

## **SCHEME OF WORK FOR 3rd TERM**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>The Policy of Association; The effects and impacts of French and British Colonial policies of Administration. (Revision)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nationalism: Meaning, factors that led to the growth of Nationalism in Nigeria.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Constitutional Development in Nigeria: Hugh Clifford Constitution of 1922</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Authur Richards's constitution of 1946, Sir John Macpherson constitution of 1951.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Sir Lyttleton Constitution of 1954</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Independence constitution of 1960 and the Republican constitution of 1963</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Republican constitution of 1979</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>The 1999 Nigerian Constitution: Origin, features, strengths, and weaknesses</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Nigerian Federalism: Origin and factors that give rise to the adoption of federalism.</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Structures and Features of Nigerian Federalism, problems of Nigerian federalism</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Revision</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Examination</b>

## GOVERNMENT

Class: Year 11

Topic: **Nationalism**

### Objectives

- Explain the meaning of Nationalism.
- Discuss the factors that led to the rise and growth of nationalism in Nigeria.
- Discuss the effects of Nationalism on Nigeria.
- Mention some key nationalist leaders in Nigeria and their contribution to nationalism.

Nationalism is the **recognition** by people in a common geographical setting, that they together belong to a nation with some common history, interests and goals and the need to free themselves from any socio-economic or political domination by other nations. It is the sense of oneness that emerges from social groups, trying to control their destiny, environment and to defend their interest against competing groups.

### EARLIEST FORM OF NATIONALISM (PROTO-NATIONALISM)

This can be described as protests by Africans against discriminations in economic, political and social spheres of life, though they did not seek self-rule for the colonies.

### FEATURES OF NATIONALISM BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1. Opposition by traditional rulers: Traditional rulers in West Africa **opposed** colonial rule over their domains at one time or the other. These traditional rulers included Oba Ovonomwen of Benin, Samouri Toure of the Mandinka kingdom and Jaja of Opobo. Some of these African chiefs were banished from their empires and kingdoms, as a result of their resistance to **foreign domination**.
2. Riots: Africans used riots as a form of resistance to colonial rule. An example was the Aba women's riot of 1929, which arose as a result of the

imposition of taxes on men, which women assumed would also be extended to them.

3. Petitions: The African elites under the aegis of the National congress of British West Africa demanded **political reforms** for the people of West Africa. They sent delegates and petitions to the colonial secretary for each colony, and self-determination for colonies under colonial domination.
4. Criticism of colonial policies through the newspaper: The establishment of newspapers provided West African nationalists the opportunity to **enlighten** West Africans on political issues, to enable them resist colonial rule. It also afforded them the opportunity to criticise colonial policies. Such newspapers included the West African pilot, the Daily comet, the Daily service, the Daily times.
5. Demands for constitutional reforms: The nationalists demanded constitutional reforms in all the West African colonies to enable the people to participate in the government of their territories.

### **GROWTH OF NATIONALISM IN NIGERIA**

Nationalism in Nigeria started as a reaction of traditional rulers to the delimiting of their authority by the British colonial administration. Such traditional rulers include King Jaja of Opobo, Oba Ovonramwen of Benin and King Masaba of Nupeland.

Nationalism later **focused on the eradication of colonialism** in Nigeria. It took the form of attacks on British colonial policies through the newspapers, petitions, riots and strikes. In addition, constitutional conferences were organised to fashion out acceptable constitutions for the people.

### **INTERNAL FACTORS THAT LED TO THE RISE AND GROWTH OF NATIONALISM IN NIGERIA**

1. Africans who had the same educational qualifications with the European counterparts in the civil service were discriminated against and were paid lower wages.
2. The economy was dominated and exploited by giant multinational companies like John Holt, G.B Olivant, U.A.C. these foreign companies

bought raw materials at cheaper rates, and sold their finished products to Africans at exorbitant prices.

3. Africans were not **given full participation in political affairs**, as only very few people were nominated into the legislative council.
4. Incidents of riots and strikes increased nationalist awareness and furthermore united their forces for change. Examples: Abeokuta tax revolt of 1900, Aba women's riot of 1929 and the **general strike of 1945**.
5. The emergence of such newspapers as the West African pilot by Nnamdi Azikiwe, Lagos Daily news by Herbert Macaulay as well as local language newspapers like Akede Eko and Iwe Irohin, led to the growth of nationalism in Nigeria.
6. Activities of educated elites (nationalists) like Nnamdi Azikiwe, H.O Davies, Herbert Macaulay, Obafemi Awolowo e.t.c mobilised people to support the demand for self-rule.
7. The formation of political parties by purposeful leaders enhanced nationalist activities in Nigeria. These early political parties were the NNDP formed in 1923 and led by Herbert Macauley, NYM (1934) let by Ernest Okoli, NCNC (1944) led by Herbert Macauley, AG (1950) led by Obafemi Awolowo, NPC (1951) led by Ahmadu Bello, and NEPU (1951) led by Amino Kano.

### **EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT AIDED NATIONALIST DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA**

1. The **Atlantic Charter** (1941): The declaration that all the people under colonial domination in the world have the right to self-determination encouraged the nationalists in the struggle for the independence of their territories.
2. Anti-colonial posture of the United Nations: The UN supported the nation's fight against colonialism and imperialism.
3. WASU Agitation: The activities of the West African students union abroad helped in the agitation for self-rule. They organised themselves into unions and mounted pressure on the colonial government to grant West Africa independence.
4. Socialist opposition parties in British: The British labour party (opposition) criticised and condemned colonialism in British colonies overseas, and

requested Britain to relinquish such territories. The support encouraged the nationalists in their struggle.

5. The Indian independence: The independence of India in 1947 encouraged Africans to intensify their demands for self-rule.
6. Effects of the Second World War: The Second World War gave young Africans the opportunity to enlist in the same Army with their European counterparts. They fought in different parts of the world together and some were officers commanding mixed races. They discovered that the whites were not superior to them and this removed the inferiority they had.

### **EFFECTS OF NATIONALISM IN NIGERIA**

1. Nationalism encouraged the spread of Western education in Nigeria, i.e. the establishment of more schools (Yaba Higher College), and founding of the earliest tertiary educational institutions (e.g university college, Ibadan (1948).
2. Nationalism led to constitutional development and eventually, independence for Nigeria.
3. It mobilised the people **against economic exploitation** by the British and created room for Nigerians to control more of the nation's trade and economic resources.
4. Nationalism destroyed the myth of the superiority of the white man that had long been created by the British rulers.
5. It led to the development of political parties in Nigeria such as the National council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC), Nigerian Youth movement (NYM), Nigeria National Democratic party (NNDP), the Action Group (AG) and Northern people's congress (NPC).
6. There was an outstanding growth in political consciousness, nationalist interests and general awareness among Nigerians.
7. Nationalism led to the rise of newspaper such as the Lagos daily news, daily service and West African pilot.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS OF NIGERIAN NATIONALIST TO INDEPENDENCE**

1. Nigerian nationalists formed political parties and associations. The NNDP was formed by Herbert Macauley, NCNC led by Nnamdi Azikiwe, NYM led by Ernest Ikoli, AG led by Obafemi Awolowo and NPC led by Ahmadu Bello.
2. They organised strikes and boycotts as powerful instruments to back up their demands. E.g. the railway workers union led by Michael Imoudu and others, became militant and used strike to back their demand for better conditions of service.
3. They wrote petition to the secretary of state for the colonies in London.
4. They took active part in constitutional conferences
5. In parliament they tabled and voted in favour of motions/policies favourable to the attainment of self-rule
6. The nationalists set up newspapers such as the Lagos daily News and West African pilot that Daily that were in vanguard of demand for independence.

### **Nationalist Movement in British West African**

The nationalist movement played signified role in influencing Nigerians and propelling them to world the struggle for self-rule.

- A. West African students union (WASU): It was formed in 1925 by Chief Ladipo Solanke of Nigeria. The interests of the union centred on commerce, Education, Politics etc.
- B. National Congress of British West African (NCBWA)  
It was formed in 1920 by Joseph Ephraim Casely Hayford of Gold coast (Ghana) and Dr. Akinwade Savage of Nigeria.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONGRESS**

1. Free election: It wanted an effective representation in government at all levels, based on free election.
2. It demanded for administrative reforms, and also equal opportunities irrespective of colour. It also argued that the civil service should be Africanised.
3. Judiciary: It wanted trained and qualified lawyers to be made judges and that the flogging of women for any offence be stopped.
4. The congress demanded for the right to self-determination of West African.
5. The right to appoint and depose the traditional rulers should be given to the people.
6. They demanded for the establishment of university, as well as, creating standards in the educational sector.

### **C. NIGERIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT (NYM)**

The Nigerian youth movement was founded in 1935. It was originally known as Lagos Youth Movement. It was formed by Ernest Ikoli, Dr. J.C Vaughan and Samuel Akinsaya. It was led by Ikoli.

Other members were Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Samuel Akintola etc.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE NIGERIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT**

- i. To develop a united nation Nigeria.
- ii. To pressurize the government to award scholarship to youths to study abroad.
- iii. To strive for the establishment of a new legislative council built on the principle of an unofficial majority.
- iv. To demand equal economic opportunity for Nigerians with those enjoyed by foreigners.
- v. To demand better pay for African in the civil service.

#### **ASSIGNMENT**

1. List five achievements each, of the following organisations in their quest for self-rule
  - Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)
  - National Congress of British West Africa (NCBWA)

### **EVALUATION**

1. Define Nationalism
2. What are some factors that led to the growth of Nationalism in Nigeria?
3. How did the nationalists contribute to the attainment of independence in Nigeria?



Topic:       **Constitutional Development in Nigeria**

**Objectives:**

Students should be able to:

- i.       Mention the pre-independence constitutions and their features.
- ii.      Outline the independence and post-independence constitutions and their main features.
- iii.     Identify the common features in all the constitution.

**PRE-INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTIONS:**

**Clifford Constitution**

The 1922 constitution was named after the then governor of Nigeria, Sir Hugh Clifford.

**Features of Clifford Constitution**

1. There was an executive council for the whole country.
2. There was a legislative council composed of forty six members, with twenty seven of them (including the governor) being British and regarded as official members, nineteen others non-officials, out of whom where ten Nigerians.
3. Only male adults who earned up to \$100 per annum and had resided in the area for at least a year could vote during elections.
4. Except on finance, the jurisdiction of the new legislative council was limited to the southern province, including the colony of Lagos. It was not extended to the Northern Province. The governor could, at his own discretion apply to the Northern Province any of the legislative council's decisions or ordinances.

### **Merits of Clifford constitution**

1. It gave Nigerians the opportunity for the first time to vote for their representatives and have a say in national government.
2. It was the first constitution in Nigeria, forming a basis for future constitutions.
3. It encouraged political activities in the southern protectorate and Lagos colony, resulting in the formation of parties.
4. It encouraged the establishment of newspapers such as the Lagos Daily News and West African Pilot.
5. It is to date, the longest lasting constitution in Nigeria.

### **Demerits of Clifford Constitution**

1. The constitution vested too much power in the governor, including the power to single-handedly legislate for the North.
2. It allowed the legislative council to be dominated by Europeans.
3. The constitution disenfranchised majority of Nigerians by limiting voting rights only to male adults earning at least \$100 per annum.
4. The constitution isolated northern Nigeria, and thus formalised a north-south dichotomy which is still present.
5. Majority of members were British and so the council was not truly a representative of the governed.

### **Richards Constitution**

The Richard's Constitution came into existence as a result of the defects in the Clifford constitution of 1922, which was greatly criticised by the nationalists. Arthur Richards, the then governor of Nigeria, presented this constitution in 1946 which took effect from January 1947.

### **Features of Richards's constitution**

1. It created a central legislative council for the whole of Nigeria.
2. The governor could make and apply laws to the whole country in consultation with the legislative council.

3. The constitution provided for regional assemblies in the North, East which would not make laws, but discuss legislations and act as electoral colleges for the election of legislative council members.
4. The central legislative council now had forty-four members, consisting of twenty-eight majority non-officials and sixteen minority officials.
5. The constitution provided for a bicameral legislature of two chambers of a house of chiefs and a house of assembly in the northern region while the eastern and western regions had a unicameral legislature, the house of assembly each.
6. The governors had powers to act contrary to decisions or advice of the legislative council, but had to obtain the approval of the secretary of state for the colonies.
7. Two Nigerians became members of the executive council. However, new executive council had the same composition as that of 1922, dominated by British officials.

#### **Merits of Richards Constitution**

1. It integrated the North and the South administratively for the first time since the 1914 amalgamation, thereby encouraging national unity.
2. The constitution increased the representation of Nigerians in the legislative council.
3. The constitution made Nigerian unofficial members the majority in the legislative council for the first time.
4. It provided for a bicameral legislature in the North and recognised traditional rulership in Nigeria.
5. The constitution divided the country into three regions - North, West and East, each with its own house of assembly.

#### **Demerits of Richards Constitution**

1. Europeans still dominated the executive council which was the powerful organ.
2. The constitution was made with no consultation with or involvement of Nigerians during the drafting.

3. The constitution of the legislative council was not democratic. Nominees dominated the council, there were more nominated than elected Nigerians.
4. Voting right was still dependent upon level of income.
5. Only residents of Lagos and Calabar could vote, thus the large majority of Nigerians were disenfranchised.
6. The constitution divided the country into three regions based largely on the consideration. This resulted in disunity and distrust in Nigerian politics till now.

### **Macpherson Constitution**

John Macpherson succeeded Arthur Richards in 1948 as governor of Nigeria and soon saw the need for constitutional reforms in the country. He established a select committee of the legislative council to review the situation then and advice appropriately. The new constitution was drafted and came into effect in 1951.

### **Features of Macpherson Constitution**

1. The central legislative council was renamed the house of representatives. It consisted of 149 members. The governor was the president with six ex-officio or official members, six special nominees by the governor to represent some interests or communities, and 136 representatives, the North having 68 members while the west and east each had 34 members.
2. The central executive council later called council of ministers –were presided over by the governor and consisted of six ex-officio or official members and twelve ministers with four from each region
3. There was a bicameral legislature in the Northern and Western regions – the house of chiefs and the house of assembly while there was a unicameral legislature in the Eastern region having only the house of assembly. The regional legislatures were empowered to make laws on certain subject to the approval of the central council in Lagos.
4. There were regional executive councils consisting of the lieutenant governor ,five official member and nine ministers

5. There were 90 elected and 14 unelected members in the Northern house of assembly the west had 80 elected and seven unelected while the East had 80 and eight respectively.
6. There were both direct and indirect elections
7. In the North only male tax-payers voted, while in the west and East ,both sexes voted

### **Merits of Macpherson constitution**

1. Nigerians at all levels were consulted in the making of the constitution and so it was largely a people's constitution.
2. The constitution granted more powers to the regional houses of assembly who were allowed to make laws and advise on most matters concerning their people.
3. The legislative house consisted mainly of elected Nigerians and were no longer dominated by nominees and ex-officio members
4. For the first time Nigerians were appointed ministers at both the central and regional governments.
5. The constitution started a system of revenue sharing between the central and the regional government and allowing the regions much autonomy.

### **Demerits of Macpherson constitution**

1. The constitution still concentrated too much power in the central legislature with the regional house decisions largely subject to the approval of the central legislature or government.
2. The central governor also had too much power for he could act without or against the advice of the executive council.
3. The regional divisions worsened the problems of ethnicity and mutual distrust in Nigerian politics.
4. Mass participation was hindered in the north because only male tax payers were allowed to vote
5. With the British still controlling executive power the constitution failed to transfer power to Nigerians or allow them to participate adequately in governance.

The Macpherson constitution finally collapsed due to the threat of northern secession by the NPC, the crisis in the Eastern Region house of assembly, the Kano riot etc.

## **Lyttleton constitution**

The Lyttleton constitution emerged from the decisions taken at the 1953 London and 1954 Lagos constitutional conferences. These decisions made up most of the new constitution which came into effect in October 1954.

### **Features of Lyttleton Constitution**

1. The judiciary was regionalised.
2. There was a central legislature with 184 representatives. Northern region had 92 of these while East and West each had 42 members, with Southern Cameroons having six and Lagos , two. A speaker was elected from the members.
3. The council of ministers comprised of the governor-general who was the president, three official members, three ministers from each region and one minister from Southern Cameroon.
4. The constitution granted bicameral legislated and western pigeon and only the house of two representatives to the house of assembly for the Eastern pigeon
5. Lagos formally became federal capital (separated from western region ) with the right to elect two representatives to the house of representatives
6. The regions had greater autonomy to formulate policies and execute programmes.
7. The leader of the political party holding a majority in the regional assembly became premier of the region. Consequently, sir Ahmadu Bello became the Premier of Northern region, Obafemi Awolowo, Premier of Western region and Nnamdi Azikiwe ,premier of Eastern region.
8. The speaker of the house of assembly was appointed by the governor.
9. The governor became known as governor-general while lieutenant-governors were designated governors.

### **Merits of the Lyttleton constitution**

1. The constitution formally established federalism
2. It introduced direct election in to the federal and regional legislatures in Nigeria
3. There were premiers in the three regions who were Nigerians.
4. It established the offices of speaker and deputy speaker occupied by Nigerians in the legislature.
5. The constitution made the legislative houses at both the federal and regional levels functional and effective by granting them power to make laws.

### **Demerits of the Lyttleton constitution**

1. The constitution still vested some autocratic power on the governor-general and regional governors.
2. The constitution made the British governor-general continue to be the chairman of the federal executive council, by failing to provide for the position of a prime minister who should be a Nigerian.
3. It did not institute a common electoral system for the whole country.
4. The regional structure favoured the major ethnic groups, thus there was clamour for more regions
5. The regional structure encouraged regionalism, ethnicity and national disunity.

### **Independence and Post –Independence Constitutions**

In 1957, there was a constitutional conference in London arranged mainly to correct the deficiencies of Lyttleton constitution of 1954. In 1958 there was another constitutional conference held, no longer in London but in Lagos. This conference set 1 October 1960 as the date for Nigeria's independence.

#### **Features of the Independence Constitution**

1. The constitution introduced a parliamentary system of government.
2. It established two legislative houses at the both the federal and regional levels.
3. It retained the federal structure with the regions having residual powers.

4. The governor-general was made the ceremonial head of state.
5. It included fundamental human rights.
6. The federal prime minister and regional premiers had executive powers conferred on them.
7. A governor could remove the premier if the latter lost the confidence of the house.
8. Amendments to some important clauses of the constitution required a two-thirds majority.

#### Merits of the Independence Constitutions

1. Nigeria became politically independent through the application of the constitution and Nigerians effectively took control of the executive and legislative arms of government.
2. Nigeria also became independent of British economic exploitation and started expanding her trade by establishing trade relations with other nations.
3. Many employment opportunities were created for Nigerians in the civil service to replace British nationals.
4. As an independent nation Nigeria joined such international organisations as the Commonwealth and United Nations Organisation.

#### Demerits of the Independence constitution

1. Many issues remained unresolved, especially the criteria for the division of revenue between the centre and the regions.
2. The legislative power of Nigerian states were in an Act of the British parliament till Nigeria became a republic in 1963.
3. The queen of England remained the constitutional ceremonial head of state of Nigeria.
4. Nigeria's highest court of appeal was the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, above the Nigeria's supreme court.
5. Senators were not elected but appointed by regional governments.

#### The Republican Constitution of 1963

On September 1963, the Republican constitution was passed into law by the federal parliament and became operational on 1 October 1963.



### Features of the Republican Constitution of 1963

1. There was a Nigerian president as the constitutional head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces to replace the Queen of England.
2. The president would be elected by secret ballot by joint session of the two houses of the federal legislature. He could be removed by impeachment of the House of Representatives.
3. In the absence of the president of the republic, the senate president would act for him.
4. The Supreme Court of Nigeria assumed the final position as the final court of appeal.
5. The regional legislature of each region elected their governor.
6. The constitution provided for the office of the premier to head the regional government.
7. The president appointed the prime minister to head the government of the federation.
8. The number of seats in the senate was increased from 44 to 56 and that of the House of Representatives from 305 to 312.

### Merits of the Republican Constitution of 1963

1. It was enacted by the Nigerian federal parliament instead of the British parliament.
2. It removed Nigeria from under the headship of the English monarch.
3. It gave the Supreme Court its due position as the highest court of all cases in Nigeria.

### Demerits of the republican constitution of 1963

1. The constitution did not solve the problem of the creation of new states, thus leaving the Northern region larger in size than the three southern regions put together.
2. The election of the president was by the house of representatives and not through general elections.

## **The 1979 Republican constitution**

The 1979 Republican constitution came into effect on 1 October 1979 under Murtala –Obasanjo military regime.

### **Features of the 1979 Republican constitution**

1. The constitution introduced the position of an executive president, who would be the head of state and commander –in–chief of the armed forces.
2. The president would be directly elected in a general election.
3. To get elected as president, a candidate must score not only a majority of votes cast at an election but also at least one –quarter of the votes cast in each of at least two–thirds of the states in Nigeria.
4. The President and the governors should have running mates vice-president and deputy governors respectively.
5. The tenure of the president, governors and legislatures was fixed at four years. The executives could be elected for two terms at most.
6. The national assembly was bicameral –consisting of the senate with ninety-five members and a house of representatives with 450 members while each state had only a house of assembly.
7. The chief justice of the federation was appointed by the president with the senate’s approval.
8. There was separation of power among the three organs of government.
9. The president and the governor with their running mates could be removed from office by impeachment.

### **Merits of the 1979 Republican Constitution**

1. The president and governors had both real and formal authorities in the office. They were no longer just ceremonial heads.
2. The president and the governor were elected for a fixed term.
3. Both of them were directly elected by the electorate to whom they had to be responsible. This promoted democracy.
4. The working relationship between the executive and the legislative arms made provisions for checks and balances, especially on the executive.

5. There was a clear definition of functions and interrelationships of the three arms of government.

### **Demerits of the 1979 republic constitution**

1. The constitution was not specific enough on the expectations concerning character and ability for aspirants to leadership positions.
2. The impeachment clause was misused by the legislature in situations where different parties controlled the legislature and the executive.
3. The system was too complicated for many of those involved in implementing it.
4. In spite of the checks and balances, the chief executive still had enough room for dictatorial actions.

### **The 1989 Republican Constitution**

It was under the Babangida government's transition to civil rule programme that the 1989 constitution was formulated in a process involving a political Bureau, Constitution Review Committee (CRC) and the constituent assembly.

### **Features of the 1989 constitution**

1. The constitution retained the presidential system of government as in the 1979 constitution.
2. The minimum qualification to occupy state and national positions such as president, governor, and legislators was the secondary school certificate.
3. Legislators were to be regarded as part-time workers who were all to receive only sitting allowances.
4. The people could withdraw any legislator who no longer enjoyed the confidence of the electorate.
5. The federal capital territory Abuja would not be regarded as a state.
6. The constitution secured the autonomy and democratisation of the local government.
7. It defined the three forms of Nigerian citizenship, viz, citizenship by birth, citizenship by registration and citizenship by naturalisation.
8. A two-party system was entrenched in the constitution.

### **Merits of the 1989 constitution**

1. The two-party system made the choice of the electorate more focused with reduced confusion as in the multi-party system.
2. Minimum qualification of age and education for candidates eliminated immature and ignorant people from participating in governance.
3. Placing law-makers on part-time with sitting allowances was prudent i.e cost saving.
4. The process of recalling law-makers by the people was meant to promote hard work on the part of the legislators.

### **Demerits of the 1989 constitution**

1. Part-time status and allowances given to legislators made them concentrate more on their private business than on law-making.
2. The two-party system limited the choice of both politicians and the electorate, thus restricting democracy.

## **THE 1999 REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION**

### **(THE 4<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC CONSTITUTION)**

The 1999 constitution was adopted during General Abdulsalam Abubakar's regime as head of state. The 1999 constitution is largely a re-creation of the second republic constitution of 1977 with the features of an American presidential system.

### **Features of the 1999 constitution**

1. The constitution retains the 1979 and 1989 constitution.
2. The constitution provides for a bicameral legislature, consisting of the House of Representatives and the senate. There are 109 senators and 360 representatives. A unicameral legislature (House of Assembly) is adopted for each state.
3. The constitution provides for 774 local government councils.

4. Federal character: Appointments of Political officers in government should not be restricted or segmented but should spread across the whole country.
5. It retains the federal system of government with the sharing of powers.
6. There is provision for dual citizenship. A person also has the right to renounce Nigerian citizenship.
7. It provides for fundamental human rights.
8. The constitution provides for the code of conduct Bureau, Independent National Electoral Commission, federal judicial service commission, the federal civil service commission e.t.c.
9. The constitution also created the council of states to advise the president on important national issues. It consisted of the president, vice-president, senate president, the speaker of house of representatives, all the state government, the attorney general, all former heads of states, and former chief justice, and one paramount chief from each state.
10. It provides for revenue allocation formula.

#### **Advantages of the 1999 constitution**

1. It allowed for smooth transition of power from military to civilian.
2. The executive President, Governors of states are popularly elected by the people.
3. Fundamental human rights of citizens are respected and guaranteed in the constitution.
4. Separation of powers was also recognized by this constitution, thereby making for non-interference in the activities of each organ.
5. The Supreme Court still retained the power of judicial review. This is the power to check the excesses or the unconstitutional activities of other arms of government.
6. Federal character –the constitution respects the rights of both the majority and minority groups in the country.

#### **Disadvantages of the 1999 constitution**

1. The constitution vested too much power in the federal government.
2. The constitution is too rigid and difficult to amend.

3. The constitution was hurriedly prepared and therefore full of errors.
4. The constitution operates a presidential system of government which is too costly to run (because of duplication of political functions).
5. Separation of powers could result to delay in the implementation or carrying out of government programmes for example, the national assembly can delay the approval of budget, ministerial appointment made by the president.
6. The impeachment stipulated in the constitution could be abused by law makers

### **Evaluation**

(See past questions)