



Civic Education – SS1 First Term



Week 8: Citizenship I

Topics:

1. Meaning of Citizenship
 2. Goals and Benefits of Citizenship Education
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Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Define and explain **citizenship** and identify who a **citizen** is.
 2. Understand the different **types of citizenship** in Nigeria.
 3. Explain the **goals** of citizenship education.
 4. State and describe the **benefits** of citizenship education to individuals and the nation.
 5. Appreciate their roles and responsibilities as future **responsible citizens**.
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1. Meaning of Citizenship



Definition of Citizenship

Citizenship is the **legal status** of being a recognized member of a country or nation. A citizen is someone who has full rights and responsibilities under the laws of that country.

In simple terms, **citizenship** means **belonging to a country** and being accepted as a legal member of that country.



For example, a person born in Nigeria to Nigerian parents is a citizen of Nigeria.



Who is a Citizen?

A **citizen** is a person who:


- **Legally belongs** to a country
- **Enjoys the rights** and privileges the country offers
- **Owes allegiance** (loyalty) to that country
- Is expected to perform **duties and responsibilities** such as obeying the law, paying taxes, and voting

Types of Citizenship in Nigeria

According to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, there are three main ways a person can become a Nigerian citizen:


1. Citizenship by Birth

- A person is automatically a Nigerian if:
 - He/she was born in Nigeria, and
 - Either of his/her parents or grandparents is a Nigerian citizen

 *Example:* If your father is a Nigerian and you were born in Lagos, you are a Nigerian citizen by birth.


2. Citizenship by Registration

- A person can become a Nigerian through registration if:
 - They are married to a Nigerian citizen
 - They apply and are approved by the President

 *Example:* A woman from Ghana who marries a Nigerian man can apply for Nigerian citizenship by registration.

3. Citizenship by Naturalization

- A foreigner who has lived in Nigeria continuously for at least **15 years** and has behaved responsibly may apply to become a Nigerian citizen.

 *Example:* An Indian man who has lived in Nigeria for 20 years, obeys laws, and contributes to society may be granted citizenship by naturalization.

2. Goals of Citizenship Education

Citizenship education is the teaching and learning that helps people understand what it means to be a good citizen. It helps individuals develop the values, attitudes, and skills necessary to participate effectively in civic and community life.

Main Goals of Citizenship Education:

Goal	Explanation
To promote national unity	Teaches students to love and respect people from other tribes and religions, helping to reduce discrimination and tribalism.
To encourage civic participation	Educates citizens on how to take part in voting, community service, and government decision-making.
To promote patriotism	Encourages students to love their country, respect national symbols, and protect its interest.
To develop responsible citizens	Builds moral values such as honesty, discipline, respect, and accountability.
To educate about rights and duties	Teaches people to know and protect their rights, and also fulfill responsibilities like obeying the law.
To reduce corruption and promote rule of law	Helps citizens recognize and resist injustice, bribery, and cheating.
To build leadership skills	Encourages young people to lead in positive and responsible ways in society.

3. Benefits of Citizenship Education

Citizenship education not only prepares students to become better citizens, but it also creates a peaceful, law-abiding, and progressive nation.

A. Understanding Rights and Duties

- Citizenship education helps students know:
 - Their rights (e.g., freedom of speech, education, religion)
 - Their responsibilities (e.g., obeying laws, paying taxes)

B. Development of Patriotism

- It builds love and loyalty for Nigeria.
- Citizens will defend their country, obey the national anthem, and avoid doing harm to the country's reputation.

C. Promotion of Tolerance and Peace

- Students learn to respect other people's views, religions, and cultures.
- Reduces tribalism, violence, and religious crises.

◆ D. Encourages Civic Participation

- Students will grow up to:
 - Vote wisely
 - Join community development
 - Participate in nation-building projects
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◆ E. Promotion of National Unity

- Helps citizens from different ethnic backgrounds work together in harmony.
 - Encourages a sense of "one Nigeria."
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◆ F. Leadership and Responsibility

- Builds leadership qualities like fairness, courage, and accountability.
 - Prepares young people to be future leaders in school, workplace, and government.
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◆ G. Discourages Corruption and Laziness

- It promotes hard work, dignity in labour, and honesty.
 - Encourages a culture of justice and rule of law.
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Real-Life Connection

Example:

A student who learns citizenship education will know that:

- Voting is not just a right but a duty.
- Joining cultism or engaging in exam malpractice is wrong and harms the country.
- Respecting national symbols like the Nigerian flag shows love for the country.
- Reporting bribery or corruption is part of being a responsible citizen.