

The New Senior Secondary Curriculum for Sierra Leone

Subject syllabus for Fula

Subject stream: Languages and Literature



This subject syllabus is based on the National Curriculum Framework for Senior Secondary Education. It was prepared by national curriculum specialists and subject experts.



Curriculum Elements for Fula - an everyday subject

Subject description

As a subject, Fula in Senior Secondary School (SSS) does not build on pupil's knowledge because it is not on offer at Junior Secondary level. However, this bold attempt of including Fula at SSS will bring to light aspects of the history and life of the Fulas, paying attention to their traditional life and cultural practices. It covers grammatical structures, word formation, parts of speech, phrases and clause formations including their functions, sentence structure and types, and other language levels. The course focuses on pupils' ability to read and comprehend Fula passages and larger texts. Finally, the course prepares students to be able to understand, speak, write and read sentences, essays and larger texts in Fula, such as narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative, etc.

Rationale for the Inclusion of Fula as an Applied Subject in the Senior Secondary School Curriculum

- Including Fula in the SSS curriculum will improve the knowledge of pupils in Fula, as the language of one of the most prominent groups in entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone and the sub-region.
- It will provide Sierra Leonean pupils the platform to relate to real-life experiences using Fula.
- It will provide a platform for pupils to be able to sample their experiences using Fula.
- Fula will enable pupils to develop a critical mind set to reassess their estimation of Sierra Leone via one of its languages.
- Knowledge of Fula culture will come alive when pupils begin to explore Fula readers and grammar texts.
- The teaching of Fula will be an achievement of some key objectives contained in the UNESCO Charter, and the commencement of the work not begun at JSS.
- The teaching of Fula in SSS will reinvigorate the intellectual atmosphere around Sierra Leonean Languages.

General Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of Sierra Leonean Languages.
- Show greater understanding and ability to speak, read and write Fula.
- Show greater knowledge of texts, stories, proverbs and idioms in Fula
- Demonstrate greater awareness about Fula orthography.
- Show greater knowledge about Fula vowels, consonants and digraphs.
- Sample their creative thinking process using Fula alongside other languages.
- Apply knowledge in practical and real-life situations with the help of Fula.



- Engage on the rebirth of Sierra Leonean cultural heritage as it is reflected in Fula.
- Challenge stereotypical views on language status in Sierra Leone and the relevance of language to its people.
- Develop their communicative skills using Fula.
- See different worlds as they exist in Fula.
- Prepare for their academic careers in tertiary institutions.
- Choose a career in writing, teaching or translating or interpreting of Fula.
- Use their sound knowledge of the grammatical structure of Fula to enhance easy understanding of the grammar of other languages.

Subject content by broad themes and specific topics

- Introduction to Sierra Leonean Languages
- The Fulas of Sierra Leone
- The writing system of Fula
- Fula phonology
- Connected speech in Fula
- Fula morphology
- Fula noun class system
- Fula parts of speech
- Fula nouns
- Fula verbs
- Fula pronouns
- Fula adjectives
- Fula adverbs
- Fula idiophones
- Fula prepositions
- Fula conjunctions
- Fula tenses and aspects
 - Past tenses
 - Present tenses
 - Future tenses
- Fula compositions
- Reading, summary and comprehension in Fula
- Fula sentences and clauses
- Fula vocabulary and sense relations.





Structure of the syllabus over the 3-year cycle

	SSS 1	SSS 2	SSS 3
Term 1	<p>Introduction to Sierra Leonean languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The language situation in Sierra Leone ▪ Language demographics in Sierra Leone ▪ The Four National Languages ▪ Community languages, diglossia and multilingualism <p>The Fulas of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History of the Fulas ▪ The distribution of Fulas ▪ Life of the Fulas ▪ Sociolinguistic situations of Fula ▪ The Fula language: origin and classification ▪ Fula dialects ▪ Geographical locations of Fula dialects (Timbo, Massina, Adamawa, Salum, Goburu and Kano) <p>Writing system of Fula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fula orthography ▪ Fula vowels ▪ Fula consonants ▪ Fula digraphs 	<p>Fula verbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition verbs ▪ Classification of verbs ▪ Action and stative verbs ▪ Regular and irregular verbs ▪ Transitive and intransitive verbs ▪ Main and auxiliary verbs ▪ Syntactic structure of verbs ▪ Morphological features of verbs (voice, mood, number and case) ▪ Identification of verbs in a sentences ▪ Verb serialization ▪ Using verbs in phrases, clauses and sentences ▪ Exercises <p>Fula pronouns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of pronouns ▪ Types of pronouns ▪ Features of pronouns (number, person, gender and case) ▪ Identification of pronouns in sentences ▪ Using pronouns in phrases, clauses and sentences ▪ Exercises 	<p>Fula Conjunctions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of conjunctions ▪ Types of conjunctions ▪ Forms of conjunctions ▪ Functions of conjunctions ▪ Identifying conjunctions ▪ Using conjunctions in clauses and sentences ▪ Exercises <p>Fula tenses and aspects Understanding tenses and aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Past tenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simple past ○ Past continuous ○ Past perfect ○ Past perfect continuous ▪ Present tenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simple present ○ Present perfect ○ Present continuous tense ○ Present perfect continuous ▪ Future tenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future simple ○ Future continuous ○ Future perfect ○ Future perfect continuous



<p>Term 2</p>	<p>Fula phonology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fula sounds ▪ Fula vowel sounds ▪ Fula consonant sounds ▪ Fula diphthongs <p>Connected speech in Fula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consonant clusters and digraphs ▪ Identification of consonants and vowels ▪ Rapid and slow speech ▪ Tones in Fula ▪ Stress in Fula ▪ Nasalisation in Fula ▪ Sound lengthening in Fula <p>Fula morphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of roots and affixes ▪ Prefixes ▪ Suffixes ▪ Forming words using roots and affixes 	<p>Fula adjectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of adjectives ▪ Types of adjectives ▪ Classification of adjectives ▪ Syntactic structure of adjectives ▪ Forms of adjectives ▪ Comparing adjectives ▪ Identification of adjectives in sentences ▪ Using adjectives in phrases, clauses and sentences ▪ Exercises <p>Fula adverbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of adverbs ▪ Types of adverbs ▪ Syntactic structures of adverbs ▪ Forms of adverbs ▪ Comparing adverbs ▪ Functions of adverbs ▪ Identification of adverbs ▪ Using adverbs in phrases, clauses and sentences ▪ Exercises 	<p>Fula composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defining compositions ▪ Elements of compositions ▪ Types of compositions ▪ Functions of composition types ▪ Exercises <p>Reading, summary and cin Fula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of reading, summary and comprehension ▪ Types of reading, summary and comprehension ▪ Features of reading, summary and comprehension ▪ Functions of reading, summary and comprehension ▪ Exercises
<p>Term 3</p>	<p>Fula noun class system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding the nature of the noun class system ▪ The noun class affixes ▪ Categorizing nouns in the noun class system ▪ Effects of the noun class affixes on the morphology of other words in sentences 	<p>Fula idiophones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition of idiophones ▪ Functions of idiophones ▪ Nature of idiophones ▪ Forms of idiophones ▪ Types of idiophones ▪ Using idiophones in sentences ▪ Exercises 	<p>Fula Sentences and Clauses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definitions of the sentence and the clause ▪ Parts of the sentence ▪ Parts of the clause ▪ The subject and the predicate ▪ Simple subjects and compound subjects ▪ Simple predicates and compound predicates



Fula parts of speech

- Introduction to the parts of speech
- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Idiophones
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- idioms

Fula nouns

- Definitions
- Classification
- Functions
- Morphological features (number, case, person and gender)
- Plurals of nouns
- Possessives of nouns
- Determiners of nouns
- Identification of nouns in sentences
- Using nouns in phrases, clauses and sentences
- Exercises

Fula Prepositions

- Definitions of prepositions
- Nature of prepositions
- Types of prepositions
- Forms of prepositions
- Functions of prepositions
- Identification of prepositions
- Using prepositions in phrases, clauses and sentences

- Sentences by structure
- Sentences by purposes
- Verb tenses
- Clefting and types of clefting
- Using Mende sentences
- Exercises

Fula Vocabulary and Sense Relations

- Counting in Fula
- Fula days of the week
- Fula months of the year
- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Hyponymy
- Homonymy
- Polysemy
- Idioms
- Proverbs
- Cliches
- Frozen forms
- Formulas
- Figures of speech (similes, metaphors, personifications, hyperbole, alliteration, metonymy, irony and apostrophe)
- Exercises



Outline teaching syllabus

Topic/Theme/Units	Expected learning outcomes	Recommended teaching methods	Suggested resources	Assessment of learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Sierra Leonean languages ▪ The Fulas of Sierra Leone ▪ Writing system of Fula ▪ Fula phonology ▪ Connected speech in Fula ▪ Fula morphology ▪ Fula noun class system ▪ Fula parts of speech ▪ Fula nouns ▪ Fula verbs ▪ Fula pronouns ▪ Fula adjectives ▪ Fula adverbs ▪ Fula idiophones ▪ Fula prepositions ▪ Fula conjunctions ▪ Fula tense and aspects ▪ Fula composition ▪ Reading, summary and comprehension in Fula ▪ Fula clauses and sentences 	<p>At the end of the course, pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrate an awareness of Sierra Leonean languages. ▪ Show greater understanding and the ability to speak, read and write Fula. ▪ Demonstrate a greater knowledge of texts, stories, proverbs and idioms in Fula ▪ Demonstrate an awareness about Fula orthography. ▪ Show greater knowledge about Fula vowels, consonants and digraphs. ▪ Sample their creative thinking process using Fula alongside other languages. ▪ Enhance their competencies so as to apply knowledge in practical and real-life situations with the help of Fula. ▪ Engage on the rebirth of Sierra Leonean cultural heritage as it is reflected in Fula. ▪ Challenge stereotypical views on language status in Sierra Leone and the relevance of language to its people. ▪ Demonstrate better communication skills using Fula. ▪ See different worlds as they exist in Fula. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Face-to-face teaching; using the following techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ building on students' experience and previous knowledge through guided reflection and supported discussion ○ mixture of individual, group and whole class work ○ varied types of questioning; short answer questions, open questions ○ presentations, quizzes, role plays and debate ▪ Online teaching ▪ Teach techniques on seminar writing ▪ Teach practical criticisms 	<p>See detailed reading list</p>	<p>Pupils will be assessed using but not limited to the following assessment methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homework ▪ Tests ▪ Subjective Tests ▪ Cloze Tests ▪ Register / Frames ▪ Presentations ▪ Interpretations ▪ Own Writing ▪ Field Work ▪ Examinations <p>Assessments 1-9 will be graded, totaled and divided by three and score will be added to the examination grade of 70% making it a total of 100%.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fula vocabulary and sense relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare for their academic careers in tertiary institutions. ▪ Choose a career in writing, teaching, translating and interpreting of Fula. ▪ Demonstrate a sound knowledge about the grammatical structure of Fula to enhance easy understanding of the grammar of other languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immersive learning within selected Fula speech communities 		
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Books, Authors & Publishers

- **History:** Alie (1990), History of Sierra Leone, McCulloch (1950), People of Sierra Leone in Western Africa Part 1 Ethnographic Survey of Africa (ed) Daryl Forde, International African Institute, London and Awoonor-Renner (1971), A Visual Geography of Sierra Leone
- **Grammar:** Walon-Jalloh (2019), A Morphosyntactic Study of Fula: A Case Study of the Timbo Dialect (Unpublished PhD Thesis Njala University), Bettison J and Bettison K (2005) Pulaar-English Dictionary. Conakry: Pioneer Bible Translators, Barrie, E. (1982) Teaching the Grammar of Fula, USA Reformed World Missions, Bah, A. J. (2006) An Examination of the Problems Faced by Fulbhe Speakers in Official Language Learning Situations in Guinea and Sierra Leone (Unpublished Dissertation Submitted to FBC USL), Bah, I. (2005) An Investigation into Dialectal Variations in Fula (Unpublished BA Dissertation submitted to FBC, USL), Arnott, D. W. (1965) Fullah Dialects: Freetown Polyglotta Africana, Bah E. M. (2014) An Examination of Fula Phonemes and their Communicative Value (Unpublished Dissertation submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC USL), Bah, M. J. (2013) An Explorations into the Closed-Class Items of the Fula Language (Unpublished Thesis submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC USL), Jalloh, A (1996) The Linguistic Situation in Sierra Leone (Unpublished Thesis submitted to the Department of Linguistics FBC USL), Jalloh, A. (2003) The Case for an Official National Language in Sierra Leone (Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC USL), Jalloh, A (2007) An Examination of Language Systems in Fula (Unpublished Thesis submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC USL), Jalloh, L. A. (2014) A Contrastive Analysis of The Writing Systems of Mandarin Chinese and Fula (Unpublished dissertation submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC USL) and Jalloh, M. S. (2004) An Investigation into Loan-Words in Fullah (Unpublished dissertation submitted to the Linguistics Unit Department of Language Studies FBC, USL).
- **Literary:** Fula poems in Hills, Valleys and Echoes (SLWS 2019). **More to be produced.**