

WASSCE

2026 White Mock

SOCIAL STUDIES

Paper 1: 40 Objective Questions — ALL compulsory · 40 marks

Paper 2: 10 Essay Questions — answer any FIVE · 100 marks · 3 hours

Sections: A = The Environment (Q1–4) | B = Governance (Q5–7) | C = Development (Q8–10)

Rule: Answer at least ONE and no more than TWO questions from each section.

Answers: Full model answers and marking scheme included at the end of this booklet.

Exam Tips

- Paper 1: Read all four options before choosing — eliminate obvious wrong answers first.
- Paper 2: Define key terms in part (a) — 4 marks often lost here by weak definitions.
- Each point in (b) and (c) needs a HEADING + EXPLANATION — a list alone scores 0.
- Use Ghanaian examples: institutions, laws, events. Generic answers lose marks.
- Count your points — you need FOUR developed points for 8 marks.

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BEWARE OF EXAM SCAMMERS!

No one has WASSCE papers before the exam. Do NOT pay anyone for leaked questions.

PAPER 1 — OBJECTIVE TEST

Answer ALL 40 questions · Circle the letter of the BEST answer · 40 marks

1. Which of the following BEST describes Maslow's concept of self-actualisation?
 - A. The desire to be loved and accepted by others
 - B. The fulfilment of an individual's full potential and purpose in life
 - C. The need for food, shelter and physical security
 - D. The achievement of social status and recognition

2. A teenager who consistently pretends to belong to a wealthy family she does not come from is exhibiting
 - A. self-confidence
 - B. false identity
 - C. self-actualisation
 - D. social mobility

3. Which of the following is NOT a consequence of drug abuse among Ghanaian youth?
 - A. Academic failure and school dropout
 - B. Increased civic participation and community service
 - C. Mental illness and psychological disorders
 - D. Criminal behaviour and social deviance

4. Child labour is defined as work that
 - A. is performed voluntarily by children above 13 years
 - B. is light domestic work supervised by parents
 - C. deprives children of their right to education, health and normal development
 - D. involves children working alongside adults in formal businesses

5. The PRIMARY purpose of puberty rites in Ghanaian society is to
 - A. prepare young people for marriage immediately after the rite
 - B. mark the transition from childhood to adulthood and teach community values
 - C. collect bride price and confirm family alliances
 - D. identify children with special spiritual powers

6. Which of the following BEST distinguishes informal education from formal education?
 - A. Informal education leads to a recognised certificate while formal education does not
 - B. Informal education occurs naturally through daily life experiences without a structured curriculum
 - C. Informal education is provided only in urban areas
 - D. Informal education is funded by the government

7. Teenage pregnancy in Ghana is MOST likely to lead to
 - A. increased female participation in tertiary education
 - B. a reduction in the country's dependency ratio
 - C. school dropout, poverty and health complications for the mother
 - D. stronger family bonds and community support

8. The MAIN reason why lavish funerals are considered a development challenge in Ghana is that they
 - A. contradict Christian and Islamic religious beliefs
 - B. divert household savings away from productive investment into non-productive spending

- C. cause environmental pollution from loud music
D. discourage foreign tourists from visiting Ghana
9. Which institution in Ghana is PRIMARILY responsible for protecting children's rights?
- A. Electoral Commission
B. National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)
C. Department of Social Welfare
D. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
10. A couple who met through their families, spent time getting to know each other's values, and then decided to marry are BEST said to have engaged in
- A. cohabitation
B. courtship
C. polygamy
D. concubinage
11. Rural-urban migration in Ghana PRIMARILY results in
- A. reduced pressure on urban infrastructure and services
B. labour shortages in rural agricultural communities
C. improved food security in urban areas
D. reduced crime rates in cities
12. The trokosi system practised in parts of the Volta Region of Ghana is best described as
- A. a traditional coming-of-age ceremony for young men
B. a form of ritual servitude that violates the human rights of young girls
C. a traditional method of conflict resolution between families
D. a system of land tenure specific to the Ewe people
13. Which of the following CORRECTLY describes a nuclear family?
- A. A household consisting of parents, children, grandparents and extended relatives
B. A household consisting of a father, mother and their biological or adopted children only
C. A group of people related by blood living in the same community
D. A household headed by a single parent
14. The population of Ghana is described as having a high dependency ratio MAINLY because
- A. most Ghanaians are elderly and retired
B. a large proportion of the population is below 15 years or above 65 years
C. women outnumber men significantly in the working population
D. most workers are employed in the informal sector
15. The judiciary in Ghana is responsible for
- A. making laws for the country through Parliament
B. implementing government policies and programmes
C. interpreting laws and administering justice independently
D. defending the country's territorial boundaries
16. The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) in Ghana was established PRIMARILY to
- A. train police officers in human rights practices
B. investigate allegations of human rights violations and administrative injustice
C. manage the country's prisons and correctional facilities

- D. register political parties and monitor elections
17. Which of the following is a feature of a UNITARY state system of government?
- A. Power is shared equally between central government and regional governments
 - B. Each state has its own constitution independent of the central government
 - C. Political and administrative authority is concentrated in the central government
 - D. The head of state and head of government are always different people
18. Decentralisation in Ghana refers to the process of
- A. transferring power, resources and decision-making from the central government to local authorities
 - B. reducing the size of the national army and security forces
 - C. removing government subsidies from public utilities
 - D. distributing Ghana's population evenly across all regions
19. The Electoral Commission of Ghana is BEST described as
- A. a department under the Office of the President
 - B. an independent constitutional body responsible for organising elections
 - C. a parliamentary committee that monitors voting behaviour
 - D. an NGO funded by international donors to observe elections
20. A citizen who refuses to pay taxes, litters public spaces and ignores jury duty is BEST described as failing in their
- A. political rights
 - B. fundamental freedoms
 - C. civic responsibilities
 - D. cultural obligations
21. The MAIN purpose of the National Security apparatus in Ghana is to
- A. suppress political opposition and protest
 - B. protect the state, its institutions and citizens from internal and external threats
 - C. manage immigration and citizenship applications
 - D. enforce tax collection on behalf of the Ghana Revenue Authority
22. Which of the following BEST describes the rule of law?
- A. The principle that only lawyers and judges may make decisions in society
 - B. The principle that all persons and institutions are equally subject to and accountable under the law
 - C. The authority of traditional rulers to enforce customary laws in their communities
 - D. The power of Parliament to override decisions made by the judiciary
23. Land conflicts in Ghana are MOST commonly caused by
- A. climate change and desertification
 - B. unclear land tenure systems, overlapping ownership claims and population pressure
 - C. the discovery of new mineral deposits on farmland
 - D. the construction of new government infrastructure projects
24. Which of the following is NOT a function of Ghana's District Assemblies?
- A. Mobilising revenue for local development projects
 - B. Providing basic social services such as sanitation and markets
 - C. Enacting national laws and constitutional amendments
 - D. Planning and overseeing local physical development
25. The MAIN benefit of Ghana's membership in the Commonwealth is

- A. access to military alliances and joint defence agreements
 - B. scholarships, technical assistance and preferential trade arrangements with member countries
 - C. the right to use the British pound as legal tender
 - D. exemption from World Trade Organisation trade rules
26. Which article of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana specifically guarantees freedom of speech and expression?
- A. Article 3
 - B. Article 13
 - C. Article 21
 - D. Article 35
27. A situation where a government uses state resources to reward party supporters and punish opponents is BEST described as
- A. nationalism
 - B. federalism
 - C. meritocracy
 - D. partisanship
28. Which of the following BEST defines the term "sustainable development"?
- A. Development that uses all available natural resources for maximum economic output
 - B. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
 - C. Development that is funded entirely through foreign aid and international loans
 - D. Development that focuses exclusively on urban infrastructure
29. Ghana's MAIN export commodity, which has historically been the backbone of its agricultural exports, is
- A. coffee
 - B. rubber
 - C. cocoa
 - D. palm oil
30. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) PRIMARILY benefits Ghana by
- A. reducing the country's national debt automatically
 - B. bringing in capital, technology, employment and management expertise
 - C. guaranteeing the repatriation of profits to Ghanaian investors
 - D. replacing the need for domestic savings and local investment
31. Which of the following is a CHALLENGE facing Ghana's agricultural sector?
- A. Excessive mechanisation leading to overproduction
 - B. Over-reliance on irrigation rather than rainfall
 - C. Dependence on subsistence and small-scale farming with limited access to credit and technology
 - D. Too many farmers entering the export commodity market
32. The BALANCE OF TRADE refers to
- A. the total value of a country's GDP divided by its population
 - B. the difference between the value of a country's exports and the value of its imports
 - C. the amount of foreign currency held in the central bank's reserves
 - D. the ratio of government revenue to government expenditure

- 33.** Tourism contributes to Ghana's economic development MAINLY by
- A. reducing the need for foreign direct investment in the country
 - B. earning foreign exchange, creating employment and stimulating local businesses
 - C. providing government revenue through income tax on tourists
 - D. reducing the number of Ghanaians who migrate abroad
- 34.** Which of the following BEST describes the informal sector of Ghana's economy?
- A. Businesses that are registered with the Ghana Revenue Authority but avoid paying taxes
 - B. Economic activities that are not formally registered, regulated or taxed by the government
 - C. Foreign companies operating in Ghana without official licences
 - D. Government-owned enterprises that operate without parliamentary oversight
- 35.** The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in
- A. 2000
 - B. 2010
 - C. 2015
 - D. 2020
- 36.** Which of the following is an example of a CAPITAL INTENSIVE method of production?
- A. Harvesting crops using hand tools and family labour
 - B. Using automated machinery and modern equipment to manufacture goods in a factory
 - C. Selling goods in a local market without a fixed business location
 - D. Providing services door-to-door in residential communities
- 37.** An entrepreneur who reinvests profits back into the business rather than withdrawing them is said to be
- A. practising financial fraud
 - B. ploughing back profit
 - C. engaging in deficit financing
 - D. liquidating the business
- 38.** Which of the following CORRECTLY describes a NEGATIVE effect of Foreign Direct Investment on Ghana?
- A. It brings technology and management skills to Ghana
 - B. It creates employment for Ghanaian workers
 - C. Profits are often repatriated abroad, reducing the net benefit to the Ghanaian economy
 - D. It increases competition in domestic markets
- 39.** The PRIMARY goal of Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) is to
- A. fund the salaries of doctors and nurses in government hospitals
 - B. provide financial protection to Ghanaians against the cost of healthcare
 - C. replace all private hospitals with government-owned facilities
 - D. fund the construction of new hospitals in every district
- 40.** A Ghanaian company that produces locally and sells its goods to customers in Nigeria and Togo is engaged in
- A. domestic trade
 - B. retail trade
 - C. import trade
 - D. export trade

PAPER 2 — ESSAY

Answer any FIVE questions · At least ONE and no more than TWO from each section · 20 marks each

SECTION A — The Environment**Question 1****[20 marks]**

- (a) Explain the term **drug abuse** and identify **two** commonly abused substances among Ghanaian youth. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** negative effects of drug abuse on the individual, family and community in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Outline **four** measures that schools, families and the government can adopt to prevent and reduce drug abuse among Ghanaian youth. **[8 marks]**

Question 2**[20 marks]**

- (a) Explain the term **child labour** and state **two** international conventions that protect children from exploitation. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** factors that drive the practice of child labour in Ghanaian communities. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Outline **four** consequences of child labour on the long-term development of affected children and on national development in Ghana. **[8 marks]**

Question 3**[20 marks]**

- (a) Explain the role of the **school** as an agent of socialisation in Ghana, giving **two** examples of values it transmits. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** ways in which the **peer group** as an agent of socialisation influences the behaviour and development of adolescents in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Propose **four** measures that parents and schools can adopt to protect adolescents from negative peer group influence in Ghana. **[8 marks]**

Question 4**[20 marks]**

- (a) Distinguish between **teenage pregnancy** and **ectopic pregnancy** as reproductive health issues in Ghana. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Explain **four** social and economic factors that contribute to the high rate of teenage pregnancy in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Discuss **four** measures that the Ministry of Health, schools and communities can adopt to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy in Ghana. **[8 marks]**

SECTION B — Governance, Politics and Stability**Question 5****[20 marks]**

- (a) Explain **two** reasons why the independence of the judiciary is essential for democratic governance in Ghana. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** ways in which the judiciary contributes to the protection of human rights and the rule of law in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Outline **four** challenges that hinder the effective administration of justice by Ghana's judiciary, and suggest one solution to each. **[8 marks]**

Question 6**[20 marks]**

- (a) Explain the term **decentralisation** and state **two** objectives it seeks to achieve in Ghana. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** ways in which District Assemblies contribute to local governance and community development in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Outline **four** challenges that District Assemblies face in effectively carrying out their functions in Ghana. **[8 marks]**

Question 7**[20 marks]**

- (a) State **two** functions of the Electoral Commission of Ghana and explain why its independence is important. **[4 marks]**
- (b) Discuss **four** factors that can undermine the conduct of free and fair elections in Ghana. **[8 marks]**
- (c) Propose **four** measures that can be taken by the Electoral Commission, civil society and citizens to ensure credible elections in Ghana. **[8 marks]**

SECTION C — Social and Economic Development

Question 8

[20 marks]

- (a) Distinguish between **tourism** and **ecotourism**, giving one example of each in Ghana. [4 marks]
- (b) Discuss **four** ways in which the development of the tourism sector can contribute to Ghana's economic growth and national development. [8 marks]
- (c) Outline **four** challenges that hinder the full development of Ghana's tourism potential, and suggest one solution to each challenge. [8 marks]

Question 9

[20 marks]

- (a) Explain the term **balance of trade** and distinguish between a **favourable** and an **unfavourable** balance of trade. [4 marks]
- (b) Discuss **four** ways in which Ghana can improve its balance of trade and reduce its dependence on imports. [8 marks]
- (c) Explain **four** effects of an unfavourable balance of trade on Ghana's economy and the living standards of Ghanaians. [8 marks]

Question 10

[20 marks]

- (a) Explain the term **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** and state **two** reasons why Ghana seeks to attract foreign investors. [4 marks]
- (b) Discuss **four** positive effects of Foreign Direct Investment on Ghana's economic and social development. [8 marks]
- (c) Outline **four** negative effects of Foreign Direct Investment and suggest measures Ghana can take to maximise its benefits while minimising harm. [8 marks]

ANSWERS — PAPER 1 (OBJECTIVES)Check each answer carefully — understand **WHY** the correct option is right

1. B	2. B	3. B	4. C	5. B
6. B	7. C	8. B	9. C	10. B
11. B	12. B	13. B	14. B	15. C
16. B	17. C	18. A	19. B	20. C
21. B	22. B	23. B	24. C	25. B
26. C	27. D	28. B	29. C	30. B
31. C	32. B	33. B	34. B	35. C
36. B	37. B	38. C	39. B	40. D

Notes on selected answers:

Q14: B — Ghana's population is very young; about 38% are under 15. This large non-working group creates a high dependency ratio, straining education, health and economic resources.

Q18: A — Decentralisation moves power downward from the central government to local government structures, not just administrative deconcentration.

Q24: C — Enacting national laws is the exclusive function of Parliament. District Assemblies pass by-laws only, which are local and subordinate to national legislation.

Q28: B — The Brundtland Commission definition: development that meets present needs without compromising future generations. Options A, C and D all describe unsustainable or narrow forms of development.

Q38: C — Profit repatriation is a well-documented negative effect of FDI. Options A, B and D are all POSITIVE effects and therefore incorrect answers to a question asking for a NEGATIVE effect.

Q40: D — Selling goods produced in Ghana to customers in Nigeria and Togo is export trade. Import trade is the reverse. Domestic trade stays within Ghana.

ANSWERS — PAPER 2 (ESSAY)

Attempt ALL questions BEFORE checking · Each point = 2 marks (1 for point + 1 for explanation)

Points must be explained with development — a list of headings without explanation earns no marks.

SECTION A — MODEL ANSWERS

Question 1

(a) Drug Abuse [4 marks]

Drug abuse refers to the excessive, improper or non-medical use of chemical substances — including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana (wee), heroin, cocaine, tramadol and prescription medicines — in ways that are harmful to the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the user.

Commonly abused substances in Ghana: **Cannabis (marijuana/wee)** — widely abused especially among male youth in urban areas; and **Tramadol** — a prescription painkiller increasingly abused for its euphoric effects, particularly among youth in northern Ghana.

Marking: 2 marks for clear definition. 1 mark per substance named with brief context. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Effects of Drug Abuse [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per well-explained effect. Any four from:

- **Physical health deterioration:** Prolonged drug abuse damages vital organs — the liver (alcohol), lungs (marijuana and tobacco), and brain (cocaine, heroin) — leading to chronic illness, malnutrition, premature ageing and early death.
- **Mental illness and psychological disorders:** Drug abuse is closely linked to psychosis, schizophrenia, severe depression and suicidal behaviour. Cannabis abuse in particular is associated with drug-induced psychosis among Ghanaian youth, leading to long-term hospitalisation.
- **Academic failure and loss of economic productivity:** Substance-dependent students suffer concentration problems, absenteeism and school dropout. Working adults who abuse drugs lose productivity, are frequently absent or dismissed, and become economically dependent on family members.
- **Family breakdown and domestic violence:** Drug-dependent individuals frequently neglect parental and spousal responsibilities. Addiction drives financial irresponsibility, domestic violence and ultimately the collapse of family units, leaving children without adequate care.
- **Increased crime and social insecurity:** The financial cost of sustaining addiction leads many abusers to steal, rob or engage in illegal activities including drug trafficking, creating insecurity in communities and overburdening the police and judicial system.
- **Social stigma and exclusion:** Drug abusers are frequently ostracised by their families and communities, cutting them off from social support networks and making rehabilitation and reintegration into productive society extremely difficult.

(c) Prevention Measures [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per measure. Any four from:

- **Comprehensive drug education in schools:** Schools should integrate age-appropriate, evidence-based drug education into the curriculum from basic school level, teaching students about the health consequences of drug abuse and equipping them with refusal skills to resist peer pressure.
- **Parental involvement and home monitoring:** Parents must actively monitor their children's friendships, online activities and whereabouts, maintain open communication about the dangers of drugs, and create a supportive home environment that reduces the emotional triggers that lead young people to substance use.
- **Strengthening law enforcement against drug trafficking:** The Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC) and police should conduct regular raids on drug supply networks, prosecute traffickers under Ghana's Narcotic Drugs Law, and dismantle the supply chains that make drugs accessible to youth.
- **Rehabilitation and treatment centres:** The government should increase funding for community-based drug rehabilitation centres where addicts can access counseling, detoxification and vocational training, enabling them to recover and reintegrate into productive society without criminalisation.
- **Youth empowerment and alternative activities:** Establishing well-resourced youth centres, sports facilities, arts programmes and skills training initiatives provides constructive alternatives to drug use and reduces the idleness and hopelessness that drive many young people to substance abuse.
- **Community and religious leader engagement:** Chiefs, pastors, imams and community leaders should actively preach against drug abuse in their communities, create peer accountability networks and work with health agencies to conduct regular community sensitisation campaigns.

Question 2**(a) Child Labour [4 marks]**

Child labour refers to work performed by children that is mentally, physically, socially or morally harmful and dangerous, that deprives them of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that interferes with their schooling by preventing attendance, requiring early school leaving or demanding that they combine attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

International conventions: **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989)** — ratified by Ghana — which guarantees children the right to education, protection from exploitation and a safe childhood; and **ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention)** — sets the minimum age for employment at 15 years (or the age of completion of compulsory schooling).

Marking: 2 marks for definition. 1 mark per convention correctly named. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Factors Driving Child Labour [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per factor. Any four from:

- **Household poverty and economic hardship:** In poor families — particularly in rural farming and fishing communities — children's labour is seen as an economic necessity. Parents in subsistence households rely on children to contribute to family income or agricultural work simply to survive, making education a luxury they cannot afford.
- **Lack of access to quality education:** In communities where schools are distant, fees are unaffordable, or educational quality is poor, parents see little economic value in sending children to school and prefer to have them contribute to household production or send them to work in nearby towns.
- **Cultural norms and traditional apprenticeship systems:** In some Ghanaian communities, it is culturally accepted and even expected for children to assist parents in farming, fishing or trading from an early age as part of their socialisation and skills training, making it difficult to distinguish child labour from cultural practice.
- **Demand from employers in informal sectors:** Employers in cocoa farming, fishing (particularly on Lake Volta), domestic service and petty trading actively recruit children because they can be paid less than adults, are easier to control and can be dismissed without legal consequences, creating a demand that perpetuates the practice.
- **Breakdown of family structures:** Children from broken homes, orphaned children and those placed with distant relatives as domestic helpers (the "kayayei" and house-help system) are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, as their primary caregivers may not prioritise their rights or education.
- **Weak enforcement of child protection laws:** Despite existing legislation including the Children's Act (1998), weak enforcement capacity, inadequate social workers and limited penalties for offenders allow child labour to persist across sectors without sufficient deterrence.

(c) Consequences of Child Labour [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per consequence. Any four from:

- **Deprivation of education and reduced human capital:** Children who work instead of attending school miss foundational literacy and numeracy skills, permanently limiting their employment prospects, earning capacity and ability to contribute to national development as adults — perpetuating inter-generational poverty.
- **Physical health damage:** Children engaged in hazardous work — carrying heavy loads, working with chemicals in mining, operating fishing nets in deep water — suffer musculoskeletal injuries, respiratory diseases, drowning and other physical harm at a stage when their bodies are still developing.
- **Psychological trauma and loss of childhood:** Exposure to adult working environments, physical abuse from employers, sexual exploitation (particularly among girls in domestic service) and the stress of economic responsibility cause lasting psychological damage including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress.
- **Perpetuation of poverty cycles:** Without education, child labourers grow into adults with limited skills and earning capacity, who are then more likely to rely on their own children's labour — perpetuating a self-reinforcing cycle of poverty that spans generations and slows national development.
- **Loss of national human resource base:** A country that allows large numbers of its children to leave school early and enter unskilled labour systematically depletes its future human capital, reducing the pool of educated, skilled citizens needed to drive industrialisation, technological innovation and economic transformation.
- **Social inequality and exclusion:** Child labourers who miss education are permanently excluded from formal sector employment, professional careers and civic participation, widening inequality between those who received education and those who were exploited — creating social stratification that undermines national unity.

Question 3**(a) The School as Agent of Socialisation [4 marks]**

The **school** is a formal institution that socialises children by transmitting knowledge, skills, values, norms and cultural practices through structured education delivered by trained teachers within a defined curriculum.

Unlike the family, it exposes children to a broader peer group and society's formal rules.

Values transmitted by the school in Ghana: **Discipline and punctuality** — through rules, timetables and expectations of orderly conduct; and **National identity and patriotism** — through the national pledge, the singing of the national anthem, history lessons and civic education.

Marking: 2 marks for clear explanation of school's socialisation role. 1 mark per example with brief explanation. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Peer Group Influence [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Shaping identity and self-concept:** Adolescents seek acceptance and approval from peers, who become a primary reference group for determining what is "cool", desirable or normal. Peer acceptance validates identity and boosts self-esteem; rejection causes anxiety and insecurity — making adolescents highly responsive to peer norms and behaviours.
- **Transmitting social norms and behaviours:** Peer groups establish informal rules about dress, language, music preferences and recreational activities. Adolescents who want to belong conform to these norms, absorbing patterns of behaviour — both positive (studiousness, sportsmanship) and negative (truancy, drug use) — from their friendship circles.
- **Encouraging academic achievement or failure:** Peers who prioritise education motivate each other to study, complete assignments and aspire to university. Conversely, peer groups that devalue schooling can normalise truancy, cheating and early school dropout, particularly in low-income communities where academic success has low social currency.
- **Introducing risk behaviours:** The desire to fit in and experimentation characteristic of adolescence makes young people vulnerable to peer pressure to try alcohol, drugs, tobacco, unprotected sex or criminal behaviour. First use of harmful substances is almost always in a peer group context rather than alone.
- **Providing emotional support and a sense of belonging:** For adolescents experiencing family conflict or home instability, peer groups provide emotional support, companionship and belonging. While this can be protective, it can also make vulnerable youth highly susceptible to manipulation by antisocial peer networks.
- **Influencing future aspirations and career choices:** Peer group conversations, shared experiences and collective aspirations significantly shape what adolescents consider possible or desirable in terms of education and careers — particularly in communities where certain professions have high peer prestige.

(c) Protecting Adolescents from Negative Peer Influence [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per measure. Any four from:

- **Open parent-child communication:** Parents should create a home environment where adolescents feel safe discussing peer pressure, social challenges and temptations without fear of punishment. When children trust their parents as advisors rather than judges, they are more likely to seek parental guidance before making risky decisions.
- **Teaching critical thinking and assertiveness skills:** Schools should incorporate lessons and role-play activities that teach adolescents how to recognise manipulation, say no confidently without social consequence and make independent decisions based on their own values rather than group pressure.
- **Positive extracurricular engagement:** Structured participation in sports, arts, debating clubs, religious youth groups and community service provides adolescents with prosocial peer networks that reinforce positive values, reducing the time and motivation available for risky peer activities.
- **Mentorship programmes:** Schools and NGOs should pair at-risk adolescents with positive role models — older students, community professionals or alumni — who can provide guidance, share experiences of resisting negative peer pressure and demonstrate alternative pathways to success and social acceptance.
- **Parental monitoring without surveillance:** Parents should know their children's friends, their whereabouts and their online activities. Setting reasonable boundaries, establishing curfews and maintaining awareness of their social environment reduces exposure to antisocial peer contexts without alienating adolescents.
- **School-based counseling and peer support programmes:** Every school should have trained counselors who provide individual and group counseling to students navigating peer pressure challenges, and student peer support networks where trained student leaders help classmates identify and resist negative influences.

Question 4**(a) Teenage Pregnancy vs Ectopic Pregnancy [4 marks]**

Teenage pregnancy refers to a pregnancy that occurs in a female who is aged 19 years or younger — typically before she has completed her education, achieved economic independence or is emotionally and physically ready for motherhood. It is a major public health and social development challenge in Ghana.

Ectopic pregnancy is a medical complication in which a fertilised egg implants and begins to develop outside the uterus — most commonly in a fallopian tube — rather than in the uterine lining. It is a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate medical intervention as the tube may rupture.

Key distinction: Teenage pregnancy is defined by the AGE of the mother and has primarily social causes; ectopic pregnancy is defined by the LOCATION of implantation and is a medical emergency unrelated to age.

Marking: 2 marks for teenage pregnancy. 2 marks for ectopic pregnancy with clear distinction. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Factors Contributing to Teenage Pregnancy [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per factor. Any four from:

- **Poverty and economic vulnerability:** Girls from poor households are particularly vulnerable to transactional sex — exchanging sexual favours for money, school fees, food or gifts from older men (the "sugar daddy" phenomenon). Economic desperation removes their power to negotiate safe sex or refuse unwanted advances.
- **Lack of comprehensive sexuality education:** In many Ghanaian schools and homes, sexuality is a taboo subject. Adolescents who are not given accurate information about reproduction, contraception and consent are poorly equipped to make informed decisions about their sexual health, making unintended pregnancy more likely.
- **Peer pressure and media influence:** Social pressure to be sexually active to be considered mature, coupled with the glorification of early sexual relationships in popular music, social media and Ghanaian film (Kumawood), normalises teenage sexual activity and reduces the perceived social cost of pregnancy.
- **Early marriage and cultural practices:** In some communities in northern Ghana and parts of the Volta Region, girls are betrothed or married before or shortly after puberty under customary arrangements, leading to pregnancies at very young ages within or outside formal marriage.
- **Limited access to contraception and reproductive health services:** Social stigma around young unmarried women seeking contraception, the cost of reproductive health services, and the limited availability of youth-friendly health facilities mean that sexually active adolescents frequently do not use effective contraception.
- **Weak family supervision and absent fathers:** Girls in households with absent fathers, parents who work long hours or homes affected by alcohol abuse receive less supervision and emotional support, making them more susceptible to inappropriate relationships with older males who exploit their need for affection and attention.

(c) Measures to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per measure. Any four from:

- **Comprehensive sexuality education in schools:** The Ministry of Education should mandate age-appropriate, evidence-based sexuality and reproductive health education in all SHS and JHS institutions, covering contraception, consent, healthy relationships and the social and economic consequences of early pregnancy.
- **Expanding access to youth-friendly reproductive health services:** Health centres should be equipped and staff trained to provide confidential, non-judgmental reproductive health services — including contraceptive counseling and supplies — to adolescents, removing financial and social barriers to protection.
- **Empowering girls through education and economic opportunity:** Girls who are in school, aspire to careers and see a positive future for themselves are significantly less likely to become pregnant as teenagers. Scholarships, bursaries and conditional cash transfers that keep girls in school are among the most evidence-based interventions for preventing teenage pregnancy.
- **Community sensitisation and engagement of traditional leaders:** Chiefs and community elders should be engaged as advocates against child marriage, transactional sex and the social acceptance of teenage pregnancy, using their authority to establish and enforce community norms that protect girls' rights.
- **Enforcement of laws against defilement and child marriage:** The Criminal Offences Act and Children's Act provide legal protection against sexual exploitation of minors. Active prosecution of offenders — including the men who impregnate teenage girls — creates a deterrent and signals that exploitation has legal consequences.
- **Parental education and family planning campaigns:** The Ghana Health Service and NGOs should conduct community campaigns that educate parents on how to discuss reproductive health with their children, recognise warning signs of exploitation and create protective home environments.

SECTION B — MODEL ANSWERS

Question 5

(a) Independence of the Judiciary [4 marks]

Award 2 marks per reason. Any two from:

- **Prevention of executive overreach:** If the judiciary were under the control of the President or Parliament, the executive could direct courts to rule in its favour — allowing governments to escape accountability, silence critics through biased prosecution and violate citizens' rights without legal consequence. Independence ensures that the law applies equally to rulers and citizens alike.
- **Protection of minority rights and individual liberties:** An independent judiciary can strike down laws or executive actions that violate the constitutional rights of unpopular minorities, even when majorities support such laws. Without this independence, democratic majorities could legally oppress minorities.
- **Building public trust in the justice system:** Citizens and investors are more likely to trust, use and comply with a legal system they perceive as impartial. An independent judiciary encourages citizens to resolve disputes through legal channels rather than self-help or violence.

Marking: 2 marks per reason with explanation. Total = 4 marks.

(b) How the Judiciary Protects Rights and Rule of Law [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Judicial review of unconstitutional laws:** The Supreme Court of Ghana can strike down any legislation or executive action that violates the 1992 Constitution, ensuring that no law — regardless of parliamentary majority — can legally override citizens' fundamental rights.
- **Enforcement of the writ of habeas corpus:** Courts can order the immediate release of any person who has been unlawfully detained without charge, protecting citizens from arbitrary arrest and prolonged illegal imprisonment by state security agencies.
- **Criminal prosecution and sentencing:** By independently prosecuting and convicting individuals who commit crimes — including crimes committed by public officials — the judiciary deters future violations of citizens' rights and enforces the principle that no one is above the law.
- **Providing a peaceful forum for dispute resolution:** Courts provide a structured, non-violent mechanism for resolving disputes between citizens, businesses and the state — replacing potentially violent self-help with ordered legal processes that respect all parties' rights.
- **Protection of property rights and contracts:** By enforcing property rights and contractual obligations, courts protect citizens and businesses from exploitation, create certainty for investment and ensure that economic transactions are conducted within a predictable legal framework.
- **Oversight of executive action through administrative law:** Administrative courts and tribunals allow citizens to challenge unlawful government decisions — including wrongful dismissals, irregular licence revocations and abusive regulatory actions — holding state institutions accountable to the law.

(c) Challenges to Justice Administration and Solutions [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per challenge with solution. Any four from:

- **Delays in case resolution (congested dockets):** Ghana's courts are severely backlogged, with cases taking years to resolve — denying timely justice and keeping accused persons in pretrial detention for extended periods. **Solution:** Increase the number of judges and court infrastructure, invest in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms and digitise court records to speed up proceedings.
- **Corruption and perceived bias:** Allegations of bribery, favouritism and political influence over court decisions undermine public trust in judicial impartiality. **Solution:** Strengthen the Judicial Council's disciplinary powers, establish an independent anti-corruption unit within the judiciary and improve judicial remuneration to reduce financial vulnerability.
- **High cost of legal services:** Legal representation is expensive, making access to justice effectively a privilege of the wealthy. **Solution:** Expand the Legal Aid Commission's reach, increase public funding for legal aid services and encourage pro bono work by the Ghana Bar Association.
- **Low public legal literacy:** Many Ghanaians — particularly in rural areas — are unaware of their legal rights, how to access courts or how to seek redress for violations. **Solution:** Integrate legal education into school curricula, fund community legal education programmes through the NCCE and CHRAJ and make court processes more accessible in local languages.
- **Infrastructure deficit in rural areas:** Courts are concentrated in regional capitals, making access to justice difficult for citizens in rural districts who cannot afford transport costs or time away from work. **Solution:** Establish more district magistrate courts, promote mobile court services and leverage technology for virtual hearings.
- **Interference by the executive and political pressure:** Political pressure on judges in high-profile cases involving government officials can compromise judicial independence. **Solution:** Strengthen constitutional protections for judicial tenure, make the appointment process more transparent and increase accountability mechanisms for political interference.

Question 6**(a) Decentralisation [4 marks]**

Decentralisation refers to the deliberate transfer of political, administrative and fiscal authority, responsibilities and resources from the central government in Accra to local government structures — principally District, Municipal and Metropolitan Assemblies — to bring governance closer to the people and improve service delivery.

Objectives of decentralisation in Ghana: **(i) To promote participatory democracy** — by enabling citizens at the local level to participate in decisions that directly affect their communities through their elected Assembly members; and **(ii) To improve efficiency in service delivery** — by allowing local authorities to identify, plan and implement development projects that respond to specific local needs rather than applying national solutions.

Marking: 2 marks for definition. 1 mark per objective. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Contributions of District Assemblies [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Provision of basic social services:** District Assemblies fund and supervise the construction and maintenance of schools, health centres, potable water systems, public toilets and market facilities — directly improving the quality of life for residents in their jurisdictions.
- **Revenue mobilisation for local development:** Assemblies levy and collect property rates, business operating permits and service fees that provide a local revenue base for financing community development projects without sole dependence on central government transfers.
- **Local economic development and job creation:** By constructing roads, markets and industrial parks, and supporting small business growth through permits and land allocation, District Assemblies create an enabling environment for local economic activity and employment.
- **Community participation in planning:** Through Unit Committees and town hall meetings, Assemblies engage residents in identifying development priorities, monitoring project implementation and holding local officials accountable — deepening participatory democracy at the grassroots level.
- **Environmental management and sanitation:** Assemblies are responsible for waste management, sanitation enforcement, byelaw enactment and the maintenance of public spaces — contributing directly to public health, environmental quality and the livability of communities.
- **Security and law enforcement support:** District Assemblies work with the police, traditional authorities and community security structures to maintain local order, resolve community disputes and manage local emergencies, contributing to the stability that development requires.

(c) Challenges Facing District Assemblies [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per challenge. Any four from:

- **Inadequate financial resources:** Most District Assemblies in Ghana — particularly in rural areas — are heavily dependent on the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) and donor support. Locally generated revenue is minimal, limiting their capacity to finance meaningful development projects independently.
- **Low internally generated revenue (IGR):** The informal nature of most local economies makes it difficult for assemblies to identify taxable properties, collect business levies and enforce payment compliance, resulting in persistent underfunding relative to community needs.
- **Politicisation and partisan interference:** District Chief Executives are appointed by the President, making them politically accountable to the central government rather than local residents. This compromises the independence of assemblies and can result in development decisions that reflect partisan interests rather than community priorities.
- **Lack of qualified and skilled staff:** Many district assemblies lack technically skilled planners, engineers, accountants and administrators, reducing the quality of project planning, implementation and financial management. High staff turnover compounds this challenge.
- **Low civic participation:** Many citizens — especially in rural areas — are unaware of assembly processes, do not attend town hall meetings and do not engage with their unit committee members, leaving assemblies without the public input and accountability that participatory governance requires.
- **Poor infrastructure and limited equipment:** Inadequate office space, computers, vehicles and communication infrastructure hampers the ability of district assemblies to efficiently administer their jurisdictions, conduct inspections and maintain consistent contact with all communities under their authority.

Question 7

(a) Electoral Commission [4 marks]

Functions of the Electoral Commission of Ghana: **(i) Organising and conducting all public elections** — including presidential, parliamentary and district assembly elections — in a free, fair and transparent manner in accordance with the Constitution and electoral laws; and **(ii) Compiling, maintaining and updating the national voter register** — ensuring that all eligible citizens are registered to vote and that the register is accurate and free from duplication.

Importance of EC independence: An independent EC ensures that elections are not manipulated by the ruling government, that all political parties receive equal treatment and that results reflect the genuine will of the electorate — making electoral outcomes credible and reducing post-election conflict.

Marking: 1 mark per function. 2 marks for explanation of importance. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Factors That Undermine Free and Fair Elections [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per factor. Any four from:

- **Voter intimidation and political violence:** The use of political vigilante groups — as has been documented in Ghana's elections — to intimidate voters, assault opponents and disrupt polling stations prevents free voting and disproportionately silences vulnerable communities.
- **Vote buying and monetisation of elections:** Candidates and parties who distribute cash, food, clothing and other gifts in exchange for votes corrupt the democratic process by replacing policy-based voting with transactional loyalty, undermining informed electoral choice and entrenching financial barriers to entry for candidates.
- **Manipulation of the voter register:** Deliberate inflation of voter rolls through ghost registrations, multiple registrations or inclusion of ineligible voters can distort results. Conversely, systematic exclusion of opposition strongholds from registration exercises can disenfranchise legitimate voters.
- **Media bias and misinformation:** Partisan media coverage that systematically favours one candidate, the spread of deliberate false information about candidates on social media and the use of "political communication" to suppress turnout among specific demographics undermine voters' ability to make informed choices.
- **Lack of electoral transparency:** Opaque processes in ballot printing, transportation, counting and result collation create opportunities for fraud and — equally damaging — generate suspicion among losers even when elections are honest, leading to rejection of results and post-election conflict.
- **Weak enforcement of electoral laws:** When offenders who buy votes, intimidate voters or violate campaign finance laws are not prosecuted, electoral misconduct is normalised. Impunity removes the deterrent that makes candidates and parties choose to compete fairly.

(c) Ensuring Credible Elections [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per measure. Any four from:

- **Continuous voter education campaigns:** The NCCE and Electoral Commission should conduct sustained civic education — not just during election periods — to inform citizens of their voting rights, how to identify electoral fraud and the importance of reporting irregularities to appropriate authorities.
- **Transparent voter registration and biometric verification:** The EC should use robust biometric registration technology to eliminate ghost voters, invest in regular voter register audits and make the register publicly available for scrutiny by all parties and civil society organisations.
- **Deployment of domestic and international observers:** A large, well-trained corps of accredited domestic observers from civil society organisations such as CDD-Ghana, CODEO and Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference, supplemented by international observers from the AU and ECOWAS, provides real-time accountability for the entire electoral process.
- **Prosecution of electoral offenders:** The Attorney-General and Electoral Commission must work together to ensure that vote buyers, ballot stuffers, intimidators and media misinformation spreaders are prosecuted under the electoral laws, creating effective deterrence and signalling that the rule of law applies to elections.
- **Inter-party dialogue and the signing of peace pacts:** The National Peace Council should facilitate the signing of binding peace pacts between political parties before each election, committing party leaders to renounce violence, respect results and use legal rather than extralegal means to contest disputed outcomes.
- **Reform of campaign finance laws:** Introducing and enforcing campaign spending limits, mandatory disclosure of funding sources and public financing options for qualified candidates levels the electoral playing field and reduces the dominance of money in determining electoral outcomes.

SECTION C — MODEL ANSWERS

Question 8

(a) Tourism vs Ecotourism [4 marks]

Tourism refers to the travel of individuals to places outside their usual environment for leisure, recreation, business, education or cultural experience, and the industries that serve them — including hospitality, transport, entertainment and food services.

Example in Ghana: **Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle** — heritage tourism sites that attract domestic and international visitors, particularly members of the African diaspora participating in the "Year of Return" and "Beyond the Return" programmes.

Ecotourism is a form of responsible travel to natural environments that conserves ecosystems, supports local community wellbeing and minimises environmental impact through low-footprint tourism experiences.

Example in Ghana: **Kakum National Park** in the Central Region — where visitors experience Ghana's rainforest canopy through suspended walkways while conservation fees fund habitat protection and community employment.

Marking: 1 mark for tourism definition + 1 mark for example. 1 mark for ecotourism definition + 1 mark for example. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Tourism and Economic Development [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Foreign exchange earnings:** International tourists bring hard currency into Ghana — paying for accommodation, transport, guided tours, food, crafts and entertainment. These foreign exchange inflows strengthen the cedi, improve Ghana's balance of payments and provide government revenue through taxes on tourism businesses.
- **Employment creation across multiple sectors:** Tourism generates direct employment in hotels, restaurants, travel agencies and tour guide services, and indirect employment in agriculture (supplying food to hotels), crafts (artisans selling to tourists), construction (building tourism infrastructure) and transport — making it one of the highest employment multipliers in the economy.
- **Development of infrastructure in tourism areas:** Government and private investment in roads, airports, electricity and telecommunications to serve tourism destinations such as Accra, Cape Coast and Tamale benefits local residents and businesses far beyond the tourism sector, accelerating broader regional development.
- **Promotion of local crafts and cultural industries:** Tourism creates a sustainable market for Kente cloth, Adinkra textiles, wood carvings, beadwork and other traditional crafts — preserving cultural heritage while generating income for local artisans and maintaining the viability of traditional industries.
- **Revenue for conservation and environmental protection:** Ecotourism entry fees and conservation levies at Mole National Park, Kakum and Bui generate revenue that funds wildlife protection, reforestation and ranger employment — demonstrating that environmental conservation is economically viable.
- **Stimulating private sector investment:** Tourism growth attracts private investment in hotels, resorts, airlines and entertainment infrastructure — expanding the tax base, creating competition and improving service quality in sectors that benefit all citizens, not just tourists.

(c) Challenges to Tourism Development and Solutions [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per challenge with solution. Any four from:

- **Poor tourism infrastructure:** Many of Ghana's tourism sites suffer from poor road access, inadequate accommodation, unreliable electricity and insufficient sanitation. **Solution:** The government should increase capital investment in tourism infrastructure, partner with private sector developers through public-private partnerships and prioritise road construction to key tourism sites.
- **Negative image and safety perceptions:** International media coverage of crime, political instability in the West African region and negative travel advisories issued by Western governments discourage potential tourists from visiting Ghana. **Solution:** The Ghana Tourism Authority should conduct aggressive international destination marketing campaigns and work with the police to improve security at tourist sites.
- **Inadequate trained tourism personnel:** A shortage of trained tour guides, hospitality professionals and tourism managers limits the quality of visitor experiences. **Solution:** Expand tourism and hospitality programmes in polytechnics and universities, fund apprenticeship training for tour guides and establish quality certification standards for tourism service providers.
- **Environmental degradation of natural tourism sites:** Plastic pollution, illegal logging, water contamination and overdevelopment near coastal and forested tourism areas are destroying the natural attractions that draw visitors. **Solution:** Enforce environmental protection regulations at tourism sites, impose plastic bans in key tourist zones and fund community-based conservation initiatives.
- **Limited domestic tourism culture:** Most Ghanaians do not visit domestic tourism sites — whether due to cost, lack of awareness or the perception that tourism is a foreign activity. **Solution:** Develop affordable domestic tourism packages, integrate local tourism into school curricula and create incentives for domestic tourists such as reduced entry fees.
- **Inadequate government funding and promotion:** The Ghana Tourism Authority and tourism development budget remain underfunded relative to the sector's potential. **Solution:** Increase the tourism development budget, create a Tourism Development Levy, and establish a dedicated tourism investment fund to attract private capital.

Question 9**(a) Balance of Trade [4 marks]**

The **balance of trade** refers to the difference between the monetary value of a country's total exports (goods sold to foreign countries) and its total imports (goods purchased from foreign countries) over a given period, typically one year.

A **favourable (positive) balance of trade** occurs when the value of exports EXCEEDS the value of imports — meaning the country earns more from selling abroad than it spends on foreign goods, creating a trade surplus that brings foreign currency into the economy.

An **unfavourable (negative) balance of trade** occurs when the value of imports EXCEEDS the value of exports — meaning the country spends more on foreign goods than it earns from exports, creating a trade deficit that causes foreign currency to flow out of the economy.

Marking: 2 marks for definition. 1 mark for favourable. 1 mark for unfavourable with clear distinction. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Improving Ghana's Balance of Trade [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Diversifying and increasing exports:** Ghana must move beyond dependence on raw commodity exports (cocoa, gold, oil) by developing value-added manufactured goods — processed cocoa products, textiles, pharmaceuticals and agro-processed foods — that command higher prices and are less vulnerable to commodity price swings.
- **Import substitution industrialisation:** By supporting local manufacturing of goods currently imported in large quantities — cooking oil, rice, sugar, textiles and basic electronics — Ghana reduces its import bill while creating domestic jobs and retaining consumer spending within the national economy.
- **Promoting agricultural modernisation to reduce food imports:** Ghana spends significant foreign exchange importing rice, tomato paste, poultry and other foods that could be produced domestically with sufficient investment. Modernising agriculture through improved seeds, irrigation and storage reduces these imports.
- **Developing non-traditional exports:** Ghana should aggressively develop non-traditional export sectors — including horticulture (pineapples, mangoes), aquaculture, handicrafts and creative industries — to expand the volume and diversity of export earnings beyond the traditional commodity base.
- **Reducing import dependency through consumer campaigns:** "Buy Ghana, Eat Ghana" campaigns that shift consumer preference from imported to locally produced goods directly reduce the import bill while stimulating domestic production — particularly effective for food, clothing and building materials.
- **Negotiating favourable trade agreements:** Active participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) opens new export markets across Africa for Ghanaian goods, allowing producers to sell to 1.4 billion African consumers and reducing dependence on distant and competitive European markets.

(c) Effects of Unfavourable Balance of Trade [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per effect. Any four from:

- **Depreciation of the Ghanaian cedi:** A persistent trade deficit means more foreign currency is flowing out of Ghana than coming in, reducing the supply of foreign exchange and increasing demand for it. This weakens the cedi against the dollar, pound and euro — making all imports more expensive and fuelling inflation.
- **Rising prices and inflation:** As the cedi depreciates, the cost of imported goods — including food, fuel, medicines, machinery and consumer electronics that Ghana depends on heavily — rises. This drives up the general price level, reducing the real purchasing power and living standards of Ghanaian consumers.
- **Accumulation of external debt:** To finance a persistent trade deficit, Ghana must borrow foreign currency — either from international financial markets, bilateral partners or institutions like the IMF — increasing the national debt, obligating the country to costly debt servicing and reducing future public investment capacity.
- **Deindustrialisation and unemployment:** When cheap imports undercut locally produced goods — as happened with Ghana's textile and poultry industries — domestic producers cannot compete and are forced to close, leading to factory shutdowns, mass retrenchments and rising unemployment in affected sectors.
- **Reduced government revenue:** Import duties and tariffs contribute significantly to Ghana's government revenue. However, a structural trade imbalance driven by high-value imports means that government spending on import subsidies (such as fuel) and the administrative costs of trade management outpace revenue gains from tariffs.
- **Loss of economic sovereignty and policy constraints:** Countries with chronic trade deficits often become dependent on IMF and World Bank programmes to stabilise their economies. These programmes typically impose austerity conditions — subsidy removal, currency devaluation, privatisation — that constrain the government's ability to pursue its own development priorities.

Question 10**(a) Foreign Direct Investment [4 marks]**

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to an investment made by an individual, company or government from one country into business interests in another country — typically involving the establishment of business operations or the acquisition of business assets — with the intention of establishing a lasting interest and significant degree of control.

Unlike portfolio investment (buying shares), FDI involves direct participation in management and operations. Examples in Ghana include Tullow Oil's investment in the Jubilee oil field, Vodafone's acquisition of Ghana Telecom and multinational manufacturing investments in the Tema Export Processing Zone.

Reasons Ghana seeks FDI: **(i) To supplement domestic savings and finance capital investment** that the domestic private sector and government cannot alone provide; and **(ii) To access foreign technology, management expertise and global market connections** that accelerate industrialisation and productivity growth.

Marking: 2 marks for definition. 1 mark per reason. Total = 4 marks.

(b) Positive Effects of FDI [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point. Any four from:

- **Capital inflow and investment financing:** FDI brings foreign capital that supplements Ghana's domestic savings, financing the construction of factories, mines, infrastructure and service facilities that the domestic private sector could not alone fund — accelerating economic development without increasing public debt.
- **Employment creation and skills development:** Foreign companies directly employ Ghanaian workers at wages typically higher than local market rates, while also training employees in modern management techniques, technical skills and professional practices that build human capital across the economy.
- **Technology transfer and productivity improvement:** Multinational companies bring advanced technologies, production processes and business systems into Ghana that are adopted by local suppliers, competitors and partners through knowledge spillovers — raising productivity standards across the economy.
- **Development of export capacity:** FDI in manufacturing and agro-processing — particularly in Ghana's Export Processing Zones — creates export-oriented production that earns foreign exchange, diversifies the export base and integrates Ghana into global value chains for textiles, electronics and processed foods.
- **Government revenue through taxes and royalties:** FDI companies pay corporate income tax, withholding taxes, import duties and — in the extractive sector — royalties and profit-sharing payments that fund government services. Ghana's oil revenue from Tullow Oil and other investors has funded significant public investment.
- **Infrastructure development:** Large FDI projects often require — and sometimes directly fund — the construction of roads, ports, power supply and water systems to serve their operations. These improvements benefit local communities and other businesses beyond the investing company.

(c) Negative Effects of FDI and Mitigation [8 marks]

Award 2 marks per point (effect + measure). Any four from:

- **Profit repatriation and capital flight:** A major share of FDI profits is repatriated to the investor's home country rather than reinvested in Ghana, reducing the net economic benefit. **Measure:** Ghana should negotiate investment agreements that require a minimum percentage of profits to be reinvested locally and enforce transfer pricing rules to prevent tax base erosion.
- **Crowding out of domestic businesses:** Large, well-resourced foreign companies can dominate markets and undercut local competitors on price, forcing domestic businesses to close and preventing local entrepreneurship from developing. **Measure:** Establish local content requirements — such as Ghana's Petroleum Local Content and Local Participation Policy — that mandate foreign companies to partner with, source from and subcontract to Ghanaian businesses.
- **Environmental damage and resource depletion:** FDI in mining, oil extraction and manufacturing can cause severe environmental harm — as seen with the environmental damage caused by some Chinese mining operations in Ghana. **Measure:** Enforce rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) before approving projects, establish environmental bonds and ensure that the EPA has the capacity and independence to monitor and prosecute violators.
- **Exploitation of labour and poor working conditions:** Some foreign companies — particularly in informal sectors — pay minimum wages while subjecting workers to unsafe conditions, long hours and union-busting. **Measure:** Rigorously enforce Ghana's Labour Act (2003) through regular factory inspections, protect workers' rights to organise and impose meaningful penalties for violations.
- **Transfer pricing and tax avoidance:** Multinational companies manipulate intra-company transactions to shift profits to lower-tax jurisdictions — depriving Ghana of tax revenue. **Measure:** Strengthen the Ghana Revenue Authority's transfer pricing unit, participate in OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) frameworks and require transparent country-by-country tax reporting.
- **Enclave development and limited local linkages:** Some FDI — particularly in extractive industries — operates as an economic "enclave," importing most inputs and exporting most outputs without meaningful economic integration with the local economy. **Measure:** Include mandatory local procurement targets in investment agreements, develop local supplier capacity and link FDI projects to upstream and downstream domestic industries.

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