



# **GRADE 8**

**SECOND TERM, 2022/2023 SESSION**

## **CIVIC EDUCATION MASTERNOTE**

**NAME OF STUDENT** \_\_\_\_\_

# SYNOPSIS

## WEEKS

## TOPICS

1. Revision Scheme of work.
2. The relationship between Federal, State and Local Government, Areas of differences between the Federal, State and Local Government and Leadership and Followership.
3. The rule of Law (meaning of law and rule of law, the benefits of the rule of law.
4. Punishable offences
- 5&6 Protection of Human Rights and the rule of law, groups that assist in the protection of human rights of citizens.
7. Consumer rights and responsibility.
8. Democracy
9. Democracy institution.
10. Pillars of democracy.
11. Revision
12. Examination.

**BEHAVIOUR OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Identify the nature of relationship among federal, states and local governments.
- State the area of differences between the federal, states and local governments.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Indeed, there exists a relationship between the Tiers of government based on the principle or concept of federation: central and semi-autonomous states. In the Federal System operated in Nigeria, it is based on three levels of governments namely: federal, state and local governments.

In a federal system of government, there is co-operation among the Tiers of government so as to ensure that governance is enjoyed by every citizen no matter where they reside in the federation.

In Nigeria, constitutional powers are shared among the Federal government (which represent the whole country), the State governments and the Local governments. The constitutional powers are shared between them as follows:

**EXCLUSIVE LIST:** Only the Federal government can legislate on items on the exclusive list. These are in the areas of Defence, Currency, Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Emigration, Mining, Customs and Police Force.

**CONCURRENT LIST:** This spells out the areas where the powers are jointly shared by the Federal and State governments. These are in the areas of Agriculture, Education, Health, Roads, Information, etc

**RESIDUAL LIST:** This shows items on which only state government and local government can legislate. This list includes minor Roads, Chieftaincy, Markets, Health centres, etc.

### **THE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT**

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** The Federal government is the central authority that represent the entire nation in external and internal affairs of common interest. The Federal government has greater constitutional powers than the state and local governments. This is why it controls the Exclusive List. It has two Houses of Assemblies: The Senate and the House of Representatives.

**THE STATE GOVERNMENT:** The head of the state government is the Governor. He/she oversees the State Council of Chiefs, State Civil Security Commission, Executive Council of State (Commissioners), etc. the State has one legislative arm that makes law for the state called House of Assembly. The state controls the Concurrent List.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** It is the third tier of government in Nigeria. It is headed by the Local Government Chairman. It also has its own legislative body which makes bye-law for her. The Local Government brings government closer to the people at the grassroots.

### **AREAS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The purpose of having Tiers of government is to bring governance closer to the people. In the will to fulfil this purpose, involves the functions and structures of these tiers to enable them relate. Hence, the differences in the legislative and executive organs of government.

**LEGISLATIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT:** This is the organ that makes laws for the government.

At the Federal level we have two separate assemblies namely; the Senate and House of Representatives (both are called National Assembly). The Senate President heads the Senate which has 109 members in Nigeria and the Speaker heads the House of Representatives which has 360 members.

At the state level, we have only one house; the House of Assembly headed by a Speaker.

**EXECUTIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT:** This organ of government executes the laws, policies and directives made by the legislature.

At the Federal level, members of the executive are the President, Vice President, Ministers and appointed members of the various federal Parastatals, Councils and Commissions.

At the state level, members of the executive are the Governors, Deputy-Governors, Commissions and appointed members of Commissions and Councils.

At the Local government level, members of the executive are Chairman, Vice –Chairman, Supervisory Councillors which are appointed by the Chairman and the Councillors representing every ward in a local government area.

### **CONTENT**

#### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

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### **LEADERSHIP AND FOLLOWERSHIP**

**LEADERSHIP:** It is ability to guide or influence people. A leader is the person who has been appointed or elected to lead the people to achieve a task. He / She influences the people following him / her to achieve a common goal or task. He / She plans, direct, supervises, co-ordinates and harmonises the followers to accomplish a goal.

### **TYPES OF LEADERSHIP**

**Democratic Leadership:** This is the kind of leadership that allows the followers to participate in the decision making process of what affects them.

**Autocratic Leadership:** This is the style of leadership that does not allow the followers to contribute to the decision making process that affects them.

**Laissez-faire Leadership:** This style of leadership allows the followers to do whatever they like.

**Charismatic Leadership:** This style of leadership is based on the influence of the leader's qualities.

**Traditional Leadership:** This is the leadership style that are inherited e.g. Kings and Queens.

**Organisational or Constitutional Leadership:** This is the leadership that emanates from the constitution.

### **QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER**

1. DISCIPLINE 2. HONESTY 3. PUNCTUALITY 4. RESPONSIBILITY 5. OBEEDIENCE 6. CONFIDENCE 7. PATIENCE 8. SUBMISSIVE 9. ATTENTIVE 10. SKILLFUL 11. GOD-FEARING 12. COMPASSIONATE

**FOLLOWERSHIP:** It is the willingness to accept the established and communicated vision of a leader by the citizens of a state. A follower is the person who submits himself/herself to the directives of the leader. Followership implies a group of people who are led by someone and their ability to follow and obey the leader.

#### **TYPES OF FOLLOWERSHIP**

Passive Followership: This is the situation where the general attitude of the followers is lukewarm. They observe events from the side; they do not participate.

Active Followership: This is when the followers participate in what the leader is doing

Aggressive Followership: This is when the followers are always aggressive or confrontational in their approach to the leader.

#### **QUALITIES OF A GOOD FOLLOWERSHIP**

Respect for leaders.

Loyalty and trust for their leaders.

Constructive criticism of a bad leader.

Actively involved in the achievement of the overall goals of the group.

Obedience to the laws of the group.

#### **THE CONSEQUENCES OF A GOOD LEADERSHIP/FOLLOWERSHIP**

Social order

Political stability

Trust

Harmony

Progress

Continuous acceptance of the leader e.g. voting over and over again for a good leader.

#### **THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BAD LEADERSHIP/FOLLOWERSHIP**

Economic hardship.

Greediness and poverty.

Civil Unrest.

Corruption and Indiscipline.

Waste of Resources.

Sanctions.

Anarchy

Failure of government programmes.

### **EVALUATION QUESTIONS.**

1. List three types of relationship among the federal, state and local government.
2. List three areas of differences between federal, state and local government.
3. The government that is closer to the people is
  - A. Federal government
  - B. State government
  - C. Local government
  - D. Political party

Explain briefly the following:

4. Exclusive list
5. Concurrent list
6. Residual list
7. Explain the meaning of federation.
8. Explain the need for federation.
9. Describe the characteristics of a federation.
10. The president belongs to the ..... Arm of government
  - A. Executive
  - B. Legislative
  - C. General
  - D. Judiciary.

<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>RULE OF LAWS</b>
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**BEHAVIOURAL OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- State and explain the meaning of rule of law.

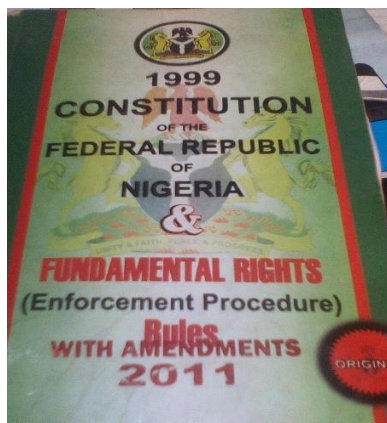


- Explain the benefits of the rule of law.
- Identify the principles of rule of law.
- Explain the meaning of the statement “the law is no respecter of persons”.

## MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW

For us to understand the concept of the rule of law, we would have to know what laws are.

**LAWS** are the official rules and regulations that guide the behaviours and conducts of people in any group or society. They are always written in the constitution that is used to govern a society or control the conducts of its members.



## Meaning

The rule of law is a political principle that stipulates the supremacy of the constitution. It emphasizes that things should be done in accordance with the laws of the land.

The law is the string that ties the society with peace. Without the law, the society will be in a state of **anarchy**.

**THE RULE OF LAW** is also known as supremacy of law. It means the supremacy of the law of the land or society over all citizens, no matter the status. Professor A. V. Dicey propounded the phrase in 1885 in his book titled, “Introduction to the study of law of the constitution”. The essence of the rule of law is that every citizen must be treated according to what the law of the country says. This is why we often say that “nobody is above the law”.

The rule of law indicates that all citizens are equal before the law. Both the leaders and followers are subject to the constitution.

Professor Dicey formulated the principle of the rule of law.

## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**SENATE PRESIDENT**

**HONOURABLE LAWAN IBRAHIM AHMED**

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

**HONOURABLE GBAJABIAMILA OLUFEMI**



## THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN SESSION

### **The Judiciary**

This is the arm of government that interprets the law made by the legislature and explains what the constitution says on any issue during judgment, prosecution and proceedings. It comprises of all the courts of law.

The Judiciary is regarded as the hope of the common man. The Chief Justice of the Federation.



**SCALE OF JUSTICE**

### **Principles of the Rule of Law**

- Supremacy of the law.
- Equality before the law.
- Fundamental human rights.
- Fair hearing.

### **Steps for the Protection of Rule of Law**

Before the rule of law can have its way in a country, the following must be in practice:

- **Legal Process**

This is a process of taking a case to court for proper judgment. All accused persons must be taken to court before pronounced guilty. Only the courts of competent jurisdictions can and should decide upon cases, based on evidences brought before it. After judgment had been passed, person that is pronounced guilty shall have the advantage of the taking the case to a higher court. Nobody shall be punished for any offence committed by any force except through the courts of law.

- **Independence of the Judiciary**

All courts of law in the country must be free from the control or influence of anybody: governments or individuals irrespective of their posts. The judiciary should not be controlled by the legislature or the executive. The judiciary must live to its expectations as the hope of the common man.

- **Equality**

For rule of law to thrive, every citizen should be treated equally without fear or favour. What is good for the ruler should also be good for the followers.

- **Justice**

The administration of justice, that is the process and the timing of the delivery of judgment are important in the justice system. The issue of bribery should not be allowed in the courts. Any case brought forward to the courts should be judged freely without prejudice of influence.

- **Fair play**

Equal reasonable treatments should be given to all for rule of law to thrive. The rich and the poor must be given equal treatments at all times. Irrespective of religion, party and ethnicity, every citizen is entitled to dignity due to human beings.

- **Good Government**

The first step towards the protection of the rule of law is good governance that is characterized by responsive leadership. The government should demonstrate a high sense of respect for the rule of law.

- **Freedom of the Press**

Press freedom means the ability of the government to provide enabling environment by way of security and good law to ensure smooth operation of the mass media. The freedom of the press is an essential aspect of protection of the rule of law. Mass media should be allowed to discharge their duties of information dissemination without any legal constraints. Freedom of Information Bill is a legal backing that will enhance the performance of the mass media.

### **Benefits of the Rule of Law.**

- It makes everyone equal in a political system.
- It brings about obedience to the law of the land.
- It guarantees supremacy of law over citizens.
- It guarantees peace and order in the society.
- It enhances the protection of citizens' rights.
- It ensures freedom of press and association.
- It prevents tyrannical rule.
- It guards against illegal or unlawful detention.
- It guarantees inalienable rights of the citizens.
- It promotes separation of powers.
- It guarantees good governance.
- It encourages justice i.e. the safeguards against cruel and unjust discretionary judgement.
- It protects the equality of all citizens before the law.
- It gives room for fair hearing and treatment.
- It promotes and guarantees fundamental human rights.
- It guides against oppression and tyranny.
- It guarantees and sustains democratic governance.
- It serves as a legal guide for citizens in relating with themselves.

### **EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss the meaning of the rule of law.

2. State the principles of the rule of law.
3. Mention the steps to be taken in protecting the rule of law.
4. Explain four benefits of the rule of law.
5. The rule of law is
  - A. Supremacy of the law over every citizen in a country
  - B. Human right protection
  - C. Supremacy of the law over the rich
  - D. Securing lives and properties of the citizens.
6. Who propounded the theory of rule of law?
  - A. Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe
  - B. Abraham Lincoln
  - C. Obafemi Awolowo
  - D. Prof. A. V Dicey
7. All these are principles of rule of law except
  - A. principle of fair hearing
  - B. principle of supremacy of the law
  - C. Principle of right to appeal
  - D. Principle of partiality.
8. The rule of law can be strengthened through
  - A. immunity clause in the constitution
  - B. independence of judiciary
  - C. High cost of litigation
  - D. Prolonged prosecution of offender.
9. All are basic principles of the rule of law except
  - A. Cultural right
  - B. Equality before the law
  - C. Respect for human right
  - D. Supremacy of law.
10. Highlight five benefits of the rule of law as against arbitrary rule.

**WEEK 4:**  
**OFFENCES BY LAW**

**PUNISHABLE**

BEHAVIOURAL OBJECTIVE: students should be able to

- Define punishable offences.
- State the types of punishable offences.

All offences are punishable by law. However, criminal offences are heavier in punishment than civil offences.

**CRIMINAL OFFENCES:** These are severe offences which attract capital punishments. Examples are crimes such as armed robbery, murder, rape, examination malpractices, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cult activities, bribery and corruption, etc. the above offences could attract death sentences or jail terms.

**CIVIL OFFENCES:** These are crimes or offences that attract non severe penalties. Examples are infidelity, sanitation offences, traffic offences, illegal assembly, libel, slander, prostitution, lack of respect for constituted authority, use of narcotic substances, etc. they usually attract fines or short detention jail term.

**EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW**

Law is no respecter of persons. Therefore, we say that law is blind and cannot even see the law maker. The sword of the law is so sharp that it can cut and pierce through anything. Equality before the law is a principle under which individuals are subject to the same laws, with no individual or group having special legal privilege. The principle admits no class i.e. law does not have respect for titles, economic status, spiritual level, traditional seat, etc. Equality before the law presupposes that all citizens are equal as far as the law is concerned. It means that “law is no respecter of persons” no matter how highly placed they are in the society.

Though this principle is undisputable, there are exceptions to the rules. Examples: i. Infants cannot be charged to the court for any criminal offence. ii. Public officials like the President and Governors enjoys immunity while in office, as well as diplomatic agents.

CRIME	PROVE	PUNISHMENT
<b>Theft</b> also known as stealing. It is act of removing or taking personal property with the intent of depriving the	The property in question has been physically taken	Imprisonment depending on the magnitude of the property in question

owner of it.		
<b>Rape</b> is the act of someone to force another to have sexual intercourse	Penetration of the genital organ of the victim. Carnal knowledge.	Imprisonment [Long term]
<b>Human trafficking</b> of king illegal movement of people for pure economic exploitation	Movement of person for economic exploitation	Imprisonment [Long term]
<b>Murder</b> unlawful killing of a person.	Caught in the act or video evidence or witness	Death
<b>Terrorism</b> is the act of causing bodily harm or psychological harm to a person or group of people with the aim of intimidating or	Caught in the act, video evidence, witness <sup>4</sup>	Imprisonment [Long term] or death



subdue them		
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**EVALUATION Questions.**

1. Explain the meaning of criminal offences.
2. Discuss the civil offences.
3. The rule of law is supreme of every citizen irrespective of his/her position/status.
  - A. False
  - B. True
  - C. All of the above
  - D. No ideas

Describe the following crimes and the punishment to the offenders

4. Rape
5. Terrorism
6. Human Trafficking
7. Murder
8. Theft
9. Differentiate between criminal offences and Civil offences
10. What do you understand by equality before the law.

<b>WEEK 5&amp;6: PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW</b>
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**BEHAVIOURIAL OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain the concept of human right.
- State and discuss the types of human right.
- List and explain the steps in human right protection.
- Explain how individuals and groups can assist in protecting human rights and the rule of law.
- Identify some groups that help in protecting the human rights of citizens.
- Highlight roles of individuals in the protection of human rights.

### **THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Rights are the privileges we enjoy as a result of being citizens of our country. Rights are also the moral, legal and official grants to do something in a country.

Human rights are the fundamental rights that people living in a country must enjoy without any hindrance. They are basic needs of every human being which a responsible government must adequately provide to its citizens.

### **PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW**

Citizenship confers certain undeniable rights on the citizens which are clearly out in the constitution. Human rights are the basic entitlements and freedom a person automatically claims at birth as a human being. They include the right to life, liberty, dignity, ownership of properties, etc. the rule of law supports these fundamental rights from being taken away from every citizen.

### **ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS IN PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Individuals can help in the protection of human rights by

- Sponsoring actions meant to reverse abuses of human rights.
- Support actions meant to reduce or abolish human rights abuse.
- Individuals can also join in protests against abuse of human rights by government or by fellow citizen.

### **GROUPS ROLE IN THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The groups that assist in protection of human rights include Civil Society Organizations (CSO)

- Student Unions.
- Trade Unions.
- Ethnic Associations

- Legal Aid Councils, among others.

Their roles include:

- Sponsorship of media programmes to enlighten the people about their rights.
- They help the formation of local versions of human rights bodies e.g. Student Union Government.
- Marking of Human Rights Day every December 10.
- Advocacy visits to governmental parastatals, armed forces, police, and other paramilitary bodies.
- Offering of free legal service.
- Sponsorship of human rights bills in the legislature.
- Lobbying the executive to sign human rights bills passed by the legislature.
- Embarking on national strike and down tool.



### Examples of Rights of Citizens

1. Right to life.
2. Right to dignity of human person.
3. Right to personal freedom.
4. Right to privacy.
5. Right to freedom of thoughts, conscience and religion.
6. Right to freedom of expression.

7. Right to freedom of association.
8. Right to fair hearing and equality under the law.
9. Right to education.
10. Right to movement and habitation.
11. Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading punishment.

## **Types of Human Rights**

### **1. Social Rights**

- \* Rights to maintenance of aged ones.
- \* Rights to free health care.
- \* Rights to free education.
- \* Rights to shelter.
- \* Rights to guaranteed employment.

### **2. Political Rights**

- \* Rights to vote and be voted for.
- \* Right to hold public office.
- \* Right to criticize governmental activities.
- \* Right to join any political party.
- \* Right to freedom of expression.

### **3. Economic Rights**

- \* Right to engage in any legal business.
- \* Right to employ or be employed.
- \* Right to buy any lawful item or goods.

### **4. Cultural rights**

- \* Right to hold any cultural belief.
- \* Right to dress in your cultural attires.
- \* Right to worship gods in your culture.
- \* Right to traditional institutions.
- \* Right to participate in cultural activities.

### **5. Civic Rights**

- \* Right to life
- \* Right to quality education
- \* Freedom of speech
- \* Freedom of religion
- \* Freedom of movement
- \* Freedom of association

### **6. Religious Rights**

- \* Right to serve God under any religion.  
Right to belong under any religion  
Right to pray in your religion.
- 7. **Natural Rights**
- \* Right to allow nature to take its due course.

### **Steps in Human Rights Protection**

In case your rights are infringed upon, the following are the steps you can take:

1. Legal redress.
2. Mass protest.
3. Freedom of the press.
4. Genuine independence of the judiciary.
5. Public enlightenment.
6. Public prosecution.
7. International agencies.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the concept of human rights.
2. Discuss with examples, the types of human rights.
3. List and explain the steps in human rights protection.
4. Explain how individuals and groups can help to protect the human rights of the citizens.
5. Which of the following is not a method of protecting human rights?
  - A. media coverage
  - B. Protest march
  - C. hunger strike
  - D. street riots
6. The right to vote and be voted for during election is called
  - A. franchise
  - B. frandise
  - C. Franchise
  - D. franquise
7. The right that enables a citizen to participate in the government of a state is called
  - A. Human rights
  - B. Political rights
  - C. Economics rights
  - D. Social rights.
8. Rights mean one of the following .....
  - A. Rights are privileges which law permits
  - B. ability to speak with one voice
  - C. Rights are those things that
9. Which of these is not an appropriate step to protection of human rights?
  - A. Election of a good government
  - B. Violent protest against the abuse through the mass media or protest march

C. Education and public awareness

D. Fair-play avoidance of partiality, behaving fairly to all, spirit of sportsmanship, tolerance, patient living.

10. Explain how a citizen can respect the rights of others.

<b>WEEK 7:</b>	<b>CONSUMER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY</b>
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**BEHAVIOURAL OBJECTIVES:** Students should be able to:

- Define consumer rights.
- List the eight universal consumer rights.
- Describe consumer responsibilities.
- Explain various responsibilities of a consumer.

**MEANING OF CONSUMER RIGHTS**

Consumer is a person who uses various goods and services which may be consumable items or durable things.

Consumer rights are basic legal entitlements which help consumers to make better choices in the market place and get help with resolving their complaints. Consumer rights is meant to safeguard the interest of the consumer from being exploited or cheated. Also, they have to be given certain rights so that they are in a position to ensure that sellers of goods and service providers are more careful in dealing with them.

**UNIVERSAL CONSUMER RIGHTS**

- **Right to satisfaction of basic needs:** Consumers have freedom of choice to select what they need to survive in everyday activities.
- **Right to safety:** Consumers have a right to take precautions to prevent any injury and also have the right to complain against the dealer or even claim compensation.
- **Right to information:** Consumers have the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, standard and price of the goods available so that they can make wise choice before buying the products.
- **Right to choose:** This is meaning the right to have access to a variety of products and services at competitive prices and in the case of monopolies, to have an assurance of satisfactory quality and service at a fair price.

- **Right to redress:** This means the right to fair treatment or settlement of just claims. It also includes a right to get any defective goods replaced or money refunded by the seller or dealer.
- **Right to consumer education:** This means the right to acquire the knowledge and skills to be an enlightened consumer throughout life.
- **Right to representation/be heard:** This gives the consumers right to be represented in governmental and other policy – making bodies as well as in the development of products and service before they are produced.
- **Right to a healthy environment:** This means the right to physical environment that will enhance the quality of life.

### MEANING OF CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITY

These are actions that all consumers should take to ensure that they are well informed before buying a product or service. This right also implies that consumers get what they pay for and any problem with a product or service are resolved quickly and to their satisfaction.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSUMERS

- Be aware:** This means that consumers should be able to know the cost of the product they intend to purchase. They should be aware of the risks involved in the goods and services they want to obtain.
- Demand proof of transactions:** Consumers should demand and keep proofs of transactions e.g. receipts, invoices, warranties, etc.
- Think independently:** As a consumer, you are expected to think and act in a well – informed manner to protect yourself from being deceived.
- Speak out:** Since the consumers have the right to be informed about the quantity, quality, standard and price of the goods available, they have the responsibilities of speaking out on their choice among the variety of products available.
- Respect the environment:** Every consumer has the responsibility of obeying the rules and regulations for ensuring a safe and clean environment. He / she should respect the laws of the environment and avoid littering the surroundings.

### EVALUATION QUESTIONS:

1. What are consumer rights?
2. State seven universal consumers' rights.
3. Differentiate between consumer rights and consumer responsibilities.
4. List and explain the duties of a consumer.

5. Who is a Consumer?

6. What do you understand by Consumer responsibilities.

## WEEK 8: DEMOCRACY

**BEHAVIOURAL OBJECTIVES:** Students should be able to:

- Explain the term Democracy – Economically and Politically
- Identify the place of popular democracy
- Discuss the forms of democracy
- Explain the characteristics of democracy
- Highlight the merits and demerits of democracy

### MEANING OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a Greek word meaning 'rule by the people'. The two root words from which democracy emanates are 'demo' and 'kratia' meaning 'people' and 'government' respectively. . Democracy was first practiced in Athens in Europe and also among the Ibos in Eastern Nigeria before the colonial rule.

Democracy can be defined as a form or system of government by the majority of the people. By this, it means that the supreme power is vested in the people collectively and is administered by them or through representatives elected by them.

According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is "the government of the people, by the people and for the people".

**OR**

### MEANING OF DEMOCRACY.

The word democracy is derived from the Greek words "demo" meaning people and "kratia" which means authority or rule. Therefore, democracy may be said to be the rule or authority of the people. However, the widely used definition of the term democracy was propounded by a former President of the United States of America, **Abraham Lincoln** saying, "Government **of** the people, **by** the people, **for** the people". It is the type of government where all adult citizens have equal say in the decisions that affect their lives. Democracy is a form of government where the people have and exercise the supreme power directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving free and fair elections held at specific dates by the electoral body in the country.

Democracy stated from ancient Greek or Greece while the modern democracy stated from America.

### Political Democracy

This refers to the way members of a political community behave in their political activity e.g. voting. It refers to the usual believe and perception of people towards politics.



### **Economic Democracy**

This refers to the economic system where the means of production of goods and services, distribution and exchange are in the hands of both the state and the private individuals.

### **PLACE OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY**

Democracy has no limitation. It can be used everywhere and anywhere to determine the people who represent them. Voters make their decision known through free and fair elections by electing people into elective positions in the local, state and federal levels of government based on their belief that the elected people will make their lives better by their activities in government.



### **Popular participation facilitates the following for democracy**

- Good governance
- Feedback for government
- Accountability
- Legitimacy
- Social justice
- Free and fair election

### **FORMS OF DEMOCRACY**

Democracy forms are:

**THE DIRECT FORM OF DEMOCRACY:** This is a democracy that was used in the pre-colonial period for communities, labour unions, tribal councils, etc., where the people are few in number. It is suitable for small countries where everyone that is legally involved in the process of democracy come together in a room to take decisions on issues affecting them and their country. Decisions are taken by a collective agreement or by a majority vote. The people involved in this process know when and where to meet as well as the reason for their meeting. It is called direct form democracy because there is no intermediary in the democratic process.

**THE REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF DEMOCRACY:** This is the type of democracy that replaced the direct form of democracy because of the continuous increase in population and the inability of people to

come together whenever the need arises to take decisions on matters affecting them. It is the democratic process where citizens chose those who will represent their interests and act on their behalf. The decision to have a written or unwritten constitution in this form of democracy is optional.

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL FORM OF DEMOCRACY:** This is an advanced form of democracy that is based solely on the constitution of countries. It was established to correct the defects of the direct and representative forms of democracy. It is only the constitution that can decide who will rule and who cannot rule based on some qualifications stated in the constitution. This type of democracy encourages equality of all citizens before the law as well as the provision of fundamental human rights. This type of democracy is basically created to stop bad governance e.g. arbitrary rule. Nigeria is one of the countries using the constitutional form of democracy.

#### **EXAMPLES OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS**

- Democracy of city states of ancient Greece
- Igbo village democracy
- Modern democracy

#### **THE MERITS OF DEMOCRACY**

- It gives the electorate the opportunity to elect leaders of their choice.
- It ensures equal opportunity for all citizens in all spheres of life.
- It promotes political stability.
- It gives legitimacy to the elected government.
- It encourages the rule of law. Those in government rule according to the provisions of the constitution.
- Democracy promotes public accountability. It makes public officers to be answerable to the people.
- It encourages greater participation of the people in state affairs.
- Tolerance – It encourages the spirit of give and take and tolerance of the views of the opposition.
- It allows for equality of rights (social, economic and political rights).

#### **DEMERITS OF DEMOCRACY**

- It may lead to slow decision-making.
- Expensive to operate.
- It encourages the tyranny of the majority.
- Incompetent people may be in government.
- Representatives may represent their own interests.

#### **IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY**

Democracy has today become a term of praise. All governments, be monarchy, republic, military, describe their political system as democratic. This is because of the qualitative attractions and the unique advantages theoretically inherent in that political system.

- Democracy prevents dictatorship.
- Orderly transfer of power.
- Equality of rights.
- Benefit of criticism. A democratic society permits the free expression of opinion and constructive criticism.
- A democratic government operates on the basis of separation of powers.
- Independence of judiciary, free press, political parties civil and political rights.
- Social development – welfare programs such as employment opportunities, construction of roads, provision of drinkable water etc.
- Our democracy should be people oriented and Nigerian people should be citizens of the constitution. They must learn the constitution.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS/FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY**

**ELECTION:** The government is elected through free and fair elections periodically.

**POLITICAL PARTIES:** In democratic societies, people must compete for power through the political parties. The political parties organise campaigns and present candidates for various electoral offices.

**SUFFRAGE:** All qualified adults have the rights to vote and be voted for in an election. The age for qualification is usually 18 years above.

**FREE PRESS:** The mass media of the country is free to write and report events in the country without being intimidated by the government. It acts as a watch-dog on the government.

**SEPARATION OF POWERS:** There is separation of powers, i.e. the functions of the three arms of government (executive, legislature and judiciary) are not performed by one arm of government alone.

**RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:** The government respects the rule of law and the fundamental human rights of citizens.

- Supremacy of the constitution
- Rule of law
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of association
- Election

- Fixed tenure of office
- Public opinion

## **BENEFITS OF DEMOCRACY**

It gives the electorates the opportunity to elect leaders of their choice.

It promotes stability in the country, i.e. an unpopular government can be peacefully removed from office through the process of voting.

It gives legitimacy to the elected government. This is because the elected government has the support of the people.

Those in government rule according to the provisions of the constitution.

There is equality and freedom of all persons and safety of possessions where democracy operates.

It encourages tolerance of the opposition view. The majority will have its way, but minority must have a say.

Decisions are usually reached through discussion, argument and persuasion. Democracy encourages expression of opinion.

It promotes the judicious use of public funds. The leaders are conscious of the fact that they are accountable to the masses that voted for them.

## **EVALUATION QUESTIONS.**

1. Discuss the forms of democracy
2. Explain the characteristics of democracy
3. Highlight the merits of democracy
4. Highlight the demerits of democracy
5. State four importance of democracy.
6. Mention the place of popular participation in democracy.
7. Explain the word 'democracy'
8. Is Nigeria really practicing democracy? Explain briefly.
9. Government all over the world pay attention to the provision and enhancement of security for their .....  
 A. Workers  
 B. Criminals  
 C. Citizens  
 D. Welfare
10. One of these is part of the features of democracy  
 A. Election

- B. Suffering
- C. Free press
- D. All of the above.

<b>WEEK 9&amp;10:</b>	<b>DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS</b>
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**BEHAVIOURIAL OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain what democratic institutions are
- Mentions some democratic institutions in Nigeria
- State the functions of each of the democratic institutions.

## **DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS**

### **PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY**

Pillars of democracy mean the essential, valuable, important, indispensable, non-negotiable elements and ingredients of democracy. They are the instruments that uphold and sustain democracy. They are the parameters that the government need to put in place for the survival of democracy. This include: the people(citizens), the political parties, the election body (INEC), the constitution, the democratic institutions such as the judiciary, legislature and executive, the security agents (police, military, and para-military personnel, the trade unions, international observers, transparent electoral process, the ballot boxes and papers, voters card, polling booth, election officials, voluntary associations, majority rule and minority rights, etc.

**MEANING:** Democratic Institutions are those institutions that are involved in democratic processes and procedures in any country were democracy is operated. They are very important in democracy, without which elections will not be possible. Notable among these are: Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Arms/Organs of Government.

### **INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)**

INEC is the legal body in Nigeria that is responsible for conducting elections. It is headed by a Chairman and supported by Commissioners in the states. Professor Mahmud Yakubu is the current Chairman. It is a non-partisan, objective, transparent, fair, open and impartial body to all political parties and their candidates.

The functions and roles of INEC

Manages the electioneering process in Nigeria (plan, organize, supervise, and monitor the conduct of the elections.

Registration of political parties and gives them licenses to operate.

Registration and collation of voter's registers throughout the country.

Sensitization and education of voters on the dos and don'ts of elections. `

To conduct free, fair and credible elections.

Identification of polling booths

Provision of polling materials during elections.

They collate and announce results of the election.

## **POLITICAL PARTIES**

Political parties are very important institution in a democracy. They are the vehicles by which political powers are acquired. In Nigeria, there are several political parties but the most popular are People Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressive Congress (APC), Labour Party (LP), Accord Party (AP), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), Fresh Party (FP), Alliance for Democracy (AD), etc.

## **THE FEATURES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

All political parties have flags and symbols that are emblems of identification and unity.

Every political party has a written manifesto: a manifesto is a programme which the political party would want to pursue or accomplish.

Or Manifesto can also be defined as a written statement which a group especially a political party explains its beliefs and say what it will do if it wins an election.

A political party organisation structure involves the national, state and local government levels., etc

## **FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

Political parties unite the people on major issues affecting the society

Political parties serve as links between the people and the government.

Political leaders who eventually turn out to become national state or local government leaders are recruited by political parties

Different political parties contest during election and the members of the political parties that

will eventually control government.

Political parties discipline their erring members.

Both present and future political leaders are raised and sponsored by political parties.

The members of the same political party help/assist one another in the actualization of their political ambitions.

The members of a political party persuade by constantly reminding other members in government of the need to remain responsible and accountable to the electorates.

Political parties help to educate the electorate before election.

Some political parties provide job opportunity, build recreational centres, etc for the people.

## **PRESURE GROUPS**

A Pressure Group is made up of a group of people who try to influence government and ordinary people's opinion in order to achieve the action they want. For example, when there is need to change a law.

A Pressure Group can even be defined as a group of people who hold similar set values and belief that are based on ethnicity, religion, politics, philosophy or any other common goal or interest.

It can also be referred to as a social interest group, who may or may not be organized but it aims at influencing public policy.

A Pressure Group is not a political party. What it does is that it presents the views of the dissatisfied with certain conditions existing in the society. Therefore, a pressure group does not make effort to take over any existing government.

All Pressure Groups only in directly make efforts to influence government's policies or actions through any of the following means:

Lobbying

Influencing friendly government officials

Electing friend's candidates

Influencing parliamentary committees.

## **TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

Professional pressure groups e.g. Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Medical Association, e.t.c.

Economic pressure groups e.g. Trade Union Congress, Nigerian Labour Congress, e.t.c.

Religious pressure groups e.g. Christian Association of Nigerian (CAN), Muslim Association of Nigeria, e.t.c.

Social pressure groups e.g. Old Boys Associations, Students Unions, e.t.c.

Educational pressure groups e.g. Nigerian Union of teachers (NUT academic Senior Staff Union of Universities (ASSU), e.t.c.

Promotional pressure groups e.g. Society for the Mentally Retarded Children, etc

## **FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

Acts as link between the government and the people.

They promote some general welfare service by offering them free to the people.

They offer useful advices, suggestions or opinions to the government at all levels.

They promote economic stability in the areas of commerce, industry, agriculture and mines.

They help to sensitize the general public on government policies and programs.

They discuss political issues and situations among themselves.

They provide specialized and expert information to the government.

They promote and protect the interest of their members.

### **ARMS OR ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT**

The three arms of government have their own functions and roles to play as democratic institutions. These include:

Readiness to co-operate with INEC to conduct free, fair and credible elections.

Make funds available for INEC to carry out its constitutional duties.

To ensure a conducive atmosphere/environment for the conduct of election by providing security for the voters.

To ensure that election results are not manipulated.

The judiciary to listen to election petitions and to give judgement without fear or favour.

### **EVALUATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe the arms of government with their functions and explain the functions of pressure group.
2. Mention ten political parties in Nigeria.
3. Nigeria is set for 2023 election , mention any four presidential Aspirants and their respective political parties.
4. From the happenings in Nigeria politics today, which among the Presidential Aspirants is the youngest by age?
5. In Nigeria, we have an elder state man/ Former President who always writes an open letter concerning matters in politics/ Nigeria.
6. Mention Nigeria elected presidents from 1999 till date.
7. The organization that seeks to attain and maintain political power within a state is known as  
A. Politics



B. Government organization

C. Political parties

D. Election parties.

8. The system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people to elect their representative is referred to as

A. Demo

B. privilege

C. Democracy

D. Democratic.

9. Who is the present INEC Chairman?

10. Write the 2023 election time table.