

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT

CLASS: SS 1

WEEK: 6

TOPIC: Political Culture and Political Socialization

DURATION: 40 Minutes

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In Week 6, students examine **political culture** and **political socialization**, which explain how citizens develop attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors toward politics and government.

Understanding these concepts helps explain political participation, stability, and governance patterns. This lesson includes detailed definitions, Nigerian examples, practical applications, and classroom activities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Define political culture in detail.
 2. Identify the components and types of political culture.
 3. Define political socialization and explain its significance.
 4. Identify agents of political socialization.
 5. Explain how political culture and socialization affect governance and citizen behavior.
 6. Provide Nigerian examples of political culture and socialization.
 7. Analyze the influence of culture, family, media, and institutions on political participation.
-

1. POLITICAL CULTURE

Detailed Definition

Political culture refers to the **collection of attitudes, values, beliefs, and norms that shape citizens' political behavior and their expectations of government**. It determines how people interact with political institutions, participate in governance, and accept authority.

Components of Political Culture

1. **Cognitive Component:** Knowledge of political systems, leaders, and processes.
Example: Awareness of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and electoral processes.
2. **Affective Component:** Feelings and emotions toward government and political institutions.
Example: Pride in national symbols like the Nigerian flag.
3. **Evaluative Component:** Judgments about government performance and political outcomes.
Example: Critiquing policies or leaders based on perceived effectiveness.

Types of Political Culture

1. **Parochial Culture:** Citizens have limited awareness of politics and expect little participation.
Example: Rural communities with minimal engagement in national politics.
2. **Subject Culture:** Citizens are aware of politics and comply with laws but rarely participate actively.
Example: Observing rules during elections but not voting or campaigning.
3. **Participant Culture:** Citizens are aware, actively engage in political processes, and influence governance.
Example: Urban communities with high voter turnout and active civil society participation.

Nigerian Examples of Political Culture

- Active participation in presidential and gubernatorial elections (participant culture).
- Limited awareness in some rural areas (parochial culture).
- Observance of laws and directives without questioning in some communities (subject culture).

2. POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Detailed Definition

Political socialization is the **process by which individuals acquire political knowledge, attitudes, values, and behaviors from family, society, and institutions**, shaping their political identity and participation.

Significance

- Shapes citizens' understanding of rights and responsibilities.
- Encourages conformity to political norms and laws.
- Promotes national unity by transmitting shared values.
- Influences political participation and leadership development.

Agents of Political Socialization

1. **Family:** Primary source of early political values and party affiliations.
Example: Parents discussing voting choices with children.
2. **Schools/Education:** Civic education and knowledge about rights and governance.
Example: Nigerian secondary school social studies classes teaching democratic principles.
3. **Peer Groups:** Influence through discussions and collective activities.
Example: Youth groups or student unions advocating for policies.
4. **Mass Media:** Information dissemination and shaping public opinion.
Example: Newspapers, radio, and social media influencing political debates.
5. **Political Institutions:** Direct interaction with government agencies and participation in political programs.
Example: National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programs fostering national integration.
6. **Religion and Traditional Institutions:** Transmission of moral and civic values.
Example: Churches and mosques encouraging civic responsibilities.

Nigerian Examples of Political Socialization

- National orientation programs and civic education in schools.
- Family discussions about political events and leaders.
- Influence of social media campaigns on youth political participation.
- Traditional rulers promoting respect for laws and authority.

Practical Applications

- Encourages informed participation in elections and governance.
- Shapes attitudes toward democracy and legitimacy.

- Reduces political apathy by fostering civic responsibility.
- Strengthens national identity and unity.

Text-Based Diagrams / Visuals

- **Political Culture Flow:** Knowledge → Feelings → Evaluation → Behavior.
 - **Political Socialization Agents Diagram:** Family → Schools → Peer Groups → Media → Political Institutions → Religion/Tradition → Citizen Participation.
-

SUMMARY

Political culture and political socialization explain how citizens develop political knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. Political culture shapes expectations of governance, while socialization ensures the transmission of values and norms across generations. Nigerian examples, from family influence to civic education and mass media, illustrate the practical impact on political participation, stability, and national unity.