**SOCIAL STUDIES JSS 1**

**Meaning of Social Studies.**

Social studies is the study of man, his relations with other men and his environment. Scope of social studies means the areas covered by a given subject. It also involves how man relates to his physical and social environment.

**SCOPE OF SOCIAL STUDIES**

Scope means the areas covered by a given subject. Therefore, the areas of social studies are the range of what it treats. Social studies, in scope is vast and related to other subjects. They are:

1. Religion 6. Anthropology
2. Sociology 7. History
3. Economics 8. Psychology
4. Economics 9. Political science
5. Geography 10. Government

Social group is the collection of people in the society who relate and interact with each other for reasons of blood relationship.

**Examples of social group are:**

1. Family
2. Sports club
3. Political party

**FAMILY AS A PRIMARY SOCIAL GROUP**

Family is a group of people who are closely related by blood, marriage and adoption. They care for one another. It is a primary group of greatest importance to the individual and society.

**Types of family**

1. **Nuclear family:** This is a simple family that consists of father, mother and children. Even when there are no children, it is still nuclear family.
2. **Extended family:** This is consists of father, mother, children and also some other relations like uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents living together in one house or compound.

**Characteristics of nuclear family**

1. It is monogamous when it is only the father, mother and their children.
2. It is polygamous when it is the father, his wives and their children.

**Types of polygamy**

1. **Polyandry:** This is when a woman marries more than one husband at the same time. It is very popular in Asian country, e.g. India and China.
2. **Polygyny:** This is when a man is marrying more than one wife at the same time. It is practiced in Nigeria and some African countries.

**Characteristics of extended family**

1. It has many people, male and female, young and old but who are all related to the father and mother of the nuclear family.
2. Members usually depend on the father and mother for everything like food, clothing and shelter.
3. It consists of both near and distant related family members who are living in the same house or compound.

**Functions of family**

1. **Team work:** They work together for the good of their family and community.
2. **Procreation:** Parents keep bearing children and adopting children.
3. **Education:** Parents give formal and informal education to their children.
4. **Protection:** The parents provide security to its members. They protect their children from attack and molestation.
5. **Provision of basic needs:** It is the duty of the parents to provide the important needs of their children and the whole family members.
6. **Agents of socialization:** The child’s first contact with the society is the family. He/she learns what is good and bad, and what is right and wrong.
7. **Political participation:** Family members join in political affairs especially by registering and voting.
8. Status

**Factors that make family a primary social group**

1. Small size
2. Basic unit
3. Bedrock of personality
4. Permanency
5. Socialization

**Responsibilities of family members**

Apart from the functions of the family as a group, each member of the family has his or her roles to play for the good of the members. We will discuss some of these roles starting with the parents.

**The father’s roles**

1. He is the head of the family, the husband of the wife, and the father of the children in the family.
2. He provides for the basic needs like accommodation, clothing, and feeding of the wife and children.
3. Education: He cares for the formal and informal education of his children by paying for their school fees and lesson fees.
4. Role model: He lives by example for the children to emulate. For example, if a father is fond of smoking or beating his wife, his children will learn from him as time goes on.
5. He inculcates discipline into the children, both male and female especially when they are young.
6. He protects every member of the family in order to create a sense of security in the group and makes sure that there is no intimidation.
7. He settles disputes in the family and make sure there is no partiality.

**The mother’s roles**

1. She cooks the food which the family eats. She goes to the market to buy foodstuff which she uses to prepare food for the family.
2. Education: She assists the children in doing their home work and teaches them the language and custom of their place of origin.
3. General cleanliness: She ensures the cleanliness of the house by sweeping and dusting the furniture. She divides the chores among the children and supervises them.
4. Moral lesson: She teaches her female children good hygiene, especially during their monthly cycle. She also teaches both boys and girls how to greet, how to respect elders in the school and the community. She teaches them how to cook, wash their clothes and plates.
5. She helps to settle disputes among the children without partiality. She makes sure the children are all loved equally by her.
6. She takes care of the children and every member of the family when they are sick or wounded. She takes note of abnormal health conditions and takes them to the clinic or hospital.
7. She supports her husband in provision of some basic needs in the family, especially if she working or trading.
8. Confidante: Children tend to get close to their mother by nature than their father and are very free to discuss with their mother. They therefore tell her their secrets and she advises them on the right things to do.

**Roles of the children**

1. Obedience: They obey their parents and elders both in school and community
2. They are to run errands for their parents and elders
3. They do domestics work for the family by washing clothes, plates and keeping the house clean
4. They seek advice of their parents when they are in trouble
5. They commit themselves in learning their books and making the best use of the moral, cultural and other lessons they learnt from the family and the society.