Grade 9 Social Studies

CBC NOTES | Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 18 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn, the key words and key terms explained.
- Clear notes under headings and subheadings, with labelled pictures and step-by-step procedures.
- Comparison tables, and advantages and disadvantages where methods are compared.
- Key points to remember, then multiple-choice and structured questions.
- All the answers and a glossary at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Social Studies and Career Development | Term 1

1.1 Pathway Choices

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- identify factors to consider in the selection of a pathway
- examine requirements for Social Sciences pathway at senior school
- choose a possible track within a pathway at senior school

KEY WORDS

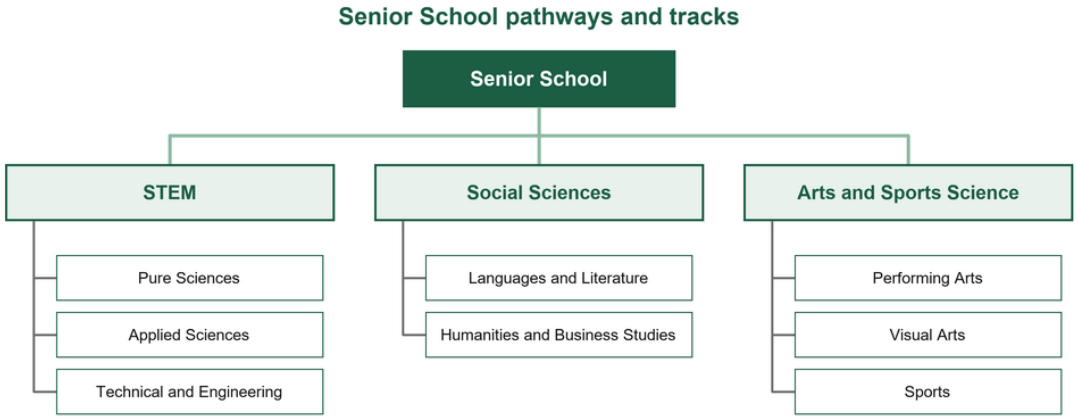
pathway, track, career, interest, ability, Senior School.

At the end of Grade 9 every learner chooses a pathway for Senior School (Grades 10 to 12). A career path is the series of studies, training and jobs that lead you to the work you hope to do. In this topic we look at the factors to consider when choosing a pathway, the requirements of the Social Sciences pathway, how to choose a track within a pathway and why the choice matters.

1. The three Senior School pathways

Pathway
A broad area of study in Senior School that leads towards a group of related careers.

Track
A narrower group of subjects inside a pathway.

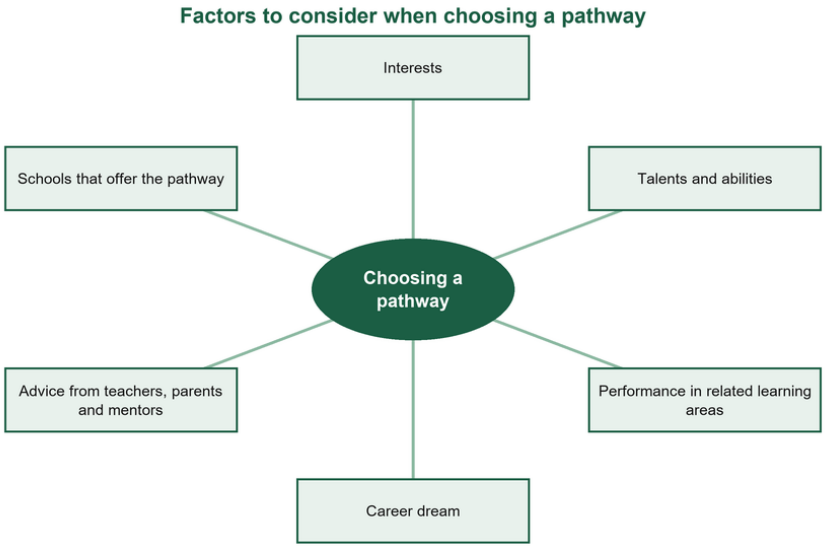


The three pathways and some of their tracks

Senior School pathways

Pathway	What it covers	Example careers
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Doctor, engineer, nurse, pilot, computer programmer
Social Sciences	Languages, humanities and business	Lawyer, journalist, teacher, accountant, diplomat
Arts and Sports Science	Performing arts, visual arts and sports	Musician, designer, actor, coach, athlete

2. Factors to consider when choosing a pathway



Things to weigh before choosing a pathway

- Interests: what you enjoy doing and reading about.
- Talents and abilities: what you do well, in class and outside it.
- Performance: your results in the learning areas the pathway needs.
- Career dream: the kind of work you hope to do one day.
- Advice: from teachers, parents, career counsellors and mentors.
- Schools: which Senior Schools near you offer the pathway.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Choosing a pathway only because your friends chose it, or only because one career pays well, can lead to an unhappy fit.

3. The Social Sciences pathway and its requirements

The Social Sciences pathway studies people, society, languages and business. Its tracks include Languages and Literature, and Humanities and Business Studies. Subjects can include History and Citizenship, Geography, Religious Education, Business Studies, Literature and foreign languages.

Requirements for the Social Sciences pathway

Requirement	What it means for you
Good performance	Do well in Social Studies, English or Kiswahili and Religious Education
Interest in society	Curiosity about people, cultures, government and trade
Language skills	Read widely, write clearly and speak confidently
Thinking skills	Debate, analyse an issue and see more than one side

Careers in this pathway include lawyer, journalist, teacher, diplomat, economist, accountant, social worker and tour guide.

4. Choosing a possible track

Matching learners to tracks

Achieng loves debating, reads newspapers and scores well in English and Social Studies.
A Humanities track leading to law or journalism suits her.
Kiprop runs a small sweets business at home and enjoys Mathematics.
A Business Studies track suits him.

Writing a journal entry on your track

1. List your interests and the activities you enjoy.
2. List your strengths and best learning areas.
3. Name a possible track and two careers it leads to.
4. Explain why the track fits you, then share it with a teacher or parent.

5. Why choosing a pathway matters

Results of the choice

+ A good choice	- A poor choice
• Builds motivation and interest in study	• Frustration and boredom
• Uses your talents fully	• Low performance
• Leads to suitable further study and a fulfilling career	• Wasted time changing course later

Learners can share what they have learnt by making charts and posters of pathways and their requirements, and by composing and reciting poems on pathway choices.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A career path is the series of studies and jobs leading to the work you hope to do.
- Senior School has three pathways: STEM, Social Sciences, and Arts and Sports Science.
- Consider interests, talents, performance, career dream, advice and available schools.
- The Social Sciences pathway needs good results in Social Studies, languages and Religious Education, plus reading, writing and debate skills.
- A good choice builds motivation; a poor choice causes frustration and wasted time.

CHECK YOURSELF: MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D. The answers are at the back.

1. Which pathway includes the Humanities and Business Studies track?
A. STEM
B. Social Sciences
C. Arts and Sports Science
D. Technical and Engineering

2. Which is the WEAKEST reason for choosing a pathway?
A. My talents suit it
B. I do well in its learning areas
C. My best friend chose it
D. It leads to my career dream

3. Wafula loves drawing, painting and designing posters. Which pathway fits him best?
A. Arts and Sports Science
B. Social Sciences
C. STEM
D. Business Studies

4. Which career belongs to the Social Sciences pathway?

A. Pilot
B. Civil engineer
C. Athlete
D. Journalist

5. A narrower group of subjects within a pathway is called a

A. career
B. track
C. level
D. grade

ANSWER THESE

1. Name the three Senior School pathways. (3 marks)

2. State four factors a Grade 9 learner should consider when choosing a pathway. (4 marks)

3. Give three requirements for the Social Sciences pathway. (3 marks)

4. Explain two effects of choosing a pathway that does not suit you. (4 marks)

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1.2 Pre-career Support Systems

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- explore and use support systems for pre-career and other needs
- analyse challenges arising from existing support systems for pre-career and other needs
- design solutions to challenges arising from support systems
- explain the significance of pre-career mapping for individual growth

KEY WORDS

support system, mentor, coach, psychosocial, career mapping, counsellor.

Nobody plans a career alone. Family, teachers, counsellors, mentors and religious leaders all help us make good decisions. These people and services are called support systems. In this topic we explore the types of pre-career support systems, the challenges that can arise from them and their solutions, and why pre-career mapping matters.

1. Types of pre-career support systems

> **Support system**
> A network of people and services that gives help, advice and encouragement.



Five types of pre-career support systems

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Pre-career support systems

Support system	Examples	How it helps
Psychosocial	Guidance and counselling teachers, peer counsellors	Emotional wellbeing, confidence
Social	Family, friends, community	Encouragement, everyday advice
Mentorship and coaching	Role models, coaches	Skills and an example to follow
Spiritual	Religious leaders	Values, hope and guidance
Career support	Career fairs, websites, professionals	Information about courses and jobs

2. Using support systems well

- Ask clear questions about the careers you are thinking of.
- Be honest about your interests, strengths and worries.
- Follow up on advice and check it with more than one source.
- Choose trustworthy people and safe, reliable websites.

REMEMBER

Support systems help with decisions, confidence, information and emotional wellbeing, but the final choice is yours.

3. Challenges and their solutions

Challenges in support systems

Challenge	Possible solution
Too few counsellors in schools	Peer counselling clubs and career talks
Misleading advice	Check advice with more than one source
Pressure from family	Open family conversations with a counsellor
Fear of being judged	Talk to a trusted adult in private
Little information in rural areas	Radio programmes, libraries and visiting speakers
Cost of internet	Free school or library computers, print materials

A case to discuss

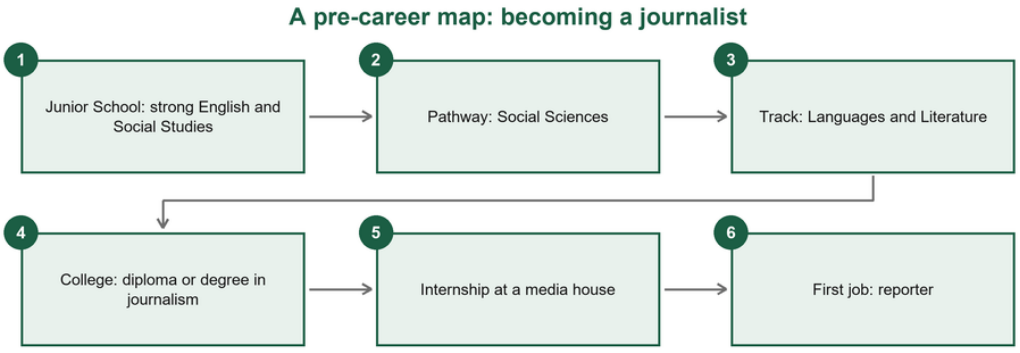
Halima's uncle insists she study medicine, but she loves design.
A school counsellor meets Halima and her family together.
They discuss her strengths and agree she should explore design careers.

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4. Pre-career mapping

Pre-career mapping

Planning the steps from where you are now to the career you want.



A pre-career map for a journalist