FISHERIES (ALTERNATIVE A)*

(For candidates in Ghana only)

1. **PREAMBLE**

Fisheries is important to the economic development of West Africa and this syllabus has been structured to guide the assessment of learners' knowledge and enterpreneural skills in fisheries and related vocations. It is also to guide the assessment in practically oriented knowledge and skills in fisheries.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The syllabus will seek to assess candidates on

- (1) the importance of fisheries in the socio-economic development of West Africa.
- (2) the dangers of over fishing practices.
- (3) the regulations governing fishing practices in the country.
- (4) the differences between freshwater, brackish water and marine habitats and resources.
- (5) skills in fish farming.
- (6) basic entrepreneurship skills in fisheries related vocations and business.
- (7) the effects of water pollution on fishery resources.
- (8) fish preservation and processing techniques.
- (9) basic biology of fishes.
- (10) basic fish health management.

3. **REQUIREMENTS**

- (1) Schools offering fisheries must have at least an aquarium and a fish pond/concrete tank.
- (2) The study of fisheries should be supplemented by visits to well established fish farms, fisheries research institutions, fishing companies and other institutions related to fisheries.
- (3) Candidates should keep practical notebooks which should contain records of activities based on laboratory and individual observations carried out in aquaria and fish farms, field trips and also records of specimens collected.
- (4) Schools should prepare an album of fishery organisms, fishing gear and craft and different fish rearing facilities and equipment for teaching purposes.

4. EXAMINATION SCHEME

There will be three papers, Papers 1, 2 and 3 all of which must be taken. Papers 1 and 2 will be a composite paper to be taken at one sitting.

- **PAPER 1:** Will consist of fifty multiple choice objective questions, all of which must be answered within 1 hour for 50 marks.
- **PAPER 2:** Will consist of six essay-type questions. Candidates will be required to answer four questions within 2 hours for 20 marks each.
- **PAPER 3:** Will be a practical paper for school candidates or alternative to practical work test for private candidates. It will consist of three questions all of which must be answered within 2 hours for 60 marks.

DETAILS SYLLABUS

CONTENTS	

A. INTRODUCTION TO FISHERIES	
1. Fisheries and	
national development (a) Meaning of fisheries (b) Types of fisheries	Explanation of the term fisheries Knowledge of the following is required: Culture fisheries (aquaculture) Capture fisheries (fishing) - subsistence fisheries - artisanal fisheries - commercial fisheries - industrial fisheries
(c) Importance of fisheries to national development	Role of fisheries in the national economy e.g. food, employment, income generation, social and cultural life.
Fishery organisms and their habitats (a) Identification and description of common fishery organisms	Assessment should cover the features of: Fin fishes (e.g. herring, tuna, tilapia, <i>Clarias</i> , <i>Heterobranchus</i>) Crustaceans (shrimp/prawns/lobster, crabs) Molluscs (clam, scallops, oyster, cuttle fish/squid) Knowledge of the characteristics of habitats:
(b) Fishery habitats	freshwater (river, lake), brackish water (estuary, lagoon) and marine (pelagic, demersal) should be covered.

Knowledge should cover species such as Identification (a) Eichorniacrassipes (water hyacinth), Cyperus description of the papyrus (Papyrus reed), Salviniamolesta(kariba characteristics of weed), Limnocharisflava(Limnocharis), invasive alien species Pistiastratiotes (water lettuce), in fishery habitats Azollafiliculoides (water fern), Enteromorphaflexura(filamentous algae) Ceratophyllum sp. (Hornwort). Characteristics should include the morphology of the species, mode of propagation, growth and development. Effects of invasive (d) Analysis of the effects of aquatic invasive alien alien species in species on fishery habitats, fishery organisms fisheries and fishers. Prevention and (e) Assessment to include preventive measures such control of invasive as awareness creation, screening at entry points alien species in fishery and enforcement of plant protection and habitats regulatory laws and control measures both physical and biological 3. Grouping of Assessment should cover the grouping of the fishery organisms following fishery organisms under freshwater, brackish water and marine habitats: Tilapia, Clarias/Heterobranchus, Chrysichthys, Heterotis, Lates, Bagrus, Alestes, Synodontis, Prawns, Crabs, Grey mullet, Shrimps, Sardinella, Sea bream, Cassava fish, Tuna, Mackerel, Anchovy, Shark, Cuttle fish/squid, Clam, Ray, Sea urchin. **FISHING ACTIVITIES**

Fish landing sites and facilities	Assessment should cover the identification and
(a) Types of fish	

location of the following landing sites in your landing sites country: beaches, harbours, lagoons, river banks, lake shores. (b) Facilities and Knowledge in the use of the following facilities is activities at fish landing required: winch, cold store, ice plant, fuel station, sites slipway, dry dock, jetty and breakwater. Description of activities at fish landing sites: unloading fish from vessels fuelling vessels loading of ice into vessels beaching of vessels for repairs repairs and maintenance of vessels/gear fish processing fish marketing Sanitation Assessment should cover knowledge and skills of practices at fish proper disposal of wastes generated at fish landing sites landing sites including oil spills and vessel parts. 2. Fishing gear and craft. Classification and (a) Active fishing gear: description of fishing cast net gear seine net trawl dredges scoop net Passive fishing gear: e.g. hooking devices stationary nets tangle nets traps Merits and demerits of using the various gear are also required. Assessment should include knowledge of materials for construction and repair of fishing Construction gear. Basic ways of maintaining fishing gear is and maintenance also required. of fishing gear Fishing craft should include canoes, trawlers and

purse seiners. Accessories such as oars, sails,

(b)	Description and maintenance of craft	fishing	outboard and inboard engines, winches, sonar and radar should also be covered.

(d) Fishing methods Description of active and passive fishing methods used in inland, coastal and deep sea fishing is required. (e) Harmful fishing Assessment should cover the description of practices harmful fishing practices and an analysis of their effects. Ways of preventing harmful fishing practices and minimizing their effects are also required. C. FISH BIOLOGY Identification and 1. classification of fishery organisms (a) Identification of Common and scientific names are required. common fishery organisms by species Common fishery organisms should be classified (b) Classification of under phylum and class for Mollusca, common fishery Arthropoda and Echinodermata. Phylum organisms Chordata should be classified to the subclass level. 2. Structure and function of fishery organisms Ability to measure total, standard and fork lengths, and weights should be assessed. Fish body (a) measurements Assessment should cover a mollusc (cuttle fish), crustaceans (shrimp/prawn, crab), cartilaginous External structures (b) fish (shark, ray) and bony fishes (tilapia, and features of Clarias). fishery organisms Assessment should cover organs such as gills, alimentary canal, heart and blood vessels, Internal organs of (c) kidneys and gonads. bony fishes and their functions

3. Life processes in fishes	Assessment should cover role of muscles and
(a) Locomotion	

	fins in movement and the maintenance of balance (pitching, rolling, yawing).
(b) Feeding and digestion	Assessment should include knowledge of ingestion, digestion, absorption and egestion in fishes.
(c) Blood circulation	Assessment should cover composition, circulation and functions of blood.
(d) Gaseous exchange	An understanding of the mechanism of gaseous exchange is required.
(e) Excretion	Knowledge of osmo-regulation and the excretory process and products is required.
(f) Reproduction	Knowledge and understanding of the stages in the reproductive process: gamete formation, spawning, fertilization and parental care are required. Identification of male and female tilapia should be assessed. Examination of eggs of gravid/berried fish is required.
(g) Growth	Knowledge and understanding of the life cycle in fishes and the factors affecting growth (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, food availability, competition) are required.
4. Fish ecology(a) Environmental conditions in fish habitats	Knowledge and understanding of the environmental conditions and their effects on fish populations (temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, pH, turbidity, light, nutrients, upwelling phenomenon) are required. Measurement of environmental conditions using water test kits on water from pond, river/stream, lagoon, lake and sea is required.
	Knowledge of the following processes is required:
(b) Ecological processes within	- feeding behaviour

fish habitats	- predation, competition
11511 Haultats	producion, competition
	- food chain, food web

food pyramid fish mortality adaptation of fishes to their environment (c) Pollution in water bodies The causes (poisons, sewage, debris, household refuse etc), effects, prevention and control of pollution are required. Effects of pollution on fish populations should be covered. 5. Fish genetics and evolution Principles of (a) Assessment should cover knowledge and Genetics understanding of chromosomes, genes, genetic crossings, genotype and phenotype as applied to fish. Application of the principles of genetics to fish breeding, e.g. development of super male tilapia and Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) should be assessed. Explanation of the concept of inheritance of (b) Inheritance of genetic external characters in fishes e.g. skin colour is characteristics required. D. **AQUACULTURE** 1.0 Introduction to aquaculture (a) Meaning and importance of aquaculture (b) Types of aquaculture Assessment should cover the culture of The state of aquaculture organisms including fish, clams, shrimps and sea weeds. Assessment should be limited to the state of aquaculture in your country: Numbers and sizes of farms, types of cultured species, practices, infrastructure/facilities, levels of production, prospects and challenges. Factors/problems affecting aquaculture should include:

few specialists in the field, high cost of pond construction, high cost of feed, difficulty in

obtaining fingerlings, difficulty in accessing credit and difficulty in land acquisition. Solutions to problems facing aquaculture in the country should be covered. Aquarium activities (a) Construction of Assessment should cover knowledge and skills an aquarium involved in the identification of materials required, design and construction of an aquarium. (b) Management of an Assessment should cover knowledge and skills involved in the identification of suitable species, capture, transport and stocking of aquarium fish. aquarium Keeping records of daily management activities and costs is also required. Assessment should include the importance of fish farming, levels of fish farming (extensive, 3. Fish farming semi-intensive, intensive) and types of fish farming (monoculture, polyculture, integrated Introduction to (a) culture) fish farming Knowledge of the facilities for growing fish (earthen ponds, cages, concrete tanks, raceways, fish pens) is required. Knowledge and skills in the selection of suitable sites for construction of ponds, cages and pens is required. (c) Construction of Criteria for the selection of sites for the fish culture facilities construction of ponds, cages and pens should include topography, soil type, water quality and quantity and security. Skills in site clearing, marking, excavation, formation of walls, fitting drainage structures and grassing should be included. (c) Management of fish ponds

(i) Stocking of ponds	Knowledge and skills required should include species selection, fingerling packaging and transport and stocking. Criteria for selection of fish species should

		include feeding habits, availability of fingerlings, growth rate and adaptability.
(ii) Pond	maintenance	Knowledge of maintenance activities on fish ponds to be assessed should include: - the control of water level - repairing leakages - predator and weed control - fertilizer application
	r quality ol and monitoring	Knowledge and skills in monitoring of water quality should cover: - pH - dissolved oxygen - turbidity - ammonia content - temperature Knowledge of measures to improve water
		quality such as stirring, lime application and fertilizer application is required.
(iv) Fish	feeds and feeding	Knowledge about types of fish feeds and their nutrient content e.g. formulated feeds, agricultural by-products, pelletized and floating feeds is required.
		Skills in the formulation of nutritionally balanced fish feed/diets, procedures for feeding fish, feeding times and quantities should be covered.
(v) Harve	esting of fish ponds	Types of harvesting (partial and total) using various fishing gear and methods should be assessed.
		Draining and refilling of fish ponds as measures of pond preparation after harvest should be covered.
(d) Fish	diseases	
(i) Types	and causes	

Assessment should be limited to the following: Gill rot - fungus Furunculosis - bacteria

Ich - protozoa (ii) **Symptoms** Assessment should be based on the identification of symptoms: Gill rot - red/whitish spots on gills Furuncolosis - ulcers on skin Ich - white spots on skin and fins (iii) Prevention, Knowledge of the following methods is required: control and chemotherapy, sterilization, minimal handling of treatment fish, suitable diet and disinfection. Assessment should also include knowledge of aquatic conditions which favour fish diseases. E. FISH UTILIZATION Knowledge of the nutrients in fishery organisms 1. Nutritive value - proteins, lipids, mineral salts, water and of fish: vitamins - and experiments to test for protein and lipids in fish are required. Nutritive composition of fin fish, crustaceans and molluscs Meaning of fish processing: Explanation should 2. Fish processing include activities carried out to prepare fish for and consumption and marketing. Meaning of fish preservation: Explanation preservation should include activities carried out to extend the shelf life of fish. Meaning of fish Distinction between fish processing and fish processing and preservation is also required preservation Reasons for fish processing and preservation Importance of fish should include prevention of spoilage, increase processing and of shelf life, improvement of taste and adding preservation value. Knowledge of the principles should include the General principles of removal of microbes and water, slowing down fish processing enzymatic action, denaturing of enzymes, slowing down bacterial activity and preventing and preservation fat oxidation.

(4)	Mathoda of fish processing	Assessment should be based on knowledge and
(d)	Methods of fish processing	

	skills in washing, scaling, gutting and filleting of fish. Identification of common fish processing equipment such as knives, scissors and mechanical equipment is required.
(e) Methods of fish preservation	Assessment should cover knowledge in the following: Traditional methods (e.g. smoking, cooking, salting, drying and frying.) Modern methods (e.g. freezing, canning, irradiation and use of chemicals – pickling.) Identification and description of common fish preservation equipment such as Chorkor smoker is required.
(f) Packaging of fish	Identification of materials for packaging fresh and preserved fish for local and export markets e.g. cartons, crates and baskets is required. Demonstration of methods of packaging fresh fish and fish preserved by smoking,
(g) Fish products and by-products	Major fish products to be identified: fish fillets, chunks and flakes, canned, smoked, dried, salted, pickled, marinated fish. Fish by-products to be identified should include fish oils, fish entrails (guts and gills) and fish bones. Uses of fish by-products should be covered.
(h) Fish spoilage(i) Signs of fish spoilage	Signs of fish spoilage to be detected should include sunken eyes, mucus on the skin and darkening colour of gills.
(ii) Causes of fish spoilage	Knowledge of the causes of fish spoilage should be limited to microbial, enzymatic and fat oxidation. The importance of proper handling of fish to delay spoilage should be included.
(iii) Effects of fish spoilage	Knowledge of effects such as loss of value, taste and income should be assessed. The public health hazard of consuming spoiled fish should be covered.
F. FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS OF	

FISHERIES	
1. Fisheries	
management	

(a) Meaning of fisheries management Assessment should cover knowledge of measures taken to maintain fish stock levels for sustainable exploitation. The concept of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) should be covered. Objectives of fisheries management should (b) Objectives and strategies include maximizing sustainable catches and offisheries maintaining spawning stock. management Strategies should include limiting the number of fishing units, fishing closures, regulating mesh sizes and catch quotas. (c) Traditional fish stock Assessment should include the use of practices management practices such as close seasons, taboos, non-fishing days and cultural festivals to maintain fish stocks. Knowledge of basic data required for fisheries management e.g. fish catch, fishing effort, fish (d) Data collection length and weight, fish age and gear type should and analysis for fisheries be assessed. management Skills in the analysis of the data are also required. Factors (such as climate and breeding) responsible for seasonal variations in fish catches (bumper and lean) should be covered. Explanation of the effect of upwelling on bumper harvest of fish should be assessed. 2. Fishery policies and Knowledge of government policies and regulations on fisheries e.g. subsidy on fishing regulations inputs, role of stakeholders, fish imports should be assessed. Government Knowledge of the importance of fisheries policies policies and and regulations e.g. preventing capture of regulations on juvenile fishes, protection of the environment is fisheries also required. Meaning and economic benefits of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) should be covered. Assessment should include knowledge of endangered fishery organisms and international

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(b)	International law and	
	conventions	

conventions which protect them e.g. IUCN Red List, Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The importance of international conventions should also be included. Business of fisheries: 3. Knowledge and skills in the preparation of Budget preparation and budgets using expenditure and income items from financial culture and capture fisheries and other fishery projections for a fishery related businesses (sale of fishing inputs, fish business marketing and fish processing) are required. Cashflow projections are also required. Knowledge and skills in pricing of fish products in relation to demand and supply of fish product should be covered. Assessment should cover knowledge in quality 4. Fish marketing control, packaging, storage and transportation of fish. Major fish marketing centres in the country The state of fishmarketing should be identified, e.g. fishing harbours – Tema, Takoradi fish landing beaches – Elmina fish landing sites – Yeji other fish markets – Mankessim Problems of fish marketing and their solutions should be covered. Activities involved in fish import and export should be outlined. Explanation of the effects of bumper harvest on import/export and prices of fish should be assessed. Major companies involved in fisheries activities in your country should be named e.g. (b) Major fisheries companies fishing – Kaas, Afko, Enyidado fish farming - Tropo farms, Crystal lake fish company cold storage Felibat Ltd. Assessment should cover knowledge of value chains in the fishery industry. The responsibilities of actors in the supply and value Supply and value chains in chain should be included. the fishery industry

(d)	Food fish quality	
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and safety standards	Quality and safety standards of various fish products should be mentioned.
G. PRACTICES IN FISHING COMMUNITIES AND FISHERIES INSTITUTIONS	
Fishing communities and cultural practices	
(a) Important fishing communities	Knowledge of the location of important fishing communities in your country is required e.g. freshwater fishing communities- Yeji, Dambai, Kwamikrom and Abotoase. marine fishing communities- Teshie, Elmina, Chorkor and Shama.
(b) Cultural festivals and taboos related to fishing	List of festivals should include: Bakatue of Edina Fetu of Oguaa Dzawuwu of Agave Knowledge of the influence of the festivals and taboos on the fishing industry should be covered,
	e.g. close season/fishing holiday.
3. Fisheries institutional framework and job opportunities	
(a) Fisheries training and research institutions	Identification, objectives and activities of the institutions e.g. Water Research Institute and University of Ghana are required.
(b) Job opportunities in the fishery sub-sector	Job opportunities in the fishery sub-sector should be identified, e.g. teaching/research, fish farming, fish pond engineer, fish import/export, fish processing, cold store operation and fishing gear/craft manufacturing.

(c) Business opportunities in	Factors required for establishing enterprises in fisheries
fisheries	- Identification of business opportunities

- Identification of fishery product or service needed in a locality
- availability of market for the product or service
- demand for the product or service Resources should include land, capital, materials, structures, services, labour, technical know-how.
- (d) Procedure for establishing enterprises in fisheries

Procedures should include the development of business plans, registration of business, management of the business, etc

(e) Extension services in the fisheries sub sector

Knowledge and understanding of the role of extension services in the fisheries sub-sector should be assessed,

e.g. technical assistance to fish farmers and education of fisher folks on fisheries regulations.

1. Fishing gear:
Identification, uses and maintenance

Assessment should cover drawing and labelling of different fishing gear.

2. Fish Identification: Identification and classification of common freshwater, brackish water and marine fishes

Assessment should cover the following fishery organisms: *Tilapia*, *Clarias/Heterobranchus*, *Chrysichthys*, *Heterotis*, *Lates*, *Bagrus*, *Alestes*, *Synodontis*, *Sardinella*, prawns/shrimps, crabs, grey mullet, sea bream, cassava fish, tuna, mackerel, anchovy, ray, shark cuttlefish/ squid and sea urchins.

3. Identification and description of characteristics of invasive alien species in fishery habitats

Assessment should cover the following alien species.

Eichorniacrassipes (water hyacinth)
Cyperus papyrus (Papyrus reed),
Salviniamolesta (kariba weed)
Pistiastratiotes(water lettuce)
Ceratophylumsp(Hornwort)

4. Fish structure and function (a) External features: body form, fins, scales, lateral line etc.

Drawing and labelling of external features is required. Dissection, drawing and labelling of gills, swim bladder, alimentary canal and heart should be covered. Structure should be related to function.

(b) Internal stuctures:	
aille avvim bledden	
gills, swim bladder	

alimentary canal, heart, vessels, kidney and blood gonads. 5. Environmental conditions in fish habitats Measurement of the environmental conditions: temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and salinity is required. Ecological processes 6. within the aquatic environment Construction of food chain, food web and food pyramid should be covered. 7. Characteristic features of fresh and spoiled fish Knowledge of the following characteristics is required: Fresh fish - firm flesh, bright eyes, bright red gills and sea-weedy smell. Spoiled fish - sunken eyes, dark gills, mucus on skin and off odour smell. Identification of microorganisms and macro-Assessment should cover organisms such as organisms in maggots, fungi and insects in spoiled fish. spoiled fish 9. Fish processing and preservation Identification of common forms of processed fish: e.g. gutted, filleted, (a) skilled fish. preserved fish: e.g. frozen, salted, (b) canned and smoked fish. Identification and uses of common processing and preservation methods e.g. Chorkor smoker is required. 10. Fish by-products Assessment should be based on the identification and uses of fish by-products. 11. Pond construction Identification of suitable soils, material and equipment for pond construction. 12. Feed formulation and Identification of ingredients used for fish feed feeding formulation and identification of types of fish feed are required.

Methods of formulation of fish feed are also required.

13.	Pond fertilization	Assessment should cover identification of types, uses and methods of application of fertilizers in fish ponds.
14.	Fish diseases	Identification of gill rot, furunculosis and ich by their symptoms is required.