

FUNTAJ INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GUDU

THIRD TERM: E – LEARNING NOTES

JS 2 (BASIC 8)

SUBJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION

SCHEME OF WORK

Week Topic

1. **Revision of last term's work.**
2. **Democracy :** (a) Meaning of democracy (b) Features of Democracy(c) Democratic institutions and their functions – INEC , Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Arms of Government (d)Importance of Democracy.
3. **Pillars of Democracy:** (a) Meaning and explanation of pillars of Democracy.(b) pillars of Democracy- People, democratic institution, Rule of law, transparent electoral process, majority rule and minority right etc.
4. **Election and voters Responsibilities:** (a) The concept of election, Voter and voting (b) types of elections (c) Basic qualifications for election. (d) Responsibilities of a voter (e) The procedure for voting.(f) Importance of election
5. **Electoral Malpractice:** (a) Meaning of electoral malpractice. (b) Forms of electoral malpractice- fake ballot papers, manipulation of votes, artificial scarcity of electoral materials , underage voting, thuggery, financial inducement and other corrupt practices, fake manifestoes
6. Electoral malpractice continuation
7. Constitutional development in Nigeria
8. Supremacy of the constitution content
9. Illiteracy
10. Revision
11. Examination

WEEK 1. REVISION OF 2ND TERM WORK.

WEEK 2.

TOPIC: DEMOCRACY

CONTENTS: 1. Meaning of democracy and features of democracy

2. Democratic institutions

3. Pressure groups

4. Arms of government

5. Importance of democracy.

SUB-TOPIC 1: MEANING OF DEMOCRACY AND FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy can be defined as a system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercise them directly or indirectly

Democracy can also be defined as government in the hand of the majority.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln who was the American president then defined democracy as the government of the people by the people and for the people. Today democracy is synonymous with America.

Democracy started in Greece where qualified adult gathered together to discuss issues affecting their communities. Later, democracy was developed or built upon by the Americans.

FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

1. There must be written or unwritten constitution to guide peoples' conducts and government actions
2. There must be periodic elections through which citizens elect their leaders
3. There must be adoption of universal suffrage i.e. All qualify adults have right to vote and be voted for
4. There should be free and fair election
5. There should be freedom of the press
6. There is separation of powers, i.e the functions of the three arms of government is not performed by one arm of government
7. The government respects the rule of law and the fundamental human rights of citizens.

SUB-TOPIC 2: DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

A. INDEPENENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)

- i. The body is charged with the responsibility of conducting a free and fair election

In a state

- ii. The body is expected to register all eligible voters and political parties before
The conduct of any election.
- iii. They are also to organize campaigns for the contesting political parties in a
State.
- iv. They are to provide all electoral materials that will be used in the conduct of
Elections such as ballot papers, ink, electoral boxes and electoral centres
- v. It is equally the duty of the electoral commission to educate the electorates
Before the conduct of election about party logos and the way to vote.
- vi. Electoral commission is equally expected to divide the country into some
Electoral districts known as constituencies
- vii. The body may also provide security on the day of election through the law
Enforcement agents
- viii. Finally, electoral commission will announce the result of elections

B. POLITICAL PARTIES

This is a group of people having the same ideology and who come together for the purpose of winning an election and ruling a state. Examples of current political parties in Nigeria are People's Democratic Party(PDP) All progressive Congress (APC), Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), All People's Grand Alliance (APGA), All Nigerians People's party.(ANPP) etc.

C. FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- 1. Political parties serve as effective means of changing government
- 2. They are to nominate candidates to stand for various elections within the state.
- 3. They are equally to educate the voters or electorates through their programmes campaigns and rallies
- 4. Political parties serve as the link between government and the people

5. It also promotes National Unity because political parties is made up of people from different ethnic groups
6. Political parties provide social services to the members of the public through the programmes of their parties
7. Some political parties may serve as the alternative party to the government in power
8. Political parties may equally provide employment opportunities to job seekers within a state.

SUB-TOPIC 3: PRESSURE GROUPS AND FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

PRESSURE GROUPS: These are group of people who want to influence the policies of government so that the government will satisfy the needs of their members. This can be based on ethnicity, religion, political philosophy or common goal.

Examples of pressure groups in Nigeria are:

Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ) etc.

FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

1. They fight for the interest of their members so that government will meet the needs of their members.
2. They help to promote economic stability
3. They educate the members of the public through their various programmes such as debates, propaganda, symposia and so on.
4. In the process of fighting for their members, they also protect the interest of a vast majority of people.
5. Pressure groups influence the government to be focused and to be on their toes through constructive criticism. They help to give constructive criticism to the government for effective actions form the government
6. They also serve as the link between the government and the people

FUNCTIONS OF ARMS OF GOVERNMENT

1. LEGISLATURE

- (i) They make law
- ii. They amend existing laws
- iii. They ratify government decisions
- iv They approve appointment of key officers in government
- v. They approve the annual budget
- vi. They supervise the actions of the executive
- vii. They impeach the head of government if need arise by simple majority vote



The national house of assembly complex



Legislature in action

2. EXECUTIVE

- i. They initiate bills e.g. public bill
- ii. They prepare annual budget
- iii. Maintenance of law and order
- iv. They provide security
- v. Protects fundamental human rights
- vi. Maintain friendly relations with other countries of the world
- vii. Provide employment opportunities.

3. JUDICIARY

It is made up of courts, judges and the Legal officers

FUNCTIONS:

- i. They interpret the constitution
- ii. They interpret the laws made by the legislature
- iii. They settle disputes
- iv. They defend the rights of the people as the last hope of the common man
- v. They punish offenders
- vi. They check the excesses of the other organs of government such as the legislature and the executive

SUB-TOPIC 5: IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY

- 1. Democracy ensures peaceful change of government through the electoral process
- 2. Democracy enables vast majority of people to participate in the government
- 3. Democracy will also promote the rights and liberties of the people through the entrenchment of such rights in the constitution

4. Democracy also has the tendency of promoting accountability, as the government is accountable to the people through various means
5. Democracy will afford the people the opportunity to criticize their government since the government is from them
6. Democracy may equally promote the rule of law as government and the people will act in accordance with the dictates of the law
7. Through democratic values, people are being educated as they can learn New Values through political culture and socialization.

WEEK 2

TOPIC: PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY

CONTENT: (i) Meaning and Explanation of Pillars of Democracy

(ii) Some democratic pillars

SUB-TOPIC 1: MEANING AND EXPLANATION OF PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY

Pillars of democracy are those ideas or parameters that the government need to put in place for the survival of democracy. Without them democracy will just be a mere illusion.

SOME DEMOCRATIC PILLARS

1. PEOPLE/LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

The people are the bedrock of democracy. The people constitute the voters who could also be called electorates as they vote for their political leaders.

2. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Democracy is sustained by the democratic institutions put in place by the state as it helps the state to realize its objectives. Such institutions may include political parties, electoral body as well as the legislature.

3. **RULE OF LAW**

Supremacy of the law above individuals, groups and state officials will also make democracy to stand, as it will ensure that all laws are obeyed

4. **TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS**

A free and fair electoral system will lay a solid foundation for democracy. When elections are rigged, it will lead to a fragile democracy, which can collapse if not well nurtured by truth and justice

5. **MAJORITY RULE**

This is a form of representative's democracy where people actually participate in the election of their leaders

6. **RIGHTS**

In a democratic setting, the rights of the citizens must be guaranteed to enable them participate effectively in the government. Such rights include

7. **CONSTITUTION**

A good constitution will ensure that democracy is sustained and maintained because the body of rules regulations will guide the actions of the ruler and the ruled.

WEEK 4

TOPIC : ELECTION AND VOTERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Election is the process of choosing a person or a group of persons for political positions through voting. The main purpose of election is to put people in to position of leadership by a way of making choices from available alternatives

The positions to be contested for, are the posts of the

President, Governors, members of the legislature at the central, state and local governments.

The individual doing the voting is the voter or the electorate and the process of that election is the electoral system



A voter voting



President Jonathan voting

VOTING SYSTEM: OPEN AND SECRETE BALLOT

OPEN BALLOT :The election conducted in the open place where people line up behind their candidates or signify their support by raising up their hands is known as open ballot. Here the person contesting will identify those voting for him and this can lead to molestation of others in the opposing camp.

SECRET BALLOT: Is a type of election where voters use ballot paper to cast their vote in a close place such that other voters and contesting candidates may not see them. Here the candidate may not recognize those voting for him. The safety of the electorate is guaranteed.

SUB-TOPIC 2: TYPES OF ELECTIONS

DIRECT ELECTION

Direct election takes place when voters elect their representatives by themselves in a free and fair election.

INDIRECT ELECTION

While an indirect election is a form of election where few people known and called an electoral college elect representatives on behalf of majority of voters.

An electoral college is a body of elected representatives from each state; as practiced especially in the USA, who in turn elect the president and the vice president.

SIMPLE MAJORITY AND ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

A simple majority is a type of election where the candidate with the highest vote is declared as a winner, but in absolute majority a candidate must score at least 50% of the total vote casts.

RUN-OFF ELECTION/SECOND BALLOT

This is the type of election that is conducted just after an election, where no one of the candidate has won the election by absolute majority in a general election. When there is no clear-cut winner of an election, a run-off election is conducted, but only the candidates with the highest votes are allowed to contest at this level.

PRIMARY ELECTION

This is an election conducted within a political party to choose credible candidate (s) that can adequately represent the party in any election.

REFERENDUM

This is an election organized in order to vote for a decision on a subject. For example such election can be conducted to determine people's wish or opinion on a subject like: should abortion be legalized in Nigeria?; should Nigeria organize sovereign national conference ?.

BYE-ELECTION

This is a special election that takes place after another election, in order to fill a vacant elective post or replace a politician. Bye-elections may be conducted as a result of disqualification, resignation or death

SUB-TOPIC 3: BASIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. The person must be a Nigeria citizen either by birth Naturalization, or registration
2. The person must be sane who is not mentally derailed
3. He must be residing in the country for a period of time
4. He must be a registered voter before the actual election takes place
5. Such a voter participating in an election must never have been convicted for a criminal offence
6. The voter must also be paying his tax when due
7. Such a person must be loyal to the country and be law abiding

SUB-TOPIC 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF A VOTER

1. He must come out and register before the actual election takes place
2. He must check his name on the revised electoral register at least 3 months before the election
3. On the day of election, he must take his voters card and check his name with the staff of electoral commission. Then he can exercise his voting right for the candidate of his choice.
4. He must be law abiding at the polling station and take instruction at the station from the electoral officers
5. He must leave the polling station immediately after voting

PROCEDURE FOR VOTING

1. The first step is to register all eligible voters before the actual election and also revise those registers
2. Next is to fix the date of the election

3. Appointment of ad-hoc staff to be used by the electoral commission. Those officers must be well trained.
4. Posting of these electoral officers to the different locations where they will serve
5. Pasting of posters of Electoral Commission at the various places for enlightenment purpose
6. Distribution of electoral materials to the various centers
7. The actual voting will commence at the various stations
8. The final thing is the counting of voters and declaration of election results the returning officer



Distribution of election materials

IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION

1. Election serves as a peaceful way of changing government from one regime to the other
2. Election will enable the government to know the mind of the people and this is called public opinion

3. Election also serves as a forum for political education as it affords voters the opportunity of learning the electoral process
4. Election will also make the government in power to be a legitimate one that is coming from the people
5. Election will make also the government in power to know how popular their programmes are
6. It also promotes political accountability because the elected representatives will give account of their service to the people especially for renewal of mandate
7. Election will also promote health competition between the contesting parties
8. People are also able to express their voting right as it will give them opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice.
9. Election promotes spirit of competition. Where competition is healthy, it makes way for efficiency.

WEEK 5:

TOPIC: ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

- (i) Meaning of electoral malpractice
- (ii) *Forms of electoral malpractices*
- (iii) *SUB-TOPIC 1: Meaning of electoral malpractice*

This is the manipulation of electoral process by the electoral commission, political parties and candidates.

SUB-TOPIC 2: FORMS OF ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

1. It may be caused by using of **fake ballot papers** printed illegally by contesting parties and manipulation of votes.
2. There may also be **artificial scarcity of electoral materials** in some areas in order to weaken some parties where they are strong

3. Some political parties may hire **under age voters** who are not up to the voting age in order to increase their chances of winning
4. Some candidates or supporters may intimidate some lawful voters in order to scare away the supporters of the opposing parties. They may use thugs to snatch or steal the ballot boxes of voting centers where opponents are more popular. **(thuggery)**
5. It may also be seen in a form of **financial inducement** and other corrupt practices to win more votes
6. It may also manifest in **fake manifestoes** of some political parties
7. There may also be **unlawful detention of some candidates**
8. **Announcement of wrong candidates** as the winner of an election



Election violence in Nigeria

WEEK 6

TOPIC: ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

CONTENTS

1. Causes of electoral malpractices
2. Consequences of electoral malpractices

3. Preventing electoral malpractices

SUB-TOPIC 1: CAUSES OF ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

Electoral malpractices are caused by a number of factors some of them are listed below:

1. **Lack of Civic Education**: Many voters are ignorant on how to vote, thumb print or even identify the parties and the candidates of their choice.
2. **Corruption/Greed**: some officials of the electoral commission can be bribed and tamper with ballot boxes.
3. **Valued System**: Poor value system can be a cause of electoral malpractices.
4. **Illiteracy**: Most citizens in Nigeria are illiterate and lack political awareness.
5. **Ambition to win power at all cost**: Through the use of political thugs and hoodlums to intimidate the electorate.

SUB-TOPIC 2: CONSEQUENCES OF ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

Electoral malpractices are always followed by negative happenings in the country and to the electorate the following are some of the negative consequences:

- Wrong people in power
- Prevention of free and fair elections
- Political instability
- Political violence
- Scaring voters
- Loss of confidence and trust in government and democracy

SUB-TOPIC 3: PREVENTING ELECTORAL MALPRACTICES

As citizens of this great Nation, efforts should be made by everyone in order to prevent electoral malpractices.

1. **Civic Education**: The public should be educated on voting procedure and danger of electoral malpractices.
2. Voters must obey the laws guiding elections.
3. Serious punishment for elections riggers.

4. Polling agents should carry out their duties and avoid meddling with the voting materials and exercise.

WEEK 7

DATE:

TOPIC: CONSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

CONTENTS

1. **Meaning of Constitution**
2. **Colonial Nigeria Constitution**
3. **Features of colonial constitution**
4. **Post 1960 constitution**



SUB-TOPIC 1: MEANING OF CONSTITUTION

A constitution is a body of laws governing a country. No country in the world can function without a constitution. It is a source of authority and it gives function to the three arms of government. It determines the rights and duties of citizens. Constitution can be written or unwritten; rigid or flexible.

In Nigeria, our constitutional development are in two phase. The first phase was the period when Nigeria was under British rule (Colonial rule) and the second phase was when Nigeria gained independence from British rule (Post Independence Period).

SUB-TOPIC 2: COLONIAL NIGERIA CONSTITUTION

Nigeria fell under British rule in 1861. Lagos was made a crown colony and was directly administered from London.

Nigeria passed through different phases of constitutional development.

In 1914 Lord Luggard, the governor general amalgamated the northern and southern protectorate. Lord Luggard established the **Nigerian Council** that laid the foundation for constitutional development in Nigeria.

i. Clifford Constitution of 1922

Sir Hugh Clifford was appointed governor of Nigeria after Lord Frederick Luggard in 1922. He made some findings on the northern and southern provinces and recommendation was sent to the British government and was approved.

This became the new constitution and was named after Sir Hugh Clifford.

The constitution created two councils (The executive and legislative council) elective principle (This means election and voting for candidates to represent Nigeria in the legislative was introduced).

ii. Richard Constitution of 1946

The defects of the Clifford's constitution of 1922 led to the introduction of the Richard Orwell constitution of 1946. **Some of its features were:**

- It divided Nigeria into three region, namely: northern, eastern and western region
- It established a single legislative council for the whole Nigeria, for the first time it allowed unofficial members in the legislative council.

iii. Macpherson Constitution of 1951

Sir John Macpherson took over from Sir Richard. The constitution came into being after a constitutional conference was held at the village, regional and central level. **Some of its features were:**

- It established a central legislative and a central executive council for the whole country.
- There were regional legislative and regional executive council for the north, west and east.

- The constitution introduced the federal system of government in Nigeria with division of powers between the central government and regional government.

iv. Lyttleton Constitution of 1954

Oliver Lyttleton became the governor general in 1954. After the London and Lagos constitutional conferences held in 1953, a new constitution was written for Nigeria by governor Lyttleton. **Some of its features were:**

- Nigeria formally became a federation with the federal government and three regional governments.
- The regions were more autonomous.
- It made provision for the office of the speaker and deputy speaker.

v. Independent Constitution of 1960

Nigeria became an independent and a sovereign nation on October 1, 1960. British officials went back to Britain and Nigerians were in charge of their own government. **Its features were:**

- Nigeria remained a federal state with three regions – north east and west.
- Bicameral legislature (The Senate and House of representative at the centre).
- The preservation of people's fundamental human right.

SUB-TOPIC 3: FEATURES OF COLONIAL CONSTITUTION



CHIEF OBAFEMI AWOLOWO DR. NNAMDI AZIKWE

1. Creation of two councils; the legislative and executive council.
2. Introduction of an elective principle.

3. Division of Nigeria into three regions with each having its regional council.
4. Regional assemblies were granted power to make laws for their region.
5. Three legislative lists were drawn (the exclusive, the concurrent and the residual list).
6. Lagos was proclaimed Federal Capital Territory.
7. Provision for the office of the speaker and deputy speaker.
8. The preservation of the people's fundamental human right.

SUB-TOPIC 4: POST 1960 CONSTITUTION

i. REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION 1963

- ✚ The queen ceased to be the head of state.
- ✚ The Privy Council in London ceased to be the highest court in Nigeria but the Supreme Court.
- ✚ The name governor general was changed to president.
- ✚ Fundamental human right guaranteed by the constitution.
- ✚ It granted the federal government power to declare a state of emergency in any part of the country.

ii. 1979 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION



OLUSEGUN AREMU OBASANJO

After thirteen years of military rule, a search began for a workable constitution.

In July 1975, Murtala Mohammed formed a constitution drafting committee which submitted its report and was approved by the Obasanjo regime. It was adopted as the constitution of the second republic on the 1st of October, 1979 the same day the military

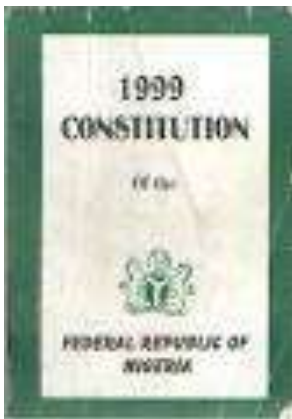
handed over power to the civilian. The constitution established a presidential system (executive president is both the head of state, government and commander in chief of the armed forces).

The president is elected in a general election declared military coup unconstitutional each of the 19 states had a house of assembly.

iii. 1989 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION

At the end of 1983, it had become clear that the 1979 constitution had failed. The Shagari/Ekwueme administration was overthrown by Buhari on the 31st of December, 1983. The military suspended the 1979 constitution and ruled by decrees and edicts. Buhari government was overthrown by Babaginda in 1985 and in 1987, the 1979 constitution was reviewed and was approved by the Armed Forces Ruling Council in 1989. The 1989 constitution adopted the 1979 constitution with some amendments.

iv. 1999 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION



The presidential election of 1993 (June 12) was annulled, the head of state, General Sanni Abacha started a constitutional amendment process.

General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who took over from Abacha, set up a constitution drafting committee. A new constitution emerged called the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

v. FEATURES OF THE POST 1960 CONSTITUTION

1. All post independent constitution maintains the presidential system of government.
2. The post independence constitutions were all written by Nigerians and for the Nigerian people.
3. The fundamental human rights are entrenched in all the constitutions.
4. It declares the supremacy of the constitution.

5. The constitution provides for a bicameral legislature for the federal government (two houses chambers) and unicameral legislature in the state (one house or chamber).
6. The constitution provide for citizenship requirements by birth, registration and naturalization.
7. Power is held by the people's representative with a president.
8. All the constitutions are written.

WEEK 8

DATE:

TOPIC: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION

CONTENTS

1. Meaning of Supremacy of the constitution

2. Provisions apply to all states and individuals uniformly

Section 1 of the 1979 constitution states that the constitution is supreme and all its provisions bind compulsorily on all authorities and persons in Nigeria.

A country's constitution is the body of laws by which that country is governed. Anything outside the constitution is said to be unconstitutional.

SUB-TOPIC 1: SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION means that the laws or rules and regulations of a country is the highest authority that must be obeyed by all citizens. It also means that the constitution is above all individuals and government.

ONLY ONE CONSTITUTION FOR THE COUNTRY

In Nigeria, the constitution is the highest authority that guides the conduct of government. There is only one constitution for the country.

SUB-TOPIC 2: THE PROVISIONS APPLY TO ALL STATES AND INDIVIDUALS UNIFORMLY

It also means that the provisions apply to all states and all individuals. No citizen of Nigeria is above the constitution no matter his ethnic origin, religion, status, age or connection.

WEEK 9

DATE:

TOPIC: ILLITERACY

CONTENTS

1. **Meaning and causes of illiteracy**
2. **Consequences of illiteracy**
3. **Solutions to the problem of illiteracy**

SUB-TOPIC 1: MEANING OF ILLITERACY

Illiteracy simply means not knowing how to read or write documents, books, street signs and news print.

The illiterate are those who are uneducated, untrained and unequipped to participate in the changing world of information and communication technology (ICT).

CAUSES OF ILLITERACY

The following are the causes of illiteracy in our society:

- a. **Traditions and Values**: People's beliefs and values. Example is Boko Haram sect, they believe western education is evil.
- b. **Poverty**: People that lack or have little money, food, clothes and shelter cannot cope with education.
- c. **Wrong Policies and Priorities**: Wrong government policies and programme is another cause.
- d. **Wrong Attitude to Education**: Many react due to wrong mindset as a result of the negative happenings in the Nigeria Educational Sector.
- e. **Poor and Inadequate Facilities**: Many schools in Nigeria lack facilities and equipment like laboratory and computer equipment, buildings, textbooks etc
- f. **Lack of Access to the opportunity of receiving quality education.**



S-TOPIC 2: CONSEQUENCES OF ILLITERACY

- a. **Ignorance**: An ignorant person lacks knowledge.
- b. **Proneness to Manipulation**: Illiterates are prone to wrong beliefs and are easily deceived.
- c. **Ethnic Manipulation**: Illiterates are easily manipulated as a result of ethnic fear and prejudice (unreasonable dislike and distrust).
- d. **Illiteracy inhibits (prevents) technological development.**
- e. **Abuse of rights due to lack of education.**



SUB-TOPIC 3: SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ILLITERACY

- a. An enabling policy environment e.g. U.B.E
- b. Provision of access to education and provision of facilities.
- c. Citizenship education.
- d. Legislation to ensure school attendance up to particular age.

WEEKS 10 – 12 REVISION AND EXAMINATION