingdom were not happy about the heavy tributes levied on them. They broke away hence loss of additional revenue.
7. There was external invasion by Bunyoro that also weaken the Kingdom.
8. The chiefs were given too freedom and they failed to hold together as part of the Kingdom. Many therefore broke away.
9. The successors of Ruhinda were so aggressive to the subjects. They therefore caused discontent within the subjects.
10. Succession disputes among the princess for the control of the Kingdom dismantled the it.
11. There was serious outbreak of epidemics such as small pox and sleeping sickness. The kingdom became weakened and it finally collapsed.
12. Constant civil wars dealt the last blow to Karagwe Kingdom.

### **Revision questions**

- i. How did Ruhinda establish his control over the Karagwe?
- ii. What changes did Ruhinda introduce to the people of Karagwe?
- iii. Describe the political, economic and social organization of Karagwe.
- iv. Why did Karagwe Kingdom declined after the death of Ruhinda?

## **BUNYORO KINGDOM (1350 AND 1500AD)**

### **THE FORMATION OR ORIGIN OF BUNYORO**

1. Bunyoro Kingdom was founded by the Chwezi immigrants from the north.
2. It included modern Buganda, Ankole, Busoga, Karagwe, Western Kenya and other areas.
3. Bunyoro's capital remained at Bigo byamugenyi
4. Bunyoro's first king was Ndahura and the last was Wamara
5. Bunyoro existed between 1350 and 1500 AD.
6. It was among the first empires to be established within the interlacustrine region
7. Bunyoro area had been originally occupied by the Tembuzi and Chwezi.

8. Bunyoro had greatly dependable leaders as Abakama for example the Omukama Kamurasi who governed it from 1852 -1869, such rulers expanded the Kingdom.
9. Bunyoro had a very strong and dependable army called the Abarusura that expanded and kept law and order in the Kingdom.
10. Bunyoro had fertile soils that favoured agriculture
11. Bunyoro was involved in trade, especially long distance trade that gave her a lot of wealth she used for expansion.
12. Bunyoro's early contact with the Arabs in long distance trade enabled her to acquire the gun, which she used to expand her Kingdom.
13. Bunyoro's expansion was made possible by the raids she carried out onto her weak neighbours at the time, for example Nkore, Busoga, and many others.
14. Bunyoro had an efficient centralised administration which led to peace and harmony hence expansion.
15. Bunyoro had weak and disorganised neighbours.
16. Bunyoro acquired tributes from the conquered states that she could use for expansion.
17. Just like Buganda, Bunyoro at first had good relations with the Arabs at the coast.

#### **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF BUNYORO**

1. **Socially** Banyoro believed in a supreme being known as Ruhanga, the creator of all things.
2. The Society was divided on class basis, that is to say the Biito were rulers whereas the Bahiru were subjects.
3. The Banyoro Enjoyed story telling, music and dancing.
4. Clan heads were highly respected.
5. Clan heads could settle family disputes peacefully.
6. **Politically** the Kingdom of Bunyoro was centralized.
7. The Omukama (political head) was the overall person; he could settle public issues, private as well as domestic affairs, where the clan heads had failed.
8. The Omukama had absolute powers in his Kingdom and as such he could appoint and dismiss officials at will.
9. The kingdom was not administered wholesomely, but it was divided into provinces and countries for easy administration.

10. In the different provinces, chiefs were installed and they administered on behalf of the Omukama.
11. The chiefs were responsible for the tax collection within their respective provinces.
12. During the period of Kabalega Bunyoro was blessed by formation of standing army called Abarusura.
13. The army had the duty of defending the Kingdom against any external and internal attacks.
14. **Economically** the Kingdom of Bunyoro carried out fishing.
15. The Banyoro were involved in trade more especially long distance trade.
16. Bark cloth making was also carried out but on a small scale.
17. Salt mining was yet another important economic activity among the Banyoro.
18. The Nyoro peasants were involved in cultivation of crops like millet.
19. The rearing of cattle was also an important economic activity in the Kingdom.
20. Banyoro were involved in pottery as a means of survival.
21. Tributary states like Buganda, Acholi, Busoga and others provided revenue as a sign of obedience or loyalty to the Omukama.

#### **BUNYORO KITARA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER NEIGHBOURS UP TO 1850**

1. Bunyoro came up when Bunyoro-Kitara broke up.
2. It then started attacking the neighbouring states.
3. The neighbours were Buganda, Busoga, Ankole, Karagwe, Lango and West Nile.
4. Most of her neighbours like Tooro, Ankole, and Busoga among others would be raided.
5. Subsequently Bunyoro's raids made her territories to expand to cover many areas.
6. Afterwards the raids made Bunyoro to lose much territory and political control to some of her powerful neighbours.
7. Buganda, for example defeated Bunyoro when she was raided. Bunyoro in the process lost some of her territories.
8. Karagwe also defeated Bunyoro when Bunyoro attacked her in 1650.
9. Buddu was acquired from Bunyoro by the Kabaka of Buganda Junju. This was in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
10. Bunyoro tried to raid Ankole in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century but she was defeated.
11. In the process of attacking Ankole, she lost her territory South of Katanga.

12. Most of the territories of Bunyoro were lost to Buganda, for example Kooki, Mawogola and parts of Ankole.
13. Bunyoro and Tooro were enemies. The relationship between the two was very poor, especially after 1830.
14. However, Bunyoro traded with the Acholi, Alur, Langi, Buganda and Iteso.
15. To help Bunyoro to fight, she would recruit mercenaries from among the Langi, Iteso and Acholi.
16. Bunyoro intermarried with the Acholi, Langi and Alur.
17. Bunyoro resumed her hostilities later against her neighbours especially Buganda and Tooro when the British colonialists came to East Africa. She was later defeated completely.

#### **FACTORS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF BUNYORO KINGDOM**

1. Bunyoro Kitara was able to collapse because of internal and external factors
2. The factors were also political, social and economic in nature.
3. The kingdom was too big for effective administration that is to say, she controlled part of Nkore, Buganda, Busoga and others.
4. There was the growth of neighbours that was very steady, for example Bunyoro lost Singo and Buddu to Buganda.
5. Weak leaders and poor administrative policies like that of Kamurasi inspired conquered states to break away.
6. Revolts and rebellions from several Nyoro princesses, for example Kaboyo broke away and formed Toro Kingdom.
7. Divisionism or disunity with in the Bunyoro society, for example Biito against Bahiru.
8. Bunyoro's army with time became too weak and unable to guard the Kingdom.
9. Succession disputes wit in the Kingdom led to its collapse.
10. Natural calamities like diseases and famine also led to the decline.
11. The Arab's activity of supplying fire arms to Buganda made Buganda a strong competitor politically against Bunyoro. She finally overran Bunyoro.

#### **Sample questions**

- i. Describe the formation of Bunyoro Kingdom.
- ii. Describe the rise of Bunyoro – Kitara Kingdom.

- iii. Describe the social, political and economic organization of Bunyoro Kitara.
- iv. Describe the relationship between Bunyoro and her neighbours.
- v. What led to the collapse of Bunyoro Kingdom?

## **BUGANDA KINGDOM (1500-1900)**

### **THE ORIGINS OF BUGANDA KINGDOM**

1. The Buganda Kingdom was one of the so many states around Lake Victoria and it was for the Ganda community, it was founded by Kintu.
2. The Origins of Buganda kingdom are not very clear.
3. Some Ganda traditions say it was founded by Kintu, who came from the direction of Mt. Elgon. About 13 - 14 clans are believed to belong to his group.
4. The Nyoro traditions say it was founded by Kato- Kimera, a twin brother of Isingoma Rukidi Mpuga.
5. Other historians say that Buganda was founded by Bantu from Ssesse Island.
6. There are arguments that Buganda was originally part of the Chwezi Empire and that she was among the many Kingdoms that broke away from the Chwezi Empire.
7. It is still believed that Kimera created Buganda from Bunyoro and that he came with 6 clans.
8. Never the less, there is another school of thought that claims that they are the original Baganda and that, the Chwezi and Nyoro found them already settled.
9. Buganda started from a very small nucleus that only had Busiro Mawokota and Kyadondo in around 1500.
10. By 1800, Buganda was one of the biggest Kingdoms in the interlacustrine region.
11. The kingdom got established in the North-West of Lake Victoria and the East of Bunyoro Kingdom.

### **FACTORS FOR THE RISE AND EXPANSION OF BUGANDA BETWEEN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

1. Buganda Kingdom started as a small and compact state that was very easy to administer and control, hence rise and expansion.
2. The highly centralized and efficient system of government with the King as the Kabaka, was one of the factors for Buganda's rise and expansion.

3. Buganda had a very strong and dependable army that expanded the Kingdom and protected its integrity.
4. Buganda controlled and participated in the long distance trade as a chief supplier of bark cloth, this gave her much revenue necessary for expansion.
5. Buganda was lucky to have disorganised neighbours whom she easily conquered.
6. Buganda had very strong leaders like Junju, Semakookiro, Mawanda and others who expanded Buganda.
7. Buganda had very rich and fertile soils that favoured agriculture.
8. The conquered states provided Buganda with tributes, ivory and slaves.
9. The fall of Bunyoro which had been a strong Kingdom, left a power vacuum in the region that Buganda filled.
10. Buganda had a clear succession policy; that is to say the King named his successor and hence this avoided succession disputes.
11. Hospitality of the people within Buganda led to the rise and expansion of the kingdom. They welcomed and absorbed foreigners into their society.
12. Buganda had natural barriers to the South, that is to say Lake Victoria hence it was not easy to attack her.
13. Buganda established a friendly relationship with the Arabs at the coast at quite an early stage. The Arabs availed Buganda with guns that were used to protect and expand the Kingdom.
14. Buganda had an efficient navy or water force that assisted the ground forces.
15. Division of labour within the empire. Among the Baganda, women cultivated food while men could defend the Kingdom.
16. Buganda developed through raiding her neighbours.
17. The Kabaka married from different clans and this led to unity within since the Kabaka was related to almost everybody in the Kingdom, hence reducing civil wars.
18. Buganda had a good climate favourable for human settlement and agriculture.

#### **SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF BUGANDA BEFORE 1800AD**

1. **Socially** Buganda society was divided, into classes: On top were the Balangira (royal family), Bataka (land lords), Bakopi (Peasants) and the Bagalagala (who were slaves and war captives).

2. The royal family was the most privileged as they had a lot of land.
3. The clan was an important social unit in Buganda
4. Each clan had its own totem (Muziro) and so, it was a taboo for one to eat his or her totem. The major totems were: lung-fish was for the Mamba clan, lion for the Mpologoma clan, edible rat was the Omusu clan, and antelope for the Empeewo clan, Enjovu clan had the elephant as a totem and others.
5. It's important to observe that each of the above clans had its head known as "Omukulu wa ekika". Currently there are 52 clans in Buganda.
6. Much respect and loyalty was given to the clan heads.
7. Elders were also accorded much respect in society
8. The drums were important as an entertainment object and also were sounded to call people for any communal work.
9. Baganda believed in small gods namely; Dungu for hunting, Musoke for rainfall, Walumbe for death and so on.
10. Buganda heavily and strongly believed in witchcraft, where the "Abalogo" witch doctors were usually consulted, respected and feared.
11. However, the Baganda believed in a super-natural being, that is to say Katonda (a god) though in a different perception.
12. Polygamy was widely practiced by Baganda, where even the Kabaka had many wives.
13. The children were taken over by the father's side, whose clan they overtook.
14. Sexual relations among close relatives were greatly discouraged. Members of the same clan were not allowed to marry.
15. Baganda dressed in bark cloth, beads and so on. Members of the royal family wore skins of animals like leopards and goats but, later as the Arabs came into Buganda, they started wearing clothes.
16. **Economically** Buganda was involved in trade, for example in the long distance trade, she supplied bark cloth in exchange for guns, cloth and other items.
17. Iron working was also important and iron implements like pangas, axes, and hoes were made.
18. Bark cloth making was indeed an important economic activity.
19. Agriculture was the most important economic activity, where crops like yams, cassava and bananas were grown.

20. Hunting was also carried out among the Baganda.
21. Fishing was carried out especially along the shores of Lake Victoria, Ssesse Island and other areas.
22. Land was at first owned communally but the Kabaka had supreme rights overland. It's no wonder he was called "Ssabataka" which title somehow was related to land.
23. Division of labour existed in Buganda's economic set up, for example men hunted, carried out fishing and other activities whereas women cultivated.
24. Craft industry too, was important where mats and beads were developed.
25. Taxation was an important source of revenue, taxes were collected by chiefs.
26. Buganda raided her neighbours too for goods like salt, slaves, cattle and so on.
27. **Politically** the Kingdom was highly centralised and headed by the Kabaka (King).
28. The Kabaka had a lot of authority, that is to say he could appoint and dismiss his chiefs at will.
29. The Kabaka was assisted by chiefs in the administration of the Kingdom.
30. Below the Kabaka were the following officials: Chief justice - "The Omulamuzi", Chief Minister - "Katikiro", Treasurer - "The Omuwanika", parish chiefs - "Ab'emiluka", nobles - 'Abakungu' among others.
31. All the above officials assisted the Kabaka in different political roles within the Kingdom.
32. Buganda had a legislative council, that is to say "The Lukiiko" made up of clan heads and other officials and its main work was to make laws and even to offer advice to the Kabaka and his officials.
33. The Kingdom had a standing army to get law breakers and to defend the Kingdom against intruders.
34. The "Namasole" or the Queen mother acted as an important adviser to the king.
35. The Kabaka could reward his officials with gifts especially when they had done good work; this ensured hard work and loyalty to the King.
36. The Kabaka was the commander in chief of the Buganda forces. In other words he was the Supreme military leader.
37. Kingship was hereditary hence no succession disputes.
38. Conquered provinces were administered by personalities appointed by the Kabaka.



39. Everything in Buganda kingdom belonged to the Kabaka, for example women, land and so on.

#### **BUGANDA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER NEIGHBOURS**

1. Buganda's neighbours included Bunyoro, Busoga, Ankole, and Tooro.
2. Her relationship with her neighbours was friendly and tense with others.
3. Buganda traded with most of her neighbours.
4. She would supply iron implements to Bunyoro and receive salt in exchange.
5. Much as Buganda traded with Bunyoro very poor relationship existed between the two communities.
6. In the wars that existed between the two, Bunyoro lost Kooki, Buddu, Mawoogola, Buruuli, and Bulemeezi to Buganda.
7. On the eastern side of Buganda, Busoga was taken over during the reign of Kabaka Kyabagu.
8. Kabaka Junju took over Kooki.
9. A number of raids would be carried by Buganda against Bunyoro, Busoga, Tooro and Ankole among others.
10. The Lake Victoria Islands of Ruvuma, Kalangala and Ukererwe were always attacked by Buganda.
11. Buganda would also extend her raids to Western Kenya.
12. Whenever raids were carried out by Buganda, the conquered states like Kooki would not be attacked.
13. Raids aimed at acquiring Slaves, ivory, women and cattle together with grains.
14. Buganda also intermarried with neighbours like Busoga and Bunyoro.
15. Conquered states provided youth to form part of Buganda's army.

#### **Sample questions**

- i. What are the origins of Buganda Kingdom?
- ii. Why was Buganda able to develop and expand?
- iii. Describe the social, political and economic organisation of Buganda Kingdom.
- iv. How was Buganda's relationship with her neighbours?

#### **ANKOLE KINGDOM**

## POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF ANKOLE KINGDOM

1. **Politically** the founders of the Ankole Kingdom were descendants of Chwezi from Bahinda clan in about 1370A.D.
2. It was one of the many states that made up the Bunyoro - Kitara Empire.
3. The kingdom was located in south-western Uganda.
4. At first, Ankole was named “Karo karungi” meaning peaceful land.
5. Historians believe, that when the Chwezi were sent further to the south Rukidi Mpuga who was Wamara’s son remained behind and tried to consolidate or bring together his fathers territory.
6. It started as a very small chiefdom made up of only Rwampara in around 1400.
7. It expanded during the period of Omugabe Ntare IV, who took over Kabula after which he was re-named “Kittabanyoro” because he had killed and fought Bunyoro to get Kabula.
8. Other leaders who expanded Ankole included Omugabe Nkutambuka who conquered Igara, Buhweju, and Mpororo among others.
9. Ankole’s strength was however checked and given a death blow by the European imperialists, the British in 1901 when the kingdom was dissolved.
10. **Socially** the Society was divided into classes, that is to say, the King, Bahima and Bairu as the lowest.
11. Social status was measured by the number of cattle a person had.
12. They had blood brotherhood ties, that is to say “Omukago” where people who had done the above could vow to be friends till death.
13. The Ankole people believed in life after death.
14. They also believed in ancestral worship.
15. They believed in a supernatural being known as “Ruhanga”
16. The Banyankole offered sacrifices to their small gods like Kagoro, Katooba and many others.
17. Marriage and sexual relations between the Bairu and Bahima were highly not permitted.
18. The Ankole people highly believed that the spirits of the dead could affect those who were alive. So, sacrifices like beer, milk were given to them.
19. **Economically** the Ankole people were involved in trade especially long distance trade, where they supplied goods like pots, hides and skins among other goods.
20. Iron working was carried out. Spears, arrows head and other implements were made.

21. Keeping of cattle was the most important economic activity among the Ankole people. They kept long horned cattle.
22. They were skilled in crafts making and they made items like baskets and mats among others.
23. The lower class, the Bairu carried out some cultivation of crops like millet.
24. They practiced shifting cultivation and nomadic pastoralism.
25. The King called Omugabe had powers over economic activities.
26. The Nkore also had carpentry as an important economic activity important.
27. **Politically** the Ankole people first settled at Isingi and later transferred to Mbarara.
28. They had a Centralised state under the Omugabe.
29. He had absolute powers.
30. The Ankole kingdom was divided into provinces that included places like: Mitooma, Isingiro, Rwampara, Nyabushozi, Kashaali, and Igara among others.
31. The Omugabe was believed to have divine powers.
32. Among the Nkore, only Bahima produced the Omugabe.
33. Omugabe was assisted by chiefs.
34. Military leaders called emitwe were very important.
35. The Empire was united together by symbols of authority like spear and so on.
36. Had a Prime minister known as “Enganzi” who always moved with the king.
37. Ankole had no standing army but in times of trouble, all able bodied men were supposed to assemble and plan to fight the enemy.

### **Revision question**

Describe the social, political and economic organisation of Ankole society.