Explain six reasons why initiation was important in the African Traditional Communities

TOpIC - AFRICAN MORAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

SUB-TOpIC - RITES OF PASSAGE

a) Initiates gain new status in life/he/she moves from childhood to adulthood and becomes full member of the community.
b) Initiate acquires new rights and privileges such as giving an opportunity for one to access his/her responsibilities in the community, for example, to marry and own property.
c) Initiate receives special education from their sponsors during seclusion.
d) Initiation ceremony brings the people together, community got united through their participation in the rites e.g. families, relatives and friends.
e) Shedding of blood unites the initiate to the land and ancestors.
f) Initiation ceremonies are looked at as occasion for prayers to God, prayers and sacrifices offered served as acts of worship.
g) Initiation helps to restructure the community through age sets/groups.
h) It is a sign of courage and bravery.
i) Pain endured during initiation prepares the initiates to face the difficulties and challenges of adult life.
j) The rites introduced an individual to the secrets and traditions of the community.

//Outline the significance of initiation rites in African Traditional Communities