

HISTORY LESSON NOTES- FORM ONE 2025.

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CHAPTER ONE;

THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY AND SOURCES OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION.

A. THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY.

History can be explained as ;

- The study of the past events. OR
- The reconstruction of the past. OR
- The study of the past human events and activities OR
- The study of changes in human life, technology and environment and how these changes affected each other.

Qualities of historical events

Historical events have specific qualities that differentiate them from non-historical events. For an event to be termed as historical, it must have unique qualities such as the following:

- i. **It must have a significant impact;** A historical event must have a significant impact on shaping the course of history in a particular society. Historical events can have a significant impact on politics, education, and economies, such as trade, industries and agriculture. A good example is the Maji Maji War of 1905-1907.
- ii. **It must have Long-term effects** A historical event possesses long-term effects on the society in which it occurred. Some of the events, are the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, the Slave Trade, and the independence. These events can influence or shape such a society.
- iii. **Historical events are diverse and covers a wide range of topics.** These topics may include social, political, economic, scientific and military events.
- iv. **A historical event happens within a specific historical context or place** the place/context can be influenced by various factors such as political, social, economic and technological conditions.
- v. **Historical events are subject to interpretation by historians.** Historians can come up with different perspectives and narratives that can lead to debates and interpretations on the causes, effects and significance of an event.
- vi. **Historical events provide essential lessons for future generations.** By studying the past, societies learn from both the successes and failures, enabling them to make informed decisions in the present and future. For example, resistance to colonial imposition on Africa had lessons to modern nationalist leaders.
- vii. **A historical event must have time in which it happened.** It is time which specifies one event from another. Indeed, it is time which justifies the occurrence of an event.

Importance of studying history.

- i. History helps us to understand where we came from. Through history, we learn about the origin of human and our societies
- ii. It helps us to understand humans' struggle against nature and against each other as they try to obtain their needs from nature. History teaches us about humans' struggle to master their environment. In

addition, it helps us to understand the struggles and challenges that our ancestors faced in building the society and nation in which we live today.

- iii. History gives us information about important events that happened in the past. Examples of such events include the discovery of fire, beginning of trade, colonialism and independence of our nation.
- iv. History teaches us about skills and techniques used by our ancestors to free themselves from slavery, foreign rule and racial discrimination in their areas. It also helps us to understand the present political systems and the origin of boundaries of countries in the world.
- v. History helps us to learn about leadership skills by studying the way the past leaders led their people in various societies. This includes the history of our heroes and heroines who participated in creating the society and the nation we live in today.
- vi. It instills a sense of patriotism and nationalism among citizens as they learn of the past political developments of their country. Its study inspires strong feelings of one's heritage and the sense of belonging to a particular country
- vii. History teaches us about social, political and economic developments achieved by the people in the past. Progress in education, health services, transport and religion of the ancestors are normally learnt in history. This inspires people to preserve their culture through inheriting good values of the past.
- viii. The study of history enables us to plan for the future since it gives us better understanding of how events occur or how people react to different events. These are some of the importance of studying history. Any society which does not put effort in studying its history will be ignorant of its own origin. History helps students to understand the past development and gives them skills to eliminate many problems from the society
- ix. It helps us develop a critical mind as we try to explain historical events. Historians will ask why, when and how.

Relationship between history and other subjects

History relates to some subjects, including Geography, Mathematics, Biology, and Languages such as Kiswahili, English and Arabic. History also relates to Music and Theatre Arts.

- i. **History and Geography**, relationship is that historical events occurred in certain geographical environments that favored human beings. For example, the remains of human civilization suggest that civilizations flourished around the environments that supported survival, primarily river valleys and forests.
- ii. **History and Mathematics** History has a close relationship with Mathematics as Mathematics is used for determining the chronology and sequence of historical events. We use graphs, charts and timelines to explain historical events. Mathematics is also used to determine the time in which events happened, the dates, and the arrangement of those events chronologically. In this case, History uses the knowledge of Mathematics to verify the events that happened in the past.
- iii. **History and Biology** The evolution theory used to study the origin of human beings in History is also used in Biology to study the origin and existence of varieties of species. Therefore, History has close relationship with Biology. This relationship allows further investigation of human existence.
- iv. **History and Language** (Kiswahili, English, Arabic and others) History helps to study the origin, development and changes that have taken place in human languages over time. Spread of languages helps historians to trace regional migration of people and their impacts on new regions.

- v. **History and Music** History traces origin, development and influence of music throughout the human existence. Music serves as a vehicle for transmitting historical narratives. In this case, music becomes a narrator of the past
- vi. **History and Theatre Arts**, History and Theatre Arts are closely related subjects that complement each other. As History offers historical perspectives and narratives, Theatre Arts brings emotional depth, sympathy, and artistic explanations to historical events, enhancing our understanding of the past and its relevance to the present.

B. SOURCES OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION.

A source of history is anything from the past that helps us to understand and explain what happened, it tells us about the past.

Categories of the sources of historical information

The sources of historical information can be categorized into two categories which are;

1. Primary sources of historical information
2. Secondary sources of historical information

1. Primary sources of historical information

Primary sources are the original materials that provide first-hand information or direct evidence on a particular event. These materials are created by individuals directly involved in such events. Such materials include memos, diaries, letters, artefacts, photographs, interviews, speeches, autobiographies, and official records

2. Secondary sources of historical information

Secondary sources are the product of primary sources. They are created by people who were not directly involved in the original events. Secondary sources analyze, interpret or comment on primary sources. Secondary source materials include books, reviewed articles, dissertations, articles in newspapers and academic papers.

Generally, there are various sources which historians can use to obtain historical information. They include *oral sources, historical sites, written records, museums, archives, archaeology, linguistics, ethnographic records, and anthropology e.t.c.*

1) ORAL SOURCES

Oral sources are narrations of the past passed on by word of mouth from one generation to another generation. They include oral traditions and oral testimonies.

- **Oral traditions** These are narrations of the past passed on by word of mouth from one generation to another generation by the people who did not witness the event. In oral traditions elders are acting as history teachers as they have the information of the past which they transmit to the young generation through the word of mouth.

Two major types of oral tradition.

- a. Cultural practices, such as arts, music religion, riddles, jokes, proverbs, superstitions, poems and stories.
- b. Narration of past events; this involves telling of stories about people and events of the past; it can be in form of epics and myth.

- **Oral testimonies** These are narrations of the past provided by people who witnessed the event or the process being examined. They provide information on events or processes within the living memory of the narrators. For example, soldiers who participated in Tanzania-Uganda War of 1978-1979 can provide valuable testimonies about the war.

Both oral traditions and oral testimonies are transmitted orally but The difference between them is that the information provided in oral traditions is about the distant past, while that provided in oral testimonies is about the recent past. Also oral traditions are provided by the people who did not experience the event unlike oral testimonies.

Functions of oral sources

The functions of oral sources are:

- i) **Continuity;** Through oral traditions like songs, stories, poems, riddles and proverbs society's ideas are repeated over time.
- ii) **Validation;** Oral sources helps to justify a society's culture for example why certain rituals are performed or why certain values are held in high regard.
- iii) **Entertainment;** oral sources are enjoyable way of passing time. For example songs and stories can be used to entertain the society.
- iv) **Control,** oral sources helps to control behaviors, for example age-mates can tell riddles or sing songs about their friends who are misbehaving.
- v) **Education,** oral tradition contains teachings such as honesty, respect, truthfulness and diligence.

Advantages of oral traditions

- i) They are easy to learn and remember
- ii) Oral traditions are entertaining
- iii) Oral traditions supplement other sources of historical information eg. Written records, archaeology, historical sites etc.
- iv) Oral tradition can give us information that cannot be opened easily from other sources.

Limitations of oral traditions

- i) Oral tradition rely heavily on human memory hence it is easy to forget some facts or details.
- ii) It is easy to confuse or forget the dates and order of events.
- iii) The presenter may exaggerate the facts. This distorts and therefore affects the reliability of the information.
- iv) Information may be biased in favor of certain things, for example the presenter may focus on the success of the society and leave out the weakness or failure.
- v) It is time consuming, as the researcher may need to interview several individuals for a long time in order to collect adequate historical information.
- vi) It does not focus on the history of the common people in the society.
- vii) Oral tradition cannot be used to correct information of thousands of years ago.
- viii) Historical information get lost when the storytellers die, therefore oral sources are not very reliable sources of historical information

2) HISTORICAL SITES.

These are special places where remains that help to trace the physical development of man, technology and his behavior are kept or found. They are places where people used to live or conduct their activities, therefore they contain ancient remains of structures such as buildings, ruins, and caves. Historical sites are sometimes known as **antiquities**. The important historical sites in East Africa are Isimila, Kondoa Irang, Olduvai Gorge, Olorgasaille, Lewa, Nsongezi, Sango bay, Magosi Rusinga, Gambles caves in Kenya etc.



The sketch map showing historical sites in east Africa

Historical significance of different historical sites

- ✓ **Olduvai gorge** – a place where Dr Louis Leakey discovered the skull of the earliest man (Zinjanthropus) in 1959
- ✓ **Ismila** – early stone age site
- ✓ **Kondoa irang** – cave/rock painting
- ✓ **Rusinga island** - fossil of Miocene ape was discovered
- ✓ **Fort ternan** – discovery of stone tools
- ✓ **Bagamoyo**- colonial buildings (German era)
- ✓ **Kalambo fall**- iron centre
- ✓ **Ologesailie** – discovery of acheulian tools (axes) in 1919

- ✓ **Nsongezi** – rock shelter
- ✓ **Ntusi** – late iron age site
- ✓ **Biggo** –the fort of the stranger
- ✓ **Gambles cave** –discovery of late stone age tools (Neolithic) i.e. grinding stones, and pestles of the **east Africa pastoral Neolithic.**
- ✓ **Kilwa** . east Africa slave trade Centre

Functions of historical sites

- i) They serve as store houses of culture for example. Historical styles of buildings, art, utensils etc.
- ii) They are used in passing on traditions to new generation
- iii) Some historical buildings retain their original functions, for example there are old mosques and churches that are historical sites as well as places of worship.
- iv) They provide proof of the level of knowledge and skills of people in the past eg iron work, rock painting, architecture, irrigation systems etc.
- v) They act as places of entertainment for interested people,
- vi) They are used as sources of income through tourism.

Advantages of historical sites

- i. They provide historical information about the physical achievements and developments of people and societies in the past. Therefore, they help us to get the history of a particular society.
- ii. They are used to generate government revenue and foreign currency obtained from tourists who visit these sites.
- iii. They preserve historical evidence of past events for both the present and future generations. This is because they provide evidence of life and development of the past societies.
- iv. They provide employment to people who preserve the historical sites.
- v. They preserve cultural values of the past, that is the way people lived and conducted their social and economic activities
- vi. They complement other sources of historical information like written records, oral traditions, etc
- vii. They act as a tourist attraction

Limitations of historical sites

- i. Ruins can easily be destroyed by forces of nature like earthquakes, strong winds, erosion and weathering. This may lead to their complete disappearance.
- ii. They require money for maintenance and preservation which contributes to extension of government expenditure.
- iii. Some historical sites like the Engaruka basin are found in remote areas where it is expensive and difficult to visit by road and other means of transport.
- iv. They are not mobile hence historians need to travel to the particular site to get the information they need.
- v. Historical sites usually are protected areas; one cannot take away a part of it for further research.

3) ARCHIEVES

Archives refers to the collections of private and public documents,

Archives are places where documents and old written records are kept and maintained, they include books, early missionaries and traveler's records, trader's writings, colonial records and files, they also include current documents of governments, parties and other organization

Examples of archives in Tanzania are the Tanzania National Archives located in Dar es Salaam and the Zanzibar Institute of Archives and Records. The zonal centres include the National Records Centre in Dodoma, the Mbeya Records Centre, the Arusha Records Centre, and the Mwanza Records Centre. There are also church archives like the Moravian Church Archives in Rungwe District and the Benedictine Fathers Archives in Peramiho. These archives keep pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial records.

A person who works in archives is called **Archivist**. The study and practice of organizing, preserving and providing access to information and materials in archives is called **archival science**.

Functions of archives

- i) The historical information in the archives ensures continuity, for example organization policies from previous years can still guard the employee today.
- ii) Archives make the society aware of the kind of historical information available in their holdings.
- iii) Archives ensure that old but important documents can continue to be used because it has facilities for restoring damaged documents of enduring value.
- iv) Archives collect records of enduring value from various places therefore this simplifies research process because researchers do not have to travel to all those areas in order to get the information that they need.
- v) It preserves unique or collectible documents.
- vi) Archival institutions serves an important legal function in the society, archival institutions are generally legally constituted entities responsible for identifying, managing and preserving the integrity of an institutions official records of long-term value. They enable legally constituted access to records.

Advantages of archives

- i) Archives provide employment to the people for example archivists.
- ii) Documents from archives can be used as legal evidence.
- iii) Archives help easy access of information to researchers.
- iv) Archives help people to trace the origin and development of any institution up to recent time.
- v) Archives ensure accountability of government by preserving public records and making them available to the citizen as is legally and ethically appropriate.
- vi) It ensures the accountability of non-governmental institutions to their shareholders, boards and other constituents.
- vii) Archives serve as memory institutions for a culture.

Disadvantages of archives

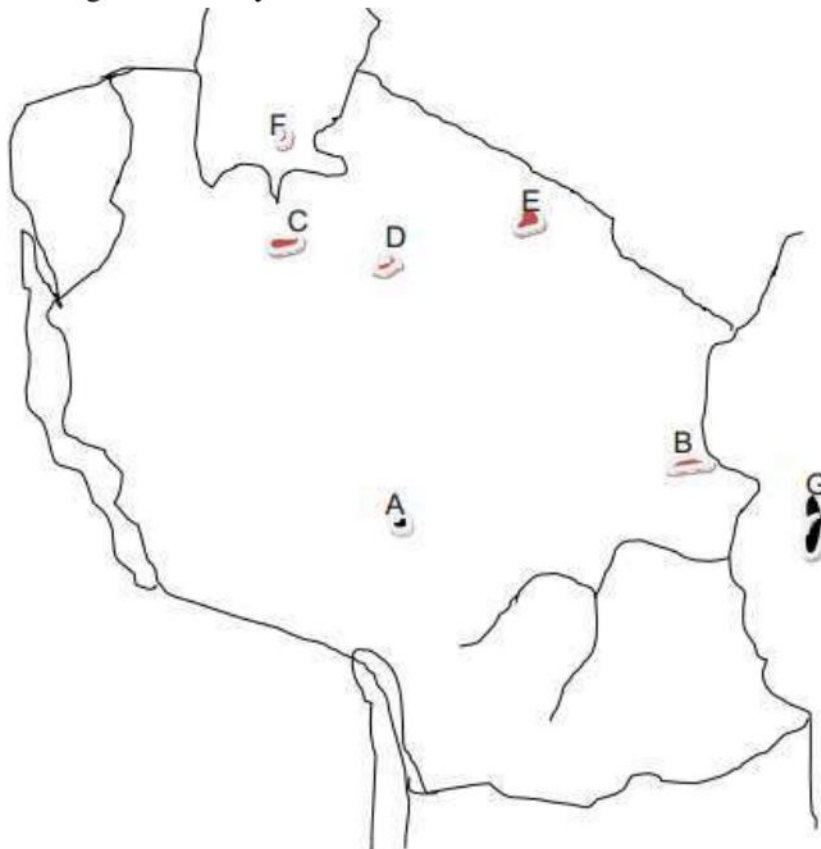
- i) Going through many records to find specific information is time-consuming.
- ii) Achieves can have thousands of documents, so it is tedious to go through those documents in order to find the information that one requires,
- iii) It is segregative because one needs to be literate to be able to use written documents.

- iv) Some records are classified and can only be accessed after a certain period of time; during that period those records cannot be used to get historical information.

4) MUSEUMS

Museums are places which are created for preserving historical information; usually museums contain a collection of all sorts of items which show cultural, social, political, economic and technological development from the earliest time to the present.

Some of the museums are national museums such as National museums of Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya etc, others may be regional, district or local museums such as Kalenga in Iringa, Bujora in Mwanza, and Halwego Handebezyo in Ukerewe.



A sketch map showing museums found in Tanzania

- A. _Kalenga local museum
- B _ Dar es salaam national museum
- C _ bujora local museum
- D_ shinyanga mazingira museum
- F _halwego handebezyo local museum
- G -house of wonders

Functions of museums

- i) Tourist attraction
- ii) Entertainment

- iii) Museums play an educative role in the society, information they give regarding the items in display educates people on a wide range of topics.
- iv) Museums serve as the country's memory bank.
- v) Museums exhibit arte-facts and specimens. They make them available for viewing by the public.
- vi) Museums collect arte-facts from diverse regions and sources, They therefore contain a variety of objects and a wealth of information,
- vii) Museums preserve artifacts in the best way possible in order to safeguard them for future generation.

Advantages of museums

- i) Museums provide security for the arte-facts which can be used as source of historical information for many years.
- ii) Museums help many people to learn about the past because it collects many historical items and make them available to many people.
- iii) There are no special skills required to look at the exhibits or listen to the guides, anyone can get historical information from museum.
- iv) It helps people to learn about many areas of history because museums have a wide range of knowledge because of the variety of items available.
- v) Museums facilitate research process because researchers can see the actual items and read about their history or have it explained by a guider in the museum.
- vi) Museum provides employment opportunity.
- vii) Museums provide foreign exchange hence increase of national income.

Disadvantages/limitations of museums

- i) Museums are expensive to put up and maintain. The large space arte-facts, security and trained staff cost a lot of money.
- ii) Some historical remains cannot be housed in a museum for example the ruins of house.
- iii) Some materials in museums are sensitive to agents of destruction for examples the pages of old books may turn yellow and tear easily.
- iv) Museum can be time consuming, because item to do with a specific subject may be found in several museums if there is a need to view all the arte-facts.

5) WRITTEN RECORDS

Written records are documents that provide historical information, They include newspapers, journals, books, magazine and pamphlets in everyday use. They are found in bookshops, libraries and schools.

Some of the written records are found in the form of books written a long time ago. An example of such books is *The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea* that was written by a Greek trader in the first century CE. Another example of such books is *Ptolemy's Geography* written in the second century CE. These books describe the coastal people of East Africa and their trading activities. They also tell us about the beauty of the environments and cultures of people in cities such as Kilwa historians can read these records to get information and choose the information which are relevant to their aims because historians cannot learn about everything from written records.

Functions of written records.

- i) Written records provide a graphic picture of society, the description in stories, article, picture and advertisements give the reader a mental image of what the lives of people were at a certain time.
- ii) The records reflect public opinion at the time of writing, for example the letter to the editor in a newspaper expresses the readers` feelings on current issue.
- iii) Written records serves as store of a large variety of information, including discoveries, government policies, statements, religious beliefs, fashions, speeches, and agreements.
- iv) In depth reports of daily events are kept as written records for example in a diary, newspaper or biography. These give detailed progressions of happenings in the society.

Advantages of written records

- i) Written records are cheap compared to some of other historical sources of information such as archaeology.
- ii) Written records are the most reliable and accurate source of historical information. The information is usually compared against data from other sources and is also viewed by various people before being produced, this helps to limit the author`s bias.
- iii) Many written records contain first-hand information, example are autobiographies and articles by journalist who were at the scenes of events.
- iv) Written records can be translated into different languages; therefore people all over the world can read historical information from other parts of the world.
- v) Written texts are more accurate than oral traditions as they do not rely on human memory the information remains as it was recorded.
- vi) Written materials are easily available; we can get newspaper stands and books at the library or bookshops.
- vii) It is also possible to read historical information on the internet.
- viii) Information in the written records is usually well organized under specific topic. Thus it is easy to identify relevant information.

Limitations of written records

- i) Authors can be biased in a certain way and hence write from a prejudiced point of view.
- ii) Only literate people can make full use of written records. The illiterate cannot use them without assistance.
- iii) Some written materials are too expensive for the majority of people, for example most high quality newspapers, magazines and academic books are not affordable to many people.
- iv) Reading written records can be time consuming. This is especially when one needs several records in order to confirm facts.
- v) Omission of important details by the author can make the written record unreliable.
- vi) Written information can be purposely misinterpreted by readers to spoil the reputation of others or to meet their personal needs.
- vii) Records on paper are fragile since paper is sensitive to moisture, light, heat and other agents of destruction.

6) ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is the study of human past through material remains of the past. It is the science that studies human culture through recovery, documentation, analysis and interpretation of material remains and environmental data.

An archaeologist is a person who studies the human past through material remains of the past, for example *Dr. Louis Leakey and Dr. Mary Leakey* were famous archaeologist in East Africa, *Dr. Raymond Dart* who discovered the skull of *Austropithecus Africanus* in South Africa in 1924 is a famous archaeologist in South Africa.

Archaeological sites are geographical areas where remains of the past have been found. Examples of Archeological sites are:

- Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania
- Taung in South Africa
- Kafu Valley in Uganda, etc

Archeologists uses material remains found in the archaeological sites to reconstruct past ways of life and the ways in which pre-historic societies changed through time.

Classification of archaeological materials.

The archaeological material remains can be classified into:

- i) **Arte-facts:** These are potable objects that are either made or modified by humans, for example stone tools, pottery and metal objects.
- ii) **Eco-facts (Bio-fact):** These are organic environmental materials that are not modified by human. Eco-facts are not necessarily made or modified by humans but they provide information of pre-historic environment and the ways they were used by early people, example of eco-facts are animal bones, skeleton (faunal remains) seeds and other plant remains, and plant pollens.
- iii) **Features**, these are non-potable arte-facts. They are structures that cannot be moved about but were constructed or modified by humans. Typical examples of archaeological features include pits, ditches, middens, house foundations, hearths and field boundaries..

Archaeologists derive meaning from artifact, features and eco-fact by examining which kinds of remains are associated with one another, how they are distributed partially and how they relate to the large landscape and environment in which they are found.

Functions of archaeology

- i) Archaeological remains provide evidence of the material culture during a certain period of history, for example tools people used and the clothes they wore.
- ii) By comparing remains from different sites, archaeologist can determine past relations between groups of people, for example war, migration and trade.
- iii) By comparing material remains from different sites archaeology can help us to understand cultural history "*societies with similar arte-facts were inhabited by the same people with the same cultural orientation.*"
- iv) Archaeology compliment other sources of historical information such as written records, oral tradition etc
- v) Archaeology gives a sense of time to historical events through the application of archaeological dating techniques like stratigraphic dating, typology, seriating, geochronology, and three age system.

Advantages of archaeology

- i) Archaeology compliment other sources of historical information, like oral tradition and written records, for example if there is a story of an ancient wealth city archaeological remains of gold objects in that area would give validity to the story,
- ii) Archaeology is a source of varied information because of the variety arte-facts that can be found.
- iii) Archaeology helps in managing cultural heritage asserts/resources,
- iv) Archaeology provide employment opportunities for example archaeologists, guides etc
- v) Archaeology helps to understand the past in order to predict the future.
- vi) Archaeology helps to reconstruct the life style of the people of the past for the aim of determining tools, structure, dressing, how and when they moved across the landscape in per suit of food procurement,
- vii) Archaeology helps to reconstruct the cultural changes or process for the aim of explaining how things changed over time.

Limitations of archaeology.

- i) Archaeology cannot be used to study recent history; it is limited to the study of ancient history.
- ii) Archaeology is expensive because it requires hired labors to dig the site, collect the artifacts and take them to the laboratory for close examination, archaeological equipments are also cost fully like GPS, compass direction, iron lens, camera etc.
- iii) Sometimes it is difficult to locate archaeological sites,
- iv) Fragile fossils and artifacts can disintegrate easily and distort historical facts.
- v) Dating artifacts is done by estimation, thus the date arrived may not be accurate.
- vi) Most of the laboratories equipped for canalizing and dating are found in developed countries.
- vii) There are few archaeological expertise to conduct archaeological survey.
- viii) Archaeology is time-consuming especially when excavation is needed.

7) ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the study of human societies, cultures and their development. It examines the beliefs, institutions and activities of a society. In order for the anthropologist to correct adequate historical information Anthropologists often live among the people so as to understand their social institutions, religions, customs, cultural values, system of inheritance and descent.

Four major field/branches of anthropology

- i. **Biological anthropology**, this deals with the study of biological or physical characteristics of man that are genetically inherited. Biological Anthropologists are interested in understanding the mechanisms of evolution and genetic inheritance as well as human variation and adaptation to different environmental stresses. Biological anthropologist are usually involve in one of three different areas of research namely, human biology, primatology (*the study of primates*) or paleo-anthropology
- ii. **Cultural anthropology**, this focuses on the study of the cultural aspects of human societies all over the world, cultural anthropologist focuses their research of such things as the social and political organizations, marriage pattern, and kinship systems, subsistence and economic patterns and religious belief of different societies.

iii. Linguistic anthropology. Is the study of human languages. Linguistic anthropologists focus their research on understanding such phenomena as the physiology of speech, the structure and function of languages, social and cultural influence on speech and writing. They also focus on how languages developed over time and how they differ from each other.

iv. Archaeology. is the study of human culture through the use of past material remains, archaeologists are interested in recovering the prehistoric and early history of societies and their cultures, they systematically uncover the evidence by excavating, dating, and analyzing the material remains left by people in the past. Sometimes historians argue that *archaeology* is the past tense of cultural anthropology.

Advantages of anthropology

- i. It gives important information about the history of people in a particular society.
- ii. It helps us to learn the culture of the people from different societies.
- iii. It helps us to establish the origin and inter-relationships between societies.

Limitations of anthropology

- i. Anthropological studies consume more time compared to other sources like oral traditions and Linguistics
- ii. It is expensive. Anthropologists need money to travel and stay among the people of particular ethnic groups.

8) LINGUISTICS

Linguistics It is the study and analysis of languages which includes their sounds, formation of words and relationship with other languages. Linguistics makes it possible for people to learn the origin, movement and settlement of people and societies. For example, Arabic words such as *shukrani*, *shikamoo*, *madrasa*, *karafuu*, and *Alhamis* in Kiswahili reveal contacts between Arabs and Swahili people that occurred along the coast of East Africa before colonialism

Advantages of linguistics

- i. It helps historians to trace the origin of a certain group of people by studying the evolution of their languages.
- ii. It provides information about cultural values of the society through language examination
- iii. It reveals the origin of a particular language through examining the nature of the words used in the language.
- iv. It can reveal past contacts between language groups by studying the words in a language that are borrowed from other languages.

Limitations of linguistics

Linguistics has the following limitations:

- i. Translation of historical information are susceptible to distortion.
- ii. Compared to other sources like historical sites, the study of languages to obtain historical information consumes more time.

9) **ELECTRONIC SOURCES**

Electronic devices such as CDs, tapes, computers and the internet are important sources of historical information. By browsing through the internet, watching documentaries and television programmes we can get a lot of historical facts.

advantages of electronic sources

The following are the advantages of electronic sources:

- i. They are interactive between the user and the devices.
- ii. They can be easily updated when a new discovery is done.
- iii. They can store massive information for a long period of time.
- iv. They can be easily accessible if they are available in schools and public libraries

Limitations of electronic sources

Some of the limitations of electronic sources include the following:

- i. Some of the devices cannot be used in remote areas where supporting services like electricity and internet network are not available.
- ii. They are expensive to prepare, maintain and use. Users have to incur some a in order to have access to these sources.

HOW TO HANDLE THE SOURCES OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION

All sources of historical information must be preserved and handled with great care because if they are destroyed they cannot be replaced.

Although these sources contain facts, they do not make history, history is the knowledge we get after interpreting those facts, the historian's duty is to study and interpret the facts, after that he or she may make conclusion or make decision.

TIME DIVISION IN HISTORY

In dividing time or giving dates to different historical events a starting date which is "0" has been chosen. This date is the same as the year when Christ was born, this is why we use AD (*Anno Domini*) or in the year of the Lord, years before it are called the years Before Christ hence B.C, and Muslims on the other hand have their starting date at *Hijira* this is when Mohamed fled from Mecca -622AD

historians divide time into.

1. **A day**- is a duration of twenty-four (24) hours.
2. **A week** - is a duration of seven (7) days.
3. **A month** –is a duration of four (4) weeks.
4. **A year** –is a duration of twelve (12) months.
5. **A decade** –is a duration of ten (10) years.
6. **A century** –is a duration hundred (100) years.
7. **A millennium** –is a duration of one thousand (1000) years.
8. **A generation** –is an estimate of the difference in age between parents and their children.
9. **A period** –is usually determined by one continuous event which may take a number of years or centuries, for example the period of long distance trade along the East Africa coast.
10. **An Age** –is a duration of time based on man's economic activities and types of tools used, for example stone age, iron age, and bronze age.

DATING HISTORICAL EVENTS

Dating historical events refers to the process of assigning date to historical events. To record history properly we need a good knowledge of dating

METHODS OF FIXING DATES/ DATING HISTORICAL EVENTS

Historians can use the following methods when assigning dates to historical events

- i. **Remembering changes and events**; examples of such events are famine, war, drought, eclipse of the sun or the moon, volcanic eruption, floods, epidemics, arrival of strangers, marriage, births, death, and season of harvesting. This method is useful where much of the history is not written,
- ii. **By using clan and family chronology**, here some special names of generation, clan trees, and tribal chronology can indicate the dates of events in history.
- iii. **Language studies**, many events and periods are revealed through vocabulary, saying, and literature, these help to show the level of development of society at certain period of time. For example by tracing when the word “*karafuu*” in Kiswahili started to be used we can know the time when cloves were introduced in Zanzibar.
- iv. **Carbon -14**. Is the scientific method used to determine the dates for the remains of plants and animals whose age is beyond 5,000 years. Through the use of carbon -14 scientists can calculate the amount of carbon found in the object and determine how old it is and how long it lived.
- v. **Potassium argon**, is the method which is used to date archaeological materials associated with inorganic materials particularly volcanic rocks or ash that were formed millions of years ago.

METHODS OF SHOWING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS, PERIOD AND AGES

- i) **Family trees** –this shows the relationship between members of a family over period of time.
- ii) **Time line**. Is a line along which dates and events are shown in the order they follow in history, time line can be horizontal or vertical lines.
- iii) **Time graph**. Is a drawing that shows how dates and events are related,
- iv) **Time chart**. Is a chart or table that shows historical dates and event in the order they follow

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HISTORY
Competence Based
Questions & Answers
Form I-iv

MWL: MWINUKA. A.

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