APWH Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ch. 8: African Civilizations and the Spread of Islam

*African Societies: Diversity and Similarity*

1. List the main types of political systems that existed in Africa.
2. Which groups of people’s migrations resulted in a similar linguistic base across Africa?
3. What kind of religion was typical across Africa before the arrival of Christianity and Islam?
4. Besides gods, whom did Africans typically venerate?

1. Although there was much diversity among African societies, what occupations were common?
2. Which region of Africa had the most connections to other civilizations, both in the postclassical era and earlier?
3. What elements of Islam appealed to African converts? Why?
4. How did regions where Christianity had already spread respond to Islam? How did Muslim rulers generally treat Christians? What African kingdom became the most significant Christian outpost?

*Kingdoms of the Grasslands (Sahel)*

1. Where were the three hub points of contact for trade in Africa? What resource originated in west Africa?
2. What animal transported goods across the Sahara? Where did these animals originate? Why did the Sahel become a point of exchange in this region?
3. Why were Muslim converts along the Sudanic states (Sahel trading kingdoms) primarily rulers and merchants?
4. Who were *griots*?
5. Describe the economic and political structure of the Sudanic states.
6. Why did polygamy make sense for African farmers in this region?
7. Where within the Sudanic states was Muslim influence the most extensive?
8. How did Islam facilitate trade?
9. How did African slavery change as Islam was introduced to Africa? What types of jobs did African slaves perform in Muslim society? How were African women and children influenced by the slave trade?

*The Swahili Coast of East Africa*

1. What goods were exported from trading port towns along the eastern, Swahili coast? What did they import and from where?
2. Describe an example from your textbook of the fusion of Islam and traditional African culture along the Swahili coast.

*Peoples of the Forest and Plains*

1. What occupations did most people of Africa’s interior and forests adopt? What technologies did they use?
2. What intellectual achievement is this region’s legacy?
3. Why weren’t there Muslim converts in the central African kingdoms? What occupation was predominant?
4. What was a *zimbabwe*?