

CIVIC EDUCATION

FOR

Junior Secondary School

2



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FIRST TERM NOTES ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Week 1 & 2

Topic: Integrity

Content

- Meaning of Integrity
- Attributes of Integrity
- Need for People of Integrity in the Society

One of the qualities that a person should aspire to have is Integrity. Integrity is the quality of being honest and always having high moral principles in all you do. Principles are moral rules or sets of ideas which make you behave in a particular way. Integrity has a lot of attributes and features especially those that are considered good or useful. Some of these attributes are:

Attributes of Integrity

1. **Honesty:** It is the ability of being truthful and straight forward at all times. Honesty is an intrinsic value that has the quality of being straightforward, reliable, truthful, sincere and godly in human activities. To be honest means to be responsible, respectable and fearlessly truthful. An honest person is usually committed to his words and disapproves of corrupt tendencies. He is well regarded, respected and looked up to as a societal model and source of godly inspiration.

Features of Honesty

An honest person possesses certain features which distinguishes him from the public.

These include:

- I. Being committed to duty and the task set before him.
- II. Showing uncompromising support for justice and truth.
- III. Being trustworthy this brings him dignity and integrity.
- IV. Living a disciplined life which shows in his being reliable and dependable.
- V. Being bold and courageous to defend the truth and condemn permissive living.
- VI. Being self-assertive and self-reliant.
- VII. Being alert to one's conscience and to the public.

Benefits of Honesty

Honesty has the following benefits to the individual and society:

- I. It leads to economic, social and political advancement.
 - II. Honesty removes fear, bitterness and acrimony in the social, political and economic circumstances of life.
 - III. Honesty attracts patronage and good work to the individual and society
 - IV. Honesty has unsolicited defenders, protectors, admirers and lovers.
 - V. Honesty promotes justice and fair play among individual members of a society.
2. **Selflessness:** It is the ability to show more interest in the welfare of other people
 3. **Courage:** This is ability to face difficulty, danger or pain without fear.
 4. **Integrity:** It is the ability to stand and stick to sound morals and principle at all times.
 5. **Sincerity:** it is the ability to be open minded and to have clear mind towards issue
 6. **Co-operation:** Ability to work with other people to achieve a common goal.
 7. **Fair play:** It is the ability of been considerate and to avoid cheating. This is the state of being impartial in your treatment to other people.
 8. **Justice:** It is the ability of being just, righteous and upright.
 9. **Contentment:** It is a means of being happy and satisfied with what one has. Happiness and satisfaction gives a person of integrity the mind to plan to work harder in life. Contentment cancels greed and covetousness from te life of a person of Integrity.
 10. **Truthfulness:** This is the act of being sincere in action, character and utterance. If a person is truthful, what he says does not contradict what he does.

Examples of People in the Society with Integrity

1. Late Professor Dora Akinyuli – The former DirectorGeneral of National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control. She has worked contentiously more than all those who ave headed that agency.
2. Religious leaders such as Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Salas, Shiek Muydeen Ajani Bello, Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye, Pastor W. F. Kumuyi, Reverend Felix Meduoye and other religious leaders.
3. Gani Fawehimi (SAN) – A reputable lawyer who hates to see people cheated. He criticizes positively and stood to fight for the common man.

People of integrity maintain high standards and moral principles in the society. They are sincere, honest and exhibit fair-play in all their dealings with people. Their lifestyles will affect everyone around them especially young people.

ASSESSMENT

1. Define integrity?
2. List TWO attributes of integrity?
3. List TWO examples of people in the society with integrity?

Week 3

Topic: Contentment

Contents –

- Meaning
- Attributes of contentment
- Importance of contentment
- Effects of lack of contentment

Contentment

Contentment simply means a state of being happy and satisfied with what one has. A contented person is not always going above the law to possess riches but satisfied with the one he/she is able to get. **Contentment** is a mental or emotional state of satisfaction drawn from being at ease in one's situation, body and mind. Colloquially speaking, contentment is a state of having accepted one's situation and is a form of happiness. Contentment means being satisfied with one's possessions, status or situation, though they might be insignificant.

A contented person is a one who realizes that contentment starts from the inside with a satisfied mind and a cheerful heart. A contented person is one who is satisfied with who they are, what they are and are not looking or demanding for more. In moral sciences, the word 'contentment' is used to mean the opposite of greed or excessive and rapacious desire. The trait of contentment causes man to suffice to the amount he needs and to avoid craving for more. In fact, contentment is a feeling of calm and active happiness. Somebody who is content does not feel the need to put forth any effort into achieving something because he or she is satisfied with his portion.

Contentment is not about getting what you want but appreciative and satisfied with the one you have gotten.

Attributes of Contentment

1. Hatred for greed: Greed is the desire for more than what a person needs or can afford to have. A contented person will hate greed.
2. Satisfaction: Satisfaction is being contented and act of deriving joy in what a person has. A contented person will be satisfied with whatever he/she has.

3. Humility: A contented person is usually humble, does not brag with whatever he/she has.
4. Shuns envy: Envy is the act of getting something by all means. e.g. Mr. Ade has a house in Ajah while Mr. B lives in a room and parlor at Mushin, the desire of Mr. B to have his own house at Ajah by all means which may even lead him to killing Mr. A or stealing money is envy. Therefore a contented person shuns envy.

Importance of Contentment

1. It helps to eliminate jealousy and envy in people
2. It leads to peaceful and developed society
3. It promotes tolerance in the country
4. It reduces the feelings of inferiority among the people
5. It gives a person a peaceful heart

Discontentment is actually the state of experiencing dissatisfaction, unhappiness, restlessness, greediness and disgruntlement.

Effects of Lack of Contentment

1. It leads to corruption
2. It makes a man greedy
3. It results into envy and jealousy
4. It can lead into prostitution
5. it leads into cheating
6. It can also lead to theft
7. Dissatisfaction and unhappiness can lead to depression

Assessment

1. A state of being happy and satisfied with what one has is
 - (a) integrity
 - (b) selflessness
 - (c) honesty

(d) contentment.

2. One of these is not the attribute of contentment
 - (a) shun envy
 - (b) satisfaction
 - (c) bribery
 - (d) humility.
3. Contentment is important because
 - (a) it makes a person jealous
 - (b) it create opportunity for stealing
 - (c) It gives a person peaceful heart
 - (d) it is an opportunity to kill.

ans (c)
4. Lack of contentment can lead to all except
 - (a) theft
 - (b) corruption
 - (c) love
 - (d) prostitution
5. Contentment is a good value everybody must possess true/false.

Answers

1. D
2. C
3. C
4. D
5. True

Week 4

Topic: Effects of Lack of Contentment

Introduction

Due to the quest for wealth, power, popularity etc. many people in the society do things in the wrong ways and this has a negative impact on the society. Some of such negative ways include:

A. Corruption: This is a dishonest, illegal or immoral behavior especially from someone with power. *Corruption* is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit. *Corruption* may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Many people who are in position of authority misbehave by being dishonest. They enrich themselves through illegal ways. Money given to such people to do some projects for the public are converted to their personal use. They take advantage of the position to be involved in immoral relationship with the opposite sex. Corruption destroys honesty among citizens. People reap where they have not sown. Immoral relationship becomes the order of the day. Corruption is a disease that ruins if not taken care of.

Types of Corruption

1. Bribery – Bribery involves the improper use of gifts and favors in exchange for personal gain.
2. Embezzlement – Embezzlement and theft involve someone with access to funds or assets illegally taking control of them.
3. Fraud – Fraud involves using deception to convince the owner of funds or assets to give them up to an unauthorized party.
4. Extortion and Blackmail – While bribery is the use of positive inducements for corrupt aims, extortion and blackmail centre around the use of threats. This can be the threat of violence or false imprisonment as well as exposure of an individual's secrets or prior crimes.
5. Abuse of Discretion – This refers to the misuse of one's powers and decision-making facilities. Examples include a judge improperly dismissing a criminal

case or a customs official using their discretion to allow a banned substance through a port.

6. Favoritism, nepotism and clientelism – This involves the favoring of not the perpetrator of corruption but someone related to them, such as a friend, family member or member of an association. Examples would include hiring or promoting a family member or staff member to a role they are not qualified for, who belongs to the same political party as you, regardless of merit.

B. Greed: This is a strong desire for more food, drink than what you need. It could also be a strong desire for more money, power and possession than your need. This wicked desire in some people leave many people in poverty of such things. When a greedy person is in position, he grabs and grabs and grabs till there is nothing left for other people. Greedy people may hinder even development, make some people and places perpetually poor because they do not allow things to get to such people and places as it ought to because of their greedy tendencies.

Some examples of greed that don't include money are:

- A person who takes all of the cookies in the house for himself, not sharing even though he know others will want some.
- A person at work who takes credit for the hard work of others and who takes a larger share of the bonus money or prize for sales, even if he didn't actually do anything to earn it.
- An employee who takes lavish vacations at the expense of his employer by claiming that the vacations are business trips, even when they really aren't.

C. Envy: This is a painful desire to enjoy or have what another is having or enjoying. Many people who are envious go all out to achieve their desires. Most envious people are people who are not contented with what they have. They continue to eye the benefits by other people. For example, people envying others are likely to get such people eliminated by

- Working against them
- Criticize such people unnecessarily
- May plan the killing of such people

This envy can hinder development in the society. It can also lead to misunderstanding

D. Theft: People who are not contented with what they have always plan to steal other people's things or the things belonging to the government. Stealing destroys the economy. Stealing hinders people enjoying things they would have been enjoying.

E. Prostitution: This is a way of using your skill, ability in the way that does not show its true value. Lack of contentment makes people to prostitute their abilities, skills or body in the process of earning money for a living. The word "prostitution" can also be used metaphorically to mean debasing oneself or working towards an unworthy cause or "selling out". People who prostitute are likely to be victims of unexpected circumstances. Prostituting abilities have also lead to brain drain from one society to another. Those who prostitute their bodies have become victims of one sexually transmitted disease or the other most commonly HIV/AIDS.

F. Robbery: This is the crime of stealing that involves using violence. Many people today take to robbery to earn a living. Some go to the extent of arming themselves. So anybody who stands on their way is threatened, injured or killed. Properties and money acquired through a long savings and pain are taken away. Lives and properties are also destroyed in the process of robbery.

G. Cheating: It is to behave in a dishonest way in order to win or to get an advantage especially in a competition, game or examination. When people cheat in a competition or game, the true champion or winner is not known. The supposed winner in a cheating case often disappoints those they are representing. Those who cheat in examination are only qualified on paper, they are not skillful or knowledgeable. They disgrace themselves when tested on things they are supposed to know. They become square pegs in a round hole.

Assessment

Give specific real life examples of Cheating, Corruption and Robbery.

Week 5

Topic: Discipline

Meaning of Discipline

Discipline is the training of the mind to obey simple rules and regulations. The practice of making people obey rules and orders is called Discipline. *Discipline* is defined as a field of study or is training to fix incorrect behavior or create better skills. Discipline is a method of training the mind, body, or behavior, and it makes people do what is expected of them. We are disciplined when we have self control. A disciplined individual does things according to laid down rules and regulations.

It is the attitude of doing the right thing at the right time and at times without being forced or persuaded to do so.

Attributes of Discipline

1. Self-control – Every student should have a good spirit that will help them have self-control. Self-control is the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behavior in the face of temptations and impulses. A disciplined student controls himself to obey all the rules and regulations of the school. This enables him or her to excel in academic endeavors. Be respected in the school and society. Discipline makes a good leader.
2. Moderation – The control of your behavior so that you keep your actions, feelings, habits within reasonable or sensible limit. It is the process of eliminating or lessening extremes. It is used to ensure normality throughout the medium on which it is being conducted. A moderate person doesn't overdo things. Many people are excessive in their ways of doing things and are not disciplined. Discipline helps you to be moderate in the way you do things and also in your behavioral pattern towards people around you. People who are disciplined are not greedy, in any way because moderation is the principle that they can adopt in anything they do.
3. Modesty – This is the way that people comport themselves not to show their bodies or do anything that can attract sexual harvest. It is an attitude of propriety and decency in dress, language, and behavior. If we are modest, we do not draw undue attention to ourselves. In the name of fashion or things in vogue, people have become so immodest in our society today that discipline has been thrown into the sea.
 - A Disciplined person must have self control.
 - A Disciplined person must have respect for legitimate authority.

- A Disciplined person must exercise moderation in all his dealings.
- A Disciplined person must be modest, that is not talking much about one's abilities or possession.
- A Disciplined must respect the rules and regulations of the state.
- A Disciplined must be content with what he/she has.

Benefits of Being Disciplined

1. **Being focused:** Being disciplined helps one stay focused towards his work, activities or goals.
2. Discipline ensures proper and good governance at all levels.
3. Discipline helps command respect from others.
4. Discipline helps you to stay healthy. Disciplined life includes regular habits like taking food, medicine (if any), having bath, exercise, waking and sleeping at right time.
5. Discipline reduces the level of corruption at all levels.
6. Discipline enhances peace, progress and mutual understanding among the people in the society.
7. Discipline promotes growth and development in the society.
8. A person with self-discipline has more self-control over himself. He is careful in his use of words while talking, his behavior etc. avoiding himself from being entangled in silly problems.
9. Discipline allows orderliness and smooth running of the society.
10. Being disciplined helps get things done faster and in right time. Though some things happen late due to other factors, still one with discipline gets them done faster than others due to his self-discipline like being on time.

Assessment

1. In your own words, how can you explain discipline?
2. What are the benefits of being disciplined

Week 6

Topic: Respect for Rules and Regulations

Respect for Legitimate Authority – Legitimate is the correct measure or ways that things are to be done. It could also be operating according to the law. Legitimate authority is the body established to ensure that laid down rules are followed. Some of such bodies are those in government, immigration, custom, road safety, health inspectors etc A disciplined person must respect legitimate authority.

Respect for Rules and Regulations

Rules are official instruction that say how things must be done or what are allowed. Rules are also the ways of behaving that are accepted as right by most of the people in a given society. Some people do things the way they like and they have no respect for rules and regulations. They do things contrary to the acceptable way. They have no respect for the rules because they feel that they are occupying high positions and this gives them the opportunity to misbehave. Some others do so because they are rich and they believe that money can take care of everything. Some other people feel that the Government and society at large have cheated them and they haven't gained anything from the society hence the reason they flout the rules and regulations of the society. Whatever the situation is, everyone must have respect for the rules and regulations of the society.

Perseverance: The determination to keep trying to achieve something in spite of difficulties is called perseverance.

Examples

- A student who already sat for an examination twice and yet as not gotten the desired result must persevere in spite of all odds to achieve the success.
- A technician who has made effort to repair a fault in an engine has failed many times. He perseveres on by applying other methods he has not applied before to ensure that the desired result is gotten.

Dedication: The hard work or effort that someone puts into a particular activity because they care about it a lot. If a student dedicates his or her time for studies, he or she will become a brilliant student whose colleagues can not push by the side when it comes to academics.

Consequences of Indiscipline

1. Indiscipline increases the rate of crimes in the society.
2. Indiscipline prevents the achievement of the societal goals. Indiscipline may threaten the peace and progress of the society.
3. Indiscipline widens the gap between the rich and poor.
4. Indiscipline breeds high level of poverty in the society.
5. Indiscipline retards growth and development.

Assessment

Give practical examples of perseverance and dedication.

Week 7

Topic: Courage

Introduction

Courage is the ability to be brave when you are in danger, pain, or in difficult situation. It could also be the ability to be brave enough to say or do what you think is right even though other people may not agree or approve. This exercise of boldness in carrying out positive activities in the community where you are is called courage.

Types of Courage

1. Physical courage – The willingness to exercise physical energy to get things done. Fear in most cases may hinder physical things from being accomplished.
2. Moral courage – The ability to choose to do what is right irrespective of pressure to do otherwise. Many people today are not morally okay so they pile pressure on people to go along with them in the wrong way. Some youths today make jest of other youths who dress up well to cover their nakedness. They want everyone to dress in miniskirts, ‘show me your breast’ etc, smoke and drink as they consider them as the order of the day. It takes moral courage for a disciplined person to resist the pressure from these wayward majority.
3. Spiritual courage – Courage to exhibit ones spiritual faith and live according to religious tenets. Fundamental human rights have given everyone the freedom to choose any religion. Religion is the way people worship God. This is what gives people spiritual courage in whatever they do. There is no religion that points people to the negatives. All the different religions teach are the good moral upbringing which are positives. So your spiritual courage should be exhibited to bring out the positive attributes of your faith as a Christian, Muslim or Traditionalist.

Benefits/Effects of Having Courage

1. Courageous people stand up against things that threaten them or the things or people that they care about.
2. You feel more confident. (It takes more to bring you down than usual)
3. Acting courageously generally makes us feel good, because it involves mastering emotions

4. You're admired. (People notice when others have courage, and they in return try to model themselves after them)
5. You are more successful. (People are always looking to hire or promote people who show true courage)

Assessment

1. What does courage mean?
2. Give 2 types of courage with explanations

Week 8

Topic: Attributes of Courageous Persons in the Society

Attributes of a Courageous Person

1. Commitment – When they make promises, they are committed to fulfilling or carrying out their promises. The commitment is a driving force that gives them courage to continue. For example, a person who committed himself to the clearing of the classroom. This commitment gives him or her the courage to clean the classroom whether it is convenient or not.
2. Endurance – It is the ability to suffer difficulties or pain with strength and patience.
3. Determination – The ability to continue trying to achieve what you have decided to do even when this is difficult is called determination. Many people fail to achieve the desired result because of lack of determination.
4. Steadfastness – It is the faithful and loyal way of following a thing, a discipline or religion. When a person is steadfast, he/she follows that discipline or religion without looking back
5. Diligence – A person who works hard.
6. Boldness – To be bold means not to be afraid of taking risk to achieve good things. It could also involve making difficult decision to attain a greater height. The fear of taking such risks make people to remain mediocre today.
7. Bravery – These are actions, behaviours, attitude that show courage and confidence. Most of the attributes discussed so far may show courage but may not show confidence.

Examples of Courageous People Throughout History

1. **Moses** After escaping from his slavery in Egypt, led his people out of Egypt and across the Red Sea.
2. **Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826)** A key figure in the American revolution and foremost author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson sought to challenge existing policies on religious tolerance, education and slavery.

3. **Martin Luther King (1929 – 1968)** A symbol of the fight against racial discrimination. Martin Luther King passionately supported the civil rights movement, despite virulent opposition and discrimination in parts of America.
4. **Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013)** Nelson Mandela had the courage to fight against the unjust system of apartheid. For his political activities, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but he was released to lead a free South Africa.
5. **Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)** In 1940, Britain stood, alone against Nazi Germany. Some in Britain wanted to seek a deal with Hitler, but Churchill wanted to fight on, and he inspired Britain through their darkest hour.
6. **Rosa Parks (1913–2005)** Refused to give up seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama and started a mass protest which led to the end of segregation on public transport.
7. **Socrates (469 BC–399 BC)** – Greek philosopher. Socrates was willing to die for his beliefs. Arrested for his philosophic teachings, Socrates was willing to accept death rather than change his opinions and beliefs. It is said he calmly accepted his fate.
8. **Emmeline Pankhurst** – Leading suffragette in the UK. Emmeline Pankhurst went to jail several times for her protests to gain women the vote.
9. **Joan of Arc** – Peasant girl who went to Dauphin of France to encourage him to fight English occupation. Led French army into battle.
10. **Sophie Scholl (1921–1943)** German student who took part in the White Rose Resistance group who opposed Hitler and the Nazi Party. She was arrested in 1943 for distributing anti-war leaflets and was executed.

Assessment

- Give two examples of courageous acts you have carried out in time past.
- Mention 4 Courageous persons in Nigeria that you and their acts of courage (From the History of Nigeria, hints – Martyrs)

Week 9

Topic: Nigeria as a Federation

Federation is a group of organizations, clubs or people that have joined together to form a single group. Nigeria as a federation is a group of race that came together to form it. Up to 1914, Northern Nigeria was separated from Southern Nigeria. Lord Lugard amalgamated the northern and southern protectorates in 1914.

Need for Federation

1. National Integration – Integration is the combination of two or more things so that they work together. The coming together of a group of people to form Nigeria as a nation has made Nigeria a powerful, strong and reliable nation.
2. Unity in Diversity – A group of people, their culture and tradition may vary from one place to another and yet having the same mind to be together and work together. This one mind to work together will remove whatever is the racial difference and there by create unity in diversity within the nation.
3. Controlling activities of states – Since federation is the combination of smaller race and people to form a larger one, there is need for controlling body of such small groups

State Government Autonomy

The states have constitutionally defined control over their own affairs. Members of the state government are close to the people. They plan for the people and execute all their plans. The power to execute without being hindered has been vested on them to an extent. As federal government establish schools in each state, the state government also do likewise and controls all that happens in their own schools.

Central Government Controls State

The central government has policies in various areas, these policies are what the various state governments follow in what they do.

Constitution of Federal Government

This allows for separation of power.

Exclusive – all that the federal government is to do are stated in the exclusive list

Residual – all that the state government are to do are stated in the residual list

Concurrent list – all that the federal and state governments are to do jointly are stated in the concurrent list

Features of Nigeria Federation

1. There is constitutional division of powers between the levels of government. In Nigeria, the constitutional powers are divided into exclusive, concurrent and residual list. Only the federal government can legislate on the exclusive list which includes defense, police affairs, fiscal and monetary policies. Both the federal and state government could legislate on concurrent list which include education, etc. it is only the state that is competent to legislate on the residual list which contains such items like land, chieftaincy titles, etc.
2. A federal state has a bicameral legislature, i.e. two houses of legislature.
3. The constitution of a federal state is supreme, i.e. sovereignty can only be located in the constitution.
4. The constitution of a federal state is often written and rigid.
5. A federal state is heterogeneous and geographically large.
6. Dual loyalty is entertained in a federal state. For instance, a Nigerian can at the same time be a Lagosian.
7. There is a body charged with fostering good relations among different levels of government.

ASSESSMENT

1. Define Federation?
2. Identify FIVE features of Nigerian Federation?

Week 10

Topic: Characteristics of a Federation

Characteristics of Federation

For easy administration, the entire nation has been divided into states

1. Sharing of Powers between central and state government. The overall power to control the federation is vested on the president who has to work with the central government. They are members of national assembly, ministers, advisers etc
2. The head of state government is the governors, followed by members of the state house of assembly
3. The federal government have Programmes and projects they execute in each state. When the directives are issued, the state government complies with this directive.

Relationship between the Federal, State and Local Governments

The federal, state and local governments are the three arms of government within a country. The country as a large entity is large to administer or rule, so it is divided for easy administration. The federal government controls the whole country. They decide on the area that can become a state. The state is divided into smaller groups which is called the local government. Their operations are inter-related and interdependent ie all three arms of government. As the federal government depends on the state and local government for smooth running of the nation, so also the local and state governments depend on the federal government for national policies and finance to run.

Power to legislate

Nigeria operates a democratic system of government. In each level of government, there is a legislature. The legislature is the body of people nominated and elected to represent a particular area in the local state or federal government. These elected people are found in various house of assemblies.

The State Government

This is the second tier of the federalism system of Government, it is headed by the state governor, and currently Nigeria has 36 states all together. The legislative arm of the state government is called the state house of assembly.

Functions of the state government

1. They are charged with the duty of providing Education for its residents
2. They are to ensure that the roads at their jurisdiction are well maintained and build new roads at where necessary.
3. They implement federal mandate
4. They are charged with the duty of collecting and generating revenue.
5. They operate judicial system.

The Local Government

The local government is the third tier of the federalism Government, it is headed by a "chairman". It is the government of the grass root where the majority lives.

Functions of the local government

1. The local government provides health centre's to the people at the grassroots.
2. They are responsible for naming the streets and the roads
3. They help to maintain orderliness
4. They help with the duty of registering death, birth and marriage certificate.
5. Control and regulation of outdoor advertising and hoarding.

PROBLEMS OF THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENTS

- 1) Revenue allocation formular among the tiers of government.
- 2) Boundary disputes among the component units.
- 3) Inter-village or town rivalry. There had been rivalry resulting to clashes between villages or town over boundary and creation of local government.
- 4) Federal character: Appointment into federal establishments, states and local governments are not usually based on merit but federal character.

ASSESSMENT

1. List TWO characteristics of a federation?
2. What is the Relationship between The Federal, State and Local Government?
3. List FOUR problems of the three tiers of government?

SECOND TERM NOTES ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Week 1&2

Topic: Relationship between the Federal, State and Local Governments

Relationship between the Federal, State and Local Governments

The federal, state and local governments are the three arms of government within a country. The country as a large entity is large to administer or rule, so it is divided for easy administration. The federal government controls the whole country. They decide on the area that can become a state because it is central and overall government of the country. Currently Nigeria has 36 states. For easier administration closer to the grassroots, the constitution permits that each state be divided into smaller groups which is called the local government. Their operations are inter-related and interdependent ie all three arms of government. As the federal government depends on the state and local government for smooth running of the nation, so also the local and state governments depend on the federal government for national policies and finance to run.

Power to legislate

Nigeria operates a democratic system of government. In each level of government, there is a legislature. The legislature is the body of people nominated and elected to represent a particular area in the local state or federal government. These elected people are found in various house of assemblies. They decide on what should or should not be done. This power to legislate is given to each level of government. In Government, there is legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislative makes the laws, the executive carries it out while the judiciary interprets the law.

In the constitution, each arm of government has the power to carry out the execution of such. The state has the power to establish a school. It ensures that policy on education for the nation is achieved. The state also has power to introduce all other incentives to execute programs.

Functions of the Different Levels of Government

The powers and functions of Nigeria are shared between the Federal and State governments. Shared under – Exclusive list (Federal), Concurrent list (Federal and states) and Residual list (states).

The Federal Government

This is a federal republic, with executive power exercised by the president.

Functions of the Federal Government

- 1) **Law Making:** The main function of government includes law making, law execution and law adjudication.
- 2) **Maintenance of law and order:** The government is saddled with the responsibility of maintaining law and order. The police and the courts are established to carry out this function.
- 3) **Defence of the country:** To enable government function appropriately in this regard, the armed forces are set up and equipped to defend the country against any external attack.
- 4) **Protection of lives and properties:** The government owes it as its duty to protect lives and properties of the citizens.
- 5) **Administration of justice:** The law court settles disputes and administer justice. The prisons are established to punish offenders.
- 6) **Provision of amenities:** It is the duty of government to provide basic amenities for the well being of the citizens. For instance; Health care, public utilities, subsidized housing, public education etc.
- 7) **Provision of employment opportunities:** It is the duty of the government to provide employment and an enabling environment for the citizen to do business.
- 8) **Political functions:** These include conducting free and fair election, regulating political activities.

The State Government

This is the second tier of the federalism system of Government, it is headed by the state governor, and currently Nigeria has 36 states all together. The legislative arm of the state government is called the state house of assembly.

Functions of the State government

1. They are charged with the duty of providing Education for its residents
2. They are to ensure that the roads at their jurisdiction are well maintained and build new roads at where necessary.
3. They implement federal mandate
4. They are charged with the duty of collecting and generating revenue.
5. They operate judicial system.

The Local Government

The local government is the third tier of the federalism Government; it is headed by a “chairman”. It is the government of the grass root where the majority lives.

Functions of the local government

1. The local government provides health centre's to the people at the grassroots.
2. They are responsible for naming the streets and the roads
3. They help to maintain orderliness
4. They help with the duty of registering death, birth and marriage certificate.
5. Control and regulation of outdoor advertising and hoarding.

PROBLEMS OF THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENTS

In the federal system of government, there are separation of power among the three tiers of Government. Their functions are well spelt out.

- 1) Revenue allocation formula among the tiers of government.
- 2) Boundary disputes among the component units.
- 3) Inter-village or town rivalry. There had been rivalry resulting to clashes between villages or town over boundary and creation of local government.
- 4) Federal character: Appointment into federal establishments, states and local governments are not usually based on merit but federal character.

Assessment

What are the functions of the Local government?

Examining your immediate environment, does it look like the local government is working. Also mention, 3 projects they have carried out in the last one year in your environment.

Week 3 & 4

Topic: The Rule of Law

Introduction

Law is the whole system of rules that citizens of a country or place must obey. When people are in a place to avoid conflict through ignorance, there must be law that will guide everyone in that very place. While the rule of law is one of the fundamental principles of all democratic governments. The government cannot operate without the law. Therefore the government and everybody must act or do things according to the law. The rule of law emphasizes equality, impartiality and fundamental human rights. The rule of law tells us that every citizen is equal before the law. The law should not be bent because someone is rich or someone is poor. It does not permit impartiality. Some of the benefits of the rule of law as against arbitrary rule are as follows

1. The law must apply to all citizens. No one must be too big before the law
2. All accused people must be tried in the open place and not hurriedly done in the secret to favour some people
3. People are allowed to call witnesses to support their cases. All must be listened to as against the arbitrary judgement
4. The law is clear before everybody unlike the arbitrary where it is not clear and you cannot challenge it
5. Punishment for each offence must be clearly stated out. There is no arbitrary bending of judgement to favour a rich man or a person because gratification has been collected from him or her

Punishment for breaking the Law

Rule of law means the superiority of the law above all arbitrary exercise of power by those who are in government or of people in the community that we live. Where there is no law, there is no offence.

1. Murder case – Life Imprisonment
2. Robbery – Ten years and above imprisonment
3. Fraud – Ten years and above imprisonment

The rule of law stipulates that anybody found guilty no matter his status must be punished for his offence.

Equality of Citizens before the Law

In a decent society where rule of law operates, the law is no respecter of any person. Those in government who know that they have been elected to serve the people, normally obey the law they command people to obey. It is only in an indecent that people in government arrogated power of disobedience to themselves and feel they are above the law.

ASSESSMENT

1. List THREE benefits of the rule of law?

Week 5

Topic: Groups that Assist in Protecting Human Rights of Citizens

In some companies and professions and non-governmental organizations, there are bodies that assist in protecting human rights. Examples are

- Trade union – The umbrella that bind some workers together
- NUT – Nigerian Union of Teachers. Teachers within the local, state government and nation as a whole under this trade union. This union stands to protect all human rights violations against his members. Under the same union, a faction either in the local government or the state can call out its people to protest.
- Student union – Some institutions deliberately introduce policies and programmes that violate human rights in school. It could also have been denied some of their rights. The government may introduce programmes and policies that affect the fundamental human rights of citizens.
- Ethnic Associations – For the purpose of unity and cooperation, some ethnic groups form associations. This could be in locations outside their community. So anything that want to stand against such unity or rights in their community, the ethnic association would stand against violation of human rights.
- Legal Aid council – Some lawyers have come together to form a legal aid council in order to defend people whose rights are being trampled upon but who have no means of seeking for legal justice. The legal aid council takes up cases and defend people to a logical conclusion for them to win and have assess to their fundamental human rights.
- Civil Society Organisations – There are many civil organisations that assist in protecting human rights. E.g CLO, CDHR, CRP. They protect people from being molested and denied their fundamental human rights. They oppose government policies and programmes that stand against peoples' rights. They ensure that the rule of law is enforced in places where it is not in operation.

Assessment

Identify four groups that assist in protecting the human rights of others.

Week 6

Topic: Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

Meaning of Consumer Rights

Consumption (or right of the consumer) is the name given to the set of rules emanating from public authorities aimed at the protection of the consumer or user in the market of goods and services, giving and regulating certain rights and obligations. The right of use is not an autonomous branch of the law, but a cross-discipline, with items that fit within commercial law, Civil law and others within the administrative law and procedural law.

The consumption law covers several key aspects of relations between producers and consumers:

1. Contracts of adhesion: prohibits unfair terms that alter the contractual relationship in favour of the supplier of goods and services and tries to ensure that consumers know in advance all the General conditions of the contract which the employer intends to use.
2. Quality of the goods and services offered: minimum requirements.
3. Regulation of advertising and offers to the public.
4. Establishes special procedures for which consumers, associations and public bodies created so that they can defend themselves and prohibit certain abusive practices.
5. Lists a list of infractions by employers and the corresponding penalties imposed by the competent authorities of consumption.

Definition of the Consumer's Rights

It refers to the consumer's rights to the set of regulations and laws that have as main objective ensure the defence of any type of consumer situations in which does not respect his power or consumer status. The existence of this type of rights born from the extension of the mass consumption of goods and services and also the growing failure on the acquisition of those goods or services in time and manner, as they were hired.

All rights of the consumer part of the notion of that implied or explicitly, the consumer is such when it engages in any type of commercial relationship with the seller. Thus, although it is not registered by misuse of business practices, consumer happens to possess rights of claim, complaint and compensation, replacement, repair, etc. with respect to the good or service consumed if it does not comply with the conditions laid down to perform trade union.

While many companies and even individuals provide services and goods that then do not conform to the conditions offered, the consumer's right will be filing claims,

complaints or all kinds of protests. Common cases in this regard are offering promotions that are not met, prices that are not real, products that are not the displayed in brochures or advertisements, products that are defective or second line, null or shoddy repairs, etc.

All such situations are covered within what is known as the consumer's right and therefore it can exercise different tactics to ensure compliance with their rights (which are at the same time the obligations of which offer a good or service). These tactics or strategies can be very variable and can range from a simple oral or written complaint to more serious complaints that will always be necessary to submit documents and receipts evidencing the role of each of the parties involved, as well as also the failure or the reason for the dissatisfaction of the consumer. These complaints may occur before the entity in question, before the consumer defense entities or, when the case is more serious, directly to justice.

Eight (8) Universal Consumer's Rights:

1. **Right to Basic Needs**—which guarantees survival, adequate food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and sanitation. With this right, consumers can look forward to the availability of basic and prime commodities at affordable prices and good.
2. **Right to Safety**—the consumer should be protected against the marketing of goods or the provision of that are hazardous to health and life.
3. **Right to Information**—the consumer should be protected against dishonest or misleading advertising or labeling and has the right to be given the facts and information needed to make an informed choice.
4. **Right to Choose**—the consumer has the right to choose from among various products at competitive prices with an assurance of satisfactory quality.
5. **Right to Representation**—the right to express consumer interests in the making and execution of government policies.
6. **Right to Redress**— the right to be compensated for misrepresentation, shoddy goods or unsatisfactory.
7. **Right to Consumer Education**, which is the right to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to be an informed customer.
8. **Right to a Healthy Environment**—the right to live and work in an environment which is neither threatening nor dangerous and which permits a life of dignity and well-being.

ASSESSMENT

1. What is Consumer Right?
2. Highlight FIVE universal consumers right?

Week 7&8

Topic: Democracy

Ordinarily, democracy is defined as the government of the people for the people and by the people.

It is a system of government whereby people are allowed to exercise their political power by voting in of their leaders at a particular time.

It is a system of government where the people of the country determines their leaders and have the right to contribute to the development of their country.

Forms of Democracy

1. Direct democracy: This is an individual freedom; this is where people participate in the governing of the state at intervals. People have liberation without any representation.
2. Representative democracy: This is also known as indirect democracy; in this form of democracy, some people are elected to represent the masses. Whatever they say would be accepted as the voice of the people.
3. Constitutional democracy: This form of democracy is based on the laid down principles, the principle serves as the yardstick for the system of government.

Characteristics of Democracy

1. There is free and fair election
2. The law is supreme
3. The fundamental human right is respected
4. There must be majority rule and minority rights
5. There must be independence of judiciary
6. There must be periodic election
7. There must be equality before the law

Features of Democracy

- Sovereignty – This means that the decision of the government must be based on what the people who elected the government want. The representatives that form the government cannot be doing whatever they like without first consulting the people who elected them.
- Equality – Everybody in the community is equal particularly on issues concerning the law. Everybody has a right to vote and be voted for.
- Majority rule – Even though it is democracy, the decision is always based on the majority decision. True democracy does not tolerate manipulations; it is based on majority rule.

Importance of Democracy

- It creates opportunity for everybody in a place to have a say in the government of a state or a nation
- Everybody has a right to make suggestions
- Everyone has a right to nominate a person for election
- There is freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom to education

Assessment

1. Enumerate two features of democracy
2. Outline three benefits of democracy to the Nigerian Nation

Week 9

Topic: Democratic Institutions

Democratic Institutions and their Functions

- **INEC** – Independent National Electoral Commission is the institution being set up to plan, scrutinize people who want to be voted into power and conduct the election to choose the rightful candidates for each contested post. INEC does not belong to any party or group. INEC doesn't belong to any political party. It is a neutral body so that it can be fair in decision making. It makes every citizen to know the conditions that qualifies anybody to contest election into any post. It makes every citizen to know its rules and regulations as regards the qualifications of candidates who have showed interest in applying for public office. Everyone has the right to vote and be voted for. But people with questionable character or those having bad personal records are not allowed to contest for responsible positions in the society. The INEC has the power to disqualify a candidate if he or she doesn't meet with the conditions.
- **Political Parties** – These are institutions of groups of people who have similar political ideas and opinions on how a place, state or country should be governed. Different political parties are formed according to the ideas that each group has. The political parties register with INEC and all their claims are verified before approving their candidates. Whosoever contest an election under a political party must follow the ideology of the party in governing the state or nation.
- **Pressure Group** – They are groups of similar or common interest. They come together with one mind to influence government policies and decisions. They do not make any effort to contest election to be directly in charge of things. The aim of such pressure groups is the realization of group interest.
- **Arms of Government** – The various arms of government are democratic institutions that help in proper functioning of a democracy.

ASSESSMENT

1. Highlight THREE democratic institution?

Week 10

Topic: Pillars of Democracy

Pillars of Democracy

Pillar means a tall upright object used as support. It could also mean a very important part of a system. The pillars on which democracy is standing are as follows:

1. The fundamental human rights enjoyed by everybody in the nation as a whole include
 - Freedom of movement/association
 - Freedom of religion
 - Freedom to be educated
 - Right to vote and be voted for
2. Democracy is based on the rule of law
3. Equality of everybody before the law
4. The principle of separation of powers where checks and balances are implemented

The Pillars of Democracy

1. **People** – The first and sole pillar of democracy are the people who operate democracy. Without the people, there cannot be any democracy. Democracy is the government of the people by the people and for the people.
2. **Democratic Institutions** – These are also other pillars of democracy. Getting good and God fearing leaders depend on how effective INEC is in doing their work
3. **The Pressure Groups** – Are other pillars of democracy. The pressure they put on government to influence decision go a long way to make democracy to stand firm
4. **The arms of Government** – The legislative, judiciary and executive are other pillars of democracy. The separation of power among them make things to work out well.
5. **Rule of Law** – This is a process that is bound up with the law and that the law is supreme. This makes everybody to be equal before the law. And there will be no impartiality

6. **Transparency** – True democracy does not permit any secrecy. All that is done is done in the open. This transparency is a strong pillar that makes democracy one of the best systems of government
7. Majority rule and minority rights is maintained in a democracy: The majority elected to rule must not neglect the rights of the minority in the society.

Assessment

List three pillars of democracy and discuss the function of each pillar

THIRD TERM NOTES ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Week 2 & 3

Topic: Election and Voter's Responsibilities

Introduction

In a community, everybody cannot lead. So there must be representatives who will give directives for others to follow. This has given rise to nominations and election of representatives that will direct the affairs of a particular community.

Election is simply defined as the process by which people are voted into power. It is the way of voting people to occupy political offices in order to serve the community or society for a particular period of time.

Election is the process by which people select or elect a candidate into an official position. It is usually carried out in a democratic system of government. Election is done through voting. Elections are conducted at definite intervals as spelt out in the constitution of the nation.

Voting is a method for a group, such as, a meeting or an electorate to make a decision or express an opinion, usually following discussions, debates or election campaigns. Residents of a place represented by an elected official are called “constituents”, and those constituents who cast a ballot for their chosen candidate are called “voters”.

Types of Election

There are different types of elections to elect leaders in a given community. These elections are:

1. **Primary Election:** Within a party, those to contest for a particular post like president, senators/ house of reps, governors, chairman etc are nominated within themselves. Primary election is the election that is held within the political party to choose the party representatives at the ward, constituencies, state or national level.
2. **General Election:** These types of elections are held at the same time all over the country. In the general election all the candidates that are presented by the parties for each post now come out to contest in the general election, in this election everybody stay within their area in the country to cast their vote.

3. **Bye election:** This is the type of election held to choose a candidate for a vacant post as a result of death or resignation of the former representatives. It is usually carried out in the ward or state where such happens.
4. **Run-off election:** This is the kind of election that is carried out when there is no candidate that wins the election as directed by the law. It takes place after no candidate earned a majority in an election.
5. **Electoral College:** This is an indirect system of election; it is the election in which the generality of the people votes to elect people who would in turn vote several times to elect the needed representatives.

Qualifications for Elections

There are basic qualifications for elections. These are

1. Anybody that must contest an election must belong to a registered political party
2. He must be an adult who is able to contribute to the welfare of the nation
3. Such an individual must have clean records within and outside the nation
4. He must be free from all bias, favouritism, ethnicity, preference.
5. He must be a person who is ready to serve and not a person who wants to be served
6. He must be a person of high intelligent quotient
7. He must be disciplined and be ready through example instill discipline to others also
8. A corrupt free individual

Assessment

1. Define the concept of election, voter and voting.
2. List five types of election

Week 4 & 5

Topic: Election Voters and Responsibilities (II)

Importance of Election

Election is important for the following reasons

1. To vote candidate of choice into power
2. To have a change of government
3. To make people participate in governance through their vote
4. To make people perform their political and civic right
5. To have a change of policy
6. To unseat the a government that is not performing well

Responsibilities of Voters

Every voter that wants the truth to prevail and wants good leadership must be ready to stand against all odds. Some responsibilities of a voters are

1. Be a vigilant and an enlightened citizen. Know what goes on around you
2. Reject corrupt political party and electoral officers
3. Reject all forms of gratifications before voting for a candidate
4. Cast your vote only for the sincere and disciplined candidates
5. Enlighten others who may not know the truth so as not to be victims of the dubious politicians
6. Be disciplined and have self control

Procedure for Voting

Voter's Registration

Step 1: A Nigerian citizen who is eligible to vote, goes to the INEC website to locate his Polling Unit.

Step 2: The citizen goes to the chosen Polling Unit to register

Step 3: The citizen would have his/her picture taken and his/her details captured.

Step 4: The citizen would be given a Voter ID card which makes him/her eligible to vote on election day.

Election Day:

STAGE 1: Accreditation

Step 1: Go to the Polling Unit you were registered with your voter registration card and join the queue

Step 2: Present your Voter registration card to the INEC official and ensure that your name is in the register

Step 3: Your finger would be marked with ink to show that you have been accredited.

STAGE 2: Voting

Step 1: Join the queue with the intention of casting your vote

Step 2: When it gets to your turn, ensure your name is ticked in the voter register

Step 3: You would be given a ballot paper listing out the political parties

Step 4: Enter the booth and select your preferred candidate

Step 5: Place your ballot paper in the ballot box

Electoral Bodies

Electoral bodies are those who conduct and supervise election process. The constitution has provided for how election should be conducted. The body is called Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The body conducts election into federal and state electoral constituencies. Usually for the conduct of local government elections, the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) is in charge i.e. the state government takes over the conduct of the local government election.

The INEC and SIEC are responsible for the

1. Conduct of voters' registration,
2. Keeping custody of voters registers
3. Printing of Ballot Papers
4. Supervision of elections

5. Declaration of results
6. When there is an election petition, INEC and SIEC are officials also invited to give evidence and defense at the tribunal.

Assessment

- What is the procedure for voting?
- When you get to the age of voting (18yrs), are you likely to vote?

Week 6

Topic: Electoral Malpractice

Electoral Malpractice

Malpractice is the act of failing to do professional duty properly or making a mistake while doing it. E.g a police man failing to arrest and prosecute criminals has failed in his responsibilities and this is a malpractice.

Electoral malpractice is the failing of all electoral institutions or bodies to carry out election in the proper or professional ways it is supposed to be done. It is any act that hinders free and fair election. i.e. it is any act of lawlessness that could stop or discourage people to cast their vote freely and sincerely.

Forms of Electoral Malpractices

Electoral malpractices can come in various forms which are:

1. Through under- age voting – People indulge in this by allowing those who are not adult to vote, those who are below the age of 18.
2. Multiple registrations of voters by a single individual.
3. Stealing of electoral materials like ballot boxes, ballot papers, voters register etc.
4. Thuggery and intimidation – Some people employ thugs to put fear in people's mind so they can stop them from coming out to vote
5. Falsification or outright inflation of election results
6. Bribery and corruption in the form of giving money to electoral officers with the intention to make them change election results.
7. Financial inducement – Poverty as made many in the country not to have a say. People are ready to vote for politicians who give them money
8. Fake manifestos – Many contestants present what they know they will not be able to achieve throughout their term.
9. Keeping of electoral materials into personal custody and not with INEC or SIEC
10. Fake ballot papers – Ballot papers are to be provided by the electoral body INEC and sometimes parties conspire with electoral officers and use fake ballot papers along with the genuine ones

11. Manipulation of voters – Illiteracy makes many voters to fall prey to wicked people and politicians who wants to be leaders by all means
12. Artificial Scarcity – During election some wicked people conspire with electoral officers to create artificial scarcity of electoral materials by hoarding the materials.

Assessment

Mention 5 forms of electoral malpractices common in Nigeria

Week 7 & 8

Topic: Electoral Malpractice (II)

Causes of Electoral Malpractice

1. **Tribal sentiment** – Many tribes want a leader from their ethnic group to rule the nation rather than vote for good and trustworthy leaders
2. **Foreign influence** – Other countries want to support those who would favour them when in Government.
3. **Politics as a means of getting rich** – Many people who were paupers become rich through politics. They embezzle money and do what they like hence the reason many contestants involve in malpractice just to win the election
4. **Illiteracy and Poverty** – Many people are illiterates and they are poor so they are easily manipulated
5. **Quest to continue in power** – Some leaders who have tasted power wants to continue to serve and do not want to leave the position of power.

Consequences of Electoral Malpractice

1. Unpopular people will become leaders
2. They will use their thuggery and intimidation lifestyle on people
3. Hooligans who brought them to power would be the people they appoint in charge of things
4. Tribal and ethnic sentiments would be used in selecting and executing government projects
5. Money meant for projects will be diverted and embezzled
6. Those in power will do all to eliminate their opposition
7. The level of illiteracy and poverty will continue

How to Prevent Electoral Malpractice/Solution to Electoral Malpractice

The following are the ways by which electoral malpractices can be prevented

1. Arrest and prosecution of people who violate electoral laws.

2. Swearing exercise should not be done until all petitions are disposed of at election tribunals.
3. Corrupt law enforcement should be dealt with and if possible sacked from service
4. Customization of ballot papers in the form of putting the computer information about a registered voter on the ballot paper to prevent multiple voting.
5. The use of advanced information technology such as computers and forensic machine for detection of fingerprints will reduce the act of multiple registrations.
6. There should be programmes to educate majority, so as to reduce the level of illiteracy in the country
7. A person found guilty in electoral malpractices should be banned from politics for life.
8. Honest men and women should be appointed into the electoral institution to conduct elections
9. There should be stringent measures against electoral malpractices
10. Pressure groups should rise up from all quarters to oppose electoral malpractices
11. There should be a programme to educate the majority.
12. Opposition parties should not relent and make sure things are done in the right way

Assessment

- How can electoral malpractice be controlled? Discuss two ways
- Enumerate three consequences of Electoral malpractice

WEEK 9

Teachers and Students will attend seminars and excursions based on what has been taught for the term

ASSESSMENT

Discuss what has been learnt all through the term?

Week 10

Revision and Examination.

Students and Teachers are expected to do a revision of the term's work.
Thereafter, examination will commence.

ASSESSMENT

1. Revision of the term's work?

Week 11

Topic: Qualification for Election and responsibilities of voters

AS the Nation prepares for Election, the educational qualifications of candidates contesting the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has generated endless controversies. Two Schools of thought are locked in the controversy. The dominant School of thought has asserted loudly and clearly, that a person is not eligible to contest election to the office of the President unless he/she produces a Secondary School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent. It has been and it is still being contended that candidates must possess/produce educational qualification of at least Secondary School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent in order to be eligible to contest the on coming elections. Section 131 (d) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) has been cited in support of the contention by proponents of that view to support their position. The said Section provides: “131. A person shall be qualified for election to the office of President if- (d) he has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent.”

You will find the provisions of the law relating to the National Assembly in Sections 65 – 79 of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution. One is qualified for election as a member of the Senate, if he/she is a citizen of Nigeria; has attained the age of 35 years; has been educated up to at least School Certificate level; is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party. It's pretty much the same qualifications for contesting in the House of Representatives, except that one must have attained the age of 30 years to be qualified to be a member of the House of Representatives.

Furthermore, the following Persons are disqualified from being members of the National Assembly;

- persons who have voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another country;
- is a lunatic;
- is under a death sentence;
- has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty in 10 years preceding the election or breaching the code of conduct;
- is an undischarged bankrupt; has been indicted of embezzlement or fraud; is a member of a secret society; or has forged a certificate to INEC .

For the purpose of Senatorial elections, INEC shall divide each state into 3 senatorial districts and 360 federal constituencies in respect of elections into the House of Representatives. INEC is charged with appointing the date for the elections and every Nigerian who has attained the age of eighteen years shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for the election provided that he/she resides in Nigeria at the time of the registration of voters for purposes of the elections.

VOTER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

While the right to vote is one of the most important liberties enjoyed as Nigerians, it is also one of our greatest responsibilities as citizens. We hope you will take the time to familiarize yourself with these important provisions.

VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

- Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
- Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
- Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
- Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
- An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
- If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
- Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
- Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
- Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each registered voter in this state should:

- Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.

- Maintain with the office of the supervisor of elections a current address.
- Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
- Bring proper identification to the polling station.
- Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
- Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
- Respect the privacy of other voters.
- Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
- Ask questions, if needed.
- Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

Assessment

- Identify five responsibilities of a voter.
- List five rights of a voter.

Week 12

Topic: Procedure for voting

Introduction: This is designed to help you understand the Voting Procedures during an election. Remember that you are qualified to vote if you are a registered voter and your name appears on the register of voters at your polling unit. You must also present yourself at the polling unit.

Opening of the Polling Units

On each election day, polling units will open for Accreditation and Voting from 8:00am to 2.00pm. However voters already on the queue before the close of poll at 2.00pm will be accredited and allowed to vote.

Voting Procedure

Voting at the polling unit will be as follows:

Step 1: Upon arrival at the polling unit, join the queue.

Step 2: The Polling Official will request for your Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) and check if the photograph on the PVC matches your face. Then he/she will check if your name is on the register for that polling unit. He/she will also use the card reader to confirm the status of the PVC. After this, he/she will check your fingers to ascertain that you have not voted before.

Step 3: Satisfied that you have been duly verified, the INEC Official will tick against your details in the register.

Step 4: After verifying your PVC, the INEC official will return it to you. Indelible ink will be applied on the cuticle of your finger as a further proof that you have voted.

Step 5: The INEC Official will stamp the back of the ballot paper and endorse his/her signature on it.

Step 6: The INEC Official will then fold the ballot paper vertically with the printed side inwards before giving it to you.

Step 7: At the polling booth, you will then stain your appropriate finger for the election with indelible ink.

Step 8: You will use your stained thumb to mark the section provided on the ballot paper for your preferred candidate/party.

Step 9: You will fold the marked ballot paper vertically with the printed side inwards before dropping it in the ballot box.

Step 10: You will then leave the polling station.

Your right as a voter

On each Election Day, you have the right to:

- Access the polling station
- Receive information on the voting procedures from the poll officials
- Vote in secret.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Step 1: A Nigerian citizen who is eligible to vote, goes to the INEC website to locate his Polling Unit.

Step 2: The citizen goes to the chosen Polling Unit to register

Step 3: The citizen would have his/her picture taken and his/her details captured.

Step 4: The citizen would be given a Voter ID card which makes him/her eligible to vote on election day.

ELECTION DAY:

STAGE 1: ACCREDITATION

Step 1: Go to the Polling Unit you were registered with your voter registration card and join the queue

Step 2: Present your Voter registration card to the INEC official and ensure that your name is in the register

Step 3: Your finger would be marked with ink to show that you have been accredited.

STAGE 2: VOTING

Step 1: Join the queue with the intention of casting your vote

Step 2: When it gets to your turn, ensure your name is ticked in the voter register

Step 3: You would be given a ballot paper listing out the political parties

Step 4: Enter the booth and select your preferred candidate

Step 5: Place your ballot paper in the ballot box

Assessment

- Explain the procedures of voting.

Week 13

Topic: Solution to electoral malpractices

The following solutions can bring an end to all the negativities caused by electoral malpractices in our country and also fix our electoral system which is now producing sour instead of sweet grapes:

If our country is going to become what we want it to be, then our political system which is the industry responsible for recruiting into and retrenching out of our leadership sector must become an epitome of sanctified patriotism.

The first and the most important is for this country to call a national reconciliation and reconstruction conference like what happened in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This will involve the acceptance and recognition of all tribes, language, ethnic nationalities, religions, communities, cultures and traditions. This step will help in giving a sense of belonging to all and sundry and pave a way for a really peaceful co-existence of Nigerians. This peace will give people the assurance of free and fair elections, fair hearing and equality before the law, which will gradually role away all forms of electoral malpractice in our nation. Once this has been done, other issue can now be addressed.

The issue of corruption, (looking at bribery, money laundering, diversion and misappropriation) can be solved in Nigeria if, the government is ready to make the Naira more valuable. But we have been hit by the falling oil prices which has led to the devaluation of the Naira by CBN and austerity measures put in place by the economic team.

Not only this, the salaries and allowances of political officers should be reduced to the barest minimum. Again, the legislation of how much one can transfer as an individual or corporate organization should be further strengthened and made more effective. Unless, the amount an individual can have (in cash or in bank) is officially reduced, in respect to their source(s) of income being monitored by financial intelligent agencies, the rate at which people will be scrambling for money will be going higher and the level of corruption will be aiming at the sky like the tower of Babylon. More value must be placed on intellectual capability and positive contributions rather than on how much people are worth in millions.

The annual national merit award should be restructured in a drastic way. The restructuring should allow for recognition of people who are working for the development of their community, students who have excelled like Daniel in their studies, vigilantes who ward off all form of robbery and attack on their local districts, teachers/lecturers who are genuinely special in their field. Broadcasters who specially appeal to large audience on national issues, Medical personnel who have

been clinically tested and proven to be a true life saver, people who return stolen/lost/missing items (especially money), Prisoners who are found worthy in learning and character and so on.

Economic policies must be changed and youth focused. Since youths are the most unemployed in this country, then the government should see it as utmost importance to get them into self-sustaining jobs. The issue of years of experience request from youths/fresh graduates should be barred. The government should guarantee, transmit and distribute electricity that will be constant and enough for all places, households, industries, factories, workshops and so on. By the time this happen, the rate of unemployment will be colossally reduced, because millions of jobs rely on constant power supply to survive. It should also be noted that Nigerians will pay less for services like transportation, telephone, fabrication, document processing etc. if the power supply is at par with the population demand. Industries should be established with industrial training students, national youth service corps members and internship students in mind. These industries will run by the aforementioned groups. By this, the necessary job experience will be obtained and they can even get an appreciable capital to start their own businesses.

In conclusion, there is nothing happening in the physical, that does not happen in (have its foundation and running) in the spiritual. In lieu of this, there is an urgent need for the church in Nigeria to take charge of Nigeria in all sphere of our daily living. Ye are the light of the world and whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bind in heaven... The church in Nigeria (Christianity) is not a religion; rather it is a total way of life, so the 'take charge' here does not mean one religion domination. Leaders like Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Mordecai, Daniel, Peter and Paul have to be groomed under biblical leadership manual. Such people should be taught intellectual and biblical principles of discipleship and leadership but must be made to know that, the only time a country can be good is if it is governed under the 'kingdom principles'.

Nigeria will be great again, if the church will lay-hold on the seat of authority and operate as biblically instructed.

Assessment

- Identify four solutions to the problems of electoral malpractice.