

WAEC SYLLABUS FOR GEOGRAPHY

Aims and Objectives

The examination will test the candidates' ability to

- explain the concepts of differential character and the spatial relationships of the surface features of the earth;
- 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);
- 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;
- 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;
- demonstrate skills and techniques for accurate, orderly and objective geographical investigations to be carried out both in the classrooms and in the immediate environment;
- communicate [geographical](#) ideas effectively through reports, graphs, charts, sketches, diagrams and maps;
- 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

This section gives you tips on the WAEC geography marking scheme and how marks are allotted to each of the sections. It also shows you the length of time allotted for each paper (theory, essay and practical). Read carefully.

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 in 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.

WAEC Syllabus for Geography (Area of Concentration)

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 an asterisk are for all member countries.

1. Elements of Practical and Physical Geography

1. Map work
2. *Principles of elementary surveying
3. **Geographic Information System (GIS)
4. Statistical maps and diagrams
5. Elements of Physical Geography
6. *Hydrosphere
 - Rocks
 - Tectonic processes
 - Denudational processes
 - Weather and climate
 - Climate
 - Elements
 - Classification
 - ** Climate change
 - *Vegetation
 - *Soil
 - The environment
 - Environmental resources
 - Environmental problems/hazards
 - Environmental conservation

2. Economic and Human Geography

1. World Population
2. Settlement
3. Transportation
4. Industry
5. Trade
6. Tourism

3. Aspects of Regional Geography Peculiar to Member Countries

1. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA
 - Nigeria on broad outline
 - Physical setting
 - Population
 - Resources
 - Agriculture
 - Transportation
 - Communication

- Industry
 - Trade
 - Tourism
 - Issues on development and environmental concerns
2. ECOWAS
- Geo-political issues
3. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF GHANA
- Ghana on broad outline
 - Physical setting
 - Population
 - Settlement
 - Primary economic activities
 - Agriculture
 - Fishing
 - Lumbering
 - Mining
 - Manufacturing
 - Trade and commerce
 - Tourism
 - Energy and power
 - Issues on development and environmental concerns
4. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF SIERRA LEONE
- Sierra Leone on broad outline
 - Primary economic activities
 - Agriculture
 - Fishing
 - Lumbering
 - Mining
 - Manufacturing
 - Transport and communication
 - Trade
 - Population
 - Tourism
5. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF LIBERIA
- Liberia on broad outline
 - Physical setting
 - Population
 - Resources
 - Agriculture
 - Transportation
 - Communication
 - Industry
 - Trade
 - Tourism

- Fishing
- Mining
- 6. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF SENEGAMBIA
 - Senegambia on broad outline
 - Physical setting
 - Population
 - Resources
 - Agriculture
 - Transportation
 - Communication
 - Industry
 - Mining
 - Fishing
 - Issues on development and environmental concerns
 - Trade
 - Tourism
- 7. REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA
 - Africa on broad outline
 - Selected topics
 - Irrigation agriculture
 - Plantation agriculture
 - Oil production
 - Lumbering
 - Gold Mining
 - Copper mining
 - Population

4. ECOWAS

5. FIELD WORK

WAEC Recommended Textbooks For Geography

These textbooks contain the topics outlined in the WAEC syllabus for geography.

Author	Title	Publisher
R. B. BUNNETT & P.O. OKUNROTIFA	General Geography in Diagram for West Africa	Longman

B. O. AKINDELE & G. C. LEONG	Certificate Physical and Human Geography (West African Edition)	Oxford
STRAHLER, A. N.	Introduction to Physical Geography	Wiley International Ed
MONKHOUSE, F. J.	Principles of Physical Geography	University of London
UDO, REUBEN K.	Comprehensive Geography of Tropical Africa.	Longman
UDO, REUBEN K.	Geographical Regions of Nigeria	Longman
N. P. ILOEJE	A new Geography of Nigeria (New Edition)	Longman
M. A. ABEGUNDE et al	Senior Secondary Geography Series (1-3)	Longman
OBOLI, H.O.N.	An outline of Geography of West Africa.	Harrap & Company
M. DUZE & AFOLABI OJO	Macmillan Senior School Atlas.	Macmillan
N. P. ILOEJE, P.C. ONOKALA & F.O. ODEMERHO	Basic Geography Course for Senior Secondary Schools Books 1-3	Longman