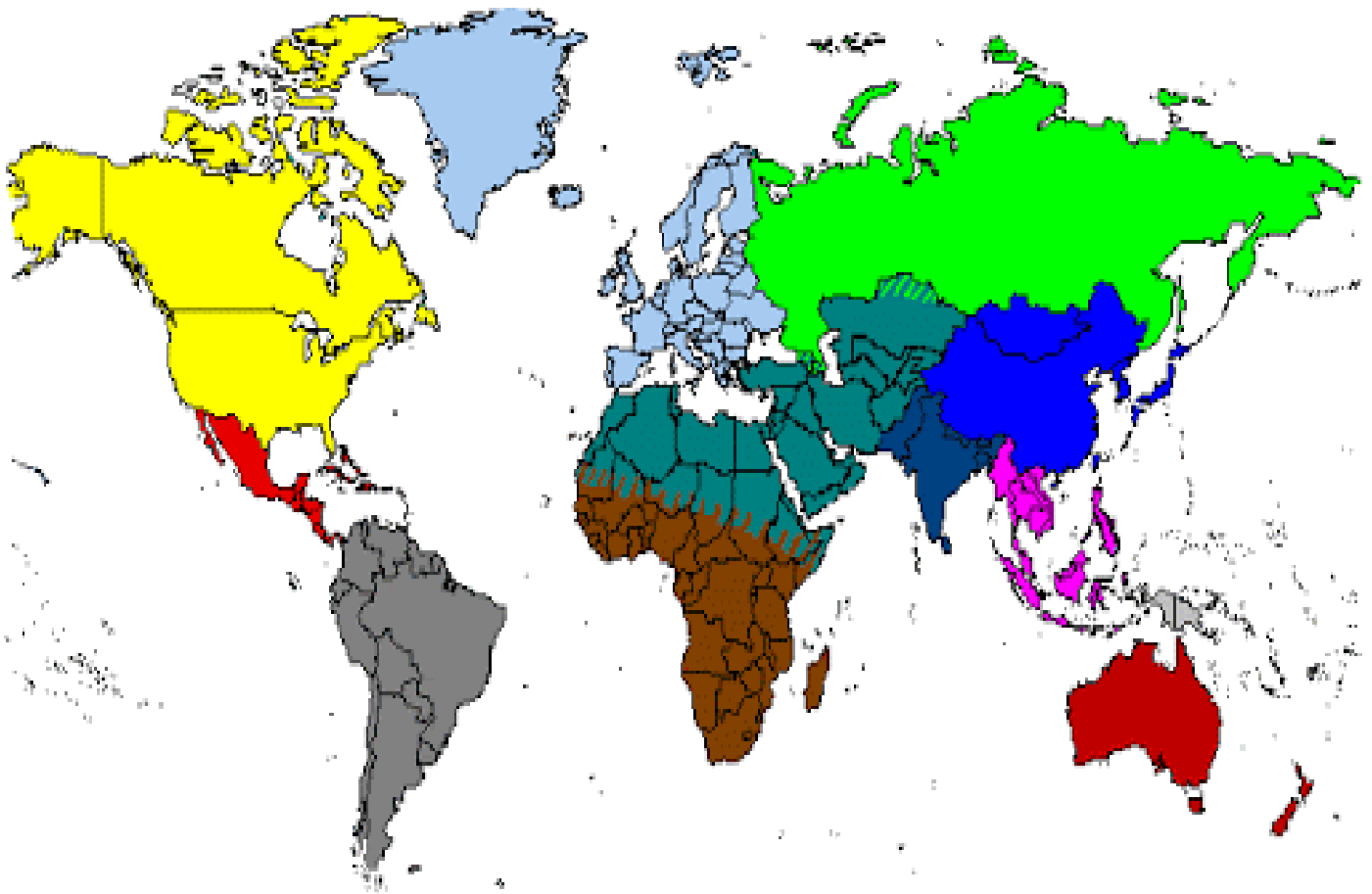




GEOGRAPHY NOTES FORM 1

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY



Specific objectives

- a) define the terms Geography and Environment
- b) describe the branches of Geography
- c) explain the importance of studying Geography
- d) explain the relationship between Geography and other disciplines.

The meaning of Geography

Geography is a scientific study of the earth as a home of man, it can also be described as a study of interrelationship on natural and human phenomena on the earth's surface.

Environment

This is the surroundings of any living thing.

All external conditions surrounding an organism which has influence over its behavior.

Environment can be divided into two:

1. The Physical Environment

Natural physical conditions of weather, climate, vegetation, animals, soil, landforms and drainage.

2. The Human Environment

Human activities such as farming, forestry, mining, tourism, settlement, transportation, trade and industry.

Branches of Geography

1. Physical Geography

Deals with the study of natural physical environment of human kind.

The areas covered include:

- ♦ **Geology**-study of the origin, structure and composition of the earth. It includes study of rocks.
- ♦ **Geomorphology**- the study of internal and external land forming processes and landforms.
- ♦ **Climatology**- the study of climate and weather
- ♦ **Pedology**- the study of soils
- ♦ **Biogeography** - the study of soils, vegetation and animals.
- ♦ **Hydrology**- the study of water bodies
- ♦ **Spatial geography**-study of space

2. Human and Economic Geography

Study of people and their activities on the earth's surface.

The areas covered include:

- a) Mining
- b) Forestry
- c) Agriculture
- d) Fishing
- e) Wildlife and tourism
- f) Industry
- g) Energy etc.

Learner's Short Notes

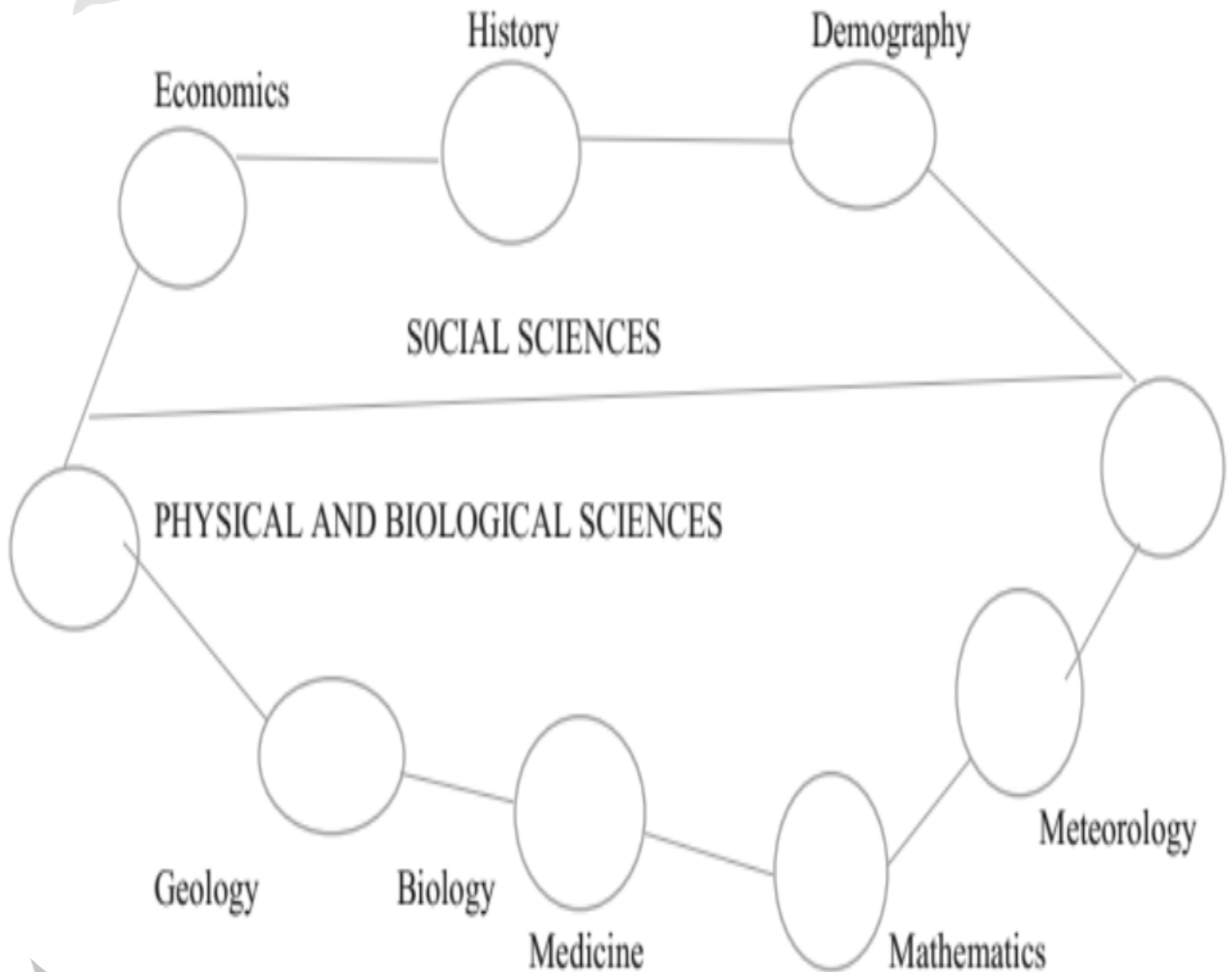
3. Practical geography

A smaller branch which equips the learner with practical skills that enhance their understanding and interpretation of human and physical geographical information.

The areas are:

- a) Statistical methods
- b) Map work
- c) Field work
- d) Photograph work

Relationship between Geography and Other Subjects



Learner's Short Notes

Relationship between Geography and Other Subjects

- a. **Mathematics**-mathematical techniques are used in drawing graphs and pie charts and mathematical formulae are used in geography to calculate distances, areas, population density, population densities, etc.
- b. **History**-history uses geographical tools like maps, charts and graphs to show where past events took place e.g. the movement of people in the past.
- c. **Biology**-Geography explains the distribution of organisms and factors influencing their distribution on the earth's surface.
- d. **Physics**-geography uses physics principles and formulae to calculate and describe aspects such as magnetic field, gravity, vibrations of the earth etc.
- e. **Chemistry**-geography applies chemistry in studying chemical composition and chemical changes which take place in soils and rocks.
- f. **Agriculture**-geography studies farming systems, their distribution and factors affecting farming activities.
- g. **Meteorology**-geography uses meteorological information in the study of weather and in classifying climatic regions and mapping them.
- h. **Geology**-geography studies rocks, their nature of formation and structure.

Importance of Studying Geography

- 1) Facilitates good relationship among nations by studying geography of other regions of the world.
- 2) Geography as a career subject in that it enables one to go for advanced studies in specialized fields e.g. geography teachers, meteorology, surveying etc.
- 3) Enables us to appreciate other people's way of life by learning economic activities of different communities within our country and other parts of the world.
- 4) Enables us to conserve our environment when we learn negative and positive effects of human activities on the environment.
- 5) Enables us to conserve our resources when we learn wise use of resources in conservation and management of resources e.g. wildlife, forests, energy, etc.
- 6) Inculcates in us virtues of cooperation and patience as we work in groups. Makes us to appreciate manual work as we are involved in practical geography which may lead to self-employment.

Learner's Short Notes

PAST KCSE AND PREDICTION QUESTIONS

- 1) What is practical geography? (2mks)
- 2) Name **two** branches of geography (2mks)
- 3) Name any **three** study areas in human geography (3mks)
- 4) Define the term environment (2mks)
- 5) Explain **three** reasons for importance of studying geography (3mks)
- 6) Name **five** human features (3mks)
- 7) What is habitat (2mks)
- 8) List **six** disciplines related to geography (6mks)
- 9) **Differentiate between each of the following:**
 - A) Democracy and population geography (2mks)
 - B) Economics and economic geography (2mks)
- 10) Name **two** Greek words from which term geography originate (2mks)

Learner's Short Notes

ANSWERS;

1.

Collective term for methodologies of fieldwork, maps and map work and photograph interpretation used in study of geography.

2.

- Physical geography
- Human geography

3.

- Climate
- Rocks and minerals
- Earth and the solar system
- Soil

4. External conditions surrounding of an organism.

5. • Provides knowledge that promote conservation of resources

- Admission in careers that generate income e.g. Geologist.
- Learn skills in time management useful in personal activities

6. • Transport lines e.g. roads.

- Settlement structures e.g. houses
- Drainage features e.g. boreholes, water dams
- Industries e.g. coffee mills
- Farms e.g. tea estates

7. Part of physical conditions that provide home in which certain organisms live

Learner's Short Notes

- 8.
- a. History
 - b. Biology meteorology
 - c. Demography
 - d. Sociology
 - e. Agriculture
 - f. Economics
 - g. Physics
 - h. Chemistry
 - i. Geology
 - j. Medicine

9

- a. **Demography** is the study of human population dealing with numerical aspects of population while population geography is branch of human geography dealing with population explaining where and why people live.
- b. **Economics** deals with availability of resources while economic geography is branch of geography that deals with location and distribution of resources.

10. Geo, graphein

Learner's Short Notes
