

# CIVICS AND ETHICAL EDUCATION

Student Textbook  
Grade 12

## Authors

Getaneh Mehari  
Mesfin Bogale  
Lakew Regassa  
Tewodros Mekonnen

## Edited and revised by

Girma Alemayehu Dano  
Helen Papworth



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Education



Laxmi Publications

---

## ***Acknowledgements***

The redesign, printing and distribution of this textbook has been funded through the General Education Quality Improvement Project (GEQIP), which aims to improve the quality of education for Grades 1–12 students in government schools throughout Ethiopia.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia received funding for GEQIP through IDA Credit No. 4535-ET from the International Development Associations, the Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund (FTICF) and other development partners — Finland, Italian Development Cooperation, the Netherlands and UK aid from the Department for International Development (DFID).

Many individuals and organisations, too many to mention here, also gave their unreserved support to make the textbook and accompanying teacher guide a reality. However, special thanks must go to Myra Murby who devotedly spent time to build the capacity of the Ministry textbook writers to enable them to produce interactive and student friendly teaching and learning materials. The European Union's financial support of Myra's work in Ethiopia is greatly appreciated.

Gratitude is also extended to the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Press Agency, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the former Ministry of Information, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, the Ethiopian Teachers' Association and the Ethiopian Educational Material Production and Distribution Agency, all of which provided pictures that are used in the textbook.

The work of Helen Papworth, a VSO volunteer, who, with the former Civics and Ethical Education Department, edited, reviewed and formatted the draft textbook and teacher guide, is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks also go to the Voluntary Service Overseas for arranging the placement of British volunteers in the Ministry and enabling us to use their expertise on this and other projects.

© Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Education

First edition, 2002 (E.C.)

Redesigned, printed and published for the Ministry of Education by Laxmi Publications (P) Ltd., India, under GEQIP Contract No. ET-MoE/GEQIP/IDA/ICB/010/09.

ISBN: 978-99944-2-006-3

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means (including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) either prior written permission of the copyright owner or a licence permitting restricted copying in Ethiopia by the *Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Federal Negarit Gazeta, Proclamation No. 410/2004 Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Proclamation, 10th year, No. 55, Addis Ababa, 19 July 2004.*

### *Disclaimer:*

Every effort has been made to trace the copyright owners of material used in this document. We apologise in advance for any unintentional omissions. We would be pleased to insert the appropriate acknowledgement in any future edition.

---

# Contents

## Introduction

1

## Unit 1: Building a Democratic System

2

1. The Necessity of a Democratic System 3
2. Authority and Power 6
3. Constitutional Rights versus Constitutional Obligations 8
4. State Power Distribution in Ethiopia 10
5. Ethiopian Foreign Relations 12

## Unit 2: Rule of Law

16

1. Constitution and Other Laws 17
2. Rule of Law and Management of Conflict 20
3. Rule of Law and Governments 25
4. Rule of Law and the Fight against Corruption 27

## Unit 3: Equality

32

1. The History of the Ethiopian Peoples' Struggle against Oppression 33
2. Conflict of Interests 36
3. Equality and the Notion of Affirmative Action 38
4. Unity in Diversity 41

## Unit 4: Justice

47

1. Equity of Benefits and Burdens 48
2. Justice and the Judiciary 50
3. Crime and Justice 53
4. Justice in Taxation 58

## Unit 5: Patriotism

63

1. The Quality of a Patriot 64
2. Ethiopian History in an International Perspective 69
3. The Duties of a Patriot Citizen 72
4. Concern for the International Community 75

---

<b>Unit 6: Responsibility</b>	<b>81</b>
1. Shouldering and Executing Responsibility	82
2. Costs of Fulfilling Responsibility on Individuals	84
3. Fulfilling Promises to Promote Understanding in the International Arena	86
4. Co-operation among Nations for Mutual Benefits	88
5. The Severity of HIV/AIDS as a Global Pandemic	90
<b>Unit 7: Industriousness</b>	<b>94</b>
1. Work as Human Necessity	95
2. Factors Determining the World of Work	98
3. Work in an International Perspective	101
<b>Unit 8: Self-Reliance</b>	<b>105</b>
1. Self-Reliance	106
2. Dependency	109
3. Self-reliance and Morally Sound Decision-making Capacity	112
<b>Unit 9: Saving</b>	<b>116</b>
1. Methods of Saving	117
2. Regulating the National Economy on Realistic International Principles	120
3. Types of Economy	123
4. Money and Capital	126
<b>Unit 10: Active Community Participation</b>	<b>131</b>
1. Effective Leadership for Active Participation	132
2. Civic Participation	134
<b>Unit 11: The Pursuit of Wisdom</b>	<b>140</b>
1. Knowledge	141
2. Information as a Source of Knowledge	143
3. Developing Reading Habits	146