

# **SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CULTURE**

**GNS 111/103**

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# CULTURE

# Culture in



# What is culture?

- ❑ Culture is the people's way of life which comprises the totality of shared beliefs, norms, values, rituals, language, history, knowledge and social character.
- ❑ Culture is considered to be group-specific behaviour that is acquired, at least in part from social influences. Here, group is considered to be the species-typical unit whether it be a troop, lineage or subgroup.

# What is culture?

- ❑ Culture can also mean the forms of traditional behaviour which are characteristics of a given society, or of a group of societies, or of a certain ethnicity, or of certain area, or of a certain period of time.
- ❑ Culture is the socially transmitted knowledge and behaviour shared by some group of people.
- ❑ Culture distinguishes groups (ethnic) in the society.

# Types of culture

There are two types of culture:

## (1) Material culture (2) Non-material culture

❑ **Material culture:** things produced by a society. It is that aspect of culture that we can see and handle e.g. costumes, cloth, food, masquerade etc.

❑ **Non-material culture:** things practiced/appreciated by a society. It is that aspect of culture that cannot be seen or touched e.g. music, values, customs, beliefs, folklore, etc.

❑ They all represent the culture of the people in the society.

# Characteristics of culture

- ❑ Culture is not inborn; it is shared and learnt.
- ❑ Culture is transferable from one generation to another.
- ❑ Culture is dynamic.

# Characteristics of culture

- ❑ Culture is universal.
- ❑ Culture is overt and covert. It is divided into material and non-material aspects.
- ❑ Culture is symbolic: It is based on the purposeful creation and usage of symbol; it is embedded with meaning that represents the people. It is exclusive to humans.



# Discussion

- ❑ In five (5) minutes, two representatives from each department should pick an ethnic group in Nigeria and discuss the material and non material culture (with the exception of Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo)
- ❑ The department with the best presentation will get a bonus mark.

Good luck 

**ANY QUESTION?**

