

GRADE 8 | 2024

Life Orientation: Social Issues and Human Rights

Life Orientation

CAPS ALIGNED

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1. The Constitution and Human Rights

The South African Constitution (1996) is the supreme law. The Bill of Rights (Chapter 2) protects the rights of all people in South Africa.

- Right to equality
- Right to dignity
- Right to education
- Right to healthcare
- Right to a safe environment
- Freedom of expression
- Right to vote

2. Social Issues Affecting South African Youth

- Poverty and unemployment
- HIV/AIDS
- Substance abuse
- Teenage pregnancy
- Gender-based violence
- Racism and discrimination

3. HIV/AIDS Awareness

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) attacks the immune system. AIDS is the advanced stage of HIV infection.

Modes of HIV Transmission

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Sharing needles or syringes
- Mother to child during pregnancy, birth, or breastfeeding
- Blood transfusion with infected blood (now rare)

KEY POINT: HIV is NOT spread through casual contact: hugging, shaking hands, sharing food, coughing, or mosquito bites.

4. Peer Pressure and Assertiveness

Peer pressure is influence from people your own age to behave in a certain way.

- Say no clearly and firmly
- Give a reason
- Suggest an alternative
- Walk away if necessary
- Choose friends who share your values