

GREENHILL ACADEMY
SENIOR TWO HOLIDAY WORK
CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Instructions

1. *Write down all the notes into your CRE notebook*
2. *Do all tasks given.*
3. *Use indented paragraphs while answering*
4. *Present your work to the teacher on the reporting day.*

NOTE: *Photocopied work will not be considered.*

TOPIC: FAMILY LIFE

FAMILY LIFE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

1. **Explain the problems common in modern families today (**
2. **Give reasons to explain why some families break today (5 marks)**
3. **Explain the causes of family instability in your community (5 marks)**
4. **How can the problems in families be minimized? (5 marks)**

The following are the problems faced by families today:

- ✓ Children indiscipline which has come about as a result of parents being so busy with their careers and they do not have time with their children.
- ✓ Domestic violence is rampant in families which are in form of fights, quarrels, beatings etc which has led to body injuries and death of the victim.
- ✓ There is a lot of poverty among family members. This has rendered them helpless to acquire basic needs like food, accommodation and medical care.
- ✓ Sexual unfaithfulness among family members like adultery and incest. This in the end causes quarrels and fights among family members.

- ✓ Difference in levels of education most especially if the wife is more educated than the husband and is undermining the husband.
- ✓ Competition among the extended family members and wife for resources is also causing problems in the families.
- ✓ Barrenness or sterility causes conflicts where one partner fails to produce. This causes disappointment and it may lead to disappointment and it may lead to unfaithfulness.
- ✓ Genetic diseases like sickle cell, epilepsy, asthma and HIV/AIDS may lead to family instability. This is because partners blame each other for being responsible.
- ✓ Parental negligence where children are left to fend for themselves. This has led children to abandon their homes and move to the streets.
- ✓ Sexual dissatisfaction where one partner fails to satisfy the sexual needs of the other. This has led to marital unfaithfulness.
- ✓ Religious differences where family members have different religions they are affiliated to. This brings division among family members on religious lines.
- ✓ Addiction to drugs like taking marijuana has always caused conflicts and violence in some families.
- ✓ Political differences in some families. This has caused division basing on the political parties.

HOW THE CHURCH IS HELPING FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS

The church is helping the families with problems through/by the following:

- ✓ The church is providing job opportunities to the family members as teachers and doctors.
- ✓ It is providing health services at a fair price. On top of that it is providing drugs to the Aids patients.
- ✓ It is preaching equality of persons in the sermons given during fellowship of Christian gatherings.
- ✓ The church is forming associations to advice on how to run the families like the mothers and fathers union in the Anglican Church.
- ✓ It is providing education services through schools and sponsoring some family members especially children.

- ✓ It is protecting marriage relationships through encouraging faithfulness and love
- ✓ It is providing recreation centres where family members can spend their free time. For example, Kisubi seminary beach established by Kisubi seminary.
- ✓ The church is putting up income generating projects. For example, Centenary bank established by the Catholic Church which is giving loans to the people.
- ✓ The church is providing homes for the disadvantaged family members. For example, Watoto children's home and Sanyu babies home.
- ✓ The church is acting as agent of forgiveness and reconciliation in the event of conflicts.
- ✓ The church is providing basic needs like education, food, accommodation among others.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

TASK:

1. *Share about a scenario where a parent and a misunderstanding with his or her child. (2 marks)*
2. *What could be the possible causes of misunderstandings between parents and their children today? (5marks)*
3. *How do you think misunderstandings between parents and the children can be stopped? (5 marks)*
4. *Write down all your answers*

CURRENT FAMILY TRENDS

1. Identify any 5 current family trends in your society. (5 marks)
2. Research on the internet or use any text book and identify the differences between family life today and African traditional society (10 marks)
3. State the problems facing the current family system (5 marks)

FAMILY LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

The following are the characteristics or patterns of the family in the African traditional society.

- ✓ The family in the African tradition was extended consisting of the father, mother children and other relatives.
- ✓ The husband was the head of the family while the wife was inferior or subordinate especially in the patrilineal families.
- ✓ Children were highly valued and considered a blessing. They provided labor, wealth and ensured the continuity of the family.
- ✓ The upbringing of the children was a responsibility of the parents, relatives and entire community. A child was placed in the care of different relatives. For example aunts, uncles, grandparents etc.
- ✓ Children in the family belonged to the man. He had his final say over the children.
- ✓ The children were taught morals and how to relate with others. This was done to emphasize discipline.
- ✓ In some societies there was inheritance of widows. A woman married in the family belonged to all and therefore could be taken over by another man upon the death of the husband.
- ✓ Divorce was highly discouraged except in case of witch craft because there was no place for the single person in society.
- ✓ Polygamy was accepted and encouraged by society because men would gain respect, prestige and free labor and many children.
- ✓ The family was a social religious unit where important rituals and ceremonies would take place. These were occasions which prepared the young for adulthood like circumcision, puberty rites, tattooing among others.
- ✓ Inheritance of the family property like land, cattle was from the father's line. It was only boys who were meant to inherit these properties.
- ✓ There was no place for single man or woman. Everybody at a given age had to get married and form a family.

- ✓ Children were seen as blessing to the family and a childless family was considered incomplete. Barrenness was considered a curse and this was often blamed on the woman.
- ✓ The ancestors were believed to be reborn through the children thus their names were given to the new born babies as a sign of reincarnation.
- ✓ Education was informal and done according to sex. The girl were taught domestic roles and responsibilities by their mothers, aunts, sisters and grandmothers. While the boys were taught the manly roles by their fathers, brothers uncles grandfathers and others.

IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Children had the following importance in the African traditional society;

- ✓ Children provided labor to the family. The boys were assigned roles like cultivating, cleaning the compounds, while the girls could cook food and fetch water.
- ✓ Children prolonged the lifespan of the family. When the adults died, became old, children were left to continue with the family issues.
- ✓ Children were a source of prestige to the family. The more children the family had the more respect it got in the society.
- ✓ Children were a source of security against external threats. Boys could come out to make counter attacks against the enemy.
- ✓ Bearing children proved that parents were normal and in good health. Childlessness was considered an abnormality.
- ✓ Children acted as a seal of marriage. When a wife produced children it was very rare to see a husband divorcing her.
- ✓ Children were a source of company to wives who were always left at home as the fathers were always away on duties like hunting.
- ✓ Children were a source of happiness to the family especially to the women since failure to produce was regarded as a curse and would lead to family instability.
- ✓ Children were a source of wealth to the family. The boys could bring wealth through cultivation of crops and the girls through bride wealth.

- ✓ Children provided protection and support to their parents at an old age and finally when they died. The surviving children would bury them properly, remember them, and look after their graves among others.
- ✓ Children acted as heirs to their parents where inheritance was done through the fathers' line. There was a need to get a boy who would take over control of the deceased properties.
- ✓ Children acted as a source of blessings for the marriage. This meant that the two partners were in good terms with the ancestral spirits and with their God.

ROLES OF PARENTS IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

FATHERS

- ✓ A father had to offer maximum protection to the family as well as the community.
- ✓ He had to provide basic needs like clothing and housing.
- ✓ He settled disputes among family members especially wives and children.
- ✓ He also had to assist boys get marriage partners and paying bride wealth.
- ✓ He had to participate in hunting to get food for the wives and children.
- ✓ He had a duty of loving all his wives and children equally

MOTHERS

- ✓ A mother had to instill discipline in children and educate them in all aspects of life.
- ✓ She had to bear children so as to expand the family.
- ✓ She had to introduce children to different stages of life like sitting, crawling, standing, walking, talking and others.
- ✓ She had the duty of cleaning the house and the compound as well as caring for the husband and the children.
- ✓ She had to teach girls domestic work as well as giving them moral instructions.
- ✓ She had to assist children in getting marriage partners.
- ✓ She had to protect children from all types of danger and aggression.
- ✓ She coordinated with the husband on how to administer the family.

PROBLEMS COMMON IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILIES

- ✓ Witchcraft which was in form of poisoning food, casting evil eyes among others.
- ✓ Marital unfaithfulness like adultery. Women could be punished for involving in adultery.
- ✓ Diseases such as malaria, small pox among others which caused suffering.
- ✓ Poverty which made people lack basic requirements in life such as food
- ✓ Early marriages where boys and girls engaged in marriage affairs at early age.
- ✓ Divorce as men were allowed to send their wives away without giving them the chance of defending themselves.
- ✓ Food taboos as women were forbidden from eating certain foods for example in Buganda from eating foods like chicken, meat, eggs, liver among others.
- ✓ Domestic violence which was mainly done to the women. This sometimes caused body injuries and death.
- ✓ Forced marriages which later led to conflicts in marriages because the marriages were not built on love.
- ✓ Widow inheritance where a woman could be forcefully taken over by the male relatives of the deceased husband.
- ✓ Women held inferior status and were to be submissive to the men in the family. Their views were less considered in the family.

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

VALUES PASSED ON TO THE CHILDREN

- ✓ The children were taught to respect elderly people. They had to respond to the parents and elders with humility. They were not to call their parents by their real names.
- ✓ The children were taught how to do domestic duties with like cleaning the compound, cooking etc. Boys were taught by fathers while girls were taught by mothers.
- ✓ The children were taught the art of sharing. This was based on the communal way of life intended to help them avoid being selfish in the future.
- ✓ The children were taught to be self-reliant and to be creative. This was aimed at helping he children to be independent in future.

- ✓ The children were taught the names of the family, the clan and their language. This was to help them identify themselves and relate with other members of the community.
- ✓ The children were taught about their environment. They had to know and identify the names of the different trees and grasses, some of which were used as medicine.
- ✓ Children were taught to respect the values of sex. Sex was shown as something holy and emphasis was put on protecting and preserving one's virginity till marriage.
- ✓ The children were taught how to welcome visitors. They had to welcome them with smiles, respect and kneel down while greeting.
- ✓ Children were taught to live as a community. Work like cultivation and harvesting were done jointly.

HOW CHILDREN WERE TAUGHT IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

The following are the methods through which children were taught.

- ✓ Punishments would be used to teach the young. These would eliminate the bad behavior among children.
- ✓ Sometimes threats were used to teach the young ones. The children were meant to believe that when they behaved in a certain bad way, something bad could happen to them.
- ✓ The young were taught through imitation or copy what the adults did. After that children learnt that particular tasks.
- ✓ Myths were used to teach the young ones. These were true or false beliefs to refer to particular community events.
- ✓ Africans used stories to teach the children. Such stories linked the past and the present and would help to predict the future.
- ✓ Riddles were also used to teach the children. These involved asking questions or making incomplete statements that required quick response.
- ✓ Rewards were given to children for anything well done. These were intended to keep the children in the same direction.
- ✓ Proverbs would also be used to teach the children. These were wise sayings with hidden meaning.

- ✓ Plays or drama helped in education of children. These brought real life situations in the community and children learnt a lot from them.
- ✓ Young children were taught the spirit of sharing with others and this taught them to share with one another in the future.
- ✓ Communal work was taught to the children right from early childhood. This encouraged togetherness during cultivation and harvesting seasons.
- ✓ Traditional songs were taught to the young ones and these carried educative information. For example the song of Njabala in Buganda.

TASK

1. *Identify the main features of a good family in traditional Africa (5 marks)*
2. *Describe the place of a family in the society (2 marks)*
3. *Explain reasons why family life was very important in traditional African communities (5 marks)*

CURRENT FAMILY TRENDS

4. Identify any 5 current family trends in your society. (5 scores)
5. Research on the internet or use any text book and identify the differences and similarities between family life today and African traditional society (10 scores)
6. State the problems facing the current family system (5 scores)

CHRISTIAN TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY

THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY LIFE

BIBLE VERSE	WHAT THE VERSE TEACHES ON FAMILY LIFE
GENESIS 1:8	Family is initiated and blessed by God. Child production is very essential in a family
GEN 21:1-7	Children bring joy to a family. Before they have them, couples should keep together as they wait in the lord

EXODUS 20:12	Respect for parents is emphasized
GENESIS 2:21-24	There should be unity in the family
MALACHI 2:13-16	It is not good for husbands to abandon or neglect the wives of their youth

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY

BIBLICAL VERSE	WHAT THE VERSE TEACHES ON FAMILY LIFE
MARK 10:9	It is not allowed for couples to divorce
1 PETER 3:1-7	Wives should submit to their husbands and husbands love their wives as Christ loved the church
1 TIMOTHY 5:8	A family member should take care of his relatives and members of his family

Roles of family members in the bible

Biblical text	Roles of family members
Ephesians 6:1-4	Children have a duty to obey their parents. Parents have a duty of treating their children well. Husbands have a duty to love their wives and wives to treat husbands with care
1 Peter 3:1-7	Wives have a duty to humbly respect their husbands, obey them and to behave well in gentleness and quietness. Their husbands have a duty of instructing them in discipline
Exod 20:12	Children have a duty to respect their fathers and mothers
Genesis 24	Parents have a duty of making sure that their children get spouses. They should

	support their children to have responsible partners.
Exod 2:1-3	Mothers have a duty to protect their children and to care for them

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MERRY CHRISMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR