Mapungubwe is one of South Africa’s heritage sites. Study the extract below and then answer the questions on the next page.

Source A

Near the northern border of South Africa, bordering Zimbabwe and Botswana, the nearly intact (undamaged) remains of Mapungubwe ... a great powerful (dominant) state from the early African civilizations (society) were found.

Mapungubwe developed in our own part of the world and maintained that power for hundreds of years. It was an ingenious (clever) community on a sandstone hill in the Limpopo valley and in the Middle Ages it was a flourishing (successful) trade with gold and other precious things to merchants (sellers) from distant lands.

Gold objects, much like that of the Zimbabwe ruins, were found, while from several excavations (diggings) stone walls, pottery and skeletons were produced, and of course beads.

Thousands of different kinds of beads, manufactured in places like India, were found in almost every layer of the settlement at Mapungubwe complex. The economies were based on large herds of cattle, but the people became involved in trade with the outside world and they traded exotic (unusual) and precious goods.

Trading posts were set up by the Arabs. The ruler (king) was a clever man. He gained control of the gold and ivory trade. People brought gold and ivory down the Shashe River to Mapungubwe. Local traders took the gold and ivory further down and sold them to foreign (overseas) traders whose ships landed at Inhambane on the coast.

The village became very rich and life for the inhabitants (people) of the town began to change. The town became a very well organised society. There was a ruler and smaller chiefs in the kingdom. The smaller chiefs would hunt and mine gold. The ruler (king) would be given these as a tribute (praise). He would reward his small chiefs with imported luxury goods that they wanted.

The ruler’s homes were surrounded by stone walls at the top of the hill. The small chiefs and people of the kingdom lived further down the hill. The more powerful you were, the higher the mountain you lived.

Taken from the website http://newhistory.co.za (accessed 03 December 2013).
Activity RL-1

1. What evidence can be found in Source A which supports the fact that Mapungubwe was a great powerful state from the early civilizations?
   “the nearly intact (undamaged) remains of Mapungubwe ... a great powerful (dominant) state from the early African civilizations (society) were found.” (2)

2. Use Source A and identify the main economic activity in Mapungubwe (how people made a living). Provide evidence from the source.
   Trade was the main economic activity. (2)

3. According to the source, what other economic activities were they involved in?
   They hunted elephants and rhinos for their ivory and mined gold. (2)

4. How do we know they were successful in selling their products? Provide evidence from the source.
   “it was a flourishing (successful) trade with gold and other precious things to merchants (sellers) from distant lands.” (2)

5. What evidence in the source explains that the rulers were rich and powerful?
   “The ruler (king) was a clever man. He gained control of the gold and ivory trade.” (2)

6. Explain how the social classes were organised in Mapungubwe.
   “The ruler's homes were surrounded by stone walls at the top of the hill. The small chiefs and people of the kingdom lived further down the hill. The more powerful you were, the higher the mountain you lived.” (3)

7. In Mapungubwe a leader was compared to a rhinoceros. Explain why.
   A rhinoceros is strong and fierce and likes being left alone. The king of Mapungubwe liked being “left alone” as separated himself from ordinary people by living on top of the hill. (2)

8. Artefacts made of a precious metal that were symbols of leadership and royalty were found at Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe. What is this metal called? ___Gold___________ (1)

9. Why have archaeologists mostly found stone and metal artefacts?
   Because stone and metal do not rot, so they do not break down through the years. Other substances decompose (rot) over time so they could not last for many years. (2)

10. Which non-African people did the people of Mapungubwe trade with? ___Arabs__________ (2)

Total marks: [20]