

all subjects wassce waec syllabus 2017 2018 official

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All Subjects WASSCE WAEC Syllabus 2017-2018 Official: A Complete Guide

For students preparing for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) examinations in 2017 and 2018, having a clear understanding of the official syllabus is essential. The syllabus not only outlines the topics that will appear on the exam but also provides a roadmap for teachers, tutors, and students to structure their study plans effectively. This article offers a thorough, word-rich exploration of every subject covered in the WAEC 2017-2018 syllabus, explains how to access the official documents, highlights key changes, and gives practical tips for mastering the material.

1. Understanding WAEC and WASSCE

1.1 What is WAEC?

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) is a regional examination board established in 1952 to administer standardized exams across eight member countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, and Togo. WAEC's mission is to provide a reliable, fair, and rigorous assessment system that helps students progress to tertiary education and the workforce.

1.2 What is WASSCE?

The West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) is the senior secondary school assessment conducted by WAEC. It is taken by students at the end of their senior secondary education and serves as a qualification for admission into universities and technical institutions. WASSCE covers a broad spectrum of subjects, ranging from core academic disciplines to practical and vocational subjects.

1.3 Why the 2017-2018 Syllabus Matters

Exam patterns, assessment methods, and content coverage can shift from year to year. The 2017-2018 syllabus introduced changes in subject emphasis, assessment style, and the introduction of new practical components in some subjects. Using the official syllabus from that period ensures that students are studying the exact material that will be tested, thereby reducing the risk of surprises on exam day.

2. Accessing the Official WAEC Syllabus 2017-2018

2.1 Official Sources

The most reliable way to obtain the syllabus is directly from the WAEC website or through authorized WAEC centers. The WAEC portal offers downloadable PDFs of the syllabus for each subject. Students and teachers can also request printed copies from their school's examination office.

2.2 Third Party Resources

While third party websites may host the syllabus, it is crucial to verify that the documents are up to date and match the official version. Some educational platforms provide annotated versions of the syllabus, which can be helpful for students who need additional explanations of key concepts.

2.3 Keeping the Syllabus Updated

Because WAEC occasionally releases updates or clarifications, students should regularly check for any amendments. The WAEC bulletin or official announcements are the best places to spot such changes.

3. Overview of Subjects Covered in the 2017-2018 WAEC Syllabus

The 2017-2018 WAEC syllabus spans a wide array of subjects, grouped into core academic disciplines, technical and vocational subjects, and foreign languages. Below is a concise list of all subjects that students could opt for during that examination cycle:

- English Language (Core)
- Mathematics (Core)
- Integrated Science (Core)
- Geography (Core)
- History (Core)
- Computer Science (Core)
- Economics (Core)
- Business Studies (Core)
- French (Foreign Language)
- Spanish (Foreign Language)
- German (Foreign Language)
- Biology (Special)
- Chemistry (Special)
- Physics (Special)
- Accounting (Special)
- Technical Drawing (Special)
- Industrial Chemistry (Special)
- Industrial Physics (Special)
- Industrial Biology (Special)
- Electrical Installation and Maintenance (Special)
- Mechanical Engineering (Special)
- Computer Programming (Special)
- Entrepreneurship (Special)
- Agriculture (Special)
- Graphic Design (Special)
- Fashion Design (Special)
- Home Economics (Special)
- Art (Special)
- Music (Special)
- Physical Education (Special)
- Social Studies (Core)

Note that the “special” subjects are optional and cater to students with specific interests or career aspirations. The core subjects form the foundation of the WASSCE curriculum and are mandatory for all students.

4. Deep Dive: Core Subjects

4.1 English Language

The English Language syllabus focuses on reading comprehension, essay writing, grammar, and vocabulary.

Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in both written and spoken English. Key components include:

- Reading passages and answering questions
- Essay writing on prescribed and open-ended topics
- Grammar and punctuation exercises
- Vocabulary development through synonym/antonym tasks
- Listening comprehension (in some exam centers)

Teachers should emphasize the importance of practicing timed essays, as the exam requires students to produce well structured responses within a limited period.

4.2 Mathematics

The Mathematics syllabus is divided into two main strands: **Basic Mathematics** and **Higher Mathematics**. The 2017-2018 syllabus introduced a greater emphasis on problem solving and real world applications.

Basic Mathematics covers:

- Number systems and operations
- Algebraic expressions and equations
- Geometry and spatial reasoning
- Statistics and probability
- Data analysis

Higher Mathematics extends these concepts to:

- Advanced algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus basics (limits, derivatives)
- Coordinate geometry
- Mathematical modelling

Students should practice a mix of computational drills and application problems to build confidence and accuracy.

4.3 Integrated Science

Integrated Science combines biology, chemistry, and physics concepts into a single cohesive curriculum. The 2017-2018 syllabus emphasizes the interrelationship between the sciences and introduces a greater number of laboratory experiments.

Key topics include:

- Cell biology and genetics
- Chemical bonding and reactions
- Physical properties of matter
- Energy and thermodynamics
- Electricity and magnetism
- Environmental science and sustainability

Laboratory work is assessed through written reports and practical examinations, so students should maintain detailed lab notebooks and practice safe handling of chemicals.

4.4 Geography

Geography is split into physical and human geography. The 2017-2018 syllabus focuses on spatial analysis, mapping skills, and the impact of human activities on the environment.

- Physical geography: landforms, climates, and ecosystems
- Human geography: population, migration, urbanization
- Geospatial technologies and map reading
- Environmental challenges and resource management

Students should work on map exercises, case studies, and data interpretation to prepare for both written and practical components.

4.5 History

The History syllabus covers African history, colonialism, independence movements, and contemporary political and economic developments. The 2017-2018 curriculum encourages critical analysis of primary sources and the development of historical arguments.

- Pre colonial societies
- European colonization and its impact
- Struggles for independence
- Post colonial challenges
- Contemporary African politics and economics

Essay writing and source analysis are key assessment components.

4.6 Computer Science

Computer Science in the 2017-2018 syllabus blends theoretical concepts with practical programming skills. Topics include:

- Computer architecture and operating systems
- Programming fundamentals (Java, Python, or C++)
- Data structures and algorithms
- Database concepts
- Web development basics
- Cybersecurity and ethical considerations

Students are required to complete programming assignments and design small projects, so consistent practice on coding platforms is highly recommended.

4.7 Economics

The Economics syllabus covers microeconomics, macroeconomics, and applied economic concepts relevant to the African context. The 2017-2018 curriculum places a strong emphasis on data analysis and policy evaluation.

- Supply and demand analysis
- Market structures and competition
- Fiscal and monetary policy
- International trade and exchange rates
- Development economics and poverty reduction

Students should practice interpreting economic data and writing policy briefs.

4.8 Business Studies

Business Studies focuses on foundational business principles, entrepreneurship, and management practices. The 2017-2018 syllabus includes case studies and real world business scenarios.

- Business environment and planning

- Marketing and sales strategies
- Financial management and accounting basics
- Human resource management
- Entrepreneurship and innovation

Practical assignments, such as developing a business plan, are part of the assessment.

4.9 Social Studies

Social Studies is an interdisciplinary subject that combines elements of history, geography, economics, and sociology. The 2017-2018 syllabus encourages students to explore societal issues through research and analysis.

- Political systems and governance
- Social stratification and inequality
- Media and communication
- Human rights and development

Students should engage in debates and write reflective essays on current social issues.

5. Special and Vocational Subjects

Special subjects allow students to pursue interests beyond the core curriculum. They are often more application based and can provide a competitive edge for university admission or immediate employment. Below is a brief overview of selected special subjects

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