GEOGRAPHY

PREAMBLE

The Geography syllabus is designed to evaluate candidates' knowledge of the features of the earth's crust (internal and external), the spatial spread of the physical and human features, the interactions that exist between man and these spatial features, the changes that occur over space as well as the effects of those changes on man with a view to maintaining sustainability in man's ecosystem. This examination syllabus is based on the assumption that not less than three hours of teaching per week will be allocated to the subject.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The examination will test the candidates' ability to

(i) explain the concepts of differential character and the spatial relationships of the surface features of the earth;

(ii) explain the concepts of man- environment relations (i.e. to analyse the life of man within his physical and cultural environments and to explain their interactions);

(iii) demonstrate a basic knowledge of the nature and functioning of physical and human environments, particularly an understanding of their inter-relationships and the resulting issues;

(iv) organize and formulate principles according to acquired geographical concepts and then apply these principles to interpret and analyze spatial problems in the immediate and wider environments;

(v) demonstrate skills and techniques for accurate, orderly and objective geographical investigations to be carried out both in the classrooms and in the immediate environment;

(vi) communicate geographical ideas effectively through reports, graphs, charts, sketches, diagrams and maps;

(vii) explain the cultural, social and economic circumstances of people in their immediate environments and those of other countries within the sub-region.

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There will be three papers, Papers 1, 2 and 3 all of which must be taken. Papers 1 and 2 will be a composite paper to be taken at one sitting.

PAPER 1: will consist of fifty objective questions to be taken in 1 hour for 50 marks. The questions will be drawn from topics in the syllabus that are common to all the member countries. Candidates will be required to attempt all the questions.

PAPER 2: will contain nine essay-type questions out of which candidates will be required to answer four in 2 hours for 80 marks.

It will be made up of two sections; Sections A and B for candidates in Nigeria and three sections; Sections A, B and C for candidates in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

Candidates in Nigeria will be required to attempt four questions in all, choosing two questions from each of Sections A and B. Candidates in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia will be required to attempt four questions in all, choosing at least one question from each of Sections A, B and C.

The questions will be distributed in the sections as follows:

Section A: Economic and Human Geography

This will consist of three essay-type questions on Economic and Human Geography. Candidates in Nigeria will be required to attempt any two of them while candidates in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia are to attempt at least one of the questions.

Section B: Regional Geography of Candidate's Home Country

There will be a set of three essay-type questions on Regional Geography on each of Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Candidates in Nigeria will be required to answer two of the questions on their country while those in the other countries will answer at least one out of the sets for their countries.

Section C: Regional Geography of Africa

There will be three essay-type questions drawn from Africa for candidates in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia out of which candidates are expected to answer at least one.

PAPER 3: Element of Practical and Physical Geography

Will consist of eight essay-type questions out of which candidates are to answer four in 1 hour 50 minutes for 70 marks. Question 1, on map reading and interpretation, will be compulsory for all candidates and will carry 25 marks while the other questions will carry 15 marks each. Candidates are advised **not** to spend more than 35 minutes on Question 1. Candidates will be expected to bring graduated rulers (both metric and imperial), a complete mathematical set, a piece of string and a simple non-programmable calculator for use during the writing of the paper.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

Any topic in the syllabus that is marked with one asterisk (*) will be for candidates in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia. Topics that are marked with two asterisks (**) will be for candidates in Nigeria only. The topics without asterisk are for all member countries.

CONTENTS	NOTES
ELEMENTS OF PRACTICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY	
Map work	Maps: meaning, types and uses.

	Map reading and interpretation based on contoured survey maps of parts of West Africa: scale, measurement of distances, direction and bearing, map reduction and enlargement, identification of physical features such as spurs, valleys, etc. and cultural features such as city walls, settlements, communication routes, etc.; measurement of gradients, drawing of cross profiles, inter-visibility, description and explanation of drainage characteristics and pattern; patterns of communication, settlement and land use.
*Principles of elementary surveying	Definitions of terms, instruments, chain and prismatic compass, plotting of traverse, avoiding obstacles in the field.
**Geographic Information System (GIS)	GIS: Basic concepts, components (hardware, software, data, procedures and experts); sources of data (land surveying, remote sensing, map digitizing, map scanning, field investigation and tabular data etc); uses (defence, agriculture, urban development, mapping, surveying, transportation, census etc), problems (power, personnel, capital etc).
Statistical maps and diagrams	Graphical representation of statistical data: Bar graphs, Line graphs, flow charts, dot maps, proportional circles, density maps, isopleth maps.
Elements of Physical Geography	The earth as a planet in relation to the sun, latitude and distance, longitude and time, earth's rotation and revolution and their effects, structure of the earth (internal and external).
*Hydrosphere	Ocean basins, salinity, ocean current (causes, types and their effects on the temperature of adjacent coastlands), lakes, rivers, lagoons, water as an environmental resource.
(i) Rocks	Types, characteristics, formation and uses.
(ii) Tectonic processes	Vulcanicity, earthquake, landforms: Mountains, plains, karsts and coastal landforms (formation, characteristics and importance).
(iii) Denudational processes	Agencies modifying landforms such as weathering, mass movement, running water, underground water, wind and waves.
(iv) Weather and climate	Simple weather study based on local observation, description of the Stevenson's screen and uses of basic weather instruments e.g. rain gauge, thermometer, barometer, wind vane etc.
(v) Climate (a) Elements	Rainfall, sunshine, air pressure, wind, humidity, temperature and cloud. Factors affecting climatic elements e.g. altitude, latitude, ocean currents, land and sea breezes, continentality, aspect. Interpretation of climatic charts and data.

(b) Classification	Major types of climate (Hot climate – Equatorial, Tropical Continental, Desert; Temperate climate – warm and cool). Classification of climate based on Greek and Koppen.
** (c) Climate change	Meaning, causes, effects and remedies.
*(vi) Vegetation	Major types (Tropical Rainforest, cool/warm temperate woodland, Tropical Grassland); characteristics, distribution, factors affecting their distribution, plant communities. Vegetation as an environmental resource. Conservation of vegetation resources.
*(vii)Soil	Definition, local types and characteristics. Factors and processes of soil formation, soil profile, importance to man and the effects of human activities on soil. Soil erosion and conservation.
(vii)The environment	
(a) Environmental resources	Meaning, classification (renewable and non renewable) types (vegetation, water, mineral, atmospheric, etc) and the importance of each.
(b) Environmental problems/ hazards	Types (soil erosion, drought, desert encroachment, flooding and pollution), causes, effects and prevention of each.
(c) Environmental conservation	Meaning, importance, methods, problems and solutions.

CONTENTS	NOTES
ECONOMIC AND HUMAN GEOGRAPHY	
(i) World Population	Factors and patterns of growth, distribution and movement, growth rate problems.
(ii) Settlement	Types (rural and urban); patterns and factors affecting location; growth and size; functions of rural and urban settlements; interaction patterns(urban-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban, rural-rural); migration.
(iii) Transportation	Modes (roads, railways, water, air, pipeline, cables, ropeways etc.) Transportation and economic development (movement of people and commodities, national and international trade, diffusion of ideas and technology, national integration); problems of transportation and their solutions.
(iv) Industry	Classification (primary, secondary and tertiary); types (heavy and light industry); factors of industrial location; contributions to development; problems/solutions.
(v) Trade	Meaning, types (national and international), reasons for trade, importance.
(vi) Tourism	Meaning, centres, reasons (leisure, recreation, education etc); importance, problems and solutions.

ASPECTS OF REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY PECULIAR TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

CONTENTS	NOTES
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA	
(a) Nigeria on broad outline	Location, position, size, distance and political divisions.
(b) Physical setting	Relief, drainage, climate, vegetation
(c) Population	Size, distribution, structure, population quality, population movement, population data (sources and problems/solutions)
(d) Resources	Mineral (petroleum, gas, coal, tin/columbite, iron ore, limestone)- distribution, methods of extraction, problems and solutions) Power (Petroleum, gas, coal HEP, solar energy) Water (rivers, lakes, dams, sea, underground water) Vegetation (trees, food and cash crops; timber,etc)- forest, savanna, biosphere.
(e) Agriculture	Types of agricultural practices, food and cash crops, importance, problems and solutions.

(f) Transportation	Mode, advantages and disadvantages, problems and solutions, influence of transportation on human activities.
(g) Communication	Communication networks, advantages and disadvantages, importance, problems and solutions.
(h) Industry	Definition, types, major industrial zones, factors of location, importance, problems and solutions.
(i) Trade	Meaning, types (national and international), stock exchange, capital market, forex, major commercial areas, importance of commercial activities.
(j) Tourism	Meaning, centres, reasons for tourism, importance, problems and solutions.
(k) Issues on development and environmental concerns	Issues of Development and Environmental Conservation: Rural and regional development, resource management and conservation, environmental pollution e.g. air, water, soil, noise; waste disposal, etc.
(l) ECOWAS	Meaning, member countries, purposes/mandate, advantages/benefits, disadvantages, problems and solutions.
(m) Geo-political issues	Geo-political issues-Land reclamation.
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF GHANA	
(a) Ghana on broad outline	Location, position, size, distance and political divisions.
(b) Physical setting	Physical environment (geology, relief, drainage, climate, vegetation and soils).
(c) Population	Size, growth, distribution and density, age/sex structure: fertility, morbidity and mortality, migration.
(d) Settlement	Origin, types (rural and urban), characteristics, hierarchy, land use, urbanization processes, problems and solutions.
(e) Primary economic activities	
(i) Agriculture	Subsistence (intensive and extensive) commercial (vegetable, livestock, dairying, commercial grain), plantation, problems and solutions.
(ii) Fishing	Inland and ocean (in-shore/off shore), methods, types of fish, storage and marketing, importance, problems and solutions.
	Sources of timber, methods of exploitation, types of species

(iii) Lumbering	(for internal use and for export), problems and solutions, conservation.
(iv) Mining	Types, distribution of minerals, methods of extraction, importance, problems and solutions.
(f) Manufacturing	Types of manufacturing industries, distribution, factors influencing location of industries, problems of industrialization.
(g) Trade and commerce	Services, transport and communication, recreation and tourism, administration.
(h) Tourism	Meaning, centres, reasons for tourism, importance, problems and solutions.
(i) Energy and power	Water (Akosombo and Kpong Hydro-electric Power projects – benefits and side effects), fuel wood and charcoal, petroleum and natural gas (Saltpond), solar, wave and wind energies (Donkokrom and Kokrobite), Biogas e.g. cow dung.
(i) Issues on development and environmental concerns	Issues of Development and Environmental Conservation: Rural and regional development, resource management and conservation, environmental pollution e.g. air, water, soil, noise; waste disposal etc.
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF SIERRA LEONE	
(a) Sierra Leone on broad outline	Size and location, physical environment, people and settlements.
(b) Primary economic activities	
(i)Agriculture	Meaning of agriculture, Subsistence (intensive and extensive) commercial (vegetable, livestock, dairying, commercial grain production), plantation, problems and solutions.
(ii) Fishing	Meaning of fishing, Inland and ocean (in-shore/off shore), methods, types of fish, storage and marketing, importance, problems and solutions.
(iii) Lumbering	Meaning of lumbering, Sources of timber, methods of exploitation, types of species (for internal use and for export), problems and solutions, conservation.

(iv) Mining	Types, distribution of minerals, methods of extraction, problems and solutions.
(c) Manufacturing	Location of industry, types of industries, problems of manufacturing industry, Energy and Power, water, fuelwood and charcoal, biogas (e.g. cow-dung), hydro-electric power projects e.g. Dodo, Guma, Bumbuna.
(d) Transport and communication	Road, rail, water, air, the roles of transport and communication to economic development,(internal and external trade, diffusion of ideas and technology), problems of transport and communication, solutions.
(e) Trade	Major commodities of trade (agricultural, manufactured goods, minerals, etc.), patterns of trade (internal and external), problems of trade.
(f) Population	Size, growth, distribution and migration.
(g) Tourism	Meaning, development of tourism, problems of tourism & solutions, socio-economic effects of tourism. Main tourism areas, factors responsible for its development, economic importance.
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF LIBERIA	
(a) Liberia on broad outline	Location, position, size, distance and political divisions.
(b) Physical setting	Relief, drainage, climate, vegetation and soil.
(c) Population	Size, distribution, structure, population quality, population movement, population data (sources, problems & solutions)
(d) Resources	Mineral, power, water and vegetation resources, importance of resources to development.
(e) Agriculture	Types of agricultural practices, food and cash crops, importance, problems and solutions.
(f) Transportation	Mode, advantages and disadvantages, problems and solutions, influence of transportation on human activities.
(g) Communication	Communication networks, advantages and disadvantages, importance, problems & solutions.
(h) Industry	Definition, types, major industrial zones, factors of location, importance, problems and solutions, importance.
	Meaning, types (national and international), forex, major

(i) Trade	commercial areas, importance of commercial activities.
(j) Tourism	Meaning, centres, reasons for tourism, importance, problems and solutions.
(k) Fishing	Meaning of fishing, Inland and ocean (in-shore/off shore), methods, types of fish, storage and marketing, importance, problems and solutions.
(l) Mining	Types, distribution of minerals, methods of extraction, problems and solutions.
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF SENEGAMBIA	
(a) Senegambia on broad outline	Location, position, size, distance and political divisions.
(b) Physical setting	Relief, drainage, climate, vegetation and soil.
(c) Population	Size, distribution, structure, population quality, population movement, population data (sources, problems &solutions)
(d) Resources	Mineral, power, water and vegetation resources, importance of resources to development.
(e) Agriculture	Types of agricultural practices, food and cash crops, importance, problems and solutions.
(f) Transportation	Mode, advantages and disadvantages, influence of transportation on human activities, problems and solutions.
(g) Communication	Communication networks, advantages and disadvantages, importance, problems and solutions.
(h) Industry	Definition, types, major industrial zones, factors of location, importance, problems and solutions.
(i) Mining	Types, distribution, methods of extraction, problems and solutions
(j) Fishing	Meaning of fishing, Inland and ocean (in-shore/off shore), methods, types of fish, storage and marketing, problems and solutions.
(k) Issues on development and environmental concerns	Issues of Development and Environmental Conservation: Rural and regional development, resource management and conservation, environmental pollution e.g. air, water, soil, noise, waste disposal etc.
(l) Trade	Meaning, types (national and international), forex, major commercial areas, importance of commercial activities, problems and solutions.
(m) Tourism	Meaning, centres, reasons for tourism, importance, problems

	and solutions.
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA	
(a) Africa on broad outline	Location, size, position, political divisions and associated islands, physical features and their economic importance (relief, drainage, climate and vegetation), distribution of minerals.
(b) Selected topics (i) Irrigation agriculture	Irrigation agriculture in the Nile Basin and the Niger Basin.
(ii) Plantation agriculture	Plantation agriculture in West and East Africa.
(iii) Oil production	Oil production in Nigeria, Ghana and Libya.
(iv) Lumbering	Lumbering in Equatorial Africa (with particular reference to Cote d'Ivoire and Zaire).
(v) Gold Mining	Gold mining in South Africa.
(vi) Copper mining	Copper mining in Zambia and Zaire
(vii) Population	Population distribution in West Africa.
(viii) ECOWAS	Meaning, member countries, purposes/mandate, advantages/benefits, disadvantages, problems and solutions.
FIELD WORK	Fieldwork on any one of the following topics should be based on local geography of candidate's home country. (This aspect of the syllabus should be examined by schools as part of the continuous assessment and should account for 25% of the total mark allotted to continuous assessment). (i) Land use (rural or urban): rural – crop farming (e.g. rice, cocoa, etc.) urban crop farming mining (e.g. coal, tin, petroleum etc.), fishing. urban – commercial activities, ports, factories, recreational etc. (ii) Market survey – rural or urban. (iii) Traffic flow – rural or urban. (iv) Patterns of journey to work – rural or urban. (v) Rate of erosion in the locality, etc.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

S/N	AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
1.	R. B. BUNNETT & P.O. OKUNROTIFA	General Geography in Diagram for West Africa.	Longman
2.	B. O. AKINDELE & G. C. LEONG	Certificate Physical and Human Geography (West African Edition).	Oxford
3.	STRAHLER, A. N.	Introduction to Physical Geography.	Wiley International Ed.
4.	MONKHOUSE, F. J.	Principles of Physical Geography.	University of London
5.	UDO, REUBEN K.	Comprehensive Geography of Tropical Africa.	Longman
6.	UDO, REUBEN K.	Geographical Regions of Nigeria.	Longman
7.	N. P. ILOEJE	A new Geography of Nigeria (New Edition).	Longman
8.	M. A. ABEGUNDE et al	Senior Secondary Geography Series (1-3)	Longman
9.	DICKSON K. B. & BENNEH G.	New Geography of Ghana.	Ghana University Press
10.	DICKSON & ACHEAMPONG	Geography for Senior Secondary Schools in Ghana.	Ghana Education Service
11.	OBOLI, H.O.N.	An outline Geography of West Africa.	Harrap & Company
12.	J. I. CLARKE	Sierra Leone in Maps.	Hodder & Stoughton
13.	GWYN-JONES	A New Geography of Sierra Leone.	Hodder & Stoughton
14.	PRITCHARD, J. M.	Africa.	Longman
15.	M. DUZE & AFOLABI OJO	Macmillan Senior School Atlas.	Macmillan
16.	COLLINS	New Secondary School Atlas.	Longman
17.	PHILIPS	World Atlas. Longman Dictionary of Geography	

18.	CLARY AUDREY N.	(Human and Physical).	Longman
19.	MOORE, W. E.	A Penguin Dictionary of geography	
20.	N. P. ILOEJE, P.C. ONOKALA & F.O. ODEMERHO	Basic Geography Course for Senior Secondary Schools Books 1-3.	Longman
21.	MACMILLAN	Macmillan Senior School Atlas for Liberia Schools. IGCSE Geography	Macmillan
22.	Guiness, P. & Nagle, G.		Hodder Education, UK