

**THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL**  
**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES**

1. PREAMBLE

Social Studies is a study of the contemporary problems of the society. The subject prepares the individual to into society by equipping him/her with knowledge about the culture or ways of life of their society, its problems, its values and its hopes for the future. The subject is multi-disciplinary and takes its source from many subjects, e. g. Geography, History, Sociology, Psychology, Economics and Civic Education. Essential elements of the knowledge and principles from these disciplines are integrated into a subject that stands on its own.

As a subject social studies helps students to understand their society better; helps them to investigate how their society functions and hence assists them to develop that critical and at the same time developmental kind of mind that transforms societies. Our society has been a slow moving one. It is hoped that the course will enable students understand the social, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues in the Ghanaian society better. This will enable them to examine the society's institutions and ways of life with critical and constructive mind. Through this, the country will surely be on the path to better and faster growth and development.

2. EXAMINATION OBJECTIVES

The examination syllabus is aimed at testing candidates'

- (1) understanding of the components of positive attitudes and values towards individual and societal issues
- (2) knowledge of the components of society and their role
- (3) understanding of the democratic values and how they foster national unity
- (4) understanding of the importance of the institution of marriage and family and their importance to society
- (5) understanding of positive self-concept for the development of the individual, good inter-personal relationships and social harmony

- (6) awareness of socializing agencies and their roles in forging national unity
- (7) understanding of physical and social environment and the need to preserve them
- (8) awareness of socio-economic problems in Ghana and how to solve them for sustainable development
- (9) ability to cope with the problems of social change.

### **3. SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

There will be two papers, Papers 1 and 2 both of which must be taken.

**PAPER 1:** Will consist of fifty multiple-choice objective questions all of which must be answered within 50 minutes for 50 marks.

**PAPER 2:** Will consist of three sections, A, B and C covering the following areas of the syllabus:

- Section A: The Environment
- Section B: Governance, Politics and Stability
- Section C: Social and Economic Development.

Section A shall contain four questions. Sections B and C shall contain three questions each. Candidates will be required to answer five questions in all choosing at least, one question but not more than two questions from each section.

Each question will carry 20 marks and the paper will last 3 hours.

### **4. DETAILED SYLLABUS**

#### **SECTION A: THE ENVIRONMENT**

##### **1.0 Self-Identify**

- 1.1 Explanation of *self* and *capabilities*
- 1.2 False identity and its implications
- 1.3 Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory – its Usefulness to the individual
- 1.4 Developing one's capabilities
- 1.5 Self-confidence: its meaning and development

##### **2.0 Adolescent Reproductive Health**

- 2.1 Explanation of terms *adolescent, reproductive health and reproductive right*
- 2.2 Characteristics of adolescence
- 2.3 Irresponsible adolescent behaviour and its implications
- 2.4 Safety measures for adolescent health
- 2.5 Fostering good gender relations
- 2.6 Chastity: meaning and benefits.

### **3.0 Our Culture and National Identity**

- 3.1 Explain the concept *national identity*.
- 3.2 Identification of socio-cultural practices in Ghana
- 3.3 Explain how Socio-cultural practices in Ghana promote or inhibit development and why some should be changed
- 3.4 The need for institutionalizing some socio-cultural practices
- 3.5 Evaluate the importance of national and traditional symbols in fostering national allegiance.
- 3.6 Identify those elements of Ghanaian culture that bind us together
- 3.7 Identify some Ghanaian values and traits

### **4.0 The Institution of Marriage**

- 4.1 Explanation of *courtship* and *marriage*
- 4.2 Purpose of marriage
- 4.3 Preparation towards marriage
- 4.4 Types of marriage in Ghana – process and residence
- 4.5 Challenges in marriage
- 4.6 Causes and effects of broken in marriages
- 4.7 Ways for sustaining marriages.

### **5.0 Individual obligations in the family**

- 5.1 Explanation of *family* and *types*
- 5.2 Functions and importance of the nuclear and extended families
- 5.3 The roles of individual members of the family
- 5.4 Systems of inheritance
- 5.5 Importance of family as an institution

5.6 Implications of abandoning the family

**6.0 Responsible Parenting**

6.1 Differences between *parenthood* and *parenting*

6.2 Responsibilities of parents

6.3 Consequences of irresponsible parenting

6.4 Preventing and managing parent- child conflict

6.5 Ways by which children cause their parents to be irresponsible.

**7.0 Socialization and Our Social Environment**

7.1 Explanation of *socialization*; *agencies of socialization* and *agents of socialization*

7.2 The roles of agents and agencies of socialization

7.3 Deviant behaviour and its implications on the society

7.4 Challenges agent/agencies face in the socialization process

7.5 Factors that promote better interpersonal relationship in groups and individuals in Ghana

**8.0. Our Physical Environment and Environmental challenges**

8.1 Explanation of the terms *physical environment* and *environmental Challenge*

8.2 How human activities in Ghana are influenced by the physical environment

8.3 The impact of human activities on the physical environment- positive and negative and their effects on man

8.4 Measures for protecting the environment

**9.0 Education and Social Change**

9.1 Explanation of education, its forms and purposes.

9.2 Explanation of social change.

9.3 The impact of education on national development.

9.4 The role of education in social change in Ghana.

**SECTION B: GOVERNANCE, POLITICS AND STABILITY**

## **10.0 National Independence and Self Reliance**

- 10.1 Explanation of *political independence* and *self-reliance*
- 10.2 Challenges/responsibilities of political independence
- 10.3 Reasons why Ghanaians misconstrued implications of independence.
- 10.4 How to overcome the challenges of political independence in Ghana
- 10.5 How to apply the concept of independence and self-reliance to one's life.

## **11.0 Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

- 11.1 Explanation of the concepts *peace building* and *conflict resolution*
- 11.2 Source of conflicts and their effects
- 11.3 Identify the effects of conflict on the society
- 11.4 Conditions for peace building
- 11.5 Processes of peace building

## **12.0 Leadership and Followership**

- 12.1 Meaning of leadership and followership
- 12.2 Qualities of a leader and a follower
- 12.3 Kind of leaders
- 12.4 Leadership styles
- 12.5 The role of a leader and follower in nation building

## **13.0 Our Constitution, Democracy and Nation Building**

- 13.1 Explanation of *constitution, democracy* and *nation building*
- 13.1 Features of democracy
- 13.3 Importance of constitution in nation building
- 13.4 The role of democracy in nation building
- 13.5 Reasons why unity and development are more sustainable under democratic government
- 13.6 How to prevent autocratic rule

## **14.0 Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual**

- 14.1 Explanation of *rights* and *responsibilities*
- 14.2 Types of rights and responsibilities
- 14.3 Possible conflicts in the exercise of rights and responsibilities
- 14.4 Reasons for curtailment of rights
- 14.5 The need for citizens to perform their responsibilities

#### **15.0 Ghana and the International Community**

- 15.1 Explanation of *globalization* and *international community*
- 15.2 Forms of co-operation Ghana has with other nations and bodies  
- UNO, AU, ECOWAS, Commonwealth
- 15.3 Origin and objectives of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- 15.4 Benefits of NEPAD to Ghana

### **SECTION C: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **16.0 The Youth and National Development**

- 16.1 Meaning of *youth*
- 16.2 Challenges facing the youth in their efforts to contribute to national development
- 16.3 Avenues for youth training in Ghana
- 16.4 Avenues by which the youth can get employment
- 16.5 Benefits of financial security to the individual and the nation
- 16.6 Planning sustainable financial security for the future
- 16.7 Explanation of the work of some financial institutions in the country
- 16.8 The role of the youth in national development

#### **17.0 Science and Technology**

- 17.1 Differences between science and technology
- 17.2 The role of science and technology in national development
- 17.3 Measures for promoting science and technology in Ghana
- 17.4 How science and technology is used in the development and production in the world.
- 17.5 Ways by which Ghana could promote development through increase application of science and technology

#### **18.0 Resource development and Utilization in Ghana**

- 18.1 Explanation of *Resource, Development and Utilization*
- 18.2 Types of resources and the relationship among them in production
- 18.3 Measures for developing human resources
- 18.4 How human resources and other resources contribute to national development

**19.0 The role of the Individual in Community Development**

- 19.1 Explanation of *community* and *community development*
- 19.2 Identification of levels of community
- 19.3 Factors involved in community decision making
- 19.4 The need for *vision, initiative* and *drive* in community development
- 19.5 Explain what community development involves
- 19.6 Ways by which individuals can contribute to community development

**20.0 Promoting National Socio-Economic Development**

- 20.1 Explanation of the concept Development
- 20.2 Identification of components of nation socio-economic life
- 20.3 Characteristics of a buoyant economy
- 20.4 Sources of development problems in Ghana
- 20.5 Measures Ghana has taken to improve development and standard of living in the country.
- 20.6 Ways of improving the standard of living in Ghana

**21.0 Sustainable Development**

- 21.1 Explanation of *sustainable development* and maintenance culture
- 21.2 Factors hindering sustainability of growth and development in Ghana
- 21.3 Measures to sustain growth and development
- 21.4 Measures to improve quality human resources and prevent their loss
- 21.5 Ways of ensuring sustainability in a person's life
- 21.6 Explain how to avoid incurring unmanageable debts
- 21.7 How to avoid falling victim to financial fraudsters

**22.0 Population growth and Development**

- 22.1 The structure of Ghana's population and social and economic implication
- 22.2 Social and Economic implication of Ghana's population structure
- 22.3 Measures for breaking the vicious cycle of Ghana's rapid population growth
- 22.4 Efforts made towards implementation of Ghana's 1994 population policy
- 22.5 Why it is difficult for Ghana to achieve the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennium development goals
- 22.6 Give reasons for a person's preference for an ideal family size.

### **23.0 The World of Work and Entrepreneurship**

- 23.1 Explanation of *work*, productivity and *entrepreneurship*
- 23.2 Types of enterprises in Ghana
- 23.3 Qualities of an entrepreneur
- 23.4 Basic requirements for starting a business enterprise and sustaining it
- 23.5 Contribution of local enterprises to economic development
- 23.6 Negative attitudes to work and their effect on productivity
- 23.7 Positive work attitudes that employers expect of workers