

The New Senior Secondary Curriculum for Sierra Leone

Subject syllabus for Kathermne Language

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 Kathemne Language (a core subject)

Subject description

As a subject, Kathemne in Senior Secondary School (SSS) builds on pupil's knowledge of Kathemne which they gained in Junior Secondary School (JSS). It brings to light aspects of the history and life of Themnes, paying attention to their traditional life and culture and the grammatical structure of the language, ranging from word formation, parts of speech, formation of phrases and their functions, sentence structure and types, and other aspects of language. The course focuses on pupils' ability to read and comprehend Kathemne passages. Finally, the course prepares students to be able to speak in Kathemne and write sentences, essays and larger texts in Kathemne, in such forms as narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative, etc.

Rationale for the Inclusion of Kathemne in the Senior Secondary School Curriculum

1. To improve pupils' knowledge of Kathemne.
2. To provide Sierra Leonean pupils the platform to relate real life experiences via Kathemne.
3. The teaching of Kathemne will enable pupils to develop a critical mindset to reassess their estimation of Sierra Leone via one of its own national languages.
4. Knowledge of Kathemne culture will come alive when pupils begin to explore Kathemne readers and grammar texts.
5. The teaching of Kathemne contributes to the achievement of some key objectives contained in the UNESCO Charter (as a continuation of the work begun at JSS).
6. The teaching of Kathemne in SSS will reinvigorate the intellectual atmosphere around Sierra Leonean languages which had dissipated long ago.

General Learning Outcomes (Broad Goals)

The course will enable pupils to:

1. strengthen their ability to understand, speak, read, and write in Kathemne
2. increase their knowledge of texts, stories, proverbs, and idioms in Kathemne
3. raise their awareness of Kathemne orthography.
4. increase their knowledge of Kathemne vowels, consonants, etc.
5. strengthen their ability to sample the creative thinking process using Kathemne alongside other languages.
6. enhance their competency to apply knowledge in practical and real-life situations with the help of Kathemne.
7. engage in the rebirth of Sierra Leonean cultural heritage as it is reflected in Kathemne.
8. raise their awareness of Sierra Leonean languages and more easily understand the grammar of other languages
9. challenge stereotypical views on language status in Sierra Leone and the relevance of language to its people.
10. develop their communicative skills using Kathemne.



11. see different worlds as they exist in Kathemne.
12. prepare for further study and careers in Kathemne.

Content (Topics/ Themes)

Introduction to Sierra Leonean Languages

- The language situation in Sierra Leone
- Language demographics in Sierra Leone
- The four national languages
- Community languages, diglossia and multilingualism

The Themnes of Sierra Leone

- History of the Themnes
- The distribution of Themnes
- Life of the Themnes
- Sociolinguistic situation of Kathemne
- The Themne Language (Kathemne)
- Kathemne dialectal variations
- Geographical locations of Kathemne dialects (Bombali, Western i.e., North-Western and Sanda, Western Konke and Yoni)

Writing System of Kathemne

- The orthography
- Kathemne vowels
- Kathemne consonants
- Kathemne Digraphs

Kathemne Phonology

- Kathemne syllable structure
- Monosyllabic words in Kathemne
- Bisyllabic words in Kathemne.

Connected Speech in Kathemne

- Consonant clusters and digraphs
- Identification of consonants and vowels
- Rapid and slow speech
- Tones and tonal variations
- Counting system
- Days of the week
- Months of the year

Kathemne Morphology

- Identification of roots and affixes
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Forming words using roots and affixes

Kathemne Noun Class system

- 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

Kathemne Grammar

- Introduction to the Parts of Speech
- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs



- Ideophones
- Prepositions
- Postpositions
- Conjunctions

Kathemne Nouns

- Definitions
- Classification
- Functions
- Morphological features
- Plurals of nouns
- Possessives of nouns
- Determiners of nouns
- Identification of nouns in sentences
- Using nouns in phrases, clauses and sentences

Kathemne Verbs

- Definition of 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
- Identification of verbs in a sentences
- Verb serialization
- Using verbs in phrases, clauses and sentences

Kathemne Pronouns

- Definitions of pronouns

- Types of pronouns
- Features of pronouns
- Identification of pronouns in sentences
- Using pronouns in phrases, clauses and sentences

Kathemne Adjectives

- Definition 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

Kathemne Adverbs

- Definition 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

Kathemne Ideophones

- Definition of ideophones
- Functions of ideophones
- Nature of ideophones
- Forms of ideophones
- Types of ideophones



- Using ideophones in sentences

Kathemne 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

Kathemne Conjunctions

- Definitions of conjunctions
- Types of conjunctions
- Forms of conjunctions
- Functions of conjunctions
- Identifying conjunctions
- Using conjunctions in clauses and sentences

Kathemne Tenses and Aspects

- Understanding tenses and aspects
- Past tenses
 - Simple Past
 - Past continuous
 - Past perfect
 - Past perfect continuous
- Present tenses
 - Simple Present
 - Present Perfect
 - Present continuous tense
 - Present perfect continuous
- Future tenses

- Future simple
- Future continuous
- Future Perfect
- Future Perfect Continuous

Kathemne Composition

- Defining compositions
- Elements of compositions
- Types of compositions
- Functions of composition types

Reading, Summary and Comprehension in Kathemne

- Definitions of reading, summary and comprehension
- Types of reading, summary and comprehension
- Features of reading, summary and comprehension
- Functions of reading, summary and comprehension

Kathemne Sentences

- Definition of the sentence
- Parts of the sentence
- The subject and the predicate
- Simple subjects and compound subjects
- Simple predicates and compound predicates
- Sentences by structure

Kathemne Vocabulary

- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Idioms
- Proverbs
- Cliches

Books, Authors & Publishers

- a) History: A New History of Sierra Leone, Alie (1990); People of Sierra Leone in Western Africa Part 1 Ethnographic Survey of Africa, Daryl Forde (ed), M McCulloch, International African Institute, London (1950); and A Visual Geography of Sierra Leone, Awoonor-Renner (1971),
- b) Grammar: Grammar of the Temne People, C F Schelenker, Church Missionary Society (1864); A Descriptive Grammar of Kathemne, S U Kamarrah (2007); A Themne Vocabulary for Schools and Colleges, Serry (2017); A Morphosyntactic Study of the Themne Language (Unpublished M.A. Thesis), Serry (1993) Nature and Meaning of the Themne Verb (Unpublished M.Phil. Thesis) Kanu (2021)
- c) Readers: JSS Readers for a start until more readers are produced. Songs and Folktales from Temne Land, Turay et. Al.

Structure of the Syllabus over the Three Year Senior Secondary School 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 Themnes of Sierra Leone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the Themnes • The distribution of Themnes • Life of the Themnes • Sociolinguistic situation of Kathemne • The Themne Language (Kathemne) • Kathemne dialectal variations • Geographical locations of Kathemne dialects (Bombali, Western i.e., North-Western and Sanda, Western Konke and Yoni) <p>Writing System of Kathemne</p>	<p>Kathemne Verbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of 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 • Identification of verbs in a sentences • Verb serialization • Using verbs in phrases, clauses and sentences <p>Kathemne Pronouns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions of pronouns • Types of pronouns • Features of pronouns • Identification of pronouns in sentences • Using pronouns in phrases, clauses and sentences 	<p>Kathemne 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 <p>Kathemne Tenses and Aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding tenses and aspects • 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



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The orthography • Kathemne vowels • Kathemne consonants • Kathemne Digraphs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future tenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future simple ○ Future continuous ○ Future Perfect ○ Future Perfect Continuous
Term 2	<p>Kathemne Phonology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathemne syllable structure • Monosyllabic words in Kathemne • Bisyllabic words in Kathemne. <p>Connected Speech in Kathemne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consonant clusters and digraphs • Identification of consonants and vowels • Rapid and slow speech • Tones and tonal variations • Counting system • Days of the week • Months of the year <p>Kathemne Morphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of roots and affixes • Prefixes • Suffixes • Forming words using roots and affixes 	<p>Kathemne Adjectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition 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 <p>Kathemne Adverbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition 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 	<p>Kathemne Composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining compositions • Elements of compositions • Types of compositions • Functions of composition types <p>Reading, Summary and Comprehension in Kathemne</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
Term 3	<p>Kathemne Noun Class system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the nature of the noun class system • The noun class affixes 	<p>Kathemne Ideophones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of ideophones • Functions of ideophones • Nature of ideophones • Forms of ideophones 	<p>Kathemne Sentences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the sentence • Parts of the sentence • The subject and the predicate



- Categorizing nouns in the noun class system
- Effects of the noun class affixes on the morphology of other words in sentences

Kathemne Grammar

- Introduction to the Parts of Speech
- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Ideophones
- Prepositions
- Postpositions
- Conjunctions

Kathemne Nouns

- Definitions
- Classification
- Functions
- Morphological features
- Plurals of nouns
- Possessives of nouns
- Determiners of nouns
- Identification of nouns in sentences
- Using nouns in phrases, clauses and sentences

- Types of ideophones
- Functions of ideophones
- Using ideophones in sentences

Kathemne 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

- Simple subjects and compound subjects
- Simple predicates and compound predicates
- Sentences by structure

Kathemne Vocabulary

- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Idioms
- Proverbs
- Cliches



Topic/ Theme/ Unit	Expected learning outcomes	Recommended teaching methods	Suggested resources	Assessment of learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Sierra Leonean Languages • The Themnes of Sierra Leone • Writing System of Kathemne • Kathemne Phonology • Connected Speech in Kathemne • Kathemne Morphology • Kathemne Noun Class system • Kathemne Grammar • Kathemne Nouns • Kathemne Verbs • Kathemne Pronouns • Kathemne Adjectives • Kathemne Adverbs • Kathemne Ideophones • Kathemne Prepositions • Kathemne Conjunctions • Kathemne Tenses and Aspects • Kathemne Composition • Reading, Summary and Comprehension in Kathemne • Kathemne Sentences • Kathemne Vocabulary 	<p>The course will enable pupils to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strengthen their ability of reading and writing Kathemne 2. Increase their knowledge of texts, stories, proverbs, and idioms in Kathemne 3. raise their awareness of Kathemne orthography. 4. increase their knowledge of Kathemne vowels, consonants, etc. 5. strengthen their ability to sample the creative thinking process using Kathemne alongside other languages. 6. enhance their competency to apply knowledge in practical and real-life situations with the help of Kathemne. 7. engage in the rebirth of Sierra Leonean cultural heritage as it is reflected in Kathemne. 8. raise their awareness of Sierra Leonean languages and more easily understand the grammar of other languages 9. challenge stereotypical views on language status in Sierra Leone and the relevance of language to its people. 10. develop their communicative skills using Kathemne. 11. see different worlds as they exist in Kathemne. 12. prepare for further study and careers in Kathemne. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face teaching • Online teaching • Teach techniques on seminar writing • Teach practical criticisms 	<p>See the list given above under Books, Authors & Publishers</p>	<p>Pupils will be assessed using but not limited to the following assessment methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homework 2. Tests 3. Subjective Tests 4. Cloze Tests 5. Register / Frames 6. Presentations 7. Interpretations 8. Own Writing 9. Field Work 10. Examinations <p>It is proposed that 30% of the overall score will be allocated to assessment methods 1-9, with 70% allocated to examination results (total of 100%).</p>