



GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

1. The origin of human being has been explained by different theories. Name the three main theories. (3mks)

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____

1

2. Define the meaning of the following terms as used in the theory of human origin. (3mks)

a) Mutation

b) Adaptation

c) Natural selection

3. Illustrate the changes that took place in human development according to the scientific theory of human origin. (3mks)

a) Brains

b) Face

c) Tail

4. Identify the pre-historic sites where the remains of the following hominids were discovered. (3mks)

a) Aegyptopithecus _____

b) Ramapithecus _____

c) Australopithecus _____

5. Identify and explain three reasons why Africa is considered as the cradle of humankind. (3mks)

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____

6. Highlight three ways on how early civilisation have contributed to the development of the modern world. (3mks)

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____

7. Outline three effects of the Trans-Saharan trade in Africa. (3mks)

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____

8. Briefly explain the organisation of the Trans Saharan trade. (3mks)

i. _____
ii. _____
iii. _____

9. a) Define the term socio-cultural diversities. (1mk)

b) Describe two impacts of emotions on self and others.(2mks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____

c) State three ways of managing peer pressure in a culturally diverse environment (3mks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

3

10. Briefly explain how the following non-violent methods of resolving conflicts in the family are used (3mks)

a) Negotiation

b) Mediation

c) Arbitration

11. Identify two ways of identifying a problem or gap in the community when conducting Community Service Learning. (2mks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

12. a) Explain the meaning of the following terms. (2mks)

i) Map

ii) Map reading

b) Describe three different methods of representing physical features on topographical maps. (3mks)

- i.

- ii.

- iii.

4

13. Identify the two factors that influence weather and climate in Africa (2mks)

- i.

- ii.

14. Grade 8 Social Studies teacher listed the following characteristics of a climatic region in Africa.

i) Hot summers

ii) Cool winters

iii) Receives rainfall during winter

iv) Rainfall is influenced by westerly winds

v) Experienced in Northern and Southern Africa

The characteristics given were describing which climatic region? (1mk)

15. Name two causes of climate change. (2mks)

- i.

- ii.

16. Grade 8 learners were given a list of historical sites and monuments in Africa by their teacher and asked to write the country where each of them is found. What was the correct response? (3mks)

Historical site Country

i) Timbuktu _____

ii) Great Pyramids _____

iii) Meroe _____

17. Identify two components of the constitution of Kenya. (2mks)

i. _____

ii. _____

Social Studies

Answers

6

1. 1. Creation theory
 2. Evolution theory
 3. Mythical or traditional theory
2. a) Mutation — A permanent change in the genetic material (DNA) of an organism that can lead to new traits.
- b) Adaptation — The process by which organisms adjust to their environment to improve their chances of survival.
- c) Natural selection — The process where organisms with favorable traits survive and reproduce, while those without such traits are less likely to survive.
3. a) **Brains** — The brain increased in size and became more complex, improving thinking, memory, and problem-solving abilities.
- b) **Face** — The face became flatter, the jaws and teeth became smaller, and the forehead became more pronounced.
- c) **Tail** — The tail gradually disappeared, leaving only a small tailbone (coccyx) in humans.
4. a) Aegyptopithecus — Fayum in Egypt
- b) Ramapithecus — Fort Ternan in Kenya and Siwalik Hills in India
- c) Australopithecus — Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and Sterkfontein in South Africa
5. 1. **Discovery of the oldest human fossils** — The earliest remains of hominids, such as *Australopithecus* and *Homo habilis*, have been found in Africa, showing that humans originated there.
2. **Presence of numerous pre-historic sites** — Africa has many archaeological sites like Olduvai Gorge and Koobi Fora where tools, fossils, and evidence of early human life have been discovered.
3. **Favorable climate and environment** — Africa's climate and resources supported the survival and evolution of early humans over millions of years.

6.
 1. **Invention of writing and record-keeping** — Early civilizations developed writing systems (like cuneiform and hieroglyphics), which made it possible to record knowledge, laws, and history.
 2. **Advancement in agriculture** — They introduced farming techniques and domestication of plants and animals, leading to food surplus and permanent settlements.
 3. **Development of governance and laws** — Early civilizations established organized governments, legal systems, and social structures that influenced modern political and legal systems.
7.
 1. Spread of Islam and Arab culture.
 2. Growth of cities and kingdoms.
 3. Development of trade and wealth.
8.
 1. **Trade routes** — It was carried out across the Sahara Desert using established caravan routes.
 2. **Use of camels** — Camels were used as the main means of transport because they could survive the harsh desert conditions.
 3. **Trade centers** — Goods were exchanged at major trade centers like Timbuktu, Gao, and Taghaza.
9.
 - a) **Socio-cultural diversities** — Differences in people's cultures, beliefs, and social practices. b)
 1. Can affect relationships positively or negatively.
 2. Influence decision-making and behavior.
 - d)
 1. Respecting other people's opinions and beliefs.
 2. Solving conflicts peacefully through dialogue.
 3. Helping and caring for one another.
10.
 - a) **Negotiation** — Family members talk directly to agree on a solution.
 - b) **Mediation** — A neutral person helps family members reach an agreement.
 - c) **Arbitration** — A neutral person listens and makes a final decision for the family.
11.
 1. Observing the daily needs and challenges of the community.
 2. Consulting and discussing with community members or leaders.
12.
 - a)

i) Map — A scaled drawing of part of the earth's

surface. ii) Map reading — Interpreting

information shown on a map. b)

1. Colour shading — Uses colours to show features.

2. Contour lines — Show height and land shape.

3. Symbols — Represent features like rivers, roads, or buildings.

13. 1. Latitude — Affects temperature and amount of sunlight received.

2. Altitude — Higher areas are cooler than lowlands.

14. Mediterranean climatic region.

15. 1. Deforestation — cutting down trees reduces the earth's ability to absorb carbon dioxide.

2. Burning of fossil fuels — releases greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.

16. 1. Mali

2. Egypt

3. Sudan

17. 1. The Bill of Rights

2. The Structure of Government