Africa's Religion and Government

Directions: Outlining  Reading the section and completing the outline below will help you learn more about Africa's religions and their effect on the government there. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

I. The religion of ________ spread from the Arabian Peninsula to Africa beginning in the A.D. 600s.
   A. This religion was popular in the cities of West Africa because it helped the people to _______________ with Muslim Arabs.
   B. Women in West Africa did not follow the Muslim custom of covering their _______________ with a veil.
   C. West Africans studied the _______________, the Muslim holy book.

II. _______________, the king of Mali, allowed different religions but was devoted to making Islam stronger.
   A. He built _______________, Muslim places of worship, as well as libraries.
   B. He organized a caravan to travel to _______________ on a pilgrimage. While there, he convinced many educated Muslims to return to _______________ with him.

III. Islam also had an impact on the languages of Africa.
   A. The _______________ culture and language are a blend of African and Muslim influences.
   B. Muslim schools taught the Arabic language, which soon became an important language of _______________ and education in Africa.

IV. In the most successful states in West Africa, power rested with a king or _______________.
    A. _______________ received favors from the kings, and the kings received _______________ from the merchants.
    B. Most kings divided their kingdoms into _______________.
