

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The standard of the paper compared favourably with that of previous year. All the questions were within the scope of the syllabus. Questions could have been well managed by any average candidate. The overall performance was poorer when compared to that of the previous year.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) Most of the answers were presented in legible handwriting.
- (2) Punctuation and paragraphing were well done by most candidates.
- (3) Most candidates abided by the rubrics, that is they answered one question from each section.
- (4) Most candidates organized their answers very well.

3.(a) SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- (1) Most candidates lack proficiency in the English Language and could not articulate their ideas clearly. English grammar was very poor.
- (2) A good number of candidates showed a poor understanding of the questions. For example, many candidates could not identify the administrative regions marked on the Ghana outline. Question 2 was not popular at all. Few candidates also failed to match the political events with their corresponding activities in the table provided. They appeared not to have been taught most topics.
- (3) Most candidates presented sketchy answers. They listed the points and failed to expatiate on them.
- (4) Few candidates digressed and failed to answer the questions set. They wrote on other issues. Worst cases occurred with questions 3(b), 4 and 5.
- (5) A good number of candidates could not make the distinction between "education" and "training". They thus scored very low marks.

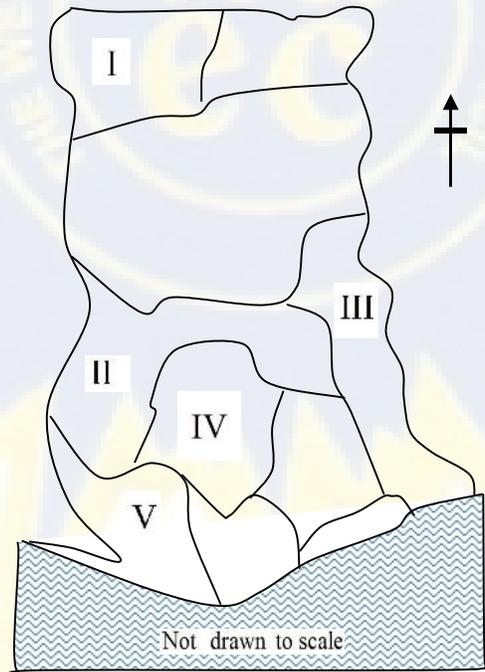
3 (b) **SUGGESTED REMEDIES**

- (1) More attention needs to be paid to the teaching of grammar in schools. Students should be encouraged to read many books to correct the deficit of spelling and grammar.
- (2) Teachers should endeavour to treat all topics captured in the syllabus.
- (3) Teachers should explain to their students what is required of them when functional words such as “outline, list, explain, enumerate, match’ are used in a question.
- (4) Reliance on well-edited Social Studies textbooks on the subject will also help candidates to have a better grasp of the subject.

4. **DETAILED COMMENTS**

Question 1

- (a) **Study the map of Ghana shown on page 2 and identify the administrative regions marked I, II, III, IV, V.**
- (b) **Outline *five* ways in which mountains and highlands are important.**



This question was very popular and was answered by many candidates. For Section (a), few candidates could not identify the administrative regions marked I, II, III, IV, V. For section (b)

many candidates listed the points but could not explain. Candidates were expected to discuss the following points:-

- Influence rainfall
- Acts as windbreak
- Provide rocks for construction/building
- Source of minerals
- Influence climate of surrounding settlement
- Serve as source of rivers and streams
- Serve as tourist attractions
- Serve as ground for religious activities
- Provide fertile soil for agriculture
- Provide security/defence
- Provide favourable climate for settlement

Question 2

(a) List four features of a slum.

(b) Enumerate four measures that can be taken to prevent slums in the urban towns of Ghana.

This question was not popular at all. For section (a), candidates showed little knowledge of a “slum.” They thus identified one or two features of a slum instead of four demanded by the question. Section (b) was poorly answered. A high number of candidates avoided this question. Performance was below average. For Section (a) the following points were expected;

- Overcrowded settlement
- Filthy/dirty environment/poor sanitation
- Buildings not well arranged
- Narrow or no streets
- Presence of criminals
- Buildings are made from inferior materials

- Pressure on social facilities
- Presence of social vices
- Frequent outbreak of diseases e.g. cholera
- For section (b) the following points were expected;
- Town planners to provide good layout
- Building plans to be approved by the authorities
- Demolishing of unauthorized buildings
- Provision of streets before settlements develop
- Waste collection facilities must be provided/improvement in sanitation
- Orderly arrangement of buildings
- Control of rural-urban migration
- Putting up of low-cost building/states
- Public education on the dangers of slums
- Enforcement of bye-laws on town planning

Question 3

(a) Match the political events listed below with their corresponding activities in the table that follows

- **The Poll Tax Ordinance of 1852.**
- **The Bond of 1844.**
- **The “Sagrenti” war of 1874.**
- **The 1948 riots.**
- **The YaaAsantewa war of 1901.**

	Political Activity	Event
I	An agreement signed between the British government and some chiefs of the Gold Coast.	
II	The war fought by the British soldiers under their leader Sir Garnet Wolsley and the people of Ashanti.	
III	The disturbances that occurred in the Gold Coast after the shooting of the ex-service men by the British soldiers	
IV	The introduction of a law to collect taxes from the people of the Gold Coast.	

This question was very popular. In Section (a) most candidates were able to match the political events listed with their corresponding activities. Very few candidates, however, had no idea about the events and their activities thus scored very low marks.

In Section (b) candidates were able to outline the main attitude and values needed to prevent conflict in the community but could not explain much.

Question 4

- (a) **List any four ethnic groups in Ghana.**
- (b) **Explain any four ways of sustaining unity among the different ethnic groups in Ghana.**

This is another popular question. It was answered by most candidates. Section (a) was satisfactorily answered with high marks. Section (b) was poorly answered. Most candidates listed the points but could not explain much. Candidates thus scored low marks. Candidates could have considered the following

points:-

- Respect for other cultures/tolerance
- Encouragement of inter-ethnic marriages
- Public education
- Need to be patriotic and development conscious
- Need to value peace and stability
- Fair representation in government
- Promotion of religious activities
- Promotion of formal education/boarding system

- Promotion of inter-cultural activities
- Political parties need to foster unity
- Avoid discrimination/nepotism

Question 5

Explain five measures that can be adopted to improve the quality of life in the rural areas.

This question was not popular. Some candidates who attempted it performed poorly. However, others did well and scored average marks. Candidates were expected to present the following answers:-

- Provision of social amenities in the rural areas e.g. health, water etc.
- Setting up of agro-based industries/cottage industries
- Reducing post-harvest losses
- Introducing better farming practices e.g. herbicides, new varieties of crops.
- Providing quality formal education for rural dwellers
- Fixing realistic prices for agro/farm produce
- Modernizing agriculture e.g. use of tractors, ploughs etc.
- Improving infrastructural facilities e.g. roads, markets etc.
- Provision of recreational facilities e.g. cinema halls, zoos, parks etc.
- Provision of credit facilities to farmers, traders etc.

Question 6

- (a) **What is the difference between “education” and “training”?**
- (b) **Enumerate four advantages of using modern technology in the production of goods and services.**

A very popular question. General performance was average.

Section (a): Most candidates could not differentiate between ‘Education’ and ‘Training’.

Education is a process of learning to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. Training on the other hand is the acquisition of specific skills to perform specific tasks. Some candidates did well but some mixed up the definitions. Marks scored were therefore low.

Section (b) was attempted by most candidates. They however, could not explain the points listed into detail. Marks scored were however, average. Candidates could have considered the following points:-

- It makes labour more efficient
- It makes difficult work easy to do
- It speeds up work
- It minimizes breakdown
- It leads to mass production of goods and services - high productivity
- It promotes specialization
- It releases labour for use in other sectors of the economy
- Work that is dangerous for human being can be done
- Goods are standardized
- Reduces unit cost of production
- Labour cost is reduced