The New Senior Secondary Curriculum for Sierra Leone

Subject syllabus for Principles of Commerce

Subject stream: Economics, Business, and Entrepreneurial Studies



This subject syllabus is based on the National Curriculum Framework for Senior Secondary Education. It was prepared by national curriculum specialists and subject experts.





Curriculum elements for Principles of Commerce (a core subject)

Subject description

Commerce can be defined as all the activities involved in the distribution and exchange of goods and services. It refers to the organized set up of large-scale interchange of products, services, or something of value for money or money's worth. It also covers the services delivered by various organizations or businesses to facilitate the free flow of goods and services.

The Principles of Commerce course is designed to meet the needs of students planning to enter into trade and business leadership. Commerce provides the link between producers of goods and consumers, so it is the business component related to marketing or the selling of products and services. Key features of commerce include marketing, creating utility, economic activity etc. It is not just about the exchange of goods and services but includes all activities that are essential to bringing goods and services from the point of origin (i.e., production) to the point of consumption. Business in commerce is not a one-time activity. It reflects a continuous and regular process of production and distribution of goods and services.

General Learning Outcomes

- I. Students are equipped with competencies for entering the business world.
- II. Students understand issues that are affecting businesses and individuals.
- III. Students understand the functions of trade and commerce and the role that consumers perform.
- IV. Students are enabled to pursue other related courses of study.
- V. Students appreciate government's role in business.
- VI. Students understand that commerce provides employment opportunities in different sectors like trade, transport, insurance and banking etc.
- VII. Students are aware commerce is an economic activity that is aimed at satisfying the wants of humans.
- VIII. Students know how commerce contributes income to the wider society.



Content (Topics/ Themes)

SSS 1	SSS 2	SSS 3
 Introduction to commerce and E-Commerce History of commerce Occupation Production Trade Commodity exchange Sole proprietorship Partnership Money 	 Cooperative societies Public enterprises Limited companies Trade associations and other enterprises Transportation Communication Advertising Tourism Insurance Banking Warehousing Capital Credit Profit Turnover 	 Business law and agency Structure of business Introduction to business management Introduction to marketing Consumer protection Business documents Government policies relating to business Stock exchange Economic groupings



Teaching Syllabus

Topic/ Theme/ Unit	Expected learning outcomes	Recommended teaching methods	Suggested resources	Assessment of learning outcomes
Introduction to commerce and E-Commerce Definition of commerce and e-commerce History/ background of commerce Scope of commerce and E-commerce Functions of commerce and e-commerce History of commerce Historical background Factors affecting the growth of commerce The barter system	Students should be able to: Define and distinguish between commerce and e-commerce Know how e-commerce operates in a country (Sierra Leone) Have thorough knowledge about commerce and e-commerce Students should be able to: Trace the history of commerce in Sierra Leone Know the factors or things that cause commerce not to experience growth in a country Discuss or explain the meaning of barter system Know its relevance in commerce in past years and how it is being practiced in today's setting. List the challenges people faced while operating on a barter system	 Class participation Excursion to trading areas where e-commerce is being done Visit to the museum Research on the historical background of commerce Guide students' discussion on the history of commerce in Sierra Leone. Role play of barter system in class Discuss how barter was, and still is, used in Sierra Leone 	 Textbook E-commerce brochures Business journals Charts/ diagram Internet facility Black/ white board Textbook Publications on commerce black/ white board Visit the museum for material on the history of commerce in Sierra Leone Role play 	 Responses from students Assessment Individual participation Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Role play performance
Occupation Meaning of occupation	Students should be able to: Define occupation	 Teacher elicits responses about 	TextbooksCareer week	Assessment/ assignment



 Types of occupation: Industrial, Commercial, Service Factors that determine types of occupation/ employment Career opportunities Requirement for different careers 	 Differentiate between commercial and industrial occupations List factors affecting employment Identify various career opportunities within the different types of occupation 	different kinds of occupation. Discusses the benefits of examples given. Illustrate with diagrams	 Pictures Black/ white board Charts/ diagrams 	 Interpretation of diagrams Responses from students
 Production Meaning Factors of production: Land, Labour, Capital, and Entrepreneurship Types of production: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Division of labour/ specialization Inter-relationship between production and exchange 	 Students should be able to: Define: production, division of labour, specialization, and exchange List factors of production Explain inter-relationship between: production, division of labour, specialization, and exchange. 	 Organise excursion for students Illustrate with diagrammes Guide students them to distinguish between specialization and division of labour. 	 Charts Textbooks Journals Black/ white board 	Assessment/ assignmentResponses from students
Trade (Purpose and branches of trade) Home Trade ➤ Meaning of home trade ➤ Differences of Home Trade: ➤ Retail trade: ➤ Functions of retailer ➤ Factors to consider in starting a retail business	Students should be able to: > Identify the different types of trade > Describe/ discuss the relationship among the different types of trade > Identify the components of trade > Explain how retail trade is beneficial to consumers	 Class discussion Role play to identify the different types of trade Guide students to know the purpose of trade and its relevance to society 	 Textbook Custom and excise brochures Charts/ diagrams Journals on trade Individual participation Role play Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Role play performance Individual contribution from what was learnt



- Reasons for success/failure > Know and explain the of retail business
- > Small scale and large scale retailing-
- > Types of Retail Outlets: -Unit shops, Stalls, Hawkers, Kiosks, Mobile Shops, Supermarket, Chain Stores etc.
- > The main characteristics of large and small scale
- Advantages and disadvantages of large and small-scale trade
- Wholesale trade: functions of wholesalers, types of wholesalers, factors, merchant and agent wholesalers
- Factor making for elimination and survival of middlemen
- Channels of distribution: meaning, types

Foreign/International Trade

- Meaning
- > Types: import, export and entreport
- Basic concept in International Trade – terms of trade, balance of trade,

- organizational set up of a retail trade
- Distinguish between retail and wholesale trade
- > Identify the channels of distribution
- Define foreign trade and it types
- > State and discuss the barriers to foreign trade
- Give the difference between export, import and entreport
- > Discuss the difference between balance of trade and balance of payments
- List the documents used in foreign trade
- List and discuss the basic concepts in international trade

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balance of payment- favorable, unfavorable, visible and invisible items, bilateral and multilateral agreements and counter trade Advantages and disadvantages Barriers to foreign trade Tariffs – meaning, reasons for tariffs Tools of trade restriction and export promotion Functions of port and airports authorities, customs and excise authority and shipping, clearing, and forwarding agents				
 Commodity exchange Meaning Types of tradeable commodities Requirements for trading: grading, standardizing, warehousing, clearing system Method of trading: open outcry and electronic mechanisms Benefit of commodity exchange Constraints of commodity trading 	 Students should be able to: Identify and differentiate the similarities between commodities and stocks Mention the types of tradable commodities State the methods and requirements of trading Identify and discuss the benefits of commodity exchange in today's business Discuss the constraints of commodity exchange trading in Sierra Leone 	 Guide students to list or identify products that are produced in Sierra Leone: - agricultural produce, solid minerals (iron ore, diamond, bauxite), etc. Change seating position to display the commodities Class discussion Individual presentation 	 Textbook Samples of commodities produced in Sierra Leone Charts/ diagrams of commodities Class discussion 	 Assessment/ assignment Identifying commodities produced in Sierra Leone Interpreting of diagrams used



Sole proprietorship ➤ Meaning ➤ Sources of capital ➤ Advantages and disadvantages ➤ Formation characteristics	Students should be able to: define and explain the meaning of sole proprietorship identify and list the sources of capital know the importance of a sole proprietorship business in a community describe the formation of a sole proprietorship business discuss its advantages and disadvantages	 Ask questions about a sole proprietorship business in the community Guide students in the formation of a sole proprietorship business Role play to show the formation and characteristics of a sole proprietorship Invite a sole proprietor for a talk Class participation 	 Textbook Journals Role play Charts/ diagrams Black/ white board 	 Class responses to questions asked Role play performance
Partnership Meaning Types; Normal Dormant Limited etc. Formation and agreement Sources of capital Advantages and disadvantages Dissolution/ liquidation of partnership	Students should be able to: Define/ discuss partnerships from what they have learnt List and describe the types of partnership Identify and list the sources of capital of a partnership Give the difference between a sole proprietorship and partnership List and explain the advantages and disadvantages of partnership	 Guide students on the meaning of partnership and its formation Invite a senior officer in a business partnership organization for a talk Class discussion Questioning Role play 	 Textbook Journal Invitation of senior officer(s) from a partnership company 	 Assignment/ assessment Class responses to questions been asked Performance in role play
Money➤ Meaning➤ History/ evolution	Students should be able to: > Trace the history of money	Display different forms of money	TextbookCharts/ diagrams/ pictures	Class responses to questions asked

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 Forms/ types Functions Qualities/ characteristics 	 Know the types of money in different currencies and their exchange rates Know and explain the uses of money Functions of money in any society Discuss the qualities of money 	 Guide students to identify the physical forms of money to their countries of origin Role play about buying and selling using different currencies 	Types of moneyTextbooks	 Performance in role play Assessment/ assignment Responses from pupils
Cooperative societies Meaning Formation characteristics History of the cooperative movement Types of cooperative societies Advantages and disadvantages of cooperative societies Problems of cooperative societies Problems of cooperative societies	Students should be able to: Define/ discuss cooperative societies Describe the formulation of a cooperation society List their characteristics Describe the various types of cooperative societies State the advantages and disadvantages of cooperative societies Identify and discuss the problems of cooperative societies in Sierra Leone	 Lead students in discussion about cooperative societies Invite a cooperative inspector of any cooperative society to give a talk 	 Textbooks Cooperative societies' constitutions Black/ white Board 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from pupils



 Public enterprises Meaning Formation and management Sources of capital Reasons for government ownership Advantages and disadvantages of public enterprises 	 Students should be able to: Explain the meaning of public enterprises Discuss various types of public enterprises and their respective methods of formation Identify different sources of their capital State reasons for government ownership Enumerate the advantages and disadvantages 	 Identify and make a list of public enterprises in the country or locality Guide students with the use of a printed Memorandum of Association or an Article of Association 	 Textbooks Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Class discussion
Limited companies Meaning Types Formation Sources of capital Advantages and disadvantages of limited companies	 Students should be able to: Explain/ define the meaning of limited companies Distinguished between public and private limited companies State and list the advantages and disadvantages of limited companies Discuss the legal requirements for forming a limited company 	 Lead students in discussing the difference between public and private limited companies Collect information on what is required to form a limited company (Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce) 	 Textbook Reports from limited companies Chamber of commerce information 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Discussion on reports from limited companies
Trade associations and other enterprises ➤ Trade Associations: - aims and functions	Students should be able to: > Give the definition and examples of trade associations	Guide students to make a list of registered trade associations in the country	 Textbook Trade journals Publications of Chambers of Commerce 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Class participation



 Chambers of Commerce: - aims, functions and structure Consortium Cartels Amalgamation/ merger Trusts Holding companies 	Identify the aims and functions of trade associations	 Visit to a Chamber of Commerce or any trade association Guest speaker from a Chamber of Commerce or any trade association 		
Transportation Meaning Importance Forms: land, water, air, pipeline Advantages and disadvantages of each form Documents Functions of a port authority and an airport authority	Students should be able to: Give the meaning of transport and its importance to businesses and our daily lives Describe the various forms of transportation Understand advantages and disadvantages of transportation in the business world	 Excursion to study different forms of transportation: e.g., airport, port. Use of charts/ diagrams to describe the different forms of transportation Teacher guides students to know the functions of the port authority and airport authority (noting similarities and differences). Discussion on what was learnt Class participation 	 Textbook Charts/ diagrams Pictures of different types of transport Black/ white board Logistics for excursion 	 Assignment/ assessment Field work Interpretation of the charts/ diagrams Responses from students
CommunicationMeaningTypes: oral, written, visual, non-verbal etc.	 Students should be able to: Define communication Trace the development of communication in the world and Sierra Leone in particular 	 Class discussion Illustration on the mediums of communication Charts/Diagrams 	 Textbook IT/ computers/ smartphones Writing pads Telephone directory 	 Assignment/ assessment Responses from students Class discussions



 Advantages and disadvantages of different types of communication Digital/ IT (computers, internet, email, social media, etc) 	 Discuss its importance and explain it processes Distinguish between formal and informal communications Identify and discuss the various types of barriers in communication they have learnt and to give contributions from their own experiences Understand and explain the development of communication in the country, including future trends. 	Visiting of different communication stations within the country	Publications from communication companies	
Advertising Meaning Purpose Types: - informative, persuasive, competitive, mass/ specific Methods – direct and Indirect Media – meaning, choice and types Advantages and disadvantages of types, methods, and media. Consumer protection in advertising	 Students should be able to: Define advertising Explain the role of advertising in business today Understand the benefits and demerits of advertising in business Understand and give the different types advertising Discuss or explain the importance of protecting consumers in advertising certain products Make a list of registered media houses where advertising is done. 	 Guide students about advertising Role play on how advertising is done on certain products Excursion to one of the media houses Invite a media representative to give a short talk on advertising Use magazines or posters to do a display in class Role play 	 Textbook Radio Television Magazines Billboards Posters Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Performance from role play Responses from students



Tourism ➤ Meaning ➤ Forms of tourism ➤ Tourist centre's ➤ Advantage and Disadvantages of tourism	Students should be able to: Define tourism and tourist, understanding the difference between tourism and tourist	Lead discussion on tourism and touristVisit tourism centres	 Textbook Journal on tourism Tourist board officer Video clips 	 Assessment/ assignment Textbook Responses from students
Insurance Definition History of insurance (in Sierra Leone) Principles of insurance Types of insurance: Life Assurance and Endowment Non-life Insurance: - motor vehicle, fire, fidelity, accidents, burglary/ robbery/ theft, marine etc. Types of risks: - insurable and uninsurable risks The role of insurance brokers and agents	 Students should be able to: Define insurance from the explanation done in class Trace the history of insurance in Sierra Leone Explain the various types of risks and their differences Explain the role of insurance brokers and agents List the names and locations of registered Insurance companies in Sierra Leone 	 Guide students in listing and identifying registered insurance companies in the country Use charts/ diagrams to show the different types of insurance that can be insured Class discussion 	 Textbook Pictures of different insurance companies Publications on insurance Insurance brochures Posters Charts/ diagram 	 Class participation Responses from pupils Assessment/ assignment
 Banking Definition of banking Functions of banks Type of banks: - central banks, commercial banks, and other specialized banks Types of accounts: - current accounts, savings account, fixed deposit account Forms of payment 	 Students should be able to: Define banking and its systems State functions of the different types of banks Distinguish between commercial and specialized banks 	 Excursion to banks Teacher leads discussion on banking activities Invite a bank representative to explain different aspects of the banking system 	 Textbook Bank teller Display of banking pay-in-slips/ documents Charts/ diagrams Role play Black/ whiteboard 	 Class participation Responses from students Role play Assessment/ assignment



		 Guide students about the different banking pay-in- slips/ documents that are used for depositing and withdrawing money Role play on different banking activities 		
 Warehousing Meaning of warehousing Functions of warehousing Importance of warehouses Advantages and disadvantages of warehousing 	Students should be able to: Define the term warehousing Describe the importance and different types of warehouses operating in any country (Sierra Leone) List and explain the advantages and disadvantages of warehousing	 Teacher leads discussion on warehousing Excursion to different warehouses Teacher gives notes on warehousing 	 Textbook Pictures/ diagrams Excursion to a warehouse Black/ white board Class discussion 	 Assessment/ assignment Class participation Responses from students
Capital ➤ Meaning: - economic, accounting, layman concepts etc. ➤ Types: - • Authorized capital • Registered capital • Nominal • Issued Capital • Called-up capital • Paid-up capital, • capital employed	 Students should be able to: Explain the meaning of capital from the economist, accountant and layman perspective Calculate working capital, called-up capital, paid-up capital from problems posed. State or list the importance of each type of capital. 	 Teacher leads students on different meanings and types of capital. Teacher helps students to examine reports from companies on their capital investment. 	 Charts Textbook Annual report from companies Calculators Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from student Class work Class/ individual participation



 Calculation of working capital Importance of working capital 				
Credit Meaning Sources of credit: - Mortgage, Loans and Overdraft Hire purchase Finance houses etc. Functions of credit for retailers and wholesalers Instruments used in credit	 Students should be able to: Explain credit and describe the various types credit. Give the sources of credit Explain the functions of credit for wholesalers and retailers List and identify the instruments used in credit 	 Invite a loan officer for a talk Teacher guides students on credit. 	 Textbook Journals/ publications from banks Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Class /individual participation
 Profit Meaning of profit Types of profit: Gross profit Net profit Calculations of profit: Gross profit Net profit Percentage of gross profit or net profit 	 Students should be able to: Explain the meaning of profit List and explain the different types of profit Calculate the different types of profits 	> Teacher help students to calculate the different profits used in businesses	TextbookCalculatorsBlack/White board	 Assessment/ Assignment Responses from students
 Turnover Meaning of turnover Relationship of capital investment to turnover Calculations of rate of turnover Calculations of gross profit/net profit to turnover 	 Students should be able to: Explain and calculate turnover of a business State the importance of turnover 	 Teacher helps students in turnover calculations Class participation 	 Textbook Calculators Black/ white board Class participation 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students



Different types of business variations				
Business law and agency Contract: -	Students should be able to: > Understanding the operations of business, and the obligations and responsibilities of parties in a transaction when discussing the legal framework within which a business operate. > Develop skills in problem solving using a sample business case study > Explain an agent and a principal > Differentiate between rights and duties of the principal and agents > Identify the documents needed for business establishment	 Explanation by teacher Class discussion Invitation of a law practitioner to explain some points to the pupils Guide students with sample cases to identify the principal of any business Discuss the duties of the parties involved i.e. the agent, principal, and third party 	 Textbook Publications on government regulations Acts that are guiding any business or company Textbook Journals on agency Black/ white board 	 Assessment Responses from students Class/ individual performance
 Structure of business Organizational set-up/ structure Responsibility Authority Span of control Responsibility Inter and intra departmental communications 	 Students should be able to: Explain or define the meaning of organizational setup/ structure and it types Draw an organizational chart showing various positions in an organization 	 Explanation by teacher and individual contributions by pupils Illustrate an organizational setup/ structure with the aid of a diagram 	 Textbook Charts/ diagrams Group presentations Role play Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Interpretation of charts/ diagrams



	 Differentiate between the power of an organization and that of an individual Explain the importance of communication in a business Social responsibility of business to society: - Scholarship award Employment of people in the community Sponsoring of sporting activities etc. 	A	Group discussions with the help of charts/ diagrams displayed Role play on authority and span of control				
Introduction to business management	Students should be able to: Explain the meaning and	A A	Class discussion Teacher leads	A A	Charts/ diagrams Textbook	>	Assessment/ assignment
 Meaning Objectives of business management Meaning of business management Business resources: Man/ Woman Money Material Opportunities/ goodwill etc. 	objectives of business management Show or explain the resources of a business		discussion on the meaning of business management and its objectives	>	Black/ white board	>	Class participation
Introduction to marketing Meaning of marketing	Students should be able to: Explain the meaning and	^	Lead students in discussion	>		>	Assessment/ assignment
Importance and functions of marketing in an economy	concept of marketing Discuss the importance and	>	Explain and distinguish between			>	Responses from students
(Sierra Leone) Marketing Concept and mix	functions of marketing in an economy (Sierra Leone)		marketing mix and marketing concepts			>	Interpretation of charts/ diagrams
(4Ps): • Product	Explain the concept of marketing mix		Visit a market to compare the price				



PricePlacePromotion	 Identify activities associated with marketing Explain the various pricing policies 	of similar commodities		
Consumer protection Meaning Need for protection Means of protection Consumerism Instrument of Protection: Food and Drugs Act Standard Organization Act Price Control Act Factory, Shops and Offices Act Product Quality	 Students should be able to: Explain the meaning and concept of consumer protection Discuss the importance and functions of different instruments of protection 	 Lead students in discussion Explain functions of different instruments of protection 	 Textbook Publications on the acts that protects consumers Textbooks Charts/ diagrams Black/ white board 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Interpretation of charts/ diagrams
Business documents ➤ Relevant business documents: - • Letter of enquiry • Invoice • Credit • Receipt • Quotation • Catalogue • Price list etc. ➤ Trade terms and abbreviations: • Cash On Delivery (COD) • Trade discount etc.	Students should be able to: List and explain the various types of documents used in the buying and selling of good Explain the different means of payment.	 Guide students on the different types of business documents Visit the school bookshop or canteen to see how buying and selling is being done 	 Textbook Displayed business documents Chart/ diagrams 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students Interpretation of business documents



 Terms of trade: - cash, credit payment in arrears Means of payment: - legal tender (coins, bank notes), cheques, standing orders, etc 				
Government policies relating to business Commercialization Privatization Deregulation [Meaning Reasons Advantages and Disadvantages Comparison Differences]	Students should be able to: Explain the terms commercialization, privatization, deregulation Differentiate between commercialization, privatization, deregulation Give the benefits of commercialization, privatization, deregulation for any business	 Guide students on the definitions of commercialization, privatization, deregulation Class participation 	 Articles from newspapers Publications from the government Black/ white board Textbooks 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students
Stock exchange Meaning Functions Importance Transaction on stock exchange Speculators Stock exchange securities Types of stock exchange securities: Shares Convertible loans/ Debenture Stock etc. Capital market	 Students should be able to: Explain the meaning of stock exchange Explain the methods used to raise funds in the capital market Mention or list the securities (instruments of trade) in the capital market Describe the speculators in the exchange List bodies that can access the capital markets 	 Guide students about how transactions on the stock exchange can be done Guide students to make a list of stockbrokers in Sierra Leone Visit stockbrokers' offices Discuss various ways of accessing capital market 	 Textbooks Publications on exchange and securities Stock exchange reports 	 Assessment/ Assignment Responses from students



Economic groupings ECOWAS European Union Mano River Union etc. [History Membership Objectives Achievements] Problems/ obstacles	 Students should be able to: Discuss/ explain the history of ECOWAS, European Union, Mano River Union List the countries that are under these economic groups as members 	 Teacher should guide students on the activities of these economic groups Participate in group discussion on economic groups 	 Textbook Charts/ diagrams Maps of member states 	 Assessment/ assignment Responses from students
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