EXAM READY SOCIAL STUDIES

Exam Ready Social Studies

GRADE 7

Study Guide, Worked Examples and Practice Tests for Grade 7



✓ 7 units with clear key ideas, worked examples and “Watch out!” boxes
✓ 155 worked examples and 248+ practice questions at three levels
✓ 140 unit-quiz questions and 3 full mock exams (60 MCQ each)
✓ Diagnostic test · Key Facts Sheet · Top 20 Mistakes · teacher notes

Follows the units and order of the Ethiopian Grade 7 Social Studies textbook

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Exam Ready Social Studies

Grade 7 · Study Guide, Worked Examples and Practice Tests

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This is an independent study guide. It follows the units and order of the Ethiopian Grade 7 Social Studies student textbook, but it is not published or endorsed by the Ministry of Education. All explanations, examples and questions are original. Keep your textbook and your teacher's notes beside this book.

The answers were calculated and checked before printing, but no book is free of errors. If you find a mistake or disagree with an answer, please tell the author on Telegram (@Ermias_Wedaje) and it will be reviewed for the next edition.

How to Use This Book

Each unit follows the same pattern, so you always know where to look.

Key ideas
The rules and facts of the section, short and clear.

Worked examples
Step-by-step solutions. Cover the solution and try first.

⚠ Watch out!
The mistakes students make most often, and the right way.

Practice
Level 1 Basic · Level 2 Standard · Level 3 Challenge.

Unit quiz
20 multiple-choice questions in the style of the national examination.

For the Teacher
Timing, starters, misconceptions, activities and assessment.

For students

- Begin with the Diagnostic Test. It shows which units need the most work.
- Read the key ideas, then study each example with the solution covered.
- Do Level 1 and Level 2 practice for every section; try Level 3 when you are ready.
- Take each quiz in 30 minutes, mark it, and redo every question you got wrong.
- In the last weeks, learn the Key Facts Sheet and the Top 20 Mistakes page, and sit the three mock exams. Their answer keys show which unit each question comes from.

For teachers

- Each unit follows the textbook sections, so the book can sit beside your lessons.
- The “For the Teacher” page gives timing, starters, misconceptions and activities.
- The quizzes and mock exams can be used as class tests; every answer has a short reason.

For parents

- Ask your child to explain one worked example to you each day. Teaching is the best way to learn.
- Look at the quiz score after each unit, and celebrate progress, not only high marks.

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Page numbers are the numbers shown at the foot of each page (and in the online reader).

Diagnostic Test · Where Should I Start?

16 questions · 15 minutes. Take this test before you start the book. There are two questions on each unit. Your score only shows you where to spend your time.

1. The solar system includes the Sun and the
   A. oceans only
   B. clouds only
   C. mountains
   D. planets, asteroids and meteors

2. Earth is the only planet known to
   A. support life
   B. be round
   C. have a Sun
   D. have a moon

3. Archaeologists study the past by digging up
   A. living plants
   B. objects and fossils
   C. clouds
   D. stars

4. Fossils are
   A. preserved remains of the past
   B. rain
   C. new plants
   D. new rocks

5. People get food and water from the
   A. stars
   B. moon
   C. environment
   D. ocean floor only

6. Irrigation shows people
   A. obeying it
   B. modifying the environment
   C. destroying it only
   D. ignoring it

7. Cuneiform was written by the
   A. Sumerians
   B. Egyptians
   C. Romans
   D. Chinese

8. Harappa was a city of the
   A. Nile Valley
   B. Tiber
   C. Yellow River
   D. Indus Valley

9. Ancient Egypt grew along the
   A. Tigris
   B. Indus
   C. Nile
   D. Yellow River

10. Egypt was the gift of the
    A. Red Sea
    B. Sahara
    C. Sun
    D. Nile

11. Aksum's port was
    A. Massawa only
    B. Berbera
    C. Adulis
    D. Zeila

12. Christianity was introduced to Aksum by
    A. Mentewab
    B. Frumentius
    C. Lalibela
    D. Fasiledes

13. Pollution is
    A. rain
    B. good soil
    C. clean air
    D. harmful materials in the environment

Unit 1 · Physical Characteristics of the Earth

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- describe the origin of the Earth and the solar system
- explain the shape and movements of the Earth and their effects
- describe the external components and internal structure of the Earth
- classify rocks and name the economic uses of rocks in Ethiopia

Before you start — check yourself. (a) How old is the Earth? (b) Name the three layers of the Earth's interior. (c) Name the three types of rock.
Answers: (a) about 4.6 billion years (b) crust, mantle, core (c) igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic

Key words: solar system · oblate spheroid · rotation · revolution · lithosphere · crust · mantle · core · igneous rock · mineral

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Origin of the Earth and the Solar System
- Shape and Movements of the Earth
- Components and Structure of the Earth
- Rocks and Their Uses

1.1 Origin of the Earth and the Solar System

Key ideas

- The **solar system** is the Sun and the bodies that move around it: **planets, asteroids, meteors** and others. The Sun and its family were formed from a **large filament of hot whirling gases**; over a very long time the Sun and the planets took shape.
- Geologists estimate that the Earth was formed about **4.6 billion years ago**.
- The **eight planets** in order from the Sun: **Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune**. The Earth is the only planet known to support life.
- **Why the Earth supports life:** it has the right distance from the Sun, water, an atmosphere and moderate temperatures.

Example 1.1 — Age

How old is the Earth?

Solution. About 4.6 billion years.

Example 1.2 — Origin

From what were the Sun and planets formed?

Solution. From a large filament of hot whirling gases.

Example 1.3 — Order

Name the first four planets from the Sun.

Solution. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars.

Example 1.4 — Exam Booster · Life

Give two reasons why the Earth supports life.

Solution. It has water and an atmosphere (and a suitable distance from the Sun).

Example 1.5 — Exam Booster · Define

What is the solar system?

Solution. The Sun and the planets, asteroids, meteors and other bodies that move around it.

⚠ Watch out!

× Wrong	✓ Right
The Earth is 4.6 million years old.	It is about 4.6 billion years old.
The Earth is the first planet from the Sun.	Mercury is first; the Earth is third.
The solar system contains only planets.	It also has asteroids, meteors and the Sun.

Practice 1.1

Level 1 — Basic

1. Age of Earth?
2. The planet that has life?
3. Name a planet.

Level 2 — Standard

4. Third planet?
5. What is an asteroid?
6. Centre of the system?

Level 3 — Challenge

7. Explain the origin of the solar system.
8. Why does Earth have life?

1.2 Shape and Movements of the Earth

Key ideas

- The Earth is not perfectly round: it is an **oblate spheroid**, slightly flattened at the poles and bulging at the equator.
- **Rotation** is the movement of the Earth **on its axis**, once in about **24 hours**. Its effects: **day and night** and the **rise and fall of the tides** (high and low tide).
- **Revolution** is the movement of the Earth **around the Sun** in a fixed path, the **orbit**, once in about **365¼ days**. Its effects: the **seasons** and the **variation in the length of day and night**.
- The seasons occur because the Earth's axis is **tilted** while it revolves around the Sun.

Example 1.6 — Shape

What is the shape of the Earth?

Solution. An oblate spheroid.

Example 1.7 — Rotation

Define rotation and give two effects.

Solution. The Earth's spinning on its axis; day and night, and tides.

Example 1.8 — Revolution

Define revolution and give two effects.

Solution. The Earth's movement around the Sun; seasons and changing length of day and night.

Example 1.9 — Exam Booster · Time

How long is one revolution?

Solution. About 365¼ days.

Example 1.10 — Exam Booster · Cause

Why do we have seasons?

Solution. Because the tilted Earth revolves around the Sun.

⚠ Watch out!

× Wrong	✓ Right
Rotation causes the seasons.	Revolution causes the seasons.
The Earth is a perfect sphere.	It is an oblate spheroid.
Revolution takes 24 hours.	Rotation takes 24 hours; revolution a year.

Practice 1.2

Level 1 — Basic

1. Define rotation.
2. Define revolution.
3. Name an effect of rotation.

Level 2 — Standard

4. Time for rotation?
5. What is an orbit?
6. Name an effect of revolution.

Level 3 — Challenge

7. Differentiate rotation from revolution.
8. Explain effects of both.

1.3 Components and Structure of the Earth

Key ideas

- The Earth has **four components (subsystems)**: **lithosphere** (land and rocks), **hydrosphere** (water), **biosphere** (living things) and **atmosphere** (air).
- Knowledge of the Earth's interior comes from **direct sources** (mines, boreholes, volcanic eruptions) and **indirect sources** (earthquake waves, meteorites, gravity and magnetic studies).
- The **internal structure** has three layers: the **crust** (thin outer layer), the **mantle** (thick middle layer of hot rock) and the **core** (centre, very hot, with a liquid outer core and a solid inner core).
- The **crust is thinnest under the oceans and thickest under high mountains.**

Example 1.11 — List

Name the four components of the Earth.

Solution. Lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere.

Example 1.12 — Layers

Name the three interior layers from the surface inwards.

Solution. Crust, mantle, core.

Example 1.13 — Source

Give one direct and one indirect source of knowledge about the interior.

Solution. Direct: mines or volcanoes. Indirect: earthquake waves.

Unit 2 · Human Evolution and World Population

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

- explain archaeology and the theories of human origin
- describe the stages of human evolution and early sites in Ethiopia
- describe population change, structure and distribution
- describe migration, settlement and transport, and road safety

Before you start — check yourself. (a) What is archaeology? (b) Where was "Lucy" found? (c) Name the three components of population change.
Answers: (a) the study of the past through objects and fossils (b) Hadar, Afar, Ethiopia (c) fertility, mortality, migration

Key words: archaeology · fossil · pre-history · Homo habilis · Homo erectus · Homo sapiens · fertility · mortality · migration · settlement

How this unit is examined

Question types that appear again and again in Ethiopian model examinations:

- Archaeology and Human Origins
- Human Evolution
- World Population
- Population Change, Structure and Distribution
- Settlement and Transportation

2.1 Archaeology and Human Origins

Key ideas

- **Archaeology** is the science in which archaeologists **dig out material objects and fossils of the past**. It helps us study **pre-history**, the time **before writing and recording** began. **Fossils** are the remains of dead plants, animals and human beings preserved in rock.
- There are **two theories of human origin:** the **creationist theory** (humans were created by God) and the **scientific (evolution) theory** (humans developed gradually from earlier forms over millions of years).
- **Evidence for evolution:** fossils, stone tools and cave remains found at archaeological sites.
- Ethiopia is famous for archaeological sites such as **Hadar in the Afar region**.

Key Facts Sheet

Learn these by heart. Cover the right-hand side and say each fact from memory.

Unit 1 · The Earth

Earth 4.6 billion years old ; oblate spheroid

Rotation 24 h: day, night, tides ; revolution 365¼ d: seasons

Spheres: litho-, hydro-, bio-, atmo-

Crust, mantle, core

Igneous (magma), sedimentary (layers), metamorphic (heat and pressure)

Granite, limestone, marble

Unit 2 · Evolution and population

Archaeology: objects and fossils ; pre-history = before writing

Theories: creationist and scientific

Lucy: Hadar, Afar, 1974 ; Homo habilis → erectus → sapiens

Population change: fertility, mortality, migration

Belts: Asiatic, Peninsular Europe, NE North America

Transport: land, water, air ; road safety

Unit 3 · Resources

Reciprocal relationship: environment ⇄ people

Over-, under- and optimum population

Renewable: air, water, sunlight, wind, forest

Non-renewable: petroleum, natural gas, coal

Ethiopia: population pressure, resettlement, agriculture, urbanisation

Remedies: trees, terraces, planning

Unit 4 · World history

Mesopotamia: Tigris–Euphrates ; cuneiform ; lugals

Indus: Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro

China: Confucius, Great Wall ; Athens: direct democracy

Rome: Republic 509–27 B.C. ; consuls, Senate ; fell A.D. 476

Christianity: 1st century ; Constantine ; Byzantium: Constantinople

Islam: 7th century ; Arab empire Spain to Indus

Unit 5 · Ancient Africa

Egypt: Nile ; pharaoh ; hieroglyphs ; papyrus ; pyramids

365-day calendar ; corvée labour

Nubia = Kush: south of Egypt, Sudan ; Napata

Meroe: iron working and trade

Meroe peak 3rd century B.C.–1st century A.D.

Destroyed by Aksum about A.D. 350

Unit 6 · Ethiopia

Aksum: Adulis, coins, obelisks ; Ezana accepted Christianity about 330

Zagwe about 1150 ; Lalibela: 11 rock-hewn churches

Gondar: Fasiledes 1636 ; Golden Age 1636–1706

Zemene Mesafint 1769–1855 ; ended by Tewodros II

Sultanates: Shewa, Ifat, Adal ; port Zeila

Gada (Oromo) ; economy: agriculture and trade

Mock Examination 1

60 multiple-choice questions · 90 minutes · one mark each. Circle one answer. Mark with the answer key at the back and use the unit number to see where to revise.

1. The solar system includes the Sun and the
   A. oceans only
   B. clouds only
   C. mountains
   D. planets, asteroids and meteors

2. The Sun and planets formed from
   A. ice only
   B. hot whirling gases
   C. water
   D. solid rock only

3. Geologists estimate Earth's age at
   A. 46 years
   B. 4.6 thousand years
   C. 4.6 million years
   D. 4.6 billion years

4. Earth is the only planet known to
   A. support life
   B. be round
   C. have a Sun
   D. have a moon

5. The planet closest to the Sun is
   A. Earth
   B. Venus
   C. Mars
   D. Mercury

6. The planet we live on is the
   A. first
   B. sixth
   C. third from the Sun
   D. eighth

7. The Earth's shape is best described as
   A. an oblate spheroid
   B. a perfect sphere
   C. a cube
   D. flat

8. Rotation takes about
   A. 24 hours
   B. 30 days
   C. 365 days
   D. 12 hours

9. Revolution takes about
   A. a month
   B. 365¼ days
   C. 24 hours
   D. a week

10. Archaeologists study the past by digging up
    A. living plants
    B. objects and fossils
    C. clouds
    D. stars

11. Pre-history means
    A. today
    B. before writing
    C. the future
    D. after writing

12. The two theories of origin are creationist and
    A. economic
    B. scientific
    C. political
    D. social

13. Fossils are
    A. preserved remains of the past
    B. rain
    C. new plants
    D. new rocks

14. Lucy was found in
    A. Aksum
    B. Hadar, Afar
    C. Lalibela
    D. Gondar