

GRADE 8 | 2024

Resources and the Economy

Social Sciences: Geography

CAPS ALIGNED

MatricHub.co.za | South Africa's Matric Resource Hub

1. Types of Resources

- Renewable: can be replaced (solar, wind, water, forests if managed well)
- Non-renewable: cannot be replaced once used (coal, oil, gas, minerals)

2. South Africa's Natural Resources

South Africa is rich in mineral resources. Mining is a major industry.

- Gold: mainly mined in Gauteng (Witwatersrand)
- Coal: mainly in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal
- Diamonds: Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal
- Platinum: Bushveld Complex (North West, Limpopo)
- Iron ore and manganese: Northern Cape

3. The Economic Sectors

- Primary sector: extracting raw materials (mining, farming, fishing)
- Secondary sector: manufacturing (factories, processing)
- Tertiary sector: services (banking, retail, teaching, healthcare)
- Quaternary sector: knowledge-based (research, IT)

4. Agriculture in South Africa

South Africa has diverse agricultural regions due to different climates and soils.

- Commercial farming: large-scale farming for profit (wine, citrus, maize)
- Subsistence farming: farming for own food needs
- Irrigation: supplying water to crops in dry areas (Gariep Dam, Vaal Dam)

TIP: Know the difference between primary, secondary, and tertiary industries. Common exam question!