

Grade 9 Social Sciences Worksheet

Access to resources

Read the definitions below (From: Issues in Poverty Reduction and Natural Resource Management – USAid).

Financial assets. Cash, savings, deposits, and other ‘paper’ assets that people use to make purchases and to accumulate liquid wealth.

Human capital. Skills, knowledge, and health status of household members that enable them to pursue livelihood objectives. Human capital is required to make use of the other five asset categories.

Natural capital. Natural resources – both renewable and non-renewable – such as land, forests, water, air quality, and biodiversity. Natural capital includes both public and private goods and is central to the livelihoods of many poor rural households that depend on a natural resource base. Resources are dynamic, changing greatly in value over time and woven within the social fabric of a community.

Physical capital. Tools and equipment owned by households and businesses, as well as infrastructure such as roads, power, communications networks, and water and sanitation systems. Housing and jewellery are other forms of physical capital important to many poor households.

Social capital. Social resources such as kinship systems and community organisations that people draw upon in their livelihood strategies. Social capital is based on trust, reciprocity, and networks. It includes cultural values that link individuals to a long heritage of collective choices and sets the context for all the other interactions. Social capital can have dramatic influences on other forms of capital and incomes.

Political capital. The power relationships that control poor people’s access to assets. The exercise of political capital shapes institutions and defines the formal and informal rules or norms of a society. Political capital is the most valuable in unequal societies, where the voices of the poor are rarely heard. As a newly defined category to describe poverty, the concept of political capital continues to evolve.

Class debate

1. Rank the following resources in order of importance to you. To help you do that, imagine that you only had one of these resources: which would you choose first?
 - A: 100 Ha of good farmland owned by you.
 - B: R1 million to invest (not spend).
 - C: R1 million to spend.
 - D: A university entrance pass in Mathematics and Science.
 - E: A healthy, supportive family circle.

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- F: A house in a town with electricity and running water.
G: A fully equipped carpentry workshop.
H: A free cell-phone contract for life.
I: Farming rights on 500 Ha of community land.

On your own

2. Write a description of how **you** would plan your future around having access to **any 2** of these assets. [10]

3. It is often stated that if third-world countries converted communal land tenure (ownership) into private (individual) land tenure, then the poverty problems would disappear.

Draw up a table of the pros and cons of individual and communal land tenure. [8]

4. If you had access to clean water and a house with electricity in a safe place, what other single resource would you think would secure your family? Justify your answer. [6]

Class field survey

5. What proportion of the poorest people living in your region, say within a 5 km radius, has adequate access to resources?
- Draw up a questionnaire to answer this question with a maximum of 5 questions.
 - Each learner must get 5 questionnaires filled in.
 - The results are compiled together and graphed.
 - Each learner must write a 1 page report on resource access in the region, using the class results.

Note: questionnaires must not ask embarrassing or intrusive questions.

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Your work will be assessed according to the following rubric.

Level	Descriptor
4	The report accurately describes the situation reflected in the survey results, using graphs and tables as well as written explanations.
3	Graphs and tables are used, but the written report does not fully describe the results.
2	Graphs and tables are limited and inaccurate or inappropriate.
1	The learner has not presented or interpreted the data in a meaningful way.

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Suggested Solutions

1.
 - A: 100 Ha of good farmland can produce a good income from high-value crops such as vegetables, but one needs skills and access to transport and markets. Owning the land means you can borrow money from the bank to buy equipment.
 - B: R1 million invested will return about R100 000 per year on average or R8 000 per month. This is a fair income.
 - C: Spending R1 million would only make sense if it produced income. So buying a bus and running a bus service might work, but it is high-risk – what happens if the bus breaks down? Buying a house and renting it out would produce about the same income as investing R1 million. Spending part of R1 million on getting a university degree would be a good investment, but you would need to have a good NSC pass first.
 - D: A university entrance pass will not do you a lot of good if you cannot afford to go to university, although you might be able to get a job.
 - E: A healthy supportive family network may help you get started in a small business, but you cannot rely on them forever, although it does help to work together.
 - F: A house which belongs to you will enable you to borrow money from the bank, but then you would need another income in addition to owning the house as security. If you rented out the house, you would have some income to, say, pay for your university.
 - G: If you had the personal skills to go with it, a fully equipped carpentry workshop could produce a very good income and create a business which could grow.
 - H: A free cell-phone contract would allow you to operate in an ‘officeless environment’, but you will need a skill that you can sell over the phone.
 - I: Farming someone else’s land does not allow you to borrow money from the bank, so even having access to the land, means you won’t be able to borrow money to, say, buy a tractor.

You will notice that all these assets and resources are not enough on their own and it all depends on what kind of person you are.

2. Your plan must meet two requirements:
 - It must sustain you (food, clothes and house).
 - It must allow you to grow your assets (save money and / or expand your business).
3. Private individual land tenure allows people to use their asset to borrow money to buy equipment and skills and so build their assets further. Communal land tenure usually cuts off access to bank finances.

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Private land tenure encourages people to take risks in order to make money, whereas communal tenure means that people tend to follow methods that have been used for centuries without ever looking for a better way of doing things.

Communal land tenure shares the risk between many.

Communal tenure may mean that the best farmers are not in charge and making the decisions. With private tenure, only the farmers who are successful will be able to stay on the land.

4. Access to a livelihood (job) is critical, whether it is in self-employment or as an employee. The more literate and better educated a person, the more likely he/she is to be able to find employment. The willingness to work hard is equally important.
5. See assessment rubric in Appendix of Assessment Tools.

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