**Why did the position of Benin change during the 17th and 18th centuries?**

**Benin in C18**

Period of revitalisation

1725 – report that King Allada was a vassal

Eresoyen expanded the palace and rebuilt the floor and wall with cowries

Large royal council evidence of administrative renewal

**Benin in C17**

Period of decline

1608- Oba Ohuan died without an heir

Succession crises

Series of ‘puppet Obas’ of powerful chiefs

Towards 1700 – series of stronger Obas e.g. Akengboi (1669-75), Ahenkpaye (1675-84), Akengbedu (1684-89) and Oreoghene (1689-1700)

Kingdom was much poorer

Reason

Evidence

Explanation

Reason

Evidence

Explanation

Reason

Evidence

Explanation

Reason

Evidence

Explanation