



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA**



GOVERNMENT

for Senior High Schools

Year 3



**Augustine Arko Blay
Sophia Gumah Songnabong**



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**Ghana Education
Service (GES)**





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FOREWORD

Ghana's new Senior High School Curriculum aims to ensure that all learners achieve their potential by equipping them with 21st Century skills, knowledge, character qualities and shared Ghanaian values. This will prepare learners to live a responsible adult life, progress to further studies and enter the world of work. This is the first time that Ghana has developed a Senior High School Curriculum which focuses on national values, attempting to educate a generation of Ghanaian youth who are proud of our country and can contribute effectively to its development.

The Ministry of Education is proud to have overseen the production of these Learner Materials which can be used in class and for self-study and revision. These materials have been developed through a partnership between the Ghana Education Service, teacher unions (Ghana National Association of Teachers- GNAT, National Association of Graduate Teacher -NAGRAT and the Coalition of Concerned Teachers- CCT) and National Subject Associations. These materials are informative and of high quality because they have been written by teachers for teachers with the expert backing of each subject association.

I believe that, if used appropriately, these materials will go a long way to transforming our Senior High Schools and developing Ghana so that we become a proud, prosperous and values-driven nation where our people are our greatest national asset.

Haruna Iddrisu MP

Minister for Education

SECTION

1

SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT



INTRODUCTION

This section looks at the different systems of government and how power is shared and used in a country. It focuses on two main types, unitary and federal systems and how each affects national unity and development. You will also learn why Ghana chose the unitary system of government after gaining independence.

This section connects to what you learned in Year 1 about the meaning of government, especially as an institution of the state. It also reminds you about the constitution and constitutionalism. The constitution shows how a country is set up and how power is shared and used, either through a unitary or federal system.

KEY IDEAS

- Distribution of power in government is a product of existing laws and documents combined with contemporary values and beliefs.
- Governments differ in the geographic distribution of power, particularly unitary and federal.
- Ghana adopted the unitary system of government before the attainment of independence.

MEANING OF THE UNITARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

A unitary system of government is one in which a single central authority holds all the governing power across the entire country. In this system, either there is only one level of government, or any lower levels (such as regions, provinces, or districts) operate under the control of the central government. The central authority can issue directives to these subnational units, which do not have constitutional independence. While the unitary system is often found in smaller countries, some large nations like China also use it. Other examples of unitary states include Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Japan.

Features of the Unitary System of Government

The main features of the unitary system of government include the following.

1. The unitary system has a centralised authority, meaning governing powers are concentrated in the central government. It makes decisions for the entire country and controls all aspects of governance, giving limited autonomy to sub-units.

2. It has a single sovereign authority, meaning the central government holds ultimate power and decision-making. No other body can compete with it, as its authority is not divided or shared with other levels of government.
3. The system has uniform laws and policies, meaning the same rules apply across the entire country. This ensures consistency, stability, and simplicity in governance, with little variation between regions.
4. There is an absence of constitutional division of powers between the central government and the sub-national units. Power is concentrated in the centre.
5. It is usually practised in smaller states. This is because it is easy to administer such smaller states from a centralised position.
6. Powers exercised by sub-governmental bodies are delegated to them by the central government. The central government, therefore, has control over the units.

Activity 1.1 Unitary System of Government

1. Look at the empty pyramid diagram below. Fill in the blanks with the correct terms:

Central/National Government and Regional/Provincial. Discuss with your friend how power flows in this system. Your teacher will make further clarifications.



Top of the pyramid: _____

Bottom of the pyramid: _____

2. Research at least five key features of the unitary system of government using your textbook, a government website, or online sources. Write them in the table below.

Feature	Notes / Explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Share your findings with a friend and work together to prepare a 3–5 minute presentation for class discussion. Use the guide questions below:

- a. Which feature of a unitary system do you think is the most important? Why?

.....

- b. Why do you think some countries choose a unitary system of government?

.....

Advantages of the Unitary System of Government

The unitary system of government has several advantages that make it suitable for homogeneous countries. Let us look at some of the advantages of this form of government:

1. **Prompt decision-making:** In a unitary system, the central government makes decisions without needing approval from multiple levels of authority. This allows for faster decision-making and quick implementation of policies. As a result, the government can respond more efficiently to challenges and opportunities, thus promoting administrative efficiency.
2. **Uniformity in governance:** In a unitary system, the central government makes all the laws for the whole country. This means everyone follows the same rules, no matter where they live. It makes things easier to understand and reduces confusion. People know what to expect, and the government can manage the country more smoothly.
3. **Promotes national unity and integration:** A unitary government uses the same laws and policies across the whole country. This helps all citizens feel like they are part of one country, not just their local area or region. When everyone follows the same rules and is treated equally by the government, it creates a sense of belonging and togetherness. It also reduces conflicts between different regions because there are no separate laws that might cause unfairness. This

shared system helps bring people together and strengthens the idea of being one united country.

4. **Clear line of accountability:** In a unitary system, the central government is in charge of all decisions. This makes it easy for citizens to know who is responsible for what happens in the country. People can see who to blame or praise for government actions. It also helps them follow what the government is doing and ask questions if needed. This clarity promotes transparency and helps citizens stay informed and engaged in holding the government responsible.
5. **Relatively less expensive to operate:** A unitary system costs less to run compared to a federal system. This is because there is only one central government, so there's less need to repeat the same work or spend money on many government offices and staff. With fewer levels of government, the country saves money and uses its resources more efficiently. This makes the system cheaper and easier to manage.

Disadvantages of the Unitary System of Government

The unitary system of government, though efficient, has some disadvantages. These can affect decision-making and how well local needs are met. The disadvantages include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. **Potential to promote dictatorship:** In a unitary system, power is concentrated in a single central authority. This concentration can increase the risk of authoritarian rule and the abuse of power. Without strong checks and balances, a single leader or group may dominate decision-making, limit public input and threaten individual rights. Over time, this can lead to undemocratic practices and weaken democratic values.
2. **Rigid structures and congestion:** In a unitary system, the government has a strict and central way of working. This can make it slow to respond to local problems or changes. Because most decisions are made at the top, it can cause delays and confusion. Local leaders may not have the power to solve issues quickly. This can lead to frustration and poor service for citizens.
3. **Suppression of local initiatives and innovations:** In a unitary system, the central government controls most decisions, which limits the freedom of local areas to act on their own. This can discourage local creativity, new ideas, and solutions that fit specific regional needs. Since the same policies are used everywhere, unique local challenges may be ignored. As a result, people may feel less involved in governance, and chances for local development and innovation may be missed.

Activity 1.2 Advantages and Disadvantages of the Unitary System

1. Research on at least three (3) factors each that influenced the adoption of the unitary system of government in Senegal, Uganda and China. Present your work in the form of a table as seen below. Compare your findings with a friend for feedback.
- 2.

Factors Influencing the Adoption of the Unitary System of Government			
Country	Factor 1 (Historical context)	Factor 2 (Political leadership)	Factor 3 (Social cohesion)
Senegal	Centralised French administration strongly influenced Senegal's choice of a unitary system		
Uganda		The First President promoted a strong central government to curb regional divisions	
China	A long period of imperial rule created a tradition of central authority		The large geographic size and diverse population required centralised governance to maintain national unity

MEANING OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

A federal system is a form of government in which power is divided between a central (national) government and various constituent units such as states, provinces, or regions based on constitutional guidelines. This system operates through multiple levels of governance, with each unit retaining a degree of independence to manage its affairs. The constitution assigns specific powers to the national government, such as conducting foreign policy and ensuring national defence. At the same time, certain powers like establishing local governments and providing basic services are reserved for the states or regional/provincial governments. Some responsibilities, such as lawmaking, are shared between both levels of government. Importantly, both the central and state governments are accountable to the people. Countries that operate under a federal system include Nigeria, Brazil, India, and the United States.

Features of the Federal System of Government

Here are some of the main features of the federal system of government: There are two levels of government: the central government, which has control over the entire country and the state or provincial governments with powers and responsibilities over their areas of jurisdiction. In a federal system, different levels of government govern the same people, but each level is responsible for specific areas like making laws, collecting taxes, and managing services.

1. In a federal system of government, a constitution clearly defines the powers and responsibilities of each level of government. The constitution is the highest law, and all laws and actions must follow its rules. This ensures that the roles and authority of each level of government are legally protected.
2. Another feature is an independent judiciary, which interprets the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court settles disputes between different levels of government when there are disagreements about their powers.
3. In a federal system, there is a bicameral national legislature, as well as separate legislatures for each component unit or state, allowing both national and state governments to make laws within their areas of authority.

Activity 1.3 Federal System of Government

1. What, in your view, is the meaning of the federal system of government? Discuss your responses with a friend. Use a Venn diagram to show the different levels of powers in this system, using the guide below
 - a. Circle 1: National Government
Exclusive Powers (e.g., Defence)
Circle 2: State/Regional Governments
Residual Powers (e.g., Law Enforcement)
 - b. Overlapping Section
Shared/Concurrent Powers (e.g., Education)
3. Use the internet and other sources to learn about the main features of a federal system of government. Write down important points and prepare a short presentation to discuss in class.

ADVANTAGES OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The federal system of government has many advantages, especially for large and diverse countries. These advantages include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Promotes citizens' participation in governance:** The federal system of government encourages active involvement of citizens in governance. Because power is shared between national and local governments, people can take part in decisions that directly affect their communities. This system increases representation at both local and national levels, giving citizens more chances to be heard. It also allows communities to engage with leaders, contribute ideas, and hold officials accountable for their actions.
2. **Reduces the workload at the centre:** In a federal system, government powers are shared between the central and local levels. This reduces pressure on the central government, as local governments handle local issues and make decisions without waiting for approval from the top. It allows the central government to focus on national matters while local governments quickly respond to local needs. This division of work makes governance more efficient and responsive.
3. **Promotes national unity and local diversity:** A federal system supports both unity and diversity. The central government helps keep the country united, while regional governments have the freedom to address their own local needs. This allows different cultures, languages, and traditions to be respected and preserved. By balancing national goals with local interests, the system encourages peace, cooperation, and a stronger sense of belonging for all citizens.
4. **Safeguards the autonomy and rights of citizens:** Federalism helps protect the rights of different groups, especially ethnic and minority communities. Regional governments have the power to make decisions that meet the unique needs of their people. By spreading power across different levels, federalism reduces the risk of oppression or unfair treatment. This creates a fairer and more inclusive society where all groups feel respected and represented.
5. **Reduces the potential for dictatorship:** In a federal system, power is shared between the central and regional governments. This makes it harder for one person or group to take full control. The separation of powers acts as a check on the central government, helping to prevent abuse of power. This creates a more balanced and accountable system that protects democracy and citizens' rights.

Disadvantages of the Federal System of Government

The federal system of government, although it supports power sharing and local self-rule, also comes with certain drawbacks. These disadvantages include the following:

1. **Delays in decision-making:** In a federal system, decisions often need approval from both national and regional governments. This can cause delays, especially when there are disagreements or slow coordination between the levels. As a result, it may take longer to respond to emergencies or put policies into action. These delays can frustrate citizens and reduce the effectiveness of government services.
2. **More expensive form of government:** A federal system is more costly to run compared to a unitary system. This is because it has multiple levels of government, which can lead to duplication of roles, more personnel, and extra administrative structures. Coordinating activities across these levels can be complicated and increase expenses. As a result, federal systems can be harder to manage and less efficient.
3. **Prone to conflicts between levels of government:** In a federal system, the central and regional/provincial governments may have overlapping or unclear responsibilities. This can lead to disagreements, especially over who controls what and how resources are shared. Such conflicts can create tension and slow down government work. If not resolved, they can weaken cooperation and reduce the overall effectiveness of governance.
4. **Potential duplication of government functions:** In a federal system, both the central and regional/provincial governments may perform similar roles or offer the same services. This can lead to unnecessary duplication, wasting resources and creating confusion. It may also result in a larger and more costly bureaucracy, placing extra financial pressure on taxpayers. Such duplication can reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

Activity 1.4 Advantages and Disadvantages of Federalism

1. In pairs, research the federal system of government in Nigeria, focusing on instances where state laws have conflicted with federal laws (e.g., the implementation of grazing laws). Prepare a ten-minute presentation for class discussion based on your findings. You may use https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/27/nigeria-attacks-benue?utm_source=chatgpt.com for the full story.
2. Based on point 1 and working in a group of not more than four, write down the advantages and disadvantages of the federal system of government on sticky notes (Post-it notes). Display them on the classroom wall or board for feedback and discussion.

REASONS FOR GHANA'S ADOPTION OF A UNITARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Ghana operates under a unitary system of government, where power is centralised in the national government. This system was deliberately chosen at independence and reaffirmed in subsequent constitutions as the most suitable form of governance for the country. The decision to adopt a unitary system was influenced by several historical, political, and social factors unique to Ghana's development. Understanding these reasons helps explain how Ghana's governance structure supports national unity, effective administration, and political stability.

Let's explore some of the main reasons why Ghana adopted this form of government:

1. **Ghana's small geographical size:** Ghana, with a total land area of approximately 238,535 km² and a population of about 6 million at independence, influenced Ghana's founders' preference for a unitary rather than federal system. Because the country was not too large, it was easier to manage from a central government. This made a unitary system more suitable, as it allowed effective administration without making citizens feel far from government services.
2. **Promoting national integration and unity:** At independence, Kwame Nkrumah and the Convention People's Party (CPP) focused on building a strong, united nation. They believed that a unitary system would help bring together Ghana's different ethnic and religious groups by reducing regional divisions. This system was seen as key to creating a shared national identity and ensuring peace, stability, and development in the new country.
3. **Administrative efficiency:** At independence, Ghana did not have the resources to support the high costs of a federal system. Creating separate regional governments would have meant more administrative positions and higher expenses. The unitary system was more affordable and allowed for quicker decision-making and consistent programme implementation across the country.
4. **Colonial legacy/historical inheritance:** Before independence, Ghana was governed under a centralised colonial system. When the country gained independence in 1957, this existing structure made it easier to continue with a unitary system. Keeping the centralised model ensured a smoother transition to self-rule and avoided the difficulties of setting up a new federal system during the early stages of nation-building.
5. **Recommendation of the Bourne Commission:** In 1955, the British set up the Frederick Bourne Commission to decide the best system of government for the soon-to-be independent Gold Coast. After careful study and consultations, the Commission recommended a unitary system. This helped shape Ghana's choice to adopt a centralised form of governance at independence.
6. Other reasons for adopting the unitary system of government include avoidance of ethnic and regional-based politics, limited administrative capacity and not enough trained personnel to manage multiple levels of government, and uneven distribution of natural resources across Ghana's administrative regions.

Activity 1.5 Unitary System in Ghana

1. Form a group of not more than four with other classmates and prepare a one-page debate to present in class with another group on the motion: “A unitary system is the most suitable form of government for Ghana.”

Use the steps below as a guide for your write-up:

- a. Introduction – Introduce the topic and state your position.
- b. Body – If supporting the motion, discuss the advantages of a unitary system; if opposing, explain the disadvantages.
- c. Conclusion – Summarise your main points and restate your position clearly.

EXTENDED READING

- Wills, G. (Ed.). (1982). The Federalist Papers: By Alexander Hamilton, James Madison John Jay. Bantam Books.

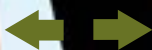
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Evaluate the impact of a unitary system of government on the effectiveness of Governance.
2. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of a federal system of government.
3. Discuss the historical and political factors that led to Ghana's adoption of a Unitary system of government.

SECTION

2

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE



INTRODUCTION

More than sixty years after gaining independence, Ghana continues to develop as a state. The indigenous government systems still offer valuable lessons and support for national development, especially under the 1992 Constitution. This section introduces you to the democratic features of traditional governance and why they remain important today. You will also learn why some people and groups think the chieftaincy institution should be abolished.

This section connects to what you learned in Year 1 about indigenous systems of government among the Mole-Dagbani, Ewe, Akan and Ga-Dangme, and to Year 2 topics on democracy and good governance. It shows that some features of today's democracy were already present in these traditional systems, making them good examples to learn from and follow.

KEY IDEAS

- Traditional leadership still helps with Ghana's development under the 1992 Constitution.
- Traditional systems help us understand Ghana's history and culture.

DEMOCRATIC FEATURES OF THE INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE SYSTEM IN GHANA

Before colonial rule, Ghana had its own strong traditional political systems that lasted for many years. These systems were developed by different ethnic groups like the Mole-Dagbani, Ga-Dangme, Ewe, and Akan. Even though some people have criticised these systems, they have survived over time and still influence how Ghana is governed today. Some features of the indigenous political systems that show signs of democracy include:

1. The nomination and selection process of traditional leaders, such as Chiefs and Queen mothers, involves consultation with stakeholders, particularly the royal family and lineage heads.
2. Participatory decision-making, as decisions are made together as a group, not by one person alone. Traditional leaders or chiefs talked things over with the Council of Elders, who gave advice and helped guide discussions. The goal is to agree as a group instead of forcing decisions on the communities.
3. Principles of separation of powers and checks and balances to check dictatorship. Traditional systems make sure no one person has all the power. For example, political, spiritual, and court duties are handled by different people. Leaders are

also held accountable. If a Chief or Queen mother breaks community rules or misuses power, they could be removed from their position.

4. The indigenous governance system is guided by clear customary laws, similar to a constitution in modern governments. These rules apply to everyone and help maintain order and fairness in the community.
5. Freedom of expression. People in the community are free to share their views, especially during public gatherings like durbars and meetings. They could speak their minds without fear of punishment.

Activity 2.1 Democratic Features of the Indigenous Governance System

1. [Recap] In your own words, explain democracy and how it works in contemporary Ghana in a paragraph. Compare and discuss your findings with a friend.
2. Visit a traditional authority in your community, such as a Chief or Queen mother, and interview to learn about the democratic features of Ghana's indigenous governance system. Share your findings with a friend and collaborate to prepare a presentation for a class discussion. Use these questions as a guide:
 - How is a Chief or Queen mother selected in this community?
 - Are there any rules or customs that guide the selection process?
 - Do you work with a Council of Elders
 - How important is their role in decision-making?
 - Are there ways for people to complain or report concerns and challenges?
 - Do you give feedback or explain decisions to community members?
 - Are there customs and norms that help maintain order in the communities?
 - How are disputes settled in the traditional system?
3. Based on your knowledge of point 2 of **Activity 2.1**, compare the democratic features of Ghana's modern governance system and the indigenous (traditional) governance system. Present your findings in a well-organised table, as shown below. Share your work with the class for feedback and discussion.

Democratic features	Modern governance system	Indigenous governance system	Common features
1. Method of selecting leaders	Elections by secret ballot	Selection through lineage and consultation	Citizen participation
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

ROLE OF CHIEFTAINCY INSTITUTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY GHANA

The chieftaincy institution is one of Ghana's oldest and strongest traditional systems. It connects the country's rich culture with today's democratic system. Even though Ghana has gone through many political changes from colonial times to independence, chieftaincy has remained important. Chiefs have adapted to new roles while still keeping their respect and authority in the community. The chieftaincy institution is still important in modern democratic governance because:

- 1. Mobilisation of resources for self-help programmes:** Today, Chiefs and Queen mothers play a big role in developing their communities. They bring people together to raise money, gather materials, and volunteer for projects like building schools, clinics, and water provision systems. They also work with the government, NGOs, and private companies to get more support. These partnerships help improve roads, schools, and hospitals. By leading these efforts, chiefs help improve the lives of community members and encourage everyone to take part in their development.
- 2. Attracting investors and supporting local businesses:** Chiefs today help bring development to their communities by attracting both foreign and local investors. They speak on behalf of their communities when dealing with investors and government officials. They promote their communities as attractive investment destinations, highlighting local resources and opportunities. Chiefs also help provide land for projects like farming, mining, and building roads or schools. This brings jobs and growth to the community.
- 3. Settlement of disputes and promotion of peace:** In contemporary Ghana, one of the key roles of chiefs is the settlement of disputes and promotion of

peace. Today, chiefs help keep peace in their communities. They act as mediators to settle disputes between people, families, or groups. Chiefs use their wisdom and experience to solve problems fairly. They also help people forgive each other and live peacefully together.

4. **Preserving customs and traditions:** Chiefs help protect and promote the culture of their communities. They keep traditional values alive by leading festivals, rituals, and ceremonies. Chiefs also help people stay connected to their cultural identity, which brings unity and a sense of belonging among community members.
5. **Advisors on local and national issues:** Chiefs advise both local and national leaders. They use their traditional knowledge and experience to help guide decisions. Chiefs also speak up for their communities in policy discussions, making sure their people's needs are considered. They work with government officials and others to create policies that help their communities grow.

Activity 2.2 Role of Contemporary Chieftaincy Institution

1. Read the case study below, which explains the powers and functions of chiefs in Ghana.
2. As you read, focus on how chiefs and Queen mothers contribute to leadership, conflict resolution, cultural preservation, and community development within your community.
3. After reading, write a summary in your own words explaining the powers and functions of chiefs in Ghana.

Now go to the link to read <https://tourisspotghana.com/2025/07/08/the-role-of-chiefs-and-traditional-councils-in-modern-ghana/>.

CHALLENGES OF THE CHIEFTAINCY INSTITUTION IN CONTEMPORARY GHANA

The chieftaincy institution is still an important part of Ghana's culture and politics. However, it faces some challenges that affect how respected, useful, and effective it is today. Some of the challenges of confronting traditional systems and chieftaincy institutions in Ghana include:

1. **Politicisation of the chieftaincy institution:** Sometimes, chiefs become involved in party politics and support certain political parties. This can cause division in the community and make people lose trust in their chiefs. When chiefs take sides, they may no longer be seen as fair and neutral leaders. This can

lead to conflict, weaken their authority, and make it harder for them to lead or help solve problems in the community.

2. **Chieftaincy succession disputes:** Sometimes, there are disagreements about who should become the next chief. These disputes can lead to fights, tension, and confusion in the community. They can also divide people and weaken unity. When this happens, it can make people question the chief's authority and slow down development in the area.
3. **Loss of respect from citizens:** When some chiefs take part in corruption or sell land illegally, people begin to lose trust in them. They may see chiefs as working for themselves instead of helping the community. This damages the chief's reputation and reduces their power. People may stop listening to them or working with them, which makes it harder for chiefs to lead, solve problems, or bring development. Corruption can also cause more conflict in the community.
4. **Rural-urban drift and absentee chiefs:** When chiefs live in cities instead of staying in their communities, they can lose touch with the people they are supposed to lead. This makes it hard for them to provide proper leadership and support. Their absence can cause confusion, reduce participation in community decisions, and weaken traditional authority. It also becomes harder to keep peace and unity in the community. This problem affects how effective and respected the chieftaincy institution is.
5. **Unclear roles between chiefs and local government:** Sometimes, it is not clear who should do what between chiefs and local government officials. This can lead to confusion, repeated efforts, and even power struggles. When their roles are not well defined, it becomes harder to govern the community properly. It can also lead to poor service delivery, less accountability, and even corruption. This weakens the effectiveness of both the chieftaincy and local government.

Activity 2.3 Challenges of the Chieftaincy Institution

1. Interview a traditional ruler in your community to find out the challenges facing the chieftaincy institution in Ghana. Record your findings in a table format, as shown below, and compare your results with a friend for feedback.

Challenge	What the traditional ruler said	Suggested solutions (if mentioned)
1. Succession disputes	Rival families claim the same stool/skin	Clear succession plans and legal reforms
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



2. Imagine you are a Chief or Queen mother in a Ghanaian community. Write a diary entry describing a typical day in your role, focusing on the challenges you face as a traditional ruler. Present your work to the class in the form of a spoken monologue. You may base your diary on class notes and discussions.

EXTENDED READING

- Huntington, S. P. (1991). The third wave (Vol. 199, No. 1). Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Mahama, C. (2009). Local Government and Traditional Authorities in Ghana: Towards a More Productive Relationship. Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance, (4), 7-25.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the relationship between democracy and good governance. How do democratic systems promote good governance?
2. Examine the relationship between traditional governance systems and modern democratic governance in Ghana. How can they complement each other?

SECTION

3

ORGANS OF
GOVERNMENT



INTRODUCTION

The 1992 Constitution is the highest law in Ghana. It sets the rules for how the country is run and helps protect peace, freedom, and justice for everyone. In the late 1980s and into the 1990s, Ghana went through big changes. There was a strong demand for democracy and good governance, which led to important constitutional and political reforms. These changes helped strengthen Ghana's democracy. By the end of this section, you will be able to describe the historical background of Ghana's constitutional design; identify its key features, especially the doctrine of separation of powers and the system of checks and balances; and explain how these principles guide the roles and relationships among the Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary.

In Section 3 of your Learning Material, we built on what you learned in Years One and Two about the three main organs of government. Here, you will deepen your understanding of how each branch works, its responsibilities, and why they are important in sustaining democracy. This knowledge also connects to what you studied earlier about the separation of powers, helping you see how these principles are applied in Ghana. Well done for coming this far, keep up the great work!

KEY IDEAS

- The 1992 constitution is the supreme law of Ghana.
- There are three organs of government in Ghana: the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary.
- Separation of powers and checks and balances help keep the government fair and prevent abuse of power.
- The process of drafting the constitution went through different stages.
- The constitution makes provision for a hybrid system of government under an Executive President.

PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE 1992 CONSTITUTION

The creation of the 1992 Constitution is a major moment in Ghana's history. It marked the start of the Fourth Republic and the return to democratic rule after 11 years of military government under the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC). The Constitution officially took effect on January 7, 1993, after going through several steps and discussions involving many people and groups across the country.

Ghana's return to democratic rule was influenced by both external and internal factors. Externally, some foreign countries and donors said they would only give aid if Ghana

made political changes. They wanted the country to move towards democracy, which is called political conditionalities. Internally, many groups inside Ghana also demanded change. These included trade unions, church leaders, professional groups, students, and journalists. They strongly opposed military rule and pushed for a return to democracy.

1992 Constitution-making Process

Establishment of the National Commission for Democracy. The return to democratic rule in Ghana started with the inauguration of the National Commission for Democracy (NCD) in 1990. The NCD was tasked with conducting nationwide consultations on Ghana's political future, completing its report in March 1991. Additional Information: The National Commission for Democracy was led by Justice D. F. Annan, who later became the first Speaker of Parliament in the Fourth Republic.

Creation of the Committee of Experts: Based on the recommendations of the National Commission for Democracy (NCD), the PNDC government established a nine-member Committee of Experts chaired by Dr. S.K.B. Asante. The committee completed its work in July 1991 and proposed a draft constitution for Ghana's Fourth Republic. The draft hybrid constitution drew on key elements from previous constitutions (i.e., 1957, 1960, 1969, and 1979).

Consultative Assembly: In August 1991, a 258-member Consultative Assembly (CA) was convened, comprising representatives from various sectors, including professional groups (teachers, lawyers), religious bodies, traditional authorities, and civil society. The Consultative Assembly reviewed and debated the draft constitution, incorporating memoranda and submissions from individuals (including professional groups, teachers, lawyers) and organisations to ensure broad-based input and national consensus.

Public endorsement/approval: In April 1992, a national referendum was conducted to approve the draft Constitution. The outcome reflected overwhelming public support, with over 96% of voters endorsing the 1992 Constitution.

Return to democratic rule: Following the successful referendum, the PNDC lifted the ban on political party activities in May 1992. This paved the way for presidential elections in November and parliamentary elections in December of the same year, marking Ghana's return to multi-party democracy in January 1993.

Activity 3.1 The Making of the 1992 Constitution

1. [Recap] In your opinion, why do countries draft constitutions? Share your answer with a friend for feedback.
2. In a group of friends not more than 5, select one important stage involved in the process of writing and creating the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Discuss the activities that took place, the people and institutions involved and explain why your group chose this particular stage. As a group, this could be a stage like:

- The Consultative Assembly
- Public consultations and forums
- Public endorsement

Work as a team and prepare a poster presentation (i.e., use bullet points, timelines, illustrations, or photos) on your findings, and hang it around the classroom. Come to a consensus as a group, select one person to speak or present the findings and invite comments from your classmates.

FEATURES OF THE 1992 CONSTITUTION

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana serves as the supreme law of the land and the cornerstone of the country's Fourth Republic. It outlines the structure of government, defines the powers and responsibilities of various state institutions, and provides mechanisms for accountability and checks and balances.

The Main Features of the 1992 Constitution

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana contains several key features that define how the country is governed, some of which are outlined below.

1. **Separation of powers and checks and balances:** Ghana's Constitution divides government power into three branches to make sure no one group has too much control. Thus, the legislature (Parliament) makes the laws; the Executive (President and government) carries out the laws; and the Judiciary (courts) interprets and applies the laws. This system is called the separation of powers. It also includes checks and balances, where each branch watches over the others to prevent abuse of power.
2. **Executive President under a hybrid system:** Ghana runs a hybrid system of government, combining features of presidential and parliamentary systems. In this system, the Constitution gives significant authority to the President, who performs two main roles. First, as the Head of State, the President represents the country and symbolises national unity. Second, as the Head of Government, the President leads the executive branch and oversees the implementation of government policies and programmes. This system ensures strong leadership while keeping the President accountable to Parliament and the people.
3. **Bill of Rights:** The Bill of Rights in Chapter 5 of Ghana's Constitution protects the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all citizens. It includes protection against unfair loss of life and liberty, guarantees equal treatment under the law, and bans discrimination. It also defends freedom of expression, access to information, and property rights. This Bill limits government power, allows citizens to seek justice if their rights are violated, and shows Ghana's strong commitment to human rights and the well-being of its people.

4. **Existence of independent commissions:** The Constitution of Ghana provides for the creation of independent commissions to support good governance and protect citizens' rights. These include the Electoral Commission, which ensures free and fair elections; CHRAJ, which promotes human rights and fairness in public service; the National Media Commission (NMC), which regulates the media and protects press freedom; and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), which educates citizens on their rights and responsibilities. Together, these commissions promote transparency, accountability, civic participation, and national development.
5. **Establishment of local government system:** The Constitution of Ghana provides for a decentralised local government system, which gives power and authority to local governments. This system allows local communities to take part in decision-making and helps bring essential services closer to the people. By promoting local participation and development, decentralisation supports effective governance and encourages citizens to be more involved in how their communities are managed.
6. **The existence of the Council of State:** The Council of State is set up under the 1992 Constitution to advise and support the President. It gives guidance on important national issues and helps the President make informed decisions on matters of governance. The Council plays a key role in ensuring wise and thoughtful leadership.

Activity 3.2 Features of the 1992 Constitution

1. Explore the key features of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana with a friend. Write your findings in tabular form as shown below and compare with your peers for feedback.

	Chapter	Article	Clause	Quote	Rephrase in your own words
Separation of powers					
Fundamental human rights					
Decentralisation and the local government system					
Independent Commissions					

2. Based on point 1 of this activity, draw an informative poster/leaflet to create awareness among Ghanaians about the key features of the 1992 constitution. Your teacher may ask you to paste it in the classroom for a gallery walk.
3. In a group of four, use your findings from points 1 and 2, along with your observations, to identify one specific part of the 1992 Constitution that needs strengthening. Write a brief proposal suggesting some specific amendments.

MEANING OF SEPARATION OF POWERS, CHECKS AND BALANCES

Separation of powers and checks and balances are important principles in democratic governance. They help ensure that power is shared among different branches of government and that no single branch becomes too powerful.

Principle of Separation of Powers

Separation of Powers is the principle by which the powers of government are divided among three distinct branches: the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. This principle says that no individual should belong to more than one branch or perform the functions of another. The executive must not exercise legislative or judicial powers. Its core mandate is to enforce laws and take all necessary measures to implement them. The legislature must not exercise executive or judicial powers. Its primary function is to make laws. The judiciary must not exercise executive or legislative powers. Its primary responsibility is to interpret laws. The separation of governmental powers into three main divisions was popularised by the French philosopher Montesquieu to safeguard liberty. The main objective of the separation of powers is the fear that when power is concentrated in one institution, it can lead to abuse and the violation of citizens' rights. The simple reason for the separation of powers is to reduce the monopoly of power and discretion by one institution of the state.

However, there is no complete separation of powers in theory or practice. There are unavoidable overlaps in administering the affairs of the state, both in the presidential and parliamentary systems of government. For example, the Executive will normally propose most of the legislation to be considered by the Legislature. Also, the Legislature will commonly be dominated by members of the party that is in charge of the Executive. Under the concept of separation of powers, the three branches operate independently but certainly not in isolation.

Checks and Balances

The principle of checks and balances operates on the notion that each branch of government is entrusted with special powers to keep a check on the exercise of functions by others, ensuring a balanced distribution of power. It is the practice where

the three organs of government, executive, legislature and judiciary, exercise some form of influence over the other to prevent abuse of power. To prevent such abuses, each branch should have the ability to control and restrain the actions of the other branches of government.

Checks and balances make the branches of government answerable to each other and, to a large extent, the citizens. Thus, the legislative branch should check the executive, and the judicial branch should oversee both branches and correct any errors and abuses that may arise. For example, in the presidential system, the legislature creates laws, but the president must assent to and sign Bills before they become law. However, the legislature can override the President's Veto with the constitutional requirements and procedures. In addition, the judicial branch can overturn laws that it deems unconstitutional.

Advantages of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

Separation of powers and checks and balances ensures that each branch of government has its job, and they can also check on each other to make sure everything is done fairly and according to the law. The advantages include:

1. **Avoid arbitrary governance:** One key advantage of separation of powers and checks and balances is that they prevent abuse of power. By dividing power among the three branches, no single person or group can control everything. This helps protect citizens' rights and keeps the government fair, transparent, and accountable.
2. **Protection of individual rights and freedoms:** Separation of powers and checks and balances help protect citizens' rights by making sure no branch of government has too much power. This system prevents abuse, limits government control over people's freedoms, and ensures that leaders respect and follow the law, creating a fair and just society.
3. **Promote transparency and accountability:** Separation of powers and checks and balances make sure that no one branch or person has total control. Each branch watches over the others, making government actions clear and open. This system holds leaders responsible, builds public trust, and helps prevent corruption, supporting good governance.
4. **Promotes specialisation and efficiency:** Separation of powers and checks and balances give each branch its clear responsibilities. This allows them to focus on what they do best, developing special skills and knowledge. As a result, decisions are made more effectively and efficiently, leading to better governance.
5. **Enhance peaceful conflict resolution:** Separation of powers and checks and balances help government branches solve disagreements peacefully. They use clear rules and processes to work together and find solutions. This peaceful way of handling conflicts helps keep the country stable and supports democracy.

Disadvantages of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

While the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances help prevent abuse of authority, they can also lead to challenges that reduce government efficiency and effectiveness. Some of the disadvantages and weaknesses include:

1. **Can cause delays in decision-making:** Separation of powers and checks and balances can sometimes lead to deadlocks when branches disagree on important issues. This can slow down decisions or stop action altogether, frustrating citizens who want quick solutions. Because of this, the branches need to communicate and work well together to avoid delays.
2. **Increases government costs:** Separation of powers and checks and balances can make government more expensive because different branches may do similar tasks. This duplication leads to higher administrative costs, which can take money away from important services. That's why it's important to manage resources carefully to avoid waste.
3. **Can cause conflicts between branches:** Separation of powers and checks and balances can lead to disputes when different branches have different priorities or fight over who has authority. These conflicts can weaken government stability, slow down decision-making, and make it harder to carry out policies effectively.

RELEVANCE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS AND CHECKS AND BALANCES IN GHANA

Ghana's 4th Republican Constitution (1992) embraces the principle of separation of powers. Article 93(2) vests the legislative authority of the Republic in parliament. Article 58(1) provides that the executive authority of the Republic shall be vested in the President. Article 125(3) vests the judicial authority in the courts. The relevance of the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances in contemporary Ghana includes:

1. **Prevention of power concentration:** Dividing power among the three branches of government helps protect democracy by stopping a few people or groups from having all the power. This prevents the kind of rule seen under past military governments in Ghana, where power was controlled by small groups or individuals.
2. **Promotion of democratic stability:** The separation of powers in Ghana's 1992 Constitution has helped keep the country's democracy strong. It stops any one part of government from taking full control, allowing peaceful transfers of power between political parties like the NPP and NDC over many elections. Ghana is known in West Africa for its stable democracy and smooth changes in government.
3. **Promotion of transparency and accountability:** Ghana promotes transparency and accountability through careful checks like reviewing government budgets, approving presidential nominees, and watching how policies are carried out. Independent bodies such as CHRAJ, the Auditor-General's Office, and the

Office of the Special Prosecutor also help by investigating corruption, human rights violations, and bad conduct in government.

4. **Protection of Fundamental Rights:** The judiciary or the courts in Ghana check the power of the executive and legislature through judicial review. They help protect citizens' rights by allowing people to challenge government actions using special legal tools like certiorari, mandamus, and habeas corpus.

Activity 3.4 Separation of Powers in Ghana

1. Together with two classmates, research and write a one-page summary of the powers and authorities granted to each branch of government in Ghana and the limits the Constitution imposes on these powers. Submit your summary for class discussion and feedback.
2. Work with 2-4 classmates to research and develop policy briefs on how to improve the separation of powers and checks and balances in Ghana. Use the table format provided below to guide your findings. Present your work to the class for feedback and improvement.

Issue	Why it matters	Policy suggestions
The Executive has too much control over Parliament and influences the Judiciary	When one organ becomes too powerful, it weakens democracy and reduces fairness and justice	1. Reduce the number of Ministers appointed from Parliament to strengthen legislative independence
		2.
		3.
		3.
		4.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the overall significance of the separation of powers in a democratic system of government
2. How does the 1992 Constitution promote democracy and development in Ghana?

SECTION

4

STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS



INTRODUCTION

This section looks at the important role political parties play in democratic countries. You will learn how political parties help people take part in politics, teach citizens about the political system, and help shape government decisions. The section also explains what elections are, the different types, and why they matter. You will learn how elections help choose leaders, make governments more trusted, and keep them accountable. Finally, the section introduces the different voting systems used to choose leaders, such as the majoritarian system, proportional system, and absolute majority system.

This section builds on what you learned in Year 1 about the meaning and types of political parties and connects with your Year 2 lessons on political parties and their roles in competitive political systems, especially the different types of party systems in Ghana. Together, these earlier topics help you better understand how political parties shape democratic governance and influence decision-making in the country.

KEY IDEAS

- Political parties help citizens participate in democracy
- Elections are important for choosing leaders and promoting accountability
- Different voting systems are used to select representatives

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN A DEMOCRATIC STATE

A political party is a group of people with similar ideas who come together to take part in elections and try to win power to lead the country. Political parties are like teams. They share similar views and values and work together to get elected. Political parties play many important roles in democratic societies. These roles may differ depending on the political system, but there are some basic functions that most political parties have in common.

1. **Recruitment and training of political officeholders:** Political parties recruit, select and present qualified candidates to represent them in elections. Party positions provide the training grounds and experience for future political leaders.
2. **Interest aggregation and articulation:** Political parties collect the ideas, needs, and concerns of citizens and organise them into clear plans or policies. This helps the government understand what people want and respond in a better

way. In simple terms, political parties turn many different opinions into useful and practical political decisions.

3. **Political socialisation:** In democratic countries, political parties help teach people about how the government works and what their roles are as citizens. They help people understand public issues, how leaders are chosen, and why it's important to take part in national decisions.
4. **Communication:** Political parties help share information between the government and the people. They tell citizens what the government is doing, and they also bring the concerns and ideas of the people to the government. This helps both sides understand each other better and keeps everyone more informed.
5. **Policy-making:** Political parties that win elections and form the government help make important decisions for the country. Before elections, they create manifestos. These are documents that explain what they plan to do if they win. In Ghana, political parties use manifestos to share their ideas for solving national problems.
6. **Serve as a watchdog:** Opposition political parties help check the actions of the government. They watch closely to make sure the government is doing the right thing. They speak out if there is corruption, bad policies, or mistakes. They do this through Parliament committee systems, the media, and peaceful demonstrations.

Activity 4.1 Purpose of Political Parties

1. In a group of not more than, explore one important function of political parties, and prepare for a small group presentation.
2. Research how political parties in Ghana have helped strengthen democracy. Use the table below to show specific ways political parties have encouraged democratic participation and supported national stability. Share work with a peer for feedback.

Ways Political Parties Encourage Democratic Participation	Ways Political Parties Support National Stability
Educate voters on their rights and the electoral process	Accept the election results and respect constitutional rules

MEANING AND TYPES OF ELECTIONS

An election is the process of choosing an individual for a particular office by voting. It is an organised process by which people choose their representatives. Elections may be conducted to fill vacant positions in the legislature, executive, regional or local government units and other business organisations and voluntary groups.

For an election to be called democratic, it must be free, which means it must meet certain conditions, including:

- Opportunity for citizens to form political parties and put forward candidates
- Open and fair competition between people or parties who want to be elected. This gives voters real choices when deciding who should lead.
- Political parties and candidates must be allowed to campaign freely under the same set of rules and regulations.
- Everyone who qualifies should have the right to vote.
- Registered voters must be free to vote for whoever they want.
- Each ballot should be accorded equal value and recorded transparently.
- Independent electoral management body/commission

Types of Elections

1. **General Elections:** General elections are big national voting events where people all over the country vote. The main purpose is to choose leaders for important government positions. In Ghana, this includes voting for Members of Parliament (MPs) and the President. These elections help decide who will make laws and lead the country.
2. **By-elections:** By-elections occur between general elections to fill vacancies in representative positions. The purpose is to replace representatives who have died, resigned, been removed, or assumed other positions. It is limited to specific constituencies or districts where vacancies exist.
3. **Run-off elections:** A run-off election is a second round of voting that happens when no candidate gets more than 50% of the votes in the first round. It is used to make sure the winner has the support of most voters. Only the top two candidates from the first round are allowed to compete in the run-off. For example, in 2008, there was a presidential run-off in Ghana between Prof. Atta-Mills of the NDC and Nana Akufo-Addo of the NPP. Prof. Atta-Mills won that run-off election.
4. **Primary Elections:** Primary elections are held to choose a party's candidate for the general election. When many people from the same party want to stand for election, the party uses a primary to pick just one. Usually, only party members can vote in a primary, but in some cases (called open primaries), other voters can take part too.

5. **Local Elections:** Local elections are held to choose leaders for smaller areas like regions, districts, or communities. It is organised to pick people who will take care of local issues. These elections only happen in certain areas, not the whole country. For example, in Ghana, local elections are used to elect Assembly Members and Unit Committee Members.
6. **Referendum and Plebiscite:** A referendum and plebiscite are special types of elections where citizens vote directly on a major issue or decision, instead of leaving it only to politicians. These are often used to decide big national matters, like changes to the Constitution or major government policies. However, there is a difference between the two. A referendum is usually required by law and follows strict rules. It is often used for important decisions like constitutional changes, and the results must be followed by the government. A plebiscite is more like a public opinion poll. It helps the government understand what people think, but the results do not have to be followed. They are for advice.
7. **Recall:** Recall is a way for citizens to remove an elected leader if they believe the person is not doing a good job. People in the community can ask for a new election to either keep the representative in office or remove them. For example, in Ghana's local government system, Assembly Members can be removed from office if the people they represent are not satisfied with their performance.

Activity 4.2 Meaning and Types of Elections

1. In pairs, research the voting criteria (who can vote and how) in at least two other countries and compare them with the voting requirements in Ghana. Write a short comparison summary using the table below and share your findings with your classmates for feedback and discussion.

Country	Legal voting age	Who can vote	Voter registration required	Other requirements
Ghana	18 years	Ghanaian citizens only	Yes	Must be of sound mind

As you research, use the following question guides

- a. What is the legal voting age in each country?
- b. Are citizens required to register before voting?
- c. Are there any restrictions (e.g. citizenship, criminal record, residency)?

4. Work in a small group of three to design a creative way, such as a flyer or an animated video, to support your District Electoral Commission/Office in encouraging young people over the age of 18 to register and vote.
5. Form a small group with four other classmates and research the types of elections. Prepare and present a poster illustrating the types of elections for the whole class discussion. Do some googling on the types of elections, or see <https://ec.gov.gh/electoral-system/>

FUNCTIONS OF ELECTIONS

Elections are a key part of any democratic government. They allow citizens to choose their leaders and take part in how the country is run. Even in some non-democratic (authoritarian) countries, elections are still held, though they may not always be free or fair. Elections are not just about voting on one day. They are part of a bigger process called the electoral cycle, which includes planning, campaigning, setting rules, and announcing results. In modern democracies, elections are important for several reasons:

1. **Mechanism of choosing representatives:** Elections help people choose individuals who will speak and make decisions on their behalf in government. During elections, political parties and independent candidates are nominated to contest for positions. Voters then select who they want to represent them in institutions like Parliament, District Assemblies, or as President. This is how leaders are chosen in a democratic system.
2. **Allow citizens to keep or change their leaders:** Elections give citizens the chance to decide if they want to keep the current leaders or choose new ones. People can look at what the government has done, and if they are not happy, they can vote for a different leader or party. For example, in Ghana, the President is chosen directly by the people for four years. At the end of a term, Ghanaians can vote to either keep the President or elect someone new. This makes it possible to change leaders in a peaceful and orderly way.
3. **Elections serve as agents of political socialisation and integration:** During elections, people across the country come together to choose their leaders. The media talk a lot about the issues, political parties, and candidates. This helps to inform and educate citizens. Elections also bring people together with a shared goal, deciding who will lead the country.
4. **Elections confer legitimacy on government:** When elections are free and fair, they show that the people support the leaders chosen. This means the government has the right, or legitimacy, to lead because most people voted for it. Elections help prove that leaders have the people's approval and trust.

5. **Participation in governance:** Elections give people the chance to take part in how the country is run. By voting, citizens use their right to choose leaders and help decide the future of their community and country. This is called exercising your franchise or right to vote, and it is an important part of being a good citizen in a democracy.

Activity 4.3 Functions of Elections

1. Work with a classmate to research one main function of elections in a democracy. Discuss your findings with other classmates. Start your research with the resource from <https://www.britannica.com/>
2. Compare your summaries with the other two groups, and together, based on activity 4.3.1 above, organise and create a poster, social media depicting the various functions of elections for further class discussion.

MEANING AND TYPES OF VOTING SYSTEMS

A voting system is the method used to convert individual votes into seats in a representative body, such as a parliament or for electing a president. It includes the set of rules and procedures that govern how elections are conducted and how winners are determined. In simple terms, the voting system decides who wins or loses in an election. Voting in elections is an important way for citizens to influence government decisions. By voting, we choose representatives who make decisions and create laws on our behalf.

Types of Voting Systems

Different countries use different voting systems based on their culture, political history, and how their parties are organised. Each system has its strengths and weaknesses. Some systems help smaller groups get represented, while others favour bigger parties. The rules of each system also decide who can vote and how the votes are counted. There are three main types of voting systems, usually based on constituencies. These are: single-member plurality/majority system, proportional representation and absolute majority systems. There are three main types of voting systems you need to know: First-Past-the-Post (Simple Majority System), Proportional Representation System and Absolute Majority System.

1. **First-Past-the-Post:** In this system, the country is divided into constituencies (areas). Each constituency chooses one person to represent them in Parliament. The winner is the candidate who gets the highest number of votes, even if it is not more than half of the total votes. This is called a plurality. It is also known

as the simple-member plurality/majority system. For example, in Ghana, parliamentary elections use this system.

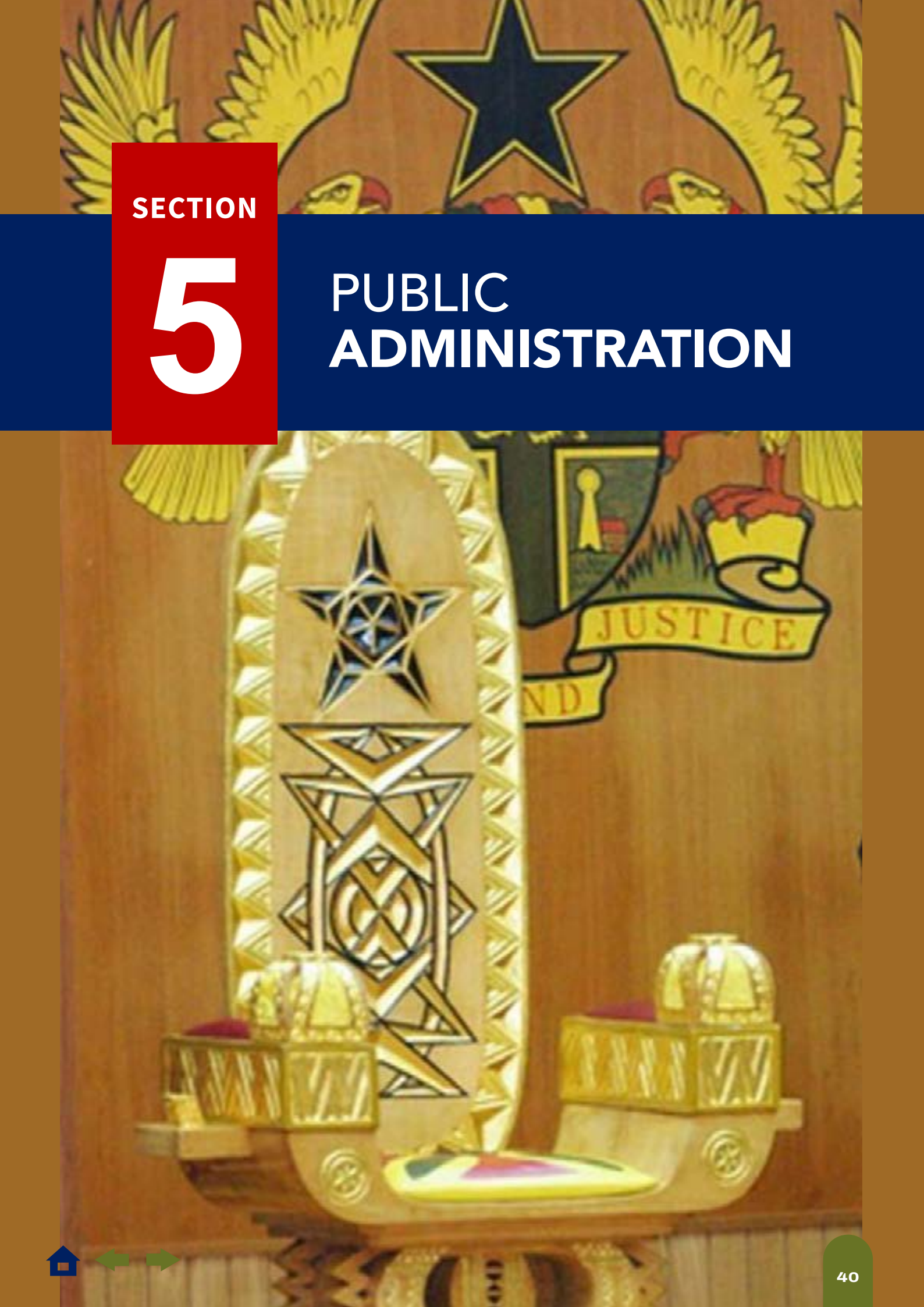
2. **Proportional Representation:** In this system, there is a multi-member constituency where political parties get seats based on the number of votes they receive. The more votes a party gets, the more seats it gets in Parliament. Voters usually vote for a party, not an individual candidate. The party then chooses which people will take the seats, based on a list. The goal of PR is to make sure each party's share of seats matches its share of the votes.
3. **Absolute Majority System:** In this system, a candidate must get more than half of the total valid votes (over 50%) to win an election. This is called an absolute majority. If no one gets more than 50% in the first round, a second round (called a run-off) is held between the top two candidates. In Ghana, the President is elected using the absolute majority system. A candidate must get 50% plus one vote to win.

Activity 4.4 Voting Systems

1. Research the meaning and types of voting systems and share your findings in a whole-class discussion. Go to <http://google.com> to begin your search.
2. Write a paragraph summary of the ideas expressed in the whole class discussion on preferred voting systems. Exchange your paper with a classmate and provide feedback on their work.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Analyse challenges with Ghana's first-past-the-post system of voting for its parliamentary elections.
2. Evaluate the role of political parties in promoting democratic governance.



SECTION

5

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

You are welcome to Section 5, which focuses on Public Administration. This section is important because it helps you understand the purpose and functions of government. Through it, you will gain insight into the key activities that governments undertake and the responsibilities they have towards their citizens.

The section begins with a discussion on decentralisation and local government. You will learn how power and decision-making are shared between the central government and local authorities, and how this affects governance and service delivery in communities. The second part provides an overview of the civil service. It explains how the civil service works, its role in implementing government policies, and the various methods it uses to carry out its duties. You will also examine the ethical responsibilities of civil servants, as well as common challenges they face, such as delays, corruption, and resistance to change. The final part explores e-Governance. It highlights how the use of digital platforms and information and communication technology (ICT) is helping to improve public service delivery, reduce paperwork, and make government operations more efficient. By studying this section, you will develop a better understanding of how public administration works and how it affects your everyday life as a citizen.

This section links with Year 1 and 2 discussions on the Meaning and Types of Decentralisation, the characteristics of the Civil Service and the concept of E-government and E-governance.

KEY IDEAS

- Decentralisation allows citizens' consultation and participation in decision-making.
- Civil and public servants have duties and ethical responsibilities towards the state.
- Ghana has implemented digital initiatives like mobile money for public payments.
- Digital technologies improve governance by enhancing transparency and efficiency in public service delivery.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF DECENTRALISATION ON DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

In the past three decades (since the birth of the Fourth Republic), decentralisation of governance has become the leading approach in the development agenda of Ghana. Several justifications have been provided for this governance model. The positive effects of decentralisation include the following.

1. **Promote participatory governance:** Decentralisation promotes empowered and participatory governance by involving residents in decision-making. In other words, decentralisation means giving power to local areas so people can help make decisions. It lets community members, including groups and organisations, take part in planning and solving problems. This way, local plans match what the people need.
2. **Foster inclusive growth and poverty reduction:** Decentralising government enhances inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Thus, decentralisation helps reduce poverty and grow the economy for everyone by letting local leaders make decisions. Since they know their community's needs better than the central government, they can use local people, ideas, and resources to solve problems more effectively.
3. **Enhance transparency and accountability:** Decentralisation makes government more open and responsible by allowing people to elect local leaders and monitor their work. This keeps officials focused on their duties, reduces corruption, and ensures they answer to the community.
4. **Public service delivery and community development:** Decentralisation is expected to improve public service delivery and promote community development. The concept helps improve services and community development by bringing government closer to the people. Local leaders can better understand and solve problems in their areas, especially in rural communities with different needs.
5. **Promote political stability and unity:** Decentralisation helps keep the country united by involving all groups in decision-making. It gives minority and marginalised communities a voice to participate in local governance, which builds inclusion, peace, and political stability.

CHALLENGES OF GHANA'S DECENTRALISATION

Decentralisation has increased the voice of the poor and thereby improved accountability and responsiveness of government in Ghana, but it is confronted with several challenges.

1. **Inadequate technical and competent personnel:** Human resources are the most important asset of any organisation, yet many local government units or districts in Ghana lack skilled workers. Sometimes, untrained staff make important decisions because the districts cannot hire their own workers. Recruitment and selection are controlled by the central government, and political connections can influence appointments instead of merit or qualifications. Low pay and poor working conditions also make it hard to attract qualified people, especially in rural areas.
2. **Inadequate revenue:** District Assemblies get money from taxes, fees, and the District Assembly Common Fund (DA CF). However, they struggle because the local tax base is small, and the central government controls many key revenue sources. Funds from the DA CF are often delayed or reduced without the Assemblies knowing, which can lead to projects being stopped or abandoned.

3. **Non-involvement of citizens in decision-making:** Citizen involvement in local decision-making in Ghana is limited due to low public awareness and inadequate participation mechanisms. Decision-making tends to be dominated by a few individuals, increasing the risk of the system being used for personal gain. This is further worsened by widespread apathy. As a result, policies and programmes often lack community input, leading to poor quality and limited impact.
4. **Increased graft and corruption:** At the district level, there is weak monitoring, poor accountability, and little public access to budget information, making it easier for funds to be misused. When local officials control money without citizen involvement, it can lead to corruption, favouritism, and loss of trust in local government. This hurts transparency and slows down development.

Activity 5.1 Challenges of Decentralisation

1. In a group of not less than three of your classmates, explore at least two key challenges of Ghana's decentralisation. Compare your findings with those of other groups for feedback.
2. Interview your teachers on some key challenges of decentralisation in your locality. Present your findings in the form of a diagram as seen below.



FUNCTIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

The Civil Service is very important in a democratic country because it helps make and carry out government decisions. As government work becomes more complex, only skilled and well-trained workers can do the job well. The Civil Service keeps the government running smoothly, gives expert advice, and makes sure there is stability when leaders change. It also remembers and preserves important government knowledge and practices. Its main functions include:

1. **Policy initiation:** Senior civil servants create policies to solve important problems in the country. They present different options to ministers, who then choose the ones that will help improve the country's social and economic development.
2. **Policy implementation:** Government policies and programmes are carried out through the civil service. In other words, civil servants are responsible for fulfilling goals set by the ruling government.
3. **Undertake research:** The civil service regularly studies national issues and publishes its findings. These findings give useful recommendations to ministers and political leaders, helping them understand and solve problems facing Ghanaian society.
4. **Advise on government plans:** Civil servants offer professional and impartial advice to ministers and government officials, supporting politicians with expert input in both policy formulation and implementation.
5. **Record-keeping and information management:** Civil servants maintain the country's assets and manage important documents, including files containing agreements between different governments.

CHALLENGES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

Since independence, the Civil Service has played an important role in Ghana's development, supported by citizens and successive governments. However, in recent years, it has faced criticism for being less effective and efficient, often failing to meet its main responsibilities. Its influence in public service delivery is weakening, and its central role in political, administrative, and social systems is diminishing. Challenges facing the Civil Service include:

1. **Poor working environment and facilities:** The Civil Service in Ghana struggles with poor physical work environments, including inadequate office space, outdated facilities, and a lack of essential equipment. These logistical problems make it difficult for staff to work effectively and deliver quality public services.
2. **Inadequate and low salaries and wages:** The Civil Service in Ghana struggles with low pay and small salary increases that do not match the level of responsibility or experience required. As a result, many skilled and experienced

workers leave for better-paying jobs in other sectors or abroad, especially where salaries are in stronger foreign currencies.

3. **Rigid rules and regulations:** In Ghana, the Civil Service has too many slow and complicated procedures, especially for promotions and key appointments. These old and inflexible rules make work slow and stop the service from adapting to new needs.
4. **Overstaffing and politicisation:** The Civil Service in Ghana has too many workers, especially in junior roles, because of poor planning and unchecked hiring. Many of these jobs are not essential. Also, politicians sometimes influence who gets recruited or promoted for their benefit, which reduces the Civil Service's fairness, independence, and ability to stay neutral.
5. **Delays in recruitment or promotions:** The service is confronted with inadequate, qualified personnel to deliver efficient services. However, qualified individuals often wait long periods before being appointed or promoted, leading to frustration and low staff morale. These delays also create gaps in key positions, affecting the efficiency and continuity of public service delivery.
6. **Corruption and weak accountability systems:** Some staff members demand money or accept gifts before carrying out their official duties, undermining trust in public institutions. This practice delays service delivery, promotes unfair treatment, and damages the credibility and integrity of the civil service. The lack of strong monitoring and enforcement mechanisms allows such behaviour to go unchecked.
7. **Negative work attitude:** Some civil service employees view their responsibilities as government work, and therefore not their concern. This mindset makes them develop and practice negative attitudes towards work, such as lateness, absenteeism, and lack of commitment, which negatively impact productivity and weaken the quality of public service delivery.

Activity 5.2 The Civil Service

1. Individually or in groups, research the ethics and core values of the Ghana Civil Service. Prepare a 10-minute presentation to share your findings with the class. More details can be found on the Civil Service website <https://ohcs.gov.gh/>
2. Research at least five daily functions performed by civil servants. Organise each function under the correct theme using the table provided below. Prepare to share your findings with the class during the discussion session.

Theme	Function
Administrative	Preparing official letters and reports, organising meetings
Regulatory	
Advisory	
Implementation	

RELEVANCE OF E-GOVERNANCE IN GHANA

Today, government offices use computers and the internet to do their work faster and more efficiently. Instead of using only paper files, they now use online systems for things like buying goods for the government (e-procurement), paying taxes (e-taxation), and doing business (e-commerce). The relevance of E-governance in Ghana includes:

1. **Improving citizens-government relations:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has changed how citizens and the government interact. Through e-government, the government can share information and services online. Citizens can talk to their elected leaders and get updates through websites and social media platforms. People can also use these platforms to report problems in their communities, share opinions, and make complaints. Digital tools also help government and private workers stay connected, exchange ideas, and learn about new developments in their work.
2. **Transparency and accountability:** E-governance promotes transparency and accountability by making government processes more open and accessible to the public. Digital systems track and record transactions, reducing the chances of manipulation or fraud. Citizens can easily access information on government spending, decisions, and services, making it easier to hold officials accountable. i.e., reduce corruption opportunities.
3. **Improving public service delivery:** ICT makes public services faster, cheaper, and easier to use. People can now access services like education and healthcare online, through things like video lessons and telemedicine. ICT also helps in community education, public safety, and emergency response. For example, during COVID-19 and in road safety campaigns. The police use digital databases to track crime and prevent it more effectively.
4. **Efficiency and Productivity:** ICT helps make work faster and more effective. Job vacancies can be advertised online, and people can apply easily. Local authorities can hold virtual meetings, making governance more open and accessible. Districts can promote their culture, heritage, and tourism online to attract visitors and investors. Businesses can also apply for permits, renew licenses, and pay taxes electronically.

Activity 5.3 E-governance

1. Research on at least two government agencies or departments in Ghana that use social media platforms to share information or engage with the public. Submit your work in a structured table, as seen below, for whole-class discussion.

Name of agency/ department	Social media platform(s)	Types of activities/ services	Examples of posts

2. Visit the Ghana Integrated Government Services platform at <https://www.ghana.gov.gh>. Select one specific online government service available on the platform (e.g., passport application, business registration, birth certificate application) and record information on the following.
 - a. Purpose of the platform: The main goal or function of the platform.
 - b. Services offered: The specific things users can do or access on the platform.
 - c. Benefits to citizens: How the service makes life easier.
3. Prepare an oral presentation for 10-15 minutes.

EXTENDED READING

- Abubakari, M., Boakye, Y. K., Blay, A. A., Attuquaye, E. C., & Agyemang, F. Y. (2024). Technology for revenue mobilisation: the case of the Ghana Revenue Authority. *SN Social Sciences*, 4(11), 200.
- Alhassan, G. S. (2020). E-governance for sustainable development in Ghana: Issues and prospects.
- Asamoah, K. (2019). E-governance in Africa's local governments: Do district assemblies in Ghana optimise the use of websites and social media? *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 85(4), e12082.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Analyse the potential benefits and challenges of decentralisation in Ghana.
2. Assess the role of the civil service in promoting good governance and public service delivery.
3. What are the core ethics and guiding principles of the civil service? How do these principles contribute to effective governance?
4. Evaluate the role of e-governance in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.

SECTION

6

STATECRAFT AND DIPLOMACY



INTRODUCTION

In this section, you will learn about Ghana's foreign policy and how the country relates to its neighbours and major international organisations. It explains how Ghana maintains peaceful and friendly relations with countries like Togo, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire, based on the idea of being a good neighbour. You will also explore how Ghana works with important organisations such as ECOWAS, the African Union (AU), and the United Nations (UN) to support peace, development, and cooperation at regional, continental, and global levels.

This section builds on what you learned in Years 1 and 2 about the types of actors in the international system. It also looks at the key actors and institutions that shape Ghana's foreign policy, as well as the meaning and different types of diplomacy.

KEY IDEAS

- Good neighbourliness is a central pillar of Ghana's foreign policy.
- Ghana promotes peace with neighbouring countries (Togo, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire).
- Good relations with other countries help a country grow and develop.
- Ghana works with ECOWAS, AU, and the United Nations.

GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

One of the fundamental pillars of Ghana's foreign policy is the Good Neighbourliness Policy, which has remained consistent across successive political administrations and leaders. Its primary objective is to foster cordial and cooperative bilateral relations with Ghana's immediate neighbours, ensuring peace and stability along shared borders. This policy plays a crucial role in promoting mutual trust and collaboration, which is essential for regional security and economic development. Through this policy, Ghana seeks to address key challenges that often arise in border areas, such as smuggling, illegal migration, and cross-border crimes, by strengthening security and customs cooperation with neighbouring states. It also facilitates the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes and helps prevent irredentist tendencies, which could threaten national and regional stability.

Ghana - Burkina Faso Relations

Ghana has maintained consistent diplomatic relations with successive Burkinabé governments regardless of their political orientation, from military regimes to revolutionary governments to democratic administrations. Areas of bilateral engagement with Burkina Faso include:

1. **Stability and collective security:** Ghana works with other countries to keep the West African sub-region safe and stable. For example, through the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation, Ghana and its northern neighbour (i.e., Burkina Faso) coordinate customs rules, patrol borders together, and fight cross-border crime. Ghana also works with Burkina Faso under the Accra Initiative to stop terrorism and violent extremism from spreading from the Sahel region.
2. **Trade and economic relations:** Ghana and Burkina Faso trade goods and services with each other. Ghana buys livestock, cotton, vegetables, and cereals from Burkina Faso, and sells textiles, processed foods, petroleum products, and other goods to them under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). They also work together on transport and energy projects, with Ghana's Port of Tema serving as a key route for a large part of Burkina Faso's international trade. Burkina Faso is a landlocked country, meaning it has no access to the sea. Because of this, most of its imports and exports pass through Ghana's Tema harbour.
3. **Cultural and social cooperation:** Ghana and Burkina Faso share strong cultural and social ties, especially through common ethnic groups like the Mole-Dagbani communities along their borders. These ties promote friendship and understanding. Many Burkinabé students study in Ghanaian universities, and exchange programmes help with cultural integration and skills development. Religious groups, both Christian and Islamic, also work across the two countries, helping with dialogue, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution, which strengthens the bond between the countries.

Other areas of cooperation include support for democratic transitions and governance, climate change and environmental cooperation, migration and human security, and infrastructure development and connectivity.

Ghana- Côte d'Ivoire Relations

Diplomatic relations between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire began in 1960 after Côte d'Ivoire's independence. At first, leaders in both countries had different political views: Nkrumah supported Pan-African unity, while Houphouët-Boigny preferred a moderate, pro-Western approach. Despite these differences, the two countries maintained cooperation because they share a border and have strong economic ties. Some of the areas of engagement include:

1. **Mediation and conflict resolution:** Ghana has helped Côte d'Ivoire solve political crises, such as President Kufuor's role in the Marcoussis Accord in France and peace talks in Accra. During the 2010–2011 conflict, Ghana welcomed Ivorian refugees, gave them humanitarian aid, and later helped them

return home safely under President John Evans Atta-Mills. Ghana also provided technical support to rebuild institutions and promote lasting peace.

2. **Infrastructure cooperation:** Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire work together on big projects to improve trade and grow their economies. This includes building better highways, improving telecommunications, and developing energy resources. For example, both countries are part of the Abidjan–Lagos Corridor Project, an important regional transport route. In energy, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire cooperate through the West African Power Pool to share electricity, support industries, and improve energy security.
3. **Border security and management:** Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire share a 668-kilometre border, which faces challenges from cross-border ethnic connections, informal trade, and security risks from instability in Côte d'Ivoire. To address this, the two countries hold regular security meetings, conduct joint patrols, and share intelligence. With terrorism threats moving from the Sahel toward coastal West Africa, there has been increased cooperation in counterterrorism and security monitoring. Joint military exercises and training have also strengthened their security forces and improved relations between their armed forces.
4. **Peaceful resolution of maritime boundaries:** Ghana has emphasised dialogue and diplomacy in resolving border disputes with Côte d'Ivoire. A major example is the maritime boundary dispute over oil-rich areas, which was peacefully settled through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). This approach prevented conflict and reinforced both countries' commitment to international law and regional stability.

Ghana -Togo Relations

Ghana and Togo share a long-standing relationship built on geographical proximity, cultural ties, and economic interdependence. Ghana's foreign relations with Togo focus on several areas.

1. **Security cooperation and border management:** Ghana and Togo share a 1,098 km border, which faces challenges like smuggling, illegal crossings, human trafficking, and occasional land disputes. To handle these issues, both countries use joint border management, focusing on diplomacy rather than conflict. This includes regular meetings between border officials, joint patrols, and coordination to prevent disputes. Through the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation, they address security concerns and carry out joint operations against drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and human trafficking. During the Chereponi–Wenchiki conflict, Ghana and Togo held peace talks, worked together to restore stability, and deployed security forces to protect the border area.
2. **Cooperation on infrastructure development:** Ghana and Togo are actively working together towards joint infrastructure projects covering areas of transport and energy networks. Both countries have reaffirmed their commitment to completing the joint hydroelectric dam at Juale. This initiative is part of broader efforts to continue the electrification of border communities. The partnership

between Ghana's Volta River Authority (VRA) and Togolese authorities highlights the potential for energy cooperation to support industrial growth. In the road sector, the two countries collaborate under the ECOWAS framework on projects that improve regional connectivity, such as the construction and rehabilitation of Kemerida-Kara-Nachamba in Togo and Tatale-Yendi in Ghana. Both countries are also key partners in the Abidjan–Lagos Corridor Project, a major regional transport initiative designed to boost trade, reduce travel time, and promote economic integration across West Africa. Further, Ghana and Togo have strengthened their relations through joint water resource projects, notably the Sogakopé-Lomé Drinking Water Supply Project. This project aims to provide safe drinking water to communities in both countries, improving public health and quality of life.

3. **Economic and trade diplomacy:** Ghana and Togo trade many goods like food, clothes, and petroleum under ECOWAS rules. Ghana sells petroleum, manufactured goods, and processed foods to Togo, while buying agricultural products and textiles. At the Aflao –Lomé border, many people cross daily on footpaths called “beats” to work and trade. This close trade relationship shows how the two countries depend on each other and want to keep peace and good cooperation.
4. **Political cooperation and governance:** Ghana helps promote peace and stability in Togo through ECOWAS-led efforts, supporting dialogue and mediation during conflicts. Ghana has also assisted with constitutional reforms and provided aid to Togolese refugees. Both countries work together in ECOWAS election observation missions, where Ghana shares its democratic experience to support fair elections in Togo. This shows their shared commitment to democracy and good governance.
5. **Socio-cultural cooperation:** Ghana and Togo have strong cultural and historical ties based on shared ancestry and traditions. For centuries, people from both countries have lived peacefully, trading, farming, fishing, and intermarrying. They share similar customs like religion, naming, marriage, and burial ceremonies, and speak related languages. The Ewe people are a key link, living in both countries and keeping family and language connections despite the border. Managing these ties means respecting their shared culture while also respecting each country's independence.

Activity 6.1 Policy of Good Neighbourliness

In groups of four, research on Ghana's foreign policy of good neighbourliness. With the guidance of your teacher, choose one of Ghana's neighbouring countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, or Togo. Answer the questions on a sample worksheet provided below.

Worksheet: Ghana's foreign policy with a neighbouring country

Name of Group members

1.
2.
3.
4.

Chosen country: *(Tick the chosen country you would research on against the countries below)*

☐ Burkina Faso

☐ Côte d'Ivoire

☐ Togo

Section A: Research Summary (half-page)

From your research, use the space below to prepare a 5-10 minute group presentation of key points in class.

Group summary

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GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS ECOWAS

Ghana's foreign policy with ECOWAS is about working together with other West African countries to promote peace, unity, and trade. By taking part in ECOWAS activities, Ghana helps improve security, business, and development in the region. These kinds of cooperation are explained below.

Formation of ECOWAS and Leadership

Ghana played a key role in the formation of ECOWAS in 1975 and has consistently demonstrated leadership within the organisation. Several Ghanaian presidents have served as Chairpersons of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, including Jerry John Rawlings (1994 - 1995), John Agyekum Kufuor (2003 - 2004), John Dramani

Mahama (2014), and Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (2020–2021). In these roles, Ghana has helped bring West African countries closer together, supported trade and business between them, and encouraged fair competition among the member countries.

Peace and Security

Ghana has worked hard to keep peace in West Africa. It helped end the Liberian civil war by hosting peace talks such as the Akosombo and Accra Accords (1994) and supporting Liberia's rebuilding. Ghana also sent troops to Sierra Leone to keep peace and protect people under the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), and it has helped with peace missions in Mali. This shows Ghana's strong role in keeping the region safe.

Health Diplomacy

Ghana's foreign policy with ECOWAS includes helping with health problems in the region. During the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak, Ghana hosted the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), which helped send workers and supplies to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Democracy and Governance

Ghana has played an active role in promoting democratic governance within ECOWAS by monitoring elections and supporting transitional processes in countries such as Nigeria and Sierra Leone. It has also engaged in mediation efforts during political crises, notably in Côte d'Ivoire (2010 - 2011) and other member states.

Economic Diplomacy

Ghana's foreign policy with ECOWAS supports free trade through the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS), which makes it easier for countries to trade with each other. Ghana also helps with projects like the West African Gas Pipeline, which brings natural gas from Nigeria to Ghana, Benin, and Togo to improve energy supply and support industries.

Activity 6.2 Ghana - ECOWAS Relations

Reflect on this stimulus question in a paragraph: What is the importance of ECOWAS? In your paragraph, include the following points:

- a. Why was ECOWAS formed?
- b. How it supports member countries.
- c. Some disadvantages.
- d. Why it remains important today and its current benefits.

GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS THE AFRICAN UNION

Ghana's foreign policy with the African Union (AU) is about working together to promote unity, peace, and growth in Africa. These ideas are explained in detail below.

Formation of the AU and Pan-African Leadership

Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to gain independence, led by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who worked hard for African unity. He believed that African countries should come together politically and economically to grow and be free from colonial rule. Ghana helped start the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which later became the African Union (AU). Nkrumah dreamed of a united Africa working as one to support each other's security and development. Ghana also showed its leadership by hosting the African Union Summit in 2007, continuing Nkrumah's vision for a strong and united Africa.

Liberation struggle and Anti-colonial Support

Under Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana helped lead the fight against colonial rule and control in Africa. Nkrumah believed that Ghana's independence was only meaningful if all of Africa was free. Ghana gave support to liberation movements by providing money, help, and training through meetings and workshops for freedom fighters. The Bureau of African Affairs was created to organise these efforts.

Promotion of Democratic Governance

Ghana strongly supports democracy within the African Union. It was the first country to take part in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which checks how well countries follow democratic rules. In 2006, during President Kufuor's administration, Ghana was the first African country assessed under APRM, showing its commitment to good governance and transparency. Ghana also learns from and shares democratic ideas with other African countries through the AU.

Peacekeeping Operations

Ghana has made significant contributions to peace and security in Africa through African Union-led mechanisms, strengthening the continent's capacity for conflict prevention and resolution. Ghanaian troops have participated in key peacekeeping missions in conflict zones such as Darfur (Sudan), Mali, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These efforts reflect Ghana's commitment to Pan-African solidarity, regional stability, and its foreign policy principle of promoting peace and security across Africa.

Economic Diplomacy

Ghana has taken a leading role in bringing African countries together to trade more with each other through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Ghana

hosts the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, showing it is an important centre for trade and economic cooperation in Africa. This helps Ghana support more trade, industrial growth, and development across the continent.

Other contributions of Ghana to the AU are conflict prevention and mediation initiatives, post-conflict reconstruction and development, agricultural development and food security (e.g., implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and democracy and governance through AU election observation missions.

Activity 6.3 Ghana- AU Relations

1. Read a short overview of the African Union (AU), focusing on its aims and purpose.
2. Write a paragraph in your own words that summarises the history and development of the AU from its beginnings in 1963 to the present.
3. Your teacher may ask you to present your summary to the class. To learn more, visit: <https://au.int/en/overview>

GHANA'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS THE UNITED NATIONS

Since gaining independence in 1957, Ghana has always supported the United Nations (UN). Ghana believes the UN is important for countries to work together and solve global problems. Being the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to become independent, Ghana has shown a strong commitment to the UN's goals.

Global Peace and Leadership

Ghana has used the United Nations to support African freedom and protect small countries. It has been a member of the UN Security Council several times, helping to make important decisions about world peace and security. Ghana worked on solving conflicts peacefully and dealt with global issues like COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Ghana's UN role reached its peak with Kofi Annan, who served as UN Secretary-General (1997–2006). Annan modernised the UN, strengthened peacekeeping, promoted human rights and good governance, and introduced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which laid the foundation for today's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Peacekeeping Operations

Ghana's UN engagement is strongly rooted in the principle of collective security, demonstrated through its consistent support for UN peacekeeping missions. Since 1960, Ghana has contributed over 100,000 peacekeepers, making it one of the top troop-contributing countries globally. Ghanaian forces have served in missions in Lebanon, Cyprus, and during crises such as the Rwanda genocide. Ghana's peacekeeping policy emphasises a comprehensive approach, combining conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and development strategies to ensure lasting stability in conflict-affected regions.

Health and Human Development

Ghana works closely with UN health groups like the World Health Organisation (WHO) to improve health systems worldwide. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ghana asked for fair vaccine access for all countries and was praised for how it handled the crisis. Ghana also supports UN education programmes through UNESCO, helping to promote good education and skills development for people's growth.

Development and Economic Growth

Ghana supports the UN's goals to improve development and reduce poverty, like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It uses the UN to learn and share ideas for fair and lasting growth. Ghana has received financial help and advice from UN-related groups like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to improve its economy. For example, programmes in the 1990s under Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and the 2000s (HIPC Initiative) helped reduce Ghana's debt and supported its development.

Climate Change and Environmental Cooperation

Ghana cares a lot about climate change and works with the UN to find solutions. It supports important agreements like the Paris Agreement (COP 21) and asks for stronger action to reduce pollution. Ghana also asks for more help, like money and technology, to protect itself and other developing countries from the effects of climate change.

Activity 6.4 Ghana-UN relations

1. Explore the meaning of the image on the United Nations flag below and complete these activities.
 - a. What are some symbols that you can identify?
 - b. What do those symbols mean?
 - c. What is the UN motto and what does it mean?
4. Share your responses with your classmates and compare them with your own.



EXTENDED READING

- Boafo-Arthur, K. (Ed.). (2007). Ghana: One decade of the liberal state. Zed Books.
- Kumah-Abiwu, F., Balag'kutu, T. A., & Boafo-Arthur, K. (2024). Ghana's Foreign Policy in the Fourth Republic: Trends, Complexities, and Future Implications.
- Sanusi, H., & Adu-Gyamfi, S. (2017). Ghana's foreign policy: Some regional and national interests. *Journal of Human Sciences*, 14(1), 598-608.
- The Foreign Policy of Ghana: A Study of the Nkrumah Era by Kofi Ankomah
- <https://mfa.gov.gh/index.php/foreign-policy/ghanas-foreign-policy-guideline/>



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the importance of Ghana's Good Neighbourliness Policy in promoting peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries.
2. Analyse the role of Ghana's Good Neighbourliness Policy in addressing the border challenges and promoting regional security.
3. What are the main areas of cooperation between Ghana and its neighbouring countries of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo?
4. How has Ghana contributed to ECOWAS' peace and security initiatives?
5. What are the benefits of Ghana's membership in the African Union?
6. How does Ghana's foreign policy towards the UN align with its national development goals?

SECTION

7

GLOBALISATION

INTRODUCTION

Hello, and a warm welcome to Section 7 of the Government Learner Material, which deals with globalisation. In this section, you will explore how globalisation affects people, countries, and economies in many ways, bringing opportunities and challenges. You will learn how globalisation has influenced Ghana's trade, technology, education, and culture. The section also looks at some of the difficulties it brings, such as loss of local industries and unfair trade. Finally, you will study practical strategies Ghana and other countries use to reduce these negative effects and benefit more from global connections.

In Year 2, we learned about the meaning, features, and types of globalisation. In this section, we will look more closely at how Ghana benefits from globalisation and the steps it can take to maintain and improve these benefits.

KEY IDEAS

- Globalisation links countries through trade, technology, culture, and communication.
- Globalisation has both opportunities and challenges.
- Globalisation boosts economic growth, creates jobs, and expands access to goods and services.
- Globalisation can cause economic inequality, social disruption, and environmental harm.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON GHANA'S DEVELOPMENT

Globalisation has become an important part of modern life in the last 30 years. It affects almost everything from global problems like climate change, financial crises, and pandemics, to the spread of the internet, famous people, big sports events like the World Cup, terrorism, and human rights. It is a powerful force that shapes the way countries live, work, and are governed. Advocates say globalisation gives developing countries, like Ghana, the chance to join the world economy and benefit from it. Globalisation is not just a passing trend; it is a process aimed at bringing growth, new technology, and better living standards. In the context of Ghana, globalisation has had several positive effects on the economy. These include:

Promotion of Global Goods and Services

Globalisation makes it easier for goods and services from different countries to be sold in Ghana. This free trade creates healthy competition among producers, which

improves quality and keeps prices affordable. As a result, people in Ghana have more choices and can buy products that are both good and affordable.

Employment Opportunities

Globalisation has brought more jobs to Ghana through the operations of multinational corporations (MNCs) or big international companies. These companies, though mostly based in developed countries, often set up parts of their work in developing countries like Ghana because labour and resources are cheaper. This has brought investment and jobs in areas like telecommunications, banking, and other services, helping the economy grow and improving skills in the workforce.

Promotion of Democracy

Globalisation has helped spread democratic ideas to many countries, including Ghana. Through international organisations, media, and civil society, ideas about multi-party systems and fair governance have become more common. In Ghana, this influence helped the country move from military rule to constitutional government in the 1990s. The 1992 Constitution and the return to multi-party democracy were important steps that showed Ghana was following global democratic standards.

Exposure of Human Rights Abuses

Globalisation has played a key role in exposing human rights abuses around the world, including in Ghana. Through international media and human rights organisations, the global community can monitor and report on violations involving ethnic groups, religious minorities, and other vulnerable populations. In Ghana, this global scrutiny has encouraged greater respect for human rights, as the country seeks to maintain its international reputation and avoid potential sanctions. As a result, Ghanaian leaders are increasingly mindful of upholding democratic values and protecting the rights of all citizens.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON GHANA'S DEVELOPMENT

Globalisation affects many areas of life, including economic, social, cultural, and political. It is expected to help countries develop and work together, especially developing countries. However, critics (called anti-globalists) say it mostly benefits rich countries while using the resources and labour of poorer ones. In Ghana and many parts of Africa, the connection between globalisation and sustainable development has not worked as expected. Some believe this is because globalisation is designed to favour powerful economies. Others think problems inside these countries, such as poor governance, corruption, and political instability, have also stopped them from gaining the full benefits. The negative effects of globalisation include:

Migration of Professional Labour

Globalisation has made it easier for people to work in other countries. However, this has also led to many skilled professionals leaving Ghana to work abroad, which can reduce the number of experts available in the country. In search of better employment prospects, many Ghanaians, especially highly trained professionals, migrate abroad. This is particularly evident in the health sector, where significant numbers of medical doctors and nurses have left the country to work in more developed countries like the United States and the United Kingdom.

Loss of Cultures and Traditional Belief Systems

Globalisation is sometimes blamed for spreading mainly Western values and ways of life, which can cause local traditions and beliefs in countries to weaken or disappear. In the Ghanaian context, this has led to the widespread adoption of Western lifestyles, which have gradually eroded local customs, beliefs, and cultural identity. As Western media, fashion, food, and language gain popularity, many Ghanaians, especially the youth, tend to imitate these foreign practices while neglecting their cultural heritage. In Ghana, traditional dressing styles, indigenous languages, and local cuisines or native foods are being replaced by Western styles, languages and cuisines. This raises concerns about losing the country's unique cultural identity in today's globalised world.

Destruction of the Environment

In Ghana, globalisation has encouraged rapid industrial growth and foreign investment, but this has also led to the overuse of natural resources. Activities like illegal mining (galamsey), cutting down forests for farming, and pollution from factories damage the environment. These problems also add to global climate change, which threatens people's health and the planet's future.

Spread of Disease

In Ghana, globalisation has increased the risk of infectious disease transmission due to the high level of cross-border movement. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated this risk. As part of the global community, Ghana's open borders allowed for the movement of people in and out of the country. Before travel restrictions and border closures were enforced, individuals carrying the virus entered Ghana, leading to local transmission. This situation highlighted how increased global mobility driven by trade, travel, and international engagement can expose countries like Ghana to global health threats.

MEASURES FOR MITIGATING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION

While globalisation has brought new opportunities and improved many lives, it has also caused serious economic and social problems, especially in developing countries. Issues like job losses, inequality, and loss of culture are often worse in these places. Instead of rejecting globalisation completely, it is better to recognise its problems and create policies to fix them. By helping those who are negatively affected, countries can reduce the harm and still enjoy the benefits of being connected to the world. The measures or policy solutions states can implement to reduce the adverse effects include:

Promoting Local Industries and Entrepreneurship

This means supporting the growth of Ghanaian businesses such as local manufacturing, farming, and technology start-ups. It can be done by giving grants and loans to small businesses, providing training for young entrepreneurs, and helping local producers sell their goods in new markets. Promoting local industries creates jobs, grows the economy, encourages innovation, and improves people's quality of life by providing more goods, services, and opportunities.

Strengthening Trade Policies to Protect Local Goods

This means creating rules to protect Ghanaian industries and products from unfair foreign competition. This can be done by putting taxes or limits on some imported goods, making trade agreements that benefit local producers, and giving subsidies or incentives to Ghanaian businesses. For example, protecting the local rice and poultry industries from cheap imports helps farmers keep their jobs, encourages domestic production, and supports food security. Such policies promote economic growth while safeguarding Ghana's key industries.

Promoting Inclusive Education and Digital Literacy

Globalisation can increase inequality if some people are left without the skills to compete in a connected world. By making sure all Ghanaians have access to quality education and digital skills, the country can close the gap between those who benefit from global opportunities and those who are left behind. For example, teaching ICT in schools and providing computers through initiatives like One Tablet per Learner prepare students for jobs in the global economy. Inclusive education also ensures that people with different abilities and backgrounds can participate fully in society. These measures help protect Ghana from the negative effects of globalisation, such as job losses and inequality, by building a skilled, competitive, and adaptable workforce.

Enforcing Environmental Regulations in Ghana

This means making sure people and companies follow laws that protect the environment. It includes checking factories and mining sites, managing waste properly,

and punishing those who break the rules with fines or other penalties. It also involves teaching the public why protecting the environment is important and working with communities, industries, and NGOs to do it well. In Ghana, this can help stop problems like illegal mining (galamsey), deforestation, and pollution of rivers. By enforcing these rules, Ghana can protect its land, water, and air, promote sustainable development, and make sure future generations inherit a healthy environment.

Encouraging Regional Cooperation

This means working together with other countries in the region to solve common problems and achieve shared goals. In West Africa, ECOWAS is a good example of this cooperation. For Ghana, regional cooperation helps increase trade and investment with neighbouring countries, improve roads and energy systems that connect the region, and promote peace by working together to prevent or resolve conflicts. It also allows for cultural exchange and stronger relationships between West African nations, which can help Ghana benefit more from globalisation while reducing risks like insecurity and economic isolation.

Macroeconomic Policies

Macroeconomic policies in Ghana are actions the government takes to manage the overall economy, aiming to promote growth, control inflation, create jobs, and keep the cedi stable. These include fiscal policy, which uses government spending and taxes to influence economic activity; monetary policy, which controls interest rates and money supply; and exchange rate policy, which manages the value of the cedi to support trade and investment. In Ghana, effective macroeconomic policies help stabilise the economy, encourage investment, and improve living standards, allowing the country to benefit more from globalisation.

Activity 7.1 Globalisation Solution Measures

1. Working individually or in small groups, research how government agencies and local communities in Ghana are addressing the negative impacts of globalisation.
2. Identify specific programmes or initiatives they have implemented using the tabular format below.
3. Share your findings with the class for discussion.

Type of Action	Specific example	Description of how it works
Government Action	1. Investment in local manufacturing	Encourages local production and reduces dependency on imported goods
	2.	
	3.	
Community Action	1. Promotion of local festivals and traditions	Preserves cultural identity in the face of global cultural influences
	2.	
	3.	

EXTENDED READING

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the positive effects of globalisation on Ghana's development
2. Examine the relationship between globalisation and environmental sustainability

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GLOSSARY

- **Electorate:** is the group of people entitled to vote in an election.
- **Gerrymandering:** The practice of manipulating electoral district boundaries to favour one party or group over another, often by packing voters of one party into a few districts or spreading them out to dilute their voting power.
- **Legitimacy:** The quality of being lawful, rightful, or justified, often in the context of governance or authority.
- **Plurality:** Means that the person with the most votes wins, no matter what percentage of the vote people cast for him/her. That person does not have a majority of the vote.
- **Polarisation:** The division or separation of people, groups, or opinions into sharply contrasting or opposing positions, often leading to conflict, division, or extremism and making it difficult to find common ground or compromise.
- **Political Socialisation:** The process by which individuals acquire their political beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviours.

Acknowledgements



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