Here are detailed Achievement Level Descriptors for each 7th grade social studies standard based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence you provided. Each descriptor includes performance levels for Beginner Learner, Developing Learner, Proficient Learner, and Distinguished Learner.

**7th Grade Social Studies Achievement Level Descriptors**

**SS7H1: Analyze Continuity and Change in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of European partitioning effects, Pan-African movement, apartheid, and key figures.
* **Developing:** Recognizes major events and figures but explanations lack depth or clarity.
* **Proficient:** Explains how European colonization caused conflict, describes independence movements, and summarizes apartheid’s end and leaders’ roles.
* **Distinguished:** Provides nuanced analysis of historical changes, connecting political, social, and cultural impacts across Africa.

**SS7G1: Locate Selected Features of Africa**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to locate major physical and political features of Africa on maps.
* **Developing:** Locates some features with errors or omissions.
* **Proficient:** Accurately locates all required geographic features and countries.
* **Distinguished:** Uses maps to explain geographic influences on human activities and regional development.

**SS7G2: Explain Environmental Issues Across Africa**

* **Beginner:** Has difficulty explaining causes and effects of water pollution, poor soil, deforestation, and desertification.
* **Developing:** Describes environmental issues with limited understanding.
* **Proficient:** Clearly explains the causes and impacts of key environmental problems in Africa.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes broader environmental consequences and human responses.

**SS7G3: Explain Impact of Location, Climate, Physical Characteristics on Population Distribution in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of how geography affects trade and population.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some geographic influences with partial explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains how Sahara, Sahel, savanna, and rain forest impact trade and settlement.
* **Distinguished:** Provides detailed analysis of geographic factors shaping economic and population patterns.

**SS7G4: Analyze Cultural Characteristics of African People**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to differentiate ethnic and religious groups; limited knowledge of religious diversity.
* **Developing:** Identifies some cultural groups and religions with basic descriptions.
* **Proficient:** Explains differences between ethnic and religious groups and describes religious diversity accurately.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes cultural diversity’s influence on African societies and interactions.

**SS7CG1: Compare and Contrast Citizen Participation in Governments**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of citizen roles in autocratic and democratic governments.
* **Developing:** Recognizes government types and citizen participation with minimal detail.
* **Proficient:** Compares government forms, explains citizen roles, and describes parliamentary and presidential democracies with examples.
* **Distinguished:** Provides insightful analysis of political participation and impacts on governance.

**SS7CG2: Analyze Government Instability Impacts in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of how instability affects living standards.
* **Developing:** Describes some effects with basic explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains how instability impacts education access and resource distribution effectively.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes complex social and economic consequences of government instability.

**SS7E1: Analyze Different Economic Systems in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to describe economic systems and their answers to key questions.
* **Developing:** Provides basic comparisons with some inaccuracies.
* **Proficient:** Compares traditional, command, and market economies and explains mixed systems with African examples.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes economic systems’ effects on development and trade with detailed examples.

**SS7E2: Explain Voluntary Trade Benefits and Barriers in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Has difficulty explaining specialization, trade benefits, and barriers.
* **Developing:** Describes trade concepts with limited examples.
* **Proficient:** Explains specialization, trade barriers, currency exchange, and trade benefits clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Evaluates trade’s economic and political impacts regionally and globally.

**SS7E3: Describe Factors Influencing Economic Growth in Africa**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of literacy, human and capital investment, natural resources, and entrepreneurship.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some factors with incomplete explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains how these factors influence economic growth and living standards in specific countries.
* **Distinguished:** Provides detailed analysis of economic growth drivers and challenges with examples.

**SS7H2: Analyze Continuity and Change in Southwest Asia (Middle East)**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of historical conflicts, founding of Israel, and U.S. involvement.
* **Developing:** Recognizes key events but explanations lack depth.
* **Proficient:** Explains European partitioning, establishment of Israel, religious conflicts, and U.S. interests clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes complex political, religious, and historical factors shaping the region.

**SS7G5: Locate Selected Features in Southwest Asia (Middle East)**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to locate physical and political features.
* **Developing:** Locates some features with errors.
* **Proficient:** Accurately locates all required features and countries.
* **Distinguished:** Uses maps to explain geographic and political influences.

**SS7G6: Explain Environmental Issues in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Has difficulty explaining water pollution and access issues.
* **Developing:** Describes issues with limited understanding.
* **Proficient:** Explains causes and effects of water pollution and scarcity accurately.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes environmental challenges’ social and economic impacts.

**SS7G7: Explain Impact of Location, Climate, Resources on Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of geographic influences on trade and habitation.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some impacts with basic descriptions.
* **Proficient:** Describes how deserts and rivers affect trade and settlements.
* **Distinguished:** Provides detailed geographic analysis influencing culture and economy.

**SS7G8: Analyze Cultural Characteristics in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to differentiate ethnic and religious groups; limited religious knowledge.
* **Developing:** Identifies some groups and religions with basic descriptions.
* **Proficient:** Explains ethnic and religious diversity and compares major religions accurately.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes cultural influences on regional dynamics deeply.

**SS7CG3: Compare Government Forms in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of government types and citizen roles.
* **Developing:** Recognizes government types with minimal detail.
* **Proficient:** Compares autocratic and democratic governments, explains citizen participation with examples.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes political systems’ impacts on society and governance.

**SS7E4: Analyze Economic Systems in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to describe economic systems and their answers to economic questions.
* **Developing:** Provides basic comparisons with inaccuracies.
* **Proficient:** Compares economic systems and explains mixed economies with regional examples.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes economic systems’ influence on development and trade.

**SS7E5: Explain Trade Benefits and Barriers in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Difficulty with trade concepts and barriers.
* **Developing:** Describes trade with limited accuracy.
* **Proficient:** Explains specialization, trade barriers, currency exchange, and OPEC’s role clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Evaluates trade’s economic and political effects deeply.

**SS7E6: Describe Factors Influencing Economic Growth in Southwest Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of literacy, capital investment, natural resources, entrepreneurship.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some factors with incomplete explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains factors’ influence on growth and living standards clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes economic growth drivers and challenges comprehensively.

**SS7H3: Analyze Continuity and Change in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of nationalism, Gandhi, U.S. involvement, communism, and conflicts.
* **Developing:** Recognizes key events with partial explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains independence movements, Gandhi’s role, U.S. rebuilding efforts, communism’s impact, and foreign involvement clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes historical and political complexities with depth.

**SS7G9: Locate Features in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to locate major geographic features and countries.
* **Developing:** Locates some features with errors.
* **Proficient:** Accurately locates all required features and countries.
* **Distinguished:** Uses maps to explain geographic influences on population and trade.

**SS7G10: Explain Environmental Issues in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Has difficulty explaining pollution and flooding causes and effects.
* **Developing:** Describes environmental concerns with limited depth.
* **Proficient:** Explains pollution and flooding causes and effects in key rivers and countries.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes environmental issues’ broader social and economic impacts.

**SS7G11: Explain Impact of Location, Climate, Resources on Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of geographic influences.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some impacts with basic descriptions.
* **Proficient:** Describes how mountains, deserts, and waters affect trade and settlement.
* **Distinguished:** Provides detailed geographic and economic analysis.

**SS7G12: Analyze Cultural Characteristics in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to differentiate ethnic and religious groups; limited knowledge of belief systems.
* **Developing:** Identifies some groups and belief systems with basic understanding.
* **Proficient:** Explains ethnic and religious differences and compares Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Confucianism accurately.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes cultural influences on societies and historical developments.

**SS7CG4: Compare Government Forms in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of government types and citizen roles.
* **Developing:** Recognizes government forms with minimal detail.
* **Proficient:** Explains citizen participation and government types with examples from regional countries.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes political systems’ effects on society and governance deeply.

**SS7E7: Analyze Economic Systems in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to describe economic systems and their functions.
* **Developing:** Provides basic comparisons with inaccuracies.
* **Proficient:** Compares economic systems and explains mixed economies with regional examples.
* **Distinguished:** Analyzes economic systems’ roles in development and trade comprehensively.

**SS7E8: Explain Trade Benefits and Barriers in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Difficulty explaining trade concepts and barriers.
* **Developing:** Describes trade with limited accuracy.
* **Proficient:** Explains specialization, trade barriers, and currency exchange clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Evaluates trade’s economic and political effects in depth.

**SS7E9: Describe Factors Influencing Economic Growth in Southern and Eastern Asia**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of literacy, capital investment, natural resources, entrepreneurship.
* **Developing:** Recognizes some factors with incomplete explanations.
* **Proficient:** Explains effects of these factors on economic growth and living standards clearly.
* **Distinguished:** Provides detailed analysis of economic growth drivers and challenges.

**SS7E10: Understand Principles of Personal Money Management**

* **Beginner:** Limited understanding of income, budgeting, saving, and credit.
* **Developing:** Recognizes basic concepts but struggles to apply them.
* **Proficient:** Explains income limitations, budgeting, benefits of saving, and credit uses/costs accurately.
* **Distinguished:** Applies personal finance principles thoughtfully, analyzing financial decisions’ impacts.

**Map and Globe Skills**

* **Beginner:** Struggles with basic map skills including directions, scales, and locating features.
* **Developing:** Uses some skills inconsistently or with errors.
* **Proficient:** Applies map skills accurately to locate features and analyze geographic data.
* **Distinguished:** Uses advanced geographic tools to interpret complex data and draw conclusions.

**Information Processing Skills**

* **Beginner:** Difficulty comparing, organizing, analyzing, and synthesizing social studies information.
* **Developing:** Performs some tasks with guidance but lacks consistency.
* **Proficient:** Independently analyzes sources, interprets data, and draws well-supported conclusions.
* **Distinguished:** Synthesizes complex information, evaluates sources critically, and presents nuanced conclusions.

**Reading and Writing Literacy Standards**

* **Beginner:** Struggles to cite evidence, summarize, analyze texts, and write clear arguments or explanations.
* **Developing:** Cites some evidence and summarizes but inconsistently; writing is basic.
* **Proficient:** Cites evidence accurately, summarizes clearly, analyzes texts effectively, and writes coherent arguments and explanations.
* **Distinguished:** Critically evaluates multiple sources, integrates evidence skillfully, and produces sophisticated, persuasive writing.

These descriptors provide a comprehensive guide for assessing student mastery of 7th grade social studies standards, supporting instruction, assessment, and feedback.