GRADE 8 – 2026 SOCIAL STUDIES

MARKING SCHEME & TEACHER'S GUIDE

TOTAL: 50 MARKS

SECTION A: ANSWER KEY

Q	Correct option	Justification
1	B	Protected water sources directly improve access to safe water.
2	B	Replanting trees supports sustainable resource use.
3	B	Political instability can force people to leave an area.
4	B	Stone tools were widely associated with hunting and gathering.
5	A	Contour lines show relief and elevation.
6	B	At 1:50,000, 1 cm represents 50,000 cm = 500 m.
7	B	Closed contours with increasing height toward the centre indicate a hill.
8	C	The Judiciary interprets and applies laws.
9	B	Citizens have a duty to obey the law.
10	C	High birth rate increases population when other factors remain constant.
11	A	Negotiation seeks agreement without violence.
12	A	Cultural practices are shared and transmitted within communities.
13	A	Accept the point labelled R as the specified map target.
14	A	Settlements commonly develop near reliable water sources.
15	B	Rainfall is a climatic element.
16	C	A barometer measures atmospheric pressure.
17	A	Pastoralism is associated with livestock in grassland regions.
18	B	Crossing an international boundary is international migration.
19	A	Transparency supports accountable governance.
20	A	Primary sources provide first-hand evidence.

SECTION B: MARKING SCHEME

21. Map interpretation – 4 marks

- (a) Accept the correct compass direction indicated by the generated Meta map from the river source toward its outlet. (1)
- (b) Award 1 mark for the correct direction obtained from the map.
- (c) Accept a valid pattern such as clustered/nucleated, linear or dispersed where supported by the map. (1)
- (d) Any one valid factor: proximity to roads, river/water, fertile land, services or economic activities. (1)

22. Early visitors to the East African coast – 4 marks

- Any four, 1 mark each: trade in goods, search for ivory/gold and other resources, favourable monsoon winds and sailing conditions, strategic coastal ports, spread of religion, search for markets, exploration.

23. Population increase – 4 marks

- Any four explained factors, 1 mark each: high birth rate, reduced death rate, improved health services, improved food supply, immigration, improved sanitation and living conditions.

24. Topographical-map information – 4 marks

- Any four, 1 mark each: relief/elevation, drainage, settlements, roads/transport routes, vegetation, land use, boundaries, economic features.

25. Peaceful conflict resolution – 4 marks

- Any four explained methods, 1 mark each: negotiation, mediation, arbitration, dialogue, compromise, reconciliation, use of elders/community leaders.

26. Partition of Africa – 4 marks

- Any four, 1 mark each: search for raw materials, search for markets, strategic interests, missionary activities, national rivalry among European powers, exploration and geographical knowledge, investment opportunities.

27. Arms of government – 3 marks

- Legislature – makes laws (1); Executive – implements laws/policies and runs government (1); Judiciary – interprets laws and administers justice (1).

28. Identifying a community problem – 3 marks

- Any three, 1 mark each: observation, interviews, questionnaires/surveys, community meetings/focus groups, review of existing records/data.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

For map questions, assess the learner's interpretation of the supplied visual rather than memorised wording. Accept equivalent geographical terminology where the meaning is correct. For structured questions, award one mark per valid point unless the question explicitly requires explanation; where explanation is required, the point must be accompanied by a relevant explanation.