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Fourth quarter second round social studies short note and review exercises
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4.2 Issues of rights and safety

4.2.1 Fighting child rights violations

A. Laws supporting the rights of the child

Child right convention protects children from cruelty, sexual offences, neglect or exploitation and assures them of some education. Most countries have laws that protect the interests of children. The minimum of full employment varies between countries. In some countries, laws prohibit the employment of children less than 13 years of age. Children between the ages of 13 and 15 must not be employed during school hours, or for more than 2 hours a day outside school hours.

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Under the Ethiopian proclamation:

- The minimum age of employment is 14 years
- Persons between 14 and 18 years of age are employed as "**young workers**"
- Young workers are prohibited to be engaged in dangerous works
- Working after 10:00 is prohibited as well

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Most countries require children to attend full time education for a number of years. People can be punished for all types of cruelty to children, and for selling tobacco and intoxicating liquor to them. Parents and guardians can be punished for neglecting their children. The United Nations convention on the rights of the child Was adopted on November 20,1989. The convention has 54 article includes:

- The right of children to express their views
- The right to freedom of thought
- The right to protection from abuse
- The right to a good standard of living

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The four important principles of the convention are:

- ❑ Non-discrimination
- ❑ Devotion to the best interests of the child
- ❑ The right life, survival and development and
- ❑ Respect for the views of the child

The transitional government of Ethiopia has endorsed and ratified the convention on the rights of the child on december9,1991.The following are some of the constitutional rights of the children

- ✓ The right to freedom of expression (article 13)
- ✓ The right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence(article 19)
- ✓ The right to not to perform any work that is harmful to their wellbeing (article32)
- ✓ The right to be free from corporal or physical punishment(article 37)

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Child abuse: is mistreatment of a child by a parent or another adult. It has the following forms:

severe beatings, burns, strangulation, neglect, sexual or emotional abuse and exploitation. Causes of child abuse include unemployment, isolation, stress and etc.

Escaping mechanisms

-Warning children not to let people that make them feel uncomfortable

-Instructing children to tell a trusted adult if they are sexually abused

-Encouraging children to discuss anything that bothers them with a trustworthy adult

-Preventing family members from becoming so isolated and stressed

The international society for prevention of child abuse and neglect was founded in 1977. It has members in 32 countries and aims to prevent cruelty to children in every nation.

Child labour is the employment of children as wage earners. It became a great social problem during the industrial revolution in Great Britain in the 1700s.

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- The problem arose when children, many below the age of 10 were employed in factories and mines in dangerous and unhealthy conditions with a small wages.
- The effect of child labor was condemned by **Charles Dickens novel "Oliver Twist"**(183-1839). Child labor is still a problem.
- In African rural communities children tend livestock, gather crops, fetch water, carry firewood, and participate in other activities of the family.
- In urban communities, children are engaged in selling cigarettes, newspapers and also preparing foods along streets.
- They also shine shoes and provide domestic services. Thus in urban communities, children are forced to work as a result of poverty.
- The governments of most developing countries have laws prohibiting the employment of children. However they lack the money to enforce these laws.

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4.2.2 Example of the lack of good governance in Africa

Good governance is a type of governance where sovereign power is in the hands of the people.in this kind of democratic government, authorities would respect the people. The power of such a government is limited by law. It is accountable and transparent.

1.Accountability: means that the representatives of the people are responsible to the decision they make and the people they represent.

2.Transparency: refers to the idea that the actions and decisions of the government and its officials should be clearly known to the people. People and the media must be allowed to get information about the activities of the government. On the other hand, unlimited government has the following characteristics:

- Is not democratic
- Power is unlimited
- It lacks good governance
- It do not recognize nor respect human rights

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- Ethiopia has been ruled for a long period of time by governments with unlimited power. From the 1930s up to 1970s, Ethiopia had been ruled by absolute monarchy.
- Absolute monarchy is a form of government where the power of the king is not limited by law. The king is the sovereign.
- There is no rule of law but rule of men. In absolute monarchy, the king was:
  - Supreme law maker
  - Chief administrator
  - Supreme law giver and judge and
  - The commander- in -chief of the national army
- From the mid 1970s to the early 1990s, Ethiopia had also been ruled by the military government called the derg.
- The derg ruled Ethiopia with iron fist.it was a rule by terror and violence. Its power was unlimited. During this time Ethiopia was a totalitarian state.
- Under totalitarianism, there was total subordination of all possible oppositions. This was against the basic rights and freedoms of citizens.
- Unlimited power puts the rights and freedoms of citizens in danger.
- Absence of rule of law or lack of good governance results in the prevalence of corruption and civil war.

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A. corruption: is the misuse of public power for private gain. It is an obstacle to the development efforts of a nation. Corrupt officials act dishonestly or illegally in return for money or personal gains.

Forms of corruption the most common forms of corruption are:

a.Seeking or receiving bribe

b.Delaying decisions, cases ……and

c.favoritism

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a. seeking or receiving bribe: Receiving something of value from individuals, groups or business organizations who want to have cases to be seen or decided.

b. delaying decisions, cases or actions or anything that should be done for individual citizens, groups or organizations: by lengthening bureaucratic process, corrupt officials create serious obstacles to the day to day activities of citizens and the government itself.

c. favoritism: is the practice of denying people of fair and equal opportunities and advantages.

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B. civil war: Ethiopia had been engaged in a deadly civil war for almost seventeen years (during absolute monarchy and the derg). In the time of the civil war, there was a widespread resistance to conscription. Therefore, lack of good governance brought about instability and civil war. Instability and civil war in Ethiopia:

- consumed human and material resources
- damaged infrastructure
- intensified underdevelopment and backwardness
- displaced population
- blocked domestic and foreign investments

In general lack good governance in Ethiopia has resulted in lawlessness, disorder, conflict, instability and destruction of human and material resource. On the other hand, the prevalence of good governance in the country is essential to establish and consolidate democracy, peace and stability that contribute a lot to economic development.

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4.3 Programs for partnership

Major regional organization

1.COMESA(common market for eastern and southern Africa)

- it was began in December 1994
- it replaced the former preferential Trade Area (PTA) that existed in 1981
- the headquarter is in Zambia, Lusaka
- Its objective s include the promotion of peace and security in the region
- Its main focus is on the formation of large economic and trading unit
- This unit is capable of overcoming barriers that are faced by individual states
- COMESA's current strategy is phrased as "economic prosperity through regional integration"
- It has 21 member states
- It forms a major market place for both internal and external trading

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Member countries

1. Angola
2. Burundi
3. Comoros
4. D.R of Congo
5. Djibouti
6. Egypt
7. Eritrea
8. Ethiopia
9. Kenya
10. Madagascar
11. Malawi
12. Mauritius
13. Namibia
14. Rwanda
15. Seychelles
16. Sudan
17. Swaziland
18. Tanzania
19. Uganda
20. Zambia
21. Zimbabwe

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COMESA institutions include:

- The COMESA trade and development bank in Nairobi, Kenya
- The COMESA clearing homes in Harare, Zimbabwe
- The COMESA association of commercial banks in Harare, Zimbabwe
- The COMESA leather institute in Ethiopia
- The COMESA Re-insurance company in Nairobi, Kenya
- The COMESA court of justice

Ethiopia had a great role in the establishment of first PTA and then COMESA since 1960's.

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Partnership target for COMESA

- ✓ a wider, harmonized and more competitive market
- ✓ greater industrial productivity and competitiveness
- ✓ increased agricultural production and food security
- ✓ a more rational exploitation of natural resources
- ✓ more harmonized monetary, banking and financial policies
- ✓ more reliable transport and communications infrastructure

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2.ECOWAS

- is the economic community of west African states
- it has 15 member states
- it was founded on May 28, 1975 with the signing of treaty of Lagos
- its mission is to promote economic integration
- in 1976 Cape Verde joined ECOWAS
- in December 2000 Mauritania withdrew

Partnership target for ECOWAS

- ECOWAS was founded to achieve “collective self-sufficiency” for the member states
- It created a single large trading block
- Its two institutions to implement policies are: the ECOWAS secretariat and the fund for cooperation, compensation and development
- The ECOWAS fund was transformed into the ECOWAS bank for investment and development in 2001.
- ECOWAS is one of the pillars of the African economic community
- the current (2011) chairman is president Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria
- ECOWAS operates in three different but equally used languages-English, French, Portuguese.
- The ECOWAS nations have signed a non-aggression agreement in 1990.
- They also signed an agreement of manual defense assistance in Freetown, sierra Leone on may 29,1981,it provided for the establishment of an allied armed force of the community
- ECOWAS monitoring group(ECOMOG)is a military force formed by member states

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Member states of ECOWAS

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Cape Verde
4. Cote d'ivoire
5. Gambia
6. Ghana
7. Guinea
8. Guinea Bissau
9. Liberia
10. Mali
11. Niger
13. Senegal
14. Sierra Leone
15. Togo

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3. SADC(the southern African development community)

- It is an inter-governmental organization
- Its headquarter is in Gaborone, Botswana
- Its goal is further socio-economic cooperation and integration
- Its aim is also to form political and security cooperation among member states
- It has 15 southern African states
- It complements the role of African union

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Partnership target for SADC

The forerunner of the socio-economic cooperation of today's SADC was the southern African development coordination conference (SADCC). SADCC was transformed in to SADC on 17 august 1992. SADC was established by the Windhoek declaration and treaty. The 1992 SADC provided for both socio-economic cooperation and political and security cooperation.in 2008,the SADC agreed to establish a free trade zone with the east African community(EAC)and the common market of eastern and southern Africa(COMESA).

Member states of SADC

1. Angola
2. Botswana
3. DR.Congo (since 8 September 1997)
4. Lesotho
5. Malawi
6. Mauritius (since independence-28 august 1995)
7. Mozambique
8. Namibia (since independence-31 march1990)
9. Swaziland
10. Tanzania
11. Zambia
12. Zimbabwe
13. South Africa (since august 1994)
14. Seychelles (first from 8 September 1997 until July 2004 and then joined again in 2008)
15. Madagascar was suspended after the coup d'état led by the former mayor of Antananarivo (capital of Madagascar) Andry Rajoelina.

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Partnership target for Nile basin

The NBI riparian states want to develop the river in a cooperative manner, share socio-economic benefits and promote regional peace and security. From its beginning the NBI has been supported by the World Bank and other external partners. The following projects are developing under the Nile basin initiative since 2008:

- The regional watershed management project
- The Ethiopian power project
- The regional irrigation and drainage project

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The founding of the OAU (the organization of African unity)

It was founded on May 1963 in Addis Ababa. The charter of the organization was signed by 31 independent states of Africa. New independent states later joined the organization.

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The aims/goals of the OAU

- To promote the unity and solidarity of the African states
- To coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life
- To defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence
- To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa
- To promote international cooperation with due regard to the charter of the united nations and the universal declaration of human rights

The principal organs of the OAU

A. The assembly of the heads of states and government: this was the highest organ and it met at least once a year

B. The council of ministers: consisted of the foreign ministers of member states. It met twice a year and prepared agendas for the annual meetings of the heads of states and governments

C. The general secretariat: it was the most important organ of the OAU. Its office was located in Addis Ababa .the first general secretary of the OAU was the Guinean, named **Diallo Telli.**

D. The OAU had also various commissions set up to deal with the social, economic, educational, health and nutritional problems of Africa.

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Successes of the OAU

- The OAU assisted the liberation movement of non-independent nations
- At the united nations, African states often took a united stand on several issues
- It attempted to make peace in several conflicts
- Regional organizations(ECOWAS,COMESA,IGAD) have been set up

Failures of the OAU

- ❑ Self-insufficiency in food production
- ❑ Incapability to establish African monetary fund
- ❑ Failure to end civil war in Ethiopia,Chad,Nigeria,Angola and Sudan
- ❑ OAU was unable to solve the refugee problems

Factors responsible for the failure of the OAU include:

- ❖ Differences of opinion among member states
- ❖ Differences of attitude towards the ex-colonial powers and the structure of the OAU
- ❖ Differences in language
- ❖ Many states are members of other non-African organizations
- ❖ Independence was followed by ethnic and border conflicts, one party rule, Military coup d'états and foreign interference in Africa.
- ✓ To overcome all these problems and to speed up African economic and political integration, the African union (AU) was established in2002.

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African union (AU)

- It was started on 9 July 2002,in Durban, south Africa
- Its first president was south Africa's leader Thabo Mbeki
- This was the first session of the assembly and the last session of the OAU
- The African union is not basically different from the OAU
- It is a natural development of the OAU in to a higher level of integration
- It had four solid bases:

❑ The establishment of pan-African parliament
❑ The peace and security council
❑ African court of justice and human right
❑ The African monetary fund and the African investment bank
✓ The office of the general secretariat is located in Addis Ababa
❖ The vision of the African union is to see an integrated, prosperous and peaceful African driven by its own citizens.

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Review questions of unit four

I. Answer the following questions by choosing the best possible answer from the given four alternatives.

1. Ethiopia is one of the founding members of
   - A.ECOWAS
   - C.OAU/AU
   - B. world trade organization
   - D. Arab league

2. Which of the following institutions was established by COMESA in Ethiopia?
   - A. leather institution
   - C. trade and development bank
   - B. clearing house
   - D. court of justice

3. The first secretary general of the OAU was
   - A. Haile Sillassie
   - C. Diallo Telli
   - B. Kwame Nkrumah
   - D. Koffi Anan

4. Which of the following is a major problem for African states?
   - A. drought
   - C. HIV/AIDS
   - B. famine
   - D. all

5. HIV/AIDS attacks mainly the adult population aged
   - A. 15-49
   - C. 18-49
   - B. 25-50
   - D. 30-60

II. Give short answer to the following questions

1. Explain some forms of corruption.
2. What is the impact of rapid population growth on food supply and natural resources?
3. How should children protect themselves from child right violation?

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