



# **GEOGRAPHY**

*FOR*  
Senior Secondary School

# 1



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**SS1**

**GEOGRAPHY**

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**SS1**  
**GEOGRAPHY**  
**FIRST TERM**

# Week 1

## Topic: Introduction to Geography

### Content

1. Definition of Geography
2. Scope of Geography
3. Importance of Geography

### **Definition of Geography**

The word geography is coined from two greek words **geo**, meaning the earth and **graph** meaning to describe. So, geography can simply be defined as the description of the earth. Geography is better defined as the study of the people, their activities, places and physical things within the earth.

### **Nature of Geography**

Geography deals with the study of different people from different locations of the earth which include: agriculture, mining, fishing, trading, manufacturing and construction. It also involves the study of places like U.S.A, China, Nigeria, Kano, South Africa, Ghana etc.

Geography also deals with the study of physical things within the earth such as rocks, mountain, plains, oceans, rivers, climate, vegetations etc

### **Scope of geography**

Geography is a social science and subject while deals with the study of man and his activities within his environment. Geography ideas are real, practical and easy to understand because they are relevant to our very day life. Geography touches many other spheres such as agriculture science, government, history, economics etc. It is a subject which cut across the field of human study.

### **Value or Importance of geography**

1. It enables us to study the way of life of other people in other parts of the world.
2. It enables us to study physical things around us like soil, vegetation, climate, rivers, oceans, mountains etc

3. It enables us to know the relevance of these physical things around us and how they can be harnessed for human use
4. It enables us to choose a career from which we earn a living and contribute to the economic development of our country.
5. It enables us to understand certain areas of other subjects like vegetation and soils in agriculture, ecology and food chain in Biology, population, industries and trade in economics.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Define Geography
2. List 4 importance of geography

## Week 2

### Topic: The Solar Energy

**Solar Energy:** It is radiant light and heat from the sun harnessed using a range of ever-evolving technologies such as solar heating, photovoltaics, solar thermal energy, solar architecture and artificial photosynthesis. The solar energy consists of the sun and nine planets

**The sun:** is the center of the solar system and all the nine planets revolve round it. The nine planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune ad Pluto. Each of these have its own characteristics, features and content. Some of them have various numbers of moons. Energy from the sun is important to life on earth.



**Satellite** is a smaller body which moves around a planet. There are natural and artificial satellites. Example of natural satellite is the moon. While artificial satellites are man made. There ar different types according to the purpose they serve.

**Galaxies:** a galaxy is defined as a large system of stars held together by mutual gravitation and isolated from similar systems by vast regions of space.

The solar system is the milky way galaxy, other galaxies are ascending order from the solar systems which include the following: Ursa, Large magellanic cloud, Small magellanic cloud, dwarf etc



## The planets and their characteristics

**Mercury:** Mercury is the smallest, hottest and the closest planet to the sun. The mercury contain no living thing because of its temperature and takes eighty days to complete it orbits. The mercury has the shortest orbits around the sun. The mercury distance from the sun is 57,600,000km (36,000,000miles). The mercury has no satellite

**Venus:** Venus is the second closest planet to the sun. Venus contain no living things. The Venus is often regarded to the “earth twin” because of their close proximity in size, mass and density. It takes the Venus 225 days to complete its revolution. The Venus distance from the sun is 107,200,000km. The Venus as no satellite

**Earth:** The earth is the only planets that supports the existence of plants and animals. The earth has natural satellite called the **Moon**. The moon revolves eastward around the earth once in every 27days. It takes the earth  $365\frac{1}{4}$ days (a year) to completes its orbits. The distance between the earth and the sun is 148,800,000km (93,000,000miles). The distance between the earth and the moon is 384,629km.

**Mars:** The Mars is believed to be the next planet after the earth to have the possibility to support plant’s life. The mars have two satellites. The distance of the mars from the sun is 227,200,000km. It takes the mars 687 days to complete its orbit.

**Jupiter:** Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. The Jupiter contains gases such as hydrogen and methane with light and dark bands. Jupiter has 12 satellites, the distance between the Jupiter and the sun is 772,800,000km. It takes the Jupiter about 11.9years to complete its orbit around the sun

**Saturn:** Saturn is the second largest planet after Jupiter. Saturn has 3 rings and 9 satellites. The distance between the Saturn and the sun is 1,417,600,000km. It takes the Saturn 29. Years to complete its orbit

**Uranus:** Uranus orbits around the sun anticlockwise direction from east to west. Uranus has five satellite which revolve around it. The distance of the Uranus from the sun is 2,854,400,000km. It takes the Uranus 84years o complete its orbit

**Neptune:** Neptune is very cold and has two satellites. The Neptune distance from the sun is 4,468,800,000km. It takes the Neptune 164.8years to complete its orbits

**Pluto:** Pluto is the coldest planet and the farthest planet from the sun. Pluto has the longest orbit around the sun. Pluto takes about 247.7years to complete its orbit. The distance of the Pluto from the sun is 5,850,000,000km. Pluto has no satellite

## ASSESSMENT.

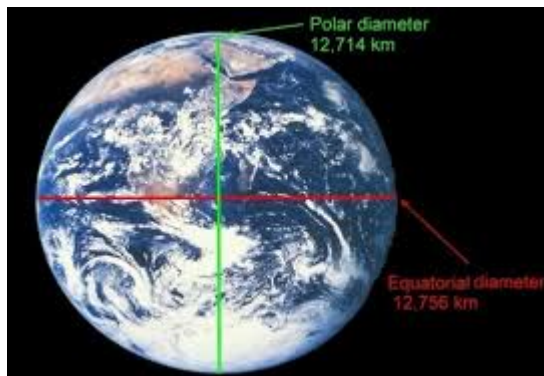
1. List the planets and their characteristics.
2. What is a galaxy?

## Week 3

### Topic: The Earth

#### The shape of the Earth

The earth is not flat. The earth has a spherical shape and slightly flattened at the poles to give a nearly spherical shape. The earth's shape is better described as a **geoid** which means, the earth's shape.



#### The size of the Earth

The earth is the fifth largest planet in the solar system. The surface area of the earth is approximately 443 million square kilometres (97million square miles). Other important dimensions of the earth are:

- Equatorial circumference = 40,085km

- Equatorial diameter= 12,762km
- Polar circumference = 39,955km
- Polar diameter = 12, 722km

## Evidence/ proof of the earth's sphericity

There are many ways to prove or show that the earth is spherical. These include:

1. **Circumnavigation of the Earth:** it is possible to go round the earth by air, land and sea and return to the starting point as carried out by Ferdinand Magellan and his crew 1519 and 1522, if the earth is flat, one would come in contact with an abrupt edge and fall off
2. **Sunrise and Sunset:** As the earth rotates from west to east, places in the east experience the sun earlier (sunrise) than places in the west. Also places in the west see the sun later (sunset) than places in the east. The whole earth would experience sunrise and sunset at the same time if the earth is flat
3. **The circular horizon:** when one views a distance horizon from any point of the earth. The shape is always circular. And as one climbs higher, the circular horizon widens this type of feature is seen only on a spherical body.
4. **Ship's visibility:** when a ship, approaching a port viewed, the top of the mast is seen first before the hull and later the rest of the ship's body. If ship leaves a harbour, it disappears gradually, if the earth is flat, the ship from a distant view would appear and disappear at once
5. **Planetary bodies:** when the sun, moon, stars and other planetary bodies are viewed from any angle, they are all circular in outline. So, the earth cannot be an exception.
6. **Driving poles of equal length on the earth:** three poles of equal length driven at the same depth in a level ground were found to have the centre pole projected slightly above the poles at either side because of the curvature of the earth. If the earth is flat, all the poles would have the same height.
7. **The lunar eclipse:** during lunar eclipse, the earth casts a circular shadow on the moon. Only a sphere, like the earth can cast such a circular shadow.
8. **Aerial photographs:** pictures of the earth taken from high altitudes by rockets clearly show the curve edge of the earth. This is the most recent proof of the sphericity of the earth.

## The Movement of The Earth

The earth moves in space in two different ways. These are: Rotation and Revolution

### Rotation of the Earth

The earth moves or rotates on its axis from west to east. The rotating earth is inclined at an angle of  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  along its axis. It takes the earth 24 hours (i.e a day) to complete one rotation (ie the earth rotates through  $360^{\circ}$  in every 24 hour). The rotation of the earth causes day and night; this is why twenty four hours in a day. That is, twelve hours of day light and twelve hours of darkness. This division does not occur at all times in all places. It rotates through  $15^{\circ}$  in 1 hour or  $1^{\circ}$  in 4 minutes

## Effects of Rotation of the Earth.

1. **Day and Night:** As the earth rotates, only one part of the earth's surface facing the sun receives the rays of the sun and experiences daylight (day) while other part of the earth backing the sun's rays will experience darkness (night)
2. **Deflection of winds and ocean current:** The rotation of the earth causes winds and ocean current to be deflected to the right of the direction in which they move in the Northern hemisphere and to the left of this direction in the southern hemisphere.
3. **Apparent sunrise and sunset:** During the rotation of the earth, part of the earth that emerges from the darkness into the rays of the sun experiences sunrise while the part that is moving away from sun's rays to darkness will experience sunset.
4. **Time differences from places to places.** The earth rotates through 360° in every 24 hours which means that for every one hour, it passes through 15°. Since the earth moves from west to east, it means that every 15°, the east is always one hour ahead of time while the west is always one hour behind time.
5. **Daily rising and falling of the tides:** During rotation of the earth, it results in the rising and falling in the level of water in the seas and oceans. Owing to rotation of the earth, the tide producing forces cause the surface of water to oscillate, resulting in the rising and falling in the level of water in the seas and oceans.
6. **Dawn and Twilight:** Dawn refers to the brief period between sunrise and full day light while twilight refers to the brief period between sunset and complete darkness. Dawn and twilight which are the result of rotation are caused because; the earth receives diffused or reflected light from sun while it is still below the horizon.

### Earth's movement (revolution and effects)

The earth moves or revolves around the sun on its orbit. The revolving earth is tilted or inclined at an angle of  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  to the plane of ecliptic during its revolution. It takes the earth  $365\frac{1}{2}$  days to complete one revolution (ie moves round the sun). The revolution of the earth causes four seasons in a year. The  $\frac{1}{4}$  day or 6 hours is added up every four years to make an extra day in a leap year. A leap year has 366 days while a normal year has 365 days.

## Differences between Rotation and Revolution

### Rotation

The earth rotates on its axis

The earth rotates through  $360^{\circ}$  in 24 hours (one day)

The rotating earth is inclined at an angle of  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  along its axis

Rotation causes day and night

Rotation causes the difference of one hour between two meridians –  $15^{\circ}$  apart

### **Effects of revolution of the Earth**

### Revolution

The earth revolves round the sun along its orbit

The earth revolves round the sun in  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days (one year)

The revolving earth is tilted or inclined at angle of  $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  to the plane of ecliptic

Revolution causes seasons

Revolution causes changes in the altitude of the mid day sun

1. **It determines the year:** The time taken by the earth to move round the sun (i.e. complete its orbit) is fixed at  $365\frac{1}{4}$  which make up a year.
2. **It causes seasons:** In tropical areas like West Africa, including Nigeria, there are two seasons – rainy season and dry season. But in temperate region countries, the revolution of the earth causes four seasons – winter, spring, autumn and summer.
3. **Changes in seasonal temperature:** It is observed that summers are usually warm and bright, while winters are cold and dark in the arctic region. These include:
  - During summer, the zenith angle of the sun is higher
  - The concentration of the heat over a small area leads to high temperature
  - In, winter, the oblique rays of the sun fall faintly over a large area
  - The little heat makes the temperature to remain low
  - There are twenty four hours of darkness in winter
  - Days are longer than night in summer while in winter, nights are longer than day

# ECLIPS

## **Meaning;**

Eclipse is formed when the three bodies- sun, earth and the moon are in straight line during movement of the earth. The moon revolves round the earth once in every twenty seven days (a month), the earth and the moon travel together, making a complete movement around the sun once in a year. During this movement, there will be a time when these three bodies (earth, sun and moon) will be in straight line resulting in the formation of an Eclipse.

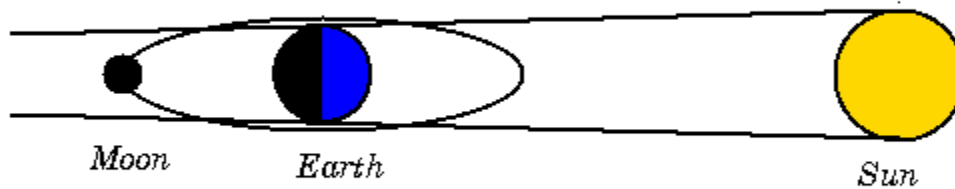
## **Types of Eclipse**

There are two types of eclipse. These are:

### **(1) Eclipse of the moon(lunar eclipse):**

Eclipse of the moon occurs when earth comes between the moon and the sun

#### *Lunar Eclipse*

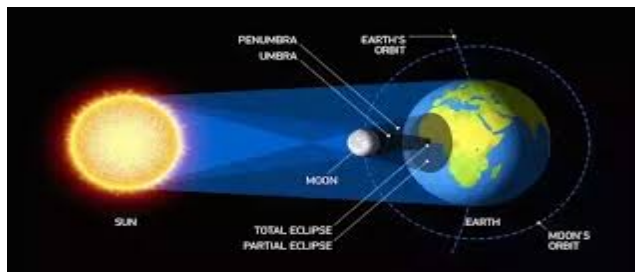


*Phase of the Moon: FULL*

## **Sun Earth Moon**

### **(2) Eclipse of the sun (solar eclipse):**

Eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon comes between the sun and the earth, thereby, causing a partial or total darkness of the earth



## **Sun Moon Earth**

### **Dawn and Twilight**

**Dawn** refers to the brief period between sunrise and full day light. **Twilight** refers to the brief period between sunset and complete darkness.

**Dawn and twilight** occur because the earth receives diffused or reflected light from the sun while it is still below the horizon. In case of the twilight, there is little or no twilight at the equator because the sun rises or sets rapidly. The sun rises almost vertically from the horizon at the equator.

**Twilight** occurs longer at higher latitudes because the sun sets more slowly. The sun rises and set at a low level. Therefore, there are periods of twilight than full day light at the Arctic Circle.

### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. What are the evidences that the earth is spherical?
2. What are the effects of rotations of the earth?
3. What are the differences between rotation and revolution of the earth?
4. What is the difference between dawn and twilight?

# Week 4

## Topic: Latitude and Longitude

### Latitude

Latitude is the angular distance of a point on the earth's surface, measured in degree from centre of the earth. Latitude (0°), called equator, divides the earth into two equals- the Northern and Southern hemisphere. All other latitudes are parallel to the equator and to each other; hence, the latitudes are also called parallels of latitude.

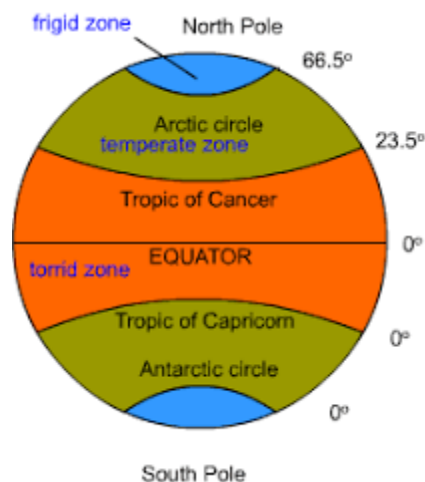
### Importance of latitude lines include:

- (i) The equator 0°
- (ii) Tropic of Cancer (lat 23°12'N), tropic of Capricorn (lat 23°12'S), arctic circle (66°12'N), Antarctic Circle (66°12'S), North pole (90°N) and South pole (90°S)

### Uses of Lines of Latitude

- (i) The lines of latitude in conjunction with that of longitude are used to determine the exact location of places on the atlas map.

North pole 90°N  
Arctic circle 66°12'N  
Tropic of cancer 23°12'N  
Equator 0°  
Tropic of Capricorn 23°12'S  
Antarctic Circle 66°12'S  
South pole 90°S



- (ii) Lines are also used to calculate the distance between two places on the earth surface

### LONGITUDE

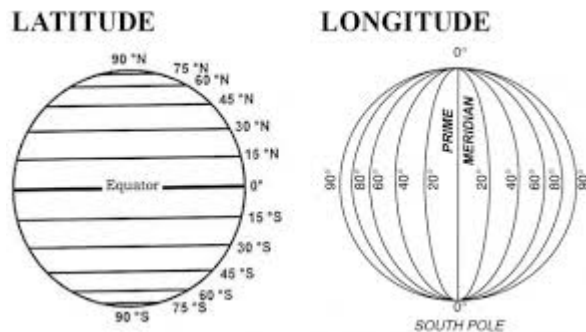
**Longitude** is an imaginary line drawn on the globe of (earth) running from north to south at right angle to the parallels. In other words, longitude is an angular distance measured in degrees east and west of the Greenwich Meridian. All lines of longitude which run from north to south are called **Lines of Longitude**. All longitude are called **Meridians** and are numbered in degrees East and West of Longitude 0°

### Uses of lines of longitude

- The lines of longitude in conjunction with that of latitude are used to determine the exact location of places on the atlas map.
- Lines of longitude are also used to calculate local time between two places of the earth

### Similarities between lines of latitude and longitude

- Longitude and latitude are both imaginary lines drawn on the globe
- Longitude and latitude are measured in degrees
- Longitude and latitude are used for location of places on the map
- Longitude and latitude contain great circles



### Differences between the lines of latitude and longitude

#### Lines of Latitude

Lines of latitude runs from west to east south  
 Lines of latitude are parallel to each other poles  
 Lines of latitude gets shorter toward the poles  
 Lines of latitude equator is the only great circle  
 Lines of latitude are called parallel  
 Lines of latitude are used for measuring distance  
 Lines of latitude are used for calculating local time

#### Lines of Longitude

Lines of longitude runs from north to south  
 Lines of longitude are not parallel to each other poles  
 Lines of longitude are of the same length  
 Lines of longitude has many great circle as the opposite pairs of lines make a great circle  
 Lines of longitude are called Meridians  
 Lines of longitude are not used to measure distance  
 Lines of longitude are not used for calculating local time

Lines of latitude has equator as its reference point	Lines of longitude has Greenwich Meridian as its reference point
Lines of latitude measures up to $180^{\circ}$ ( $90^{\circ}\text{N} - 0^{\circ} - 90^{\circ}\text{N}$ )	Lines of longitude measures up to $360^{\circ}$ ( $180^{\circ}\text{W} - 0^{\circ} - 180^{\circ}\text{E}$ )
Lines of latitude decrease in length	Lines of longitude increase in length
Lines of latitude increase in value from the equator towards the poles	Lines of longitude increase in value from east wards and west wards of the Greenwich Meridian

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. Define Latitude
2. Define Longitude
3. List 5 differences between longitude and latitude

# Week 5

## Topic: Latitude and Longitude

### Content:

Calculation of distances using lines of latitude

Calculation of local time and longitude

International Dateline ; Time and Time Zones

### **Calculation of distances using lines of latitude**

The distance between one line of the latitude and another is 111km  
Two points lying North or South of equator are subtracted to get the latitude difference.  
Example: Calculate the appropriate distance in a straight line between Tama (lat 60N) and London (lat 520 N)  
Solution: Latitude difference = 520 - 60 = 460  
Average distance = 111km  
460 = 46 x 111km = 5, 106km

### **Calculation of local time and longitude**

The earth rotates at an angle of 10 in 4minutes; 15° in 1 hour and 360° in 24 hours.

Example: if the time in Cameroon 30°E is 3:00pm. What time will it be in London?

Solution: 30° = 30 x 1 x 4minutes = 120 minutes = 2 hours

Time in London = 3:00pm - 2 hours

15 hours - 2 hours

Time in London = 13hours

Time in London = 1:00 pm

### **International Dateline**

## **Time and Time Zones;**

Time zones are based on the fact that Earth moves through 15 degrees of longitude (imaginary vertical lines drawn on the globe) each hour. Therefore, there are 24 standard time zones ( $24 \text{ hours} \times 15^\circ = 360^\circ$ ), which is the sum of angles in a circle.

Time zones are counted from the **Prime Meridian** ( $0^\circ$  longitude), which runs through Greenwich, England. Each time zone is based on a central meridian, counted at  $15^\circ$  intervals from the Prime Meridian, and extends  $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  to either side of the central meridian.

**For example**, Nigeria lies between the longitudes  $3^\circ$  and  $14^\circ$  E of the Greenwich Meridian, much of which is in the zone of the  $15^\circ$ E central meridian (GMT+1), and the time zone for this meridian includes all locations between  $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ E and  $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ E.

Lagos, though lies at longitude  $3^\circ 27'$  E, and falls under the time zone for the Greenwich Meridian ( $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ W –  $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ E), but for the sake of simplicity, and so that all parts of the country will operate at one time, it has been grafted into the GMT+1 time zone.

The need for standard time zones emerged with the spread of high speed transportation systems – first, trains and later, airplanes. The system of time zones that is in use till date was agreed upon by delegates from 27 countries who met in Washington DC in 1884.

Countries like the United States operate at 4 time zones – while it is 9am (GMT -5), Wednesday in New York; it is 6am (GMT -8), Wednesday in Los Angeles – because the country spans about 3,000 miles (over 4,800 km) from East to West. But China, though spanning over 3,000 miles (over 5,000 km) from East to West operates at just one time zone (GMT+8).

Countries like New Zealand start the day first, followed by Japan, Australia, Russia, China and India, followed by countries in Europe and Africa, followed by countries in North and South America, and ending on islands out in the Pacific ocean, like Hawaii and finally Samoa.

## **ASSESSMENT.**

1. Define latitude and longitude.
2. What are the importance of latitude and longitude lines?
3. What is the difference between time and time zones?

# Week 6

## Topic: Earth's Structure

### Content:

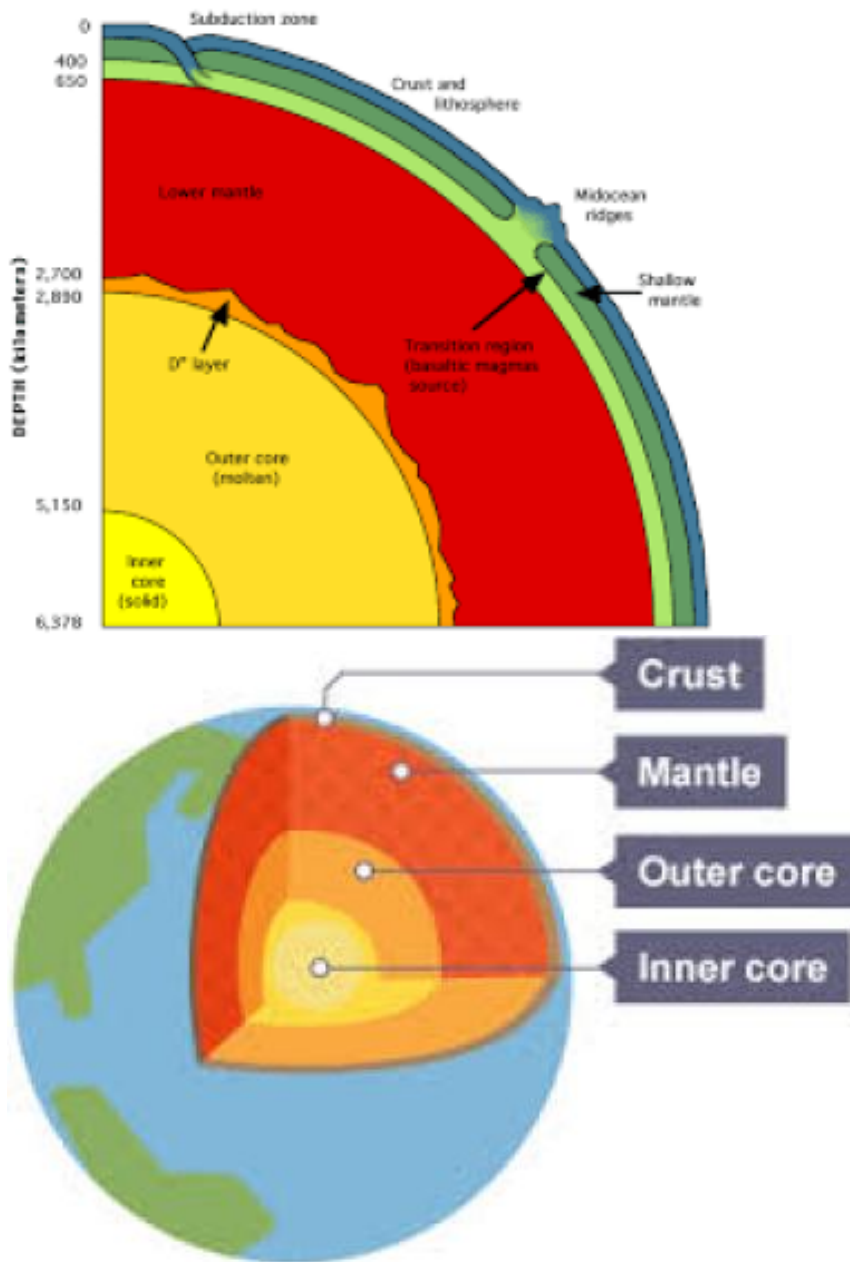
1. **The Earth's structure**
2. **Importance of atmosphere**
3. **Importance of hydrosphere**
4. **The Internal structure of the Earth**

### Introduction – The Earth

Earth is unique among the known planets: it has an abundance of water. Other worlds – including a few moons – have atmospheres, ice, and even oceans, but only Earth has the right combination to sustain life.

Earth's oceans cover about 70 percent of the planet's surface with an average depth of 2.5 miles (4 kilometers). Fresh water exists in liquid form in lakes and rivers and as water vapor in the atmosphere, which causes much of Earth's weather.

The interior structure of the Earth is layered in spherical shells, like an onion. These layers can be defined by their chemical and their rheological properties. Earth has an outer silicate solid crust, a highly viscous **mantle**, a liquid outer core that is much less viscous than the **mantle**, and a solid inner core. The earth's structure is divided into two groups namely Outer structure and Inner structure.



The outer (external) structure of the earth is made up of the following layers.  
 1. **The Atmosphere:** the atmosphere is made up of a mixture of gases which cover the earth. The Atmosphere contains 73% of Nitrogen, 1% of Oxygen, 0.03% of carbon and 0.97% inert gases.

### Importance of the Atmosphere

- (i) The atmosphere provides gases essential for respiration
- (ii) The atmosphere provides Nitrogen for plants
- (iii) The atmosphere contain ozone layer which is the shield against ultraviolet rays from the sun
- (iv) The atmosphere is also an habitat for some microorganisms

## **2. The Hydrosphere:**

hydrosphere is the water mass of the earth. It is made up of streams, ponds, rivers, oceans, lakes and seas. It is 70% of the earth surface.

### **Importance of the Hydrosphere**

- (i) Hydrosphere provides water for domestic and industrial use
- (ii) Hydrosphere creates employment
- (iii) Hydrosphere can be used to generate electricity
- (iv) Hydrosphere encourages tourism

## **3. The Biosphere:**

biosphere is the biological active part of the earth. Biosphere consists of plants, animals and organisms. There are aquatic and terrestrial biocycles

### **Importance of the Biosphere**

- (i) Biosphere produce plants which provide food for man
- (ii) Biosphere provide energy source to man
- (iii) Biosphere balances and purifies atmospheric gas
- (iv) Biosphere provides raw materials for industries
- (v) Biosphere creates employment for man through agriculture

## **4. The Lithosphere:**

The lithosphere includes the crust and the uppermost mantle, which constitute the hard and rigid, rocky outer layer of the Earth. The uppermost part of the lithosphere that chemically reacts to the atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere through the soil forming process is called the pedosphere.

### **Importance of the Lithosphere:**

1. The lithosphere serves as a source of minerals. The minerals supply the basic materials required for making a variety of commodities, which man uses daily.
2. The lithosphere is also the major source of fuels such as coal, petroleum and a natural gas. Without these fuels human life, as we know it today, would have been impossible.
3. The lithosphere in combination with the hydrosphere and the atmosphere plays a vital role in the growth of plants and animals. It provides nutrients to the plants. The plants are the source of food for man and all other animals.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. What are the layers of the earth?
2. What is the Lithosphere?
3. What is the Atmosphere?
4. What is the Hydrosphere?
5. What is the Biosphere?
6. List the importance of the Biosphere.

# Week 7

## Topic: Earth's Structure (II)

### Content:

- 1.The Earth crust
- 2.The Mantle or Mesosphere
- 3.The core or Barysphere

### The Earth is made up of four distinct layers:

The inner core is in the centre and is the hottest part of the Earth. It is solid and made up of iron and nickel with temperatures of up to 5,500°C. With its immense heat energy, the inner core is like the engine room of the Earth.

The outer core is the layer surrounding the inner core. It is a liquid layer, also made up of iron and nickel. It is still extremely hot, with temperatures similar to the inner core.

The mantle is the widest section of the Earth. It has a thickness of approximately 2,900 km. The mantle is made up of semi-molten rock called magma. In the upper parts of the mantle the rock is hard, but lower down the rock is soft and beginning to melt.

The crust is the outer layer of the earth. It is a thin layer between 0-60 km thick. The crust is the solid rock layer upon which we live.

There are two different types of crust: continental crust, which carries land, and oceanic crust, which carries water.

### Mantle

Earth's mantle extends to a depth of 2,890 km, making it the thickest layer of Earth. The mantle is divided into upper and lower mantle. The upper and lower mantle are separated by the transition zone

## Earth Crust

Earth's crust is made up of several elements: oxygen, 47 percent; silicon, 27 percent; aluminum, 8 percent; iron, 5 percent; calcium, 4 percent; magnesium, potassium and sodium, 2 percent. The crust ranges from 5–70 km (~3–44 miles) in depth and is the outermost layer. The thin parts are the oceanic crust, which underlie the ocean basins (5–10 km) and are composed of dense (mafic) iron magnesium silicate igneous rocks, like basalt. The thicker crust is continental crust, which is less dense and composed of (felsic) sodium potassium aluminium silicate rocks, like granite. The rocks of the crust fall into two major categories – sial and sima.

## Earth Core

At the center of the Earth is the core, which has two parts. The solid, inner core of iron has a radius of about 760 miles (about 1,220 km). It is surrounded by a liquid, outer core composed of a nickel-iron alloy. It is about 1,355 miles (2,180 km) thick. The inner core spins at a different speed than the rest of the planet. This is thought to cause Earth's magnetic field. When charged particles from the solar wind collide with air molecules above Earth's magnetic poles, it causes the air molecules to glow, causing the auroras – the northern and southern lights.

### ASSESSMENT.

1. Explain the layers of the external structure of the earth and their importance.
2. List the different types of crust.

# Week 8

## Topic: Rocks

### Contents:

1. **Types of Rock**
2. **Characteristics of Rocks**
3. **Mode of Formation of rock types**
4. **Importance of Rock to Man**

### Definition of Rock

A rock is any solid substance that forms part of the earth's crust. Rock is made up of minerals. The most common rocks and their minerals are:

### Types of Rocks

Rocks are grouped based on their origin and mode of formation

1. **Igneous Rocks:** They result from the eruption, cooling and solidification of magma from beneath the earth. They are usually crystalline. There are two types; plutonic (intrusive) igneous rock and volcanic (extrusive) igneous rock. Examples are basalt and granite.

### Characteristics of Igneous Rocks

- Igneous rock are crystalline
  - Igneous rock are non stratified
  - Igneous rock are hard and impervious
  - Igneous rock don't contain fossils
2. **Sedimentary Rocks:** sedimentary rocks are formed from the accumulation of sediments by water, ice or wind.

### Characteristics of Sedimentary Rocks

- Sedimentary rock are non crystalline
- Sedimentary rock occur in strata( layers)
- Sedimentary rock contain fossils
- Sedimentary rock are not resistant to erosion

There are three types of sedimentary rocks based on their processes of formation. These are:

**Mechanically** formed sedimentary rocks are formed from action of water, ice and wind. E.g clay, sandstone, shale etc

**Chemically** formed sedimentary rock are formed from chemical participation examples are rock salt, gypsum, potash, borax e.t.c

**Organically** formed sedimentary rocks are formed from the remains of plants and animals examples are chalk and corals

3. **Metamorphic Rocks** are changed rocks. The rocks are formed from pre- existing igneous or sedimentary rocks which have been changed as a result of great heat and pressure. The original character and appearance may be greatly altered or changed by such forces

### Characteristics of Metamorphic Rock

- Metamorphic rocks often contain fossils
- Metamorphic rocks have different colours and texture
- Metamorphic rock may be hard or soft

### Importance of Rock to Man

- Rocks are ores containing minerals like gold, diamond, copper, silver, petroleum etc
- Rocks are raw materials for industries example limestone is used in making cement; marble for making and beautifying houses and making of glass
- Rocks are domestically useful; as grinding stones
- Granites are used for constructing work.
- Rock masses on mountain serves as tourism centre example Olumo rock, Zuma rock in Suleja

## Week 9

# Topic: Basic Concept Of Geographic Information System (GIS)

### Content

1. Meaning of Geographic Information System and examples(GIS)
2. Points for bore-holes, settlements
3. Source
4. Importance of Geographic Information System
5. How to use GIS

### Meaning:

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

The acronym GIS is sometimes used for geographical information science or geospatial information studies to refer to the academic discipline or career of working with geographic information systems and is a large domain within the broader academic discipline of Geoinformatics. What goes beyond a GIS is a spatial data infrastructure, a concept that has no such restrictive boundaries.

In a general sense, the term describes any information system that integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, and displays geographic information. GIS applications are tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data in maps, and present the results of all these operations. Geographic information science is the science underlying geographic concepts, applications, and systems.

A Geographic Information System or GIS is a computer system that allows you to map, model, query, and analyze large quantities of data within a single database according to their location.

### **Sources of GIS**

#### -Satellite

A satellite is an object that revolves round another object (which is known as its primary). Satellites can be man made or may be naturally occurring such as moons, comets, asteroids, planets, stars and even galaxies.

An orbit is the path that an object makes around another object while under the influence of a source of centripetal force, such as gravity.

Orbits were first analyzed mathematically by Johannes Kepler who formulated his results in his three laws of planetary motion. Isaac Newton demonstrated that Kepler's laws were derivable from his theory of gravitation and that, in general, the orbits of bodies responding to the force of gravity were conic sections.

Newton showed that a pair of bodies follows orbits of dimensions that are in inverse proportion to their masses about their common centre of mass. Where one body is much more massive than the other, it is a convenient approximation to take the centre of the mass as coinciding with the centre of the more massive body.

## Importance of GIS

- It helps to create maps
- integrate information
- visualize scenarios
- present powerful ideas, and
- develop effective solutions

## How to use GIS

- Acquiring and maintaining accurate locational data of regulated facilities, pollutant sources and environmental resources,
- providing appropriate access to data
- Developing customized GIS maps, tools and applications, and
- Providing technical assistance to support GIS needs

## ASSESSMENT.

1. What is GIS?
2. What are the sources of GIS?
3. List the importance of GIS.
4. Explain how GIS is used.

**SS1**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**SECOND TERM**

# Week 1

## Topic: Rock/Mode Of Formation

### Contents:

- Fold Mountains
- Block Mountains
- Volcanic Mountains
- Residual Mountains

### Characteristics of Fold Mountains

- They contain old rocks with steep sides.
- Fold Mountains have wrinkling or folding appearance and show distinct peaks of great heights.
- Fold Mountains exist in layered form, they are soft, and have anticlines and synclines.
- Folding shorten the earth's crust and form the most wide spread type of mountains and are noted for active volcanoes.
- Fold Mountains form the highest range. Example of Fold Mountains include Atlas, Alps, Rockies, Andes and Himalayas Mountains

### Characteristics of Block Mountains

- Block Mountains are made up of old hard rocks with flat or slightly sloping surfaces.
- They have steep sides.
- They are associated with rift valleys.
- It is a block between two fluids.
- It has fairly steep, straight edges.
- Block Mountains are usually high. Examples of block Mountains include: Voges Mountain, Black forest of the Rhine land.

### Characteristics of Volcanic Mountains

- Volcanic Mountain are made up of lava.
- They have irregular sides with conical shape.
- Materials that make up volcanic bombs, cinders etc. Which are arranged in layers. Example include Elgon, Cameroon (all in Africa) etc

### Characteristics of Residual Mountains

- Residual Mountain are formed from already existing mountains.

- They have irregular surfaces with steep sides.
- They occur in varying heights and sizes and are caused by agents of denudation. Examples include Mt, Manadnock (U.S.A), Highlands of Scotland, Decon plateau etc

### Advantages or uses of mountain to man

1. Mountains are used for tourist attraction. Example are holiday resorts like Olumo rock, Idanre Hills etc
2. Mountain serve as a source of river example is River Niger from the Guinea Highlands
3. Minerals are mined from mountain highland. Example tin and columbite from Jos
4. Rocks from highlands are used for construction example, rock from Shai Hill were used to construct the Tema Harbour in Ghana
5. Mountain encourages relief rain formation example are Jos and Cameroon

### Disadvantages of Mountains

1. Mountains are barriers to communication as they prevent road, railway and airport construction
2. High mountains are known to be associated with cold weather which prevents good human and animal habitation
3. Areas close to mountain re usually associated with soil erosion due to the speed of running water down the steep slopes of mountain
4. Mountain at times do occupy good land that should have been used either for farming settlement
5. Mountainous areas are not good for agriculture s the oils are poor in nutrients and difficult to work on

### ASSESSMENT

1. Himalayas is an example of
  - (a) fold mountains
  - (b) block mountains
  - (c) volcanic mountains
  - (d) residual mountains
2. \_\_\_ mountains contain old rocks with steep sides
  - (a) fold mountains
  - (b) block mountains
  - (c) volcanic mountains
  - (d) residual mountains
3. Mountains formed from already existing mountains are
  - (a) fold mountains
  - (b) block mountains
  - (c) volcanic mountains
  - (d) residual mountains
4. The Elgon mountain in Cameroon is an example of
  - (a) fold mountains
  - (b) block mountains

- (c) volcanic mountains
  - (d) residual mountains
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are made up of old hard rocks with flat or slightly sloping surfaces.
- (a) fold mountains
  - (b) block mountains
  - (c) volcanic mountains
  - (d) residual mountains

## ANSWERS

- 1. a
- 2. a
- 3. d
- 4. c
- 5. b

## Week 2

# Topic: Major Landforms-Features

### Contents:

1. **Major types of land form**
2. **Major types of mountain and their characteristic**

There are three major types of land forms on the earth's surface. These are: Mountain, Plateaux, Plains

### **Mountains**

Mountains are great elevated land surfaces resulting from intense action of intense forces. They have steep slopes and show distinct peaks. Mountain are classified according to their mode of formation, resulting in four major types which are:

1. Fold Mountains
2. Block Mountains
3. Volcanic Mountains
4. Residual Mountains



### **Characteristics of Fold Mountains**

- They contain old rocks with steep sides.
- Fold Mountains have wrinkling or folding appearance and show distinct peaks of great heights.
- Fold Mountains exist in layered form, they are soft, and have anticlines and synclines.

- Folding shorten the earth's crust and form the most wide spread type of mountains and are noted for active volcanoes.
- Fold Mountains form the highest range. Example of Fold Mountains include Atlas, Alps, Rockies, Andes and Himalayas Mountains

### **Characteristics of Block Mountains**

- Block Mountains are made up of old hard rocks with flat or slightly sloping surfaces.
- They have steep sides.
- They are associated with rift valleys.
- It is a block between two fluids.
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- Residual Mountain are formed from already existing mountains.
- They have irregular surfaces with steep sides.
- They occur in varying heights and sizes and are caused by agents of denudation. Examples include Mt, Manadnock (U.S.A), Highlands of Scotland, Decon plateau etc



## ASSESSMENT.

1. What are the major landforms?
2. List the characteristics of the major landforms.

# Week 3

## Topic: Land Reclamation

### Content

1. **Meaning of Land Reclamation**
2. **History of Land Reclamation**
3. **Uses of Land**
4. **Methods of Reclamation**

### Meaning of Land Reclamation

Land reclamation, usually known as reclamation, and also known as land fill (not to be confused with a landfill), is the process of creating new land from ocean, riverbeds, or lake beds. The land reclaimed is known as reclamation ground or land fill.

Land reclamation refers to the process of repairing or restoring disturbed land to a useful state. Land reclamation is an important part of the construction, mining, forestry, and agricultural industries. When land is disturbed, it is sometimes necessary for it to undergo reclamation, not only to help the environment flourish, but so it can be of use once again to these industries.

### History of Land Reclamation

Reclamation has been practiced for centuries. Farmers reclaimed land by irrigating regions neglected by rainfall or by draining marshes and wetlands. By the 20th century, several irrigation projects were carried out in the U.S., Pakistan, and the Soviet Union, when it became evident how much damage to the environment could occur if reclamation projects were not initiated.

One of the first American attempts to regulate reclamation came at the foot of the Carey Land Act in 1894. The Act set focus on conserving natural resources and acknowledged that farming, grazing, and deforestation, teamed with little rainfall, was having a hazardous impact on the land.

In 1902, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation passed an act to supply water to farmers for disturbed lands throughout 17 western states. The process of irrigation increased the sustainability of the land, but unfortunately may have resulted in the land incurring selenium and salinity poisoning.

The Reclamation Act of 1902 put the onus on the federal government to make better use of reclamation projects. Within the next two or three decades, land reclamation became a dire need, as the drought of the 1920s and 1930s led to the existence of more land in need of restoration. The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Engineers Corps began working together in land reclamation by building dams. The Flood Control Act of 1944 also worked to give the federal government more control over this issue.

### Land is used for many reasons

- For the extraction of natural resources, such as in mining
- For the extraction of fruits, vegetables, and grains
- For raising livestock
- To build structures and buildings
- To raise animals and grow food
- To harvest trees and plant new ones

### **Methods of reclamation**

Land reclamation can be achieved with a number of different methods.

- The most simple method involves simply filling the area with large amounts of heavy rock and/or cement.
- Filling with clay and dirt until the desired height is reached. The process is called “infilling” and the material used to fill the space is generically called “infill”.
- Draining of submerged wetlands is often used to reclaim land for agricultural use. Deep cement mixing is used typically in situation in which the material displaced by either dredging or draining may be contaminated and hence needs to be contained.

### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. What is the meaning of land reclamation?
2. What is the history of land reclamation?
3. What are the common uses of land?
4. Discuss the methods of land reclamation.

## Week 4

# Topic: Geographic Information System

## Content

1. Meaning of Geographic Information System
2. Importance of Geographic Information System
3. How to use GIS

### Geographic information system

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

The acronym GIS is sometimes used for geographical information science or geospatial information studies to refer to the academic discipline or career of working with geographic information systems and is a large domain within the broader academic discipline of Geoinformatics. What goes beyond a GIS is a spatial data infrastructure, a concept that has no such restrictive boundaries.

In a general sense, the term describes any information system that integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, and displays geographic information. GIS applications are tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data in maps, and present the results of all these operations. Geographic information science is the science underlying geographic concepts, applications, and systems.

A Geographic Information System or GIS is a computer system that allows you to map, model, query, and analyze large quantities of data within a single database according to their location.

### Importance of GIS

- It helps to create maps
- integrate information
- visualize scenarios
- present powerful ideas, and
- develop effective solutions

### How to use GIS

- Acquiring and maintaining accurate locational data of regulated facilities, pollutant sources and environmental resources,
- providing appropriate access to data
- Developing customized GIS maps, tools and applications, and
- Providing technical assistance to support GIS needs

#### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. What is Geographic Information System?
2. What is GIS used for?
3. List the importance of GIS.

# Week 5

## Topic : Local Geography

### Content

1. Definition of Geography
2. Town
3. Village
4. Local Government Area in Nigeria

### Meaning of Geography

Geography (from Greek) geographia, means. “earth description” is a field of science dedicated to the study of the lands, the features, the inhabitants, and the phenomena of Earth.

### Town

A town is a human settlement larger than a village but smaller than a city. The size definition for what constitutes a “town” varies considerably in different parts of the world.

### Village

A village is a clustered human settlement or community, larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town, with a population ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand. Though often located in rural areas, the term urban village is also applied to certain urban neighborhoods.

Villages are normally permanent, with fixed dwellings; however, transient villages can occur. Further, the dwellings of a village are fairly close to one another, not scattered broadly over the landscape, as a dispersed settlement.

In the past, villages were a usual form of community for societies that practice subsistence agriculture, and also for some non-agricultural societies. In Great Britain, a hamlet earned the right to be called a village when it built a church.

### Local Government Area

A local government area (LGA) is an administrative division of a country that a local government is responsible for. The size of an LGA varies by country but it is generally a subdivision of a state, province, division, or territory.

### Local Government area in Nigeria

Nigeria has 774 local government areas (LGAs).

Each local government area is administered by a Local Government Council consisting of a chairman who is the Chief Executive of the LGA, and other elected members who are referred to as Councillors.

**The functions of Local Governments are detailed in the Nigerian Constitution and include:**

Economic recommendations to the State;

- Collection of taxes and fees.
- Establishment and maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for the destitute or infirm.
- Licensing of bicycles, trucks (other than mechanically propelled trucks), canoes, wheel barrows and carts.
- Establishment, maintenance and regulation of markets, motor parks and public conveniences.
- Construction and maintenance of roads, streets, drains and other public highways, parks, and open spaces.
- Naming of roads and streets and numbering of houses.
- Provision and maintenance of public transportation and refuse disposal.
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages.
- Assessment of privately owned houses or tenements for the purpose of levying such rates as may be prescribed by the House of Assembly of a State.
- Control and regulation of out-door advertising, movement and keeping of pets of all descriptions, shops and kiosks, restaurants and other places for sale of food to the public, and laundries.
- Each of the areas is further subdivided into wards with a minimum of ten and a maximum of fifteen for each area.

**ASSESSMENT.**

1. Define geography?
2. What is the difference between a town and a village?
3. What are the characteristics of a local government area?
4. List the functions of a local government area according to the Nigerian constitution

## Week 6

### Topic: Nigeria

Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north. Its coast in the south lies on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean.

Present-day Nigeria has been the site of numerous kingdoms and tribal states for millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914.

The British set up administrative and legal structures whilst practicing indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960, and plunged into a civil war from 1967–1970. It has since alternated between democratically-elected civilian governments and military dictatorships, with its 2011 presidential elections being viewed as the first to be conducted reasonably freely and fairly.

Nigeria is often referred to as the “Giant of Africa”, owing to its large population and economy. With approximately 174 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has one of the largest populations of youth in the world. The country is viewed as a multinational state, as it is inhabited by over 500 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 500 different languages, and are identified with wide variety of cultures. Regarding religion, Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern and central parts of the country, and Muslims, concentrated mostly in the northern and southwestern regions. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to Igbo and Yoruba peoples.

In 2014, Nigeria’s economy (GDP) became the largest in Africa, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become the world’s 21st (nominal) and 20th (PPP) largest economy in 2015; furthermore, the debt-to-GDP ratio is only 11 percent (8 percent below the 2012 ratio). The country’s oil reserves have played a major role in its growing wealth and influence. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank and has been identified as a regional power on the African continent. Nigeria is considered to be a middle power in the world, and has also been identified as an emerging power; it is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe’s next “BRIC-like” economies. It is also listed among the “Next Eleven” economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, OPEC, and the United Nations among other international organizations.

Since 2002, the North East of the country has seen sectarian violence by Boko Haram, an Islamist movement that seeks to abolish the secular system of government and establish Sharia law in the country. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan in May 2014 claimed that Boko Haram

attacks have left at least 12,000 people dead and 8,000 people crippled. At the same time, neighboring countries, Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger joined Nigeria in a united effort to combat Boko Haram in the aftermath of a world media highlighted kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls and the spread of Boko Haram attacks to these countries.



## ASSESSMENT.

1. What is the meaning of the word “Nigeria”?
2. Why is Nigeria referred to as the “Giant of Africa”?
3. Which countries joined Nigeria to fight Boko Haram?
4. What are the two major rivers in Nigeria?

# Week 7

## Topic: Geography of Nigeria

### Content

1. **Location of Nigeria**
2. **Environmental Issues**

### Location of Nigeria

Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea and has a total area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup> (356,669 sq mi), making it the world's 32nd-largest country (after Tanzania). It is comparable in size to Venezuela, and is about twice the size of the U.S. state of California. It shares a 4,047-kilometre (2,515 mi) border with Benin (773 km), Niger (1497 km), Chad (87 km), Cameroon (1690 km), and has a coastline of at least 853 km.[90] Nigeria lies between latitudes 4° and 14°N, and longitudes 2° and 15°E.

The highest point in Nigeria is Chappal Waddi at 2,419 m (7,936 ft). The main rivers are the Niger and the Benue, which converge and empty into the Niger Delta. This is one of the world's largest river deltas, and the location of a large area of Central African Mangroves.

Nigeria has a varied landscape. The far south is defined by its tropical rainforest climate, where annual rainfall is 60 to 80 inches (1,500 to 2,000 mm) a year. In the southeast stands the Obudu Plateau. Coastal plains are found in both the southwest and the southeast. This forest zone's most southerly portion is defined as "salt water swamp," also known as a mangrove swamp because of the large amount of mangroves in the area. North of this is fresh water swamp, containing different vegetation from the salt water swamp, and north of that is rain forest.

Nigeria's most expansive topographical region is that of the valleys of the Niger and Benue river valleys (which merge into each other and form a "y" shape) To the southwest of the Niger is "rugged" highland. To the southeast of the Benue are hills and mountains, which form the Mambilla Plateau, the highest plateau in Nigeria. This plateau extends through the border with Cameroon, where the montane land is part of the Bamenda Highlands of Cameroon.

The area near the border with Cameroon close to the coast is rich rainforest and part of the Cross-Sanaga-Bioko coastal forests ecoregion, an important centre for biodiversity. It is habitat for the drill monkey, which is found in the wild only in this area and across the border in Cameroon. The areas surrounding Calabar, Cross River State, also in this forest, are believed to contain the world's largest diversity of butterflies. The area of southern Nigeria between the Niger and the Cross Rivers has lost most of its forest because of development and harvesting by increased population, with it being replaced by grassland (see Cross-Niger transition forests).

Everything in between the far south and the far north is savannah (insignificant tree cover, with grasses and flowers located between trees). Rainfall is more limited, to between 500 and 1,500 millimeters (20 and 60 in) per year. The savannah zone's three categories are Guinean forest-

savanna mosaic, Sudan savannah, and Sahel savannah. Guinean forest-savanna mosaic is plains of tall grass interrupted by trees. Sudan savannah is similar but with shorter grasses and shorter trees. Sahel savannah consists of patches of grass and sand, found in the northeast. In the Sahel region, rain is less than 500 millimeters (20 in) per year and the Sahara Desert is encroaching. In the dry north-east corner of the country lies Lake Chad, which Nigeria shares with Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

## **Environmental issues**

Nigeria's Delta region, home of the large oil industry, experiences serious oil spills and other environmental problems, which has caused conflict. Some of the Environmental issues in Nigeria are:

1. **Waste management:** Lack of Waste management presents problems in a mega city like Lagos and other major Nigerian cities which are linked with economic development, population growth and the inability of municipal councils to manage the resulting rise in industrial and domestic waste. This huge waste management problem is also attributable to unsustainable environmental management lifestyles of Kubwa Community in the Federal Capital Territory, where there are habits of indiscriminate disposal of waste, dumping of waste along or into the canals, sewerage systems that are channels for water flows, etc.
2. **Deforestation and soil degradation**
3. **Climate change or global warming** are another major environmental problems in Nigeria.
4. **Haphazard industrial planning:** increased urbanization, poverty and lack of competence of the municipal government are seen as the major reasons for high levels of waste pollution in major Nigerian cities. Some of the 'solutions' have been disastrous to the environment, resulting in untreated waste being dumped in places where it can pollute waterways and groundwater.

In 2005 Nigeria had the highest rate of deforestation in the world, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In 2005 12.2%, the equivalent of 11,089,000 hectares had been forested in Nigeria. Between 1990 and 2000, Nigeria lost an average of 409,700 hectares of forest every year equal to an average annual deforestation rate of 2.38%. Between 1990 and 2005, in total Nigeria lost 35.7% of its forest cover, or around 6,145,000 hectares.

## Week 8

### Topic: States In Nigeria

#### Contents:

1. **States in Nigeria**
2. **Ethnic Group**
3. **Languages in Nigeria**
4. **Religions in Nigeria**

1. Anambra
2. Enugu
3. Akwa Ibom
4. Adamawa
5. Abia
6. Bauchi
7. Bayelsa
8. Benue
9. Borno
10. Cross River
11. Delta
12. Ebonyi
13. Edo
14. Ekiti
15. Gombe
16. Imo
17. Jigawa
18. Kaduna
19. Kano
20. Katsina
21. Kebbi
22. Kogi
23. Kwara
24. Lagos
25. Nasarawa
26. Niger
27. Ogun
28. Ondo
29. Osun
30. Oyo
31. Plateau

32. Rivers
33. Sokoto
34. Taraba
35. Yobe
36. Zamfara
37. Federal Capital Territory

Population in Nigeria increased from 1990 to 2008 by 57 million, 60% growth rate. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and accounts for about 18% of the continent's total population, however, exactly how populous is a subject of speculation.

The United Nations estimates that the population in 2009 was at 154,729,000, distributed as 51.7% rural and 48.3% urban, and with a population density of 167.5 people per square kilometer. National census results in the past few decades have been disputed. The results of the most recent census were released in December 2006 and gave a population of 140,003,542. The only breakdown available was by gender: males numbered 71,709,859, females numbered 68,293,08. On June 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan said that Nigerians should limit their number of children.

According to the United Nations, Nigeria has been undergoing explosive population growth and has one of the highest growth and fertility rates in the world. By their projections, Nigeria is one of eight countries expected to account collectively for half of the world's total population increase from 2005–2050.[135] By 2100 the UN estimates that the Nigerian population will be between 505 million and 1.03 billion people (middle estimate: 730 million). In 1950, Nigeria had only 33 million people.

One in four Africans is a Nigerian. Presently, Nigeria is the seventh most populous country in the world. 2006 estimates claim 42.3% of the population is between 0–14 years of age, while 54.6% is between 15–65; the birth rate is significantly higher than the death rate, at 40.4 and 16.9 per 1000 people respectively.

Nigeria's largest city is Lagos. Lagos has grown from about 300,000 in 1950 to an estimated 15 million today, and the Nigerian government estimates that city will have expanded to 25 million residents by 2015.

## **Ethnic groups**

Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups, with varying languages and customs, creating a country of rich ethnic diversity. The largest ethnic groups are the Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and Fulani, accounting for more than 70% of the population, while the Edo, Ijaw, Kanuri, Ibibio, Ebira, Nupe, Gwari, Itsekiri, Jukun, Urhobo, Igala, Idoma and Tiv comprise between 25 and 30%; other minorities make up the remaining 5%.

The middle belt of Nigeria is known for its diversity of ethnic groups, including the Pyem, Goemai, and Kofyar. The official population count of each of Nigeria's ethnicities has always remained controversial and disputed as members of different ethnic groups believe the census is rigged to give a particular group (usually believed to be northern groups) numerical superiority.

There are small minorities of British, American, East Indian, Chinese (est. 50,000), white Zimbabwean, Japanese, Greek, Syrian and Lebanese immigrants in Nigeria. Immigrants also include those from other West African or East African nations. These minorities mostly reside in major cities such as Lagos and Abuja, or in the Niger Delta as employees for the major oil companies. A number of Cubans settled in Nigeria as political refugees following the Cuban Revolution.

In the middle of the 19th century, a number of ex-slaves of Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian descent and emigrants from Sierra Leone established communities in Lagos and other regions of Nigeria. Many ex-slaves came to Nigeria following the emancipation of slaves in the Americas. Many of the immigrants, sometimes called Saros (immigrants from Sierra Leone) and Amaro (ex-slaves from Brazil) later became prominent merchants and missionaries in these cities.

## **Languages In Nigeria**

Women in north Nigeria

There are 521 languages that have been spoken in Nigeria (nine of which are now extinct).

In some areas of Nigeria, ethnic groups speak more than one language. The official language of Nigeria, English, was chosen to facilitate the cultural and linguistic unity of the country, owing to the influence of British colonisation that ended in 1960.

The major languages spoken in Nigeria represent three major families of languages of Africa: the majority are Niger-Congo languages, such as Igbo, Yoruba and Fulfulde; Kanuri, spoken in the northeast, primarily in Borno and Yobe State, is part of the Nilo-Saharan family; and Hausa is an Afro-Asiatic language.

Even though most ethnic groups prefer to communicate in their own languages, English as the official language is widely used for education, business transactions and for official purposes. English as a first language is used only by a small minority of the country's urban elite, and it is not spoken at all in some rural areas. Hausa is the most widely spoken of the 3 main languages spoken in Nigeria itself (Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba) but unlike the Yorubas and Igbos, the Hausas tend not to travel far outside Nigeria itself.

## **Religion in Nigeria**

Islam (50.4%)

Christianity (48.2%)

Animist and Others (1.4%)

Nigeria is a religiously diverse society, with Islam and Christianity being the most widely professed religions. According to recent estimates, 50% of Nigeria's population adheres to Islam (mainly Sunni). Christianity is practiced by 48% of the population (74% Protestant, 25% Catholic, 1% other Christian). Adherents of Animism and other religions collectively represent 1.4% of the population. [

All religions represented in Nigeria were practiced in every major city in 1990. Islam dominated the north and had a number of supporters in the South Western, Yoruba part of the country. Nigeria has the largest Muslim population in sub-Saharan Africa. Protestantism and local syncretic Christianity are also in evidence in Yoruba areas, while Catholicism dominates the Igbo and closely related areas. Both Protestantism and Catholicism dominated in the Ibibio, Annang, and the Efik kiosa lands.

The contested 1963 census indicated that 47% of Nigerians were Muslim, 35% Christian, and 18% members of local indigenous congregations. If accurate, this indicated a sharp increase since 1953 in the number of Christians (up 13%); a slight decline among those professing indigenous beliefs, compared with 20%; and only a modest (4%) increase of Muslims.

## **ASSESSMENT.**

1. How many states are in Nigeria?
2. What is the current population of Nigerian?
3. According to the 1963 census, what is the religious analysis of Nigerians?
4. How many languages are spoken in Nigeria?

## Week 9

# Topic: Mineral Resources In Nigeria and Location (1)

### 1. Resources in Abia State

The capital of Abia State is Umuahia. Main towns in Abia State include: Aba, Akwette, Bende, Afikpo and Arochukwu

**Points of Interest:**

- National War Museum at Umuahia where the Nigerian civil war and inventions are displayed.
- Aba – foremost electronics and indigenous technology city, Aba central Market
- Akwette – Blue River Tourist Village, Uwana Beach Akwette is also famous for its unique weaving industry.
- Agricultural Resources: Yams, Cassava, Oil Palm, Rubber.

**Natural Resources:** Oil, Salt

### 2. Resources in Adamawa State

The Capital of Adamawa is Yola. The Main Towns are: Yola, Jimeta, Numan, Mubi

**Agricultural Resources:** Guinea Corn, Maize, Cattle, Fish, Millet, Cotton.

**Points of Interest:** Three Sisters Hill – three hills that stand side by side.

### 3. Resources in Akwa Ibom State

The Capital of Akwa Ibom state is Uyo. The Main Towns are: Abak, Eket, Etinan, Ikono, Ikot Abasi, Itu, Oron, Uyo, Ikot Ekpene, Ukanafun.

**Natural Resources:** Petroleum, Salt, Iron, Coal, Gold, Clay, Limestone, Laterite and Gravel.

**Agricultural Resources:** Largest Palm Forest in Nigeria

**Points of Interest:** Ibeno famous for yachting and swimming, Oron Museum – collection of finest carvings in Africa, Opobo Boatyard. Natural sand beaches at Ikot Abasi.

## **4. Resources In Anambra State**

The Capital of Anambra state is Awka, the main towns are: Onitsha, Awka, Njikoka, Amawbia

**Natural Resources:** Iron Ore, Limestone, Coal Fine Clay, Marble and Silica Sand, Lead, Zinc, Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**Agricultural Resources:** Cocoa, Palm Oil, Maize, Rice, Cassava.

**Points of Interest:** Ijele masquerade from Aguleri, Omaba festival, Yearly yam festival, Odinani Museum at Nri. Anambra State is historically known for great craftsmanship, The River Niger with the famous Niger bridge links the bustling commercial town of Onitsha with ports at Port Harcourt, Burutu and Warri in Delta State.

## **5. Resources in Bauchi State**

The Capital of Bauchi is Bauchi. The Main Towns are: Bauchi, Gombe, Azara, Misau, Jama'are, Ningi, Billiri, Dass.

**Natural Resources:** Columbite, Gold, Cassiterite, Coal, Limestone, Iron Ore, Antimony, Marble,

**Agricultural Resources:** Millet, Coffee, Cotton, Guinea Corn, Maize, Yams, Tomatoes.

**Points of Interest:** Yankari Game Reserve with warm spring at Wikki Lame Burra Game Reserve; Tomb of Late Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa – first Prime Minister of the Federation.

## **6. Resources In Benue State**

The Capital of Benue state is Makurdi. The Main Towns are: Gboko, Katsina\_Ala, Otukp, Ida, Dekina, Ankpa, Aliade, Vaneikya.

**Natural Resources:** Coal, Limestone, Petroleum, Tin, Columbite.

**Agricultural Resources:** Coffee, Rice milling, Seed crushing for oil.

**Points of Interest:** Enchanting scenic view of the Rivers Niger and Benue confluence. Ushango Hills. Enemebia Falls, Kwaghir theatrical display, Ingongh Dance, Alekwu masquerade Ogagany Dance, Pleasant beaches, numerous fishing festivals.

## **7. Resources in Borno State**

The Capital of Borno is Maiduguri. The Main Towns are Borno, Bade, Fika, Biu, DGwoza, Nguru, Geidam, Gas, Konduga, Monguno, Potiskum, Bama.

**Natural Resources:** Clay

**Agricultural Resources:** Tomatoes, Carrots, pepper, Sorghum.

**Points of Interest:** Kyarimi Park in Maiduguri – sightseeing for animal and bird lovers, Shehu of Borno's Palace, Lake Chad, Sambisa Game Reserve, Fishing festival at Gahsua (Usur) Ngeji Warm Springs. Leather tanning & ornamental leather work.

## **8. Resources in Cross River State**

The Capital of Cross River is Calabar and the main Towns are: Akampa, Ikom, Obubra, Odukpani, Ogoja, Ugep.

**Agricultural Resources:** Cross River is extremely rich in fish production – major commercial species of fish include shrimps, croaks, catfish, the bonga and shark.

**Points of Interest:** Obudu Cattle Ranch. Agboin Falls and Kw Falls near Oban. Gamer Reserve at Okwangwo in Obudu local government and Boshi Game Reserve.

## **9. Resources in Delta State**

The capital of Delta state is Asaba. The main Towns are: Warri, Sapele, Ughelli, Effurun, Forcados, Ozoro, Orerokpe, Agbor.

**Major Ports:** Warri, Koko, Burutu, Forcados handle a substantial part of the nation's trade.

**Agricultural Resources:** Rubber, Crude Oil, Plywood, Timber.

**Points of Interest:** Sandy beaches of Asaba Koko Port Ajagbodudu, Olu's Palace. ATP Timber and Plywood Factory at Sapele

## **10. Resources In Ebonyi State**

The capital of Ebonyi is Abakiliki and the main towns are: Abakiliki, Afikpo, Izzamgbo, Iboko, Aba Omege, Okposi, Uburu, Edda, Onueke

Natural Resources: Cement, lead, zinc, salt

Agricultural Resources: Rice, Yam, Groundnut

Points of Interest: Ganymede Chapel is the historical site where the first governor of the Eastern Region was buried. Nkalagu cement factory, Modotel, Ebonyi Hotel, modern golf course. Abakiliki was one of the oldest towns in the Eastern Region that displayed annual agricultural shows through the initiative of Dr. M. Okpara.

## **11. Resources in Edo State**

The capital of Edo is Benin City and the main towns are: Agbor, Ubiaja, Uromi, Auchi, Ekpoma, Sabongida-Ora.

Agricultural Resources: Edo State produces about 80% of Nigeria's Rubber and Crepe. The State also has Timber, Palm Produce, Cocoa.

Points of Interest: Royal Palace at Benin, Benin Museum, Benin Moat, Emotan Statue, Somorika hills, Udo Tourist Center, Benin is famous for its unique bronze, brass, ivory works of art.

### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. Differentiate between natural resources and agricultural resources.
2. Which state in Nigeria has the highest number of natural resources?
3. Which state in Nigeria has the highest number of agricultural resources?
4. Which state in Nigeria has the lowest number of natural resources?
5. Which state in Nigeria has the lowest number of agricultural resources?

## **Geography, SS 1, Week 7**

**Topic:** Mineral Resources In Nigeria And Location (II)

### **1. Resources In Enugu State**

The capital of Enugu state is Enugu. The Main Towns are: Abakaliki, Nsukka, Oji River.

Agricultural Resources: Rice, Yam, Cashew Nuts, Cassava.

Natural Resources: Coal, Lead, Limestone, Gypsum.

Points of Interest: Miliken Hill, Nike Lake, Iva Valley Coal Mines.

### **2. Resources In Imo State**

The capital of Imo state is Owerri and the main towns are: Okigwe, Orlu, Oguta, Afikpo.

Natural Resources: Lead, Zinc, White Clay, Natural Gas, Limestone, Salt. Imo State is a major oil producing state.

Agricultural Resources: Cassava, Oil Palm, Rubber, Cocoa, Rice, Maize, Yam.

Points of Interest: Oguta Lake Holiday Resort with its sand beaches. The Rolling Hills of Okigwe. Amusement Park at Owerri. The Nekede Botanical Zoological Gardens. The Palm Beaches Tourist Village at Awomama.

### **3. Resources in Kano State**

The Capital of Kano is Kano and main towns are: Dambatta, Bumel, Gwarzo, Hadejia, Karaye, Kano, Ririwan. Kano is one of the ancient Hausa Kingdoms where custom and tradition still play important roles in the life of local communities.

Natural Resources: Tin, Columbite, Casseterite.

Agricultural Resources: Wheat Groundnut, Cotton, Agriculture is the major economic activity and offers employment to more than 90% of the people. Kano is well recognised as a center for traditional arts and crafts such as leather work, weaving, pottery and wood carving. Exquisite Kano leather works are exported to Europe and North America.

Popular Markets: Kurmi, Sabon-Gari and Kantin-Kwan (all in Kano municipality).

### **4. Resources in Katsina State**

The Capital of Katsina is Katsina and the main towns are: Daura, Katsina, Dutsin-ma, Malumfashi, Funtua, Manikankia, Kankari, Batsari, Mastu, Bakori, Jibiya.

Natural Resources: Large deposits of Kaolin and Asbestos.

Agricultural Resources: Groundnut, Maize, Cotton, Guinea Corn, Rice, Yam, Onions, Tomatoes, Wheat.

Points of Interest: Wall that surrounds Katsina-900 years old with its seven different gates. Emir's Palace in Katsina and Daura. Kusugu well in Daura is of historical importance.

## **5. Resources in Kebbi State**

The capital of Kebbi is Birnin Kebbi and the main towns are: Birnin Kebbi, Gwandu, Jega, Yauri

Natural Resources: Gypsum, marble, and Kaolin

Agricultural Resources: Millet, wheat and Guinea Corn

Points of Interest: Argungu Fishing Festival, a major international event featuring regatta, cultural dances, agricultural air, drama, motor rally and archery competition. Kanta Museum in Argungu is also a tourist attraction in this state. Famous for traditional arts and crafts, beads, words, glassware.

## **6. Resources in Kogi State**

The Capital of Kogi state is Lokoja and the main towns are: Okene, Kabba, Lokoja

Natural Resources: Iron ore, marble

Points of Interest: Old buildings used by the Royal Niger Company when it had a royal charter over Nigeria. The Iron of Liberty-located in the compound of the first primary school in Northern Nigeria. Kogi State is also famous for "the Okene" cloth, woven with rich thread into exquisite styles of varying colours. The confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue at Lokoja, Borgu Game Reserve.

Important Festival: Ekuechi festival of the Ebirras.

## **7. Resources In Kwara State**

The capital of Kwara state is Ilorin and the main towns are: Jebba, New Bussa, (Kainji), Offa, Oro, Orru-Aran, Ajase-Ipo, Obange, Bode-Sa'adu, Esie.

Natural Resources: Coal, Limestone, Marble, Iron, Ore, Feldspar, Clay, Tin, Talc, Gold.

Agricultural Resources: Cotton, Coffee, Cocoa, Kolanut, Tobacco leaves, Berniseed, Palm Produce.

Points of Interest: Esie Stone Image at Esie Kudn Igbomina-Ekiti area of the state. Kwara State has two of the largest dams, namely, the Kainji and Jebba, major sources of hydro-electric power for the country. Mungo Park Monument at Jebba.

## **8. Resources in Lagos State**

The capital of Lagos State is Ikeja and the main towns are: Ikorodu, Epe, Badagry, Lekki, Victoria Island, Festac, Oshodi, Shomolu, Ikeja.

About 60 percent of the total industrial investments in Nigeria is in Lagos State and 65 percent of Nigeria's commercial activities also take place in the State. Lagos hosts the Nigeria's two largest sea ports:-Apapa and Tin Can Island. There are more than 2,000 industries of various sizes and description in Lagos State.

Points of Interest: Seaside attraction and resorts at Bar Beach, Victoria Island, Badagry, Lekki Peninsula. National Museum which houses important relics such as the traditional Benin Bronzes and the replica of the Festac '77 symbol.

Important Festival: Eyo Masquerade which is held to celebrate memorable occasions of the death of an important person especially a distinguished member of the royal family.

## **9. Resources in Niger State**

The capital of Niger State is Minna and the main towns are: Bida, Kontagora, Agaie, Kuta, Lapai, Padogari, Mokwa, Zungeri, Wushishi.

Natural Resources: Rice, Maize, Sorghum, Groundnuts, Millet, Sheanut, Beans, Soya, Cotton. Niger state is well-known for arts and culture, including hand made pottery, glass beads, bangles, mat making, brass works, embroidery and dyeing.

Points of Interest: Guara Falls in Boru Village, Zuguma Park, Zuguma, Shiror Hydroelectric Dam, Mungo Park's Cenotaph.

## **10. Resources in Ogun State**

The capital of Ogun state is Abeokuta and the main towns are: Aiyetoro, Ijebu-Igbo, Ijebu-Ode Ilaro, Odeda, Ogbere, Ota, Owode, Sagamu, Idogo, Iperu.

Natural Resources: Large deposits of Limestone, Chalk, Phosphate, Clay, Kaoline, Stones.

Agricultural Resources: Cocoa, Rubber, Timber, Kolanuts.

Points of Interest: Oba's Palace at Ake, built in 1854 as the official residence of the Alake, the traditional ruler of Egbaland, is noted for its heavy concentration of antiquities and relics. The Centenary hall at Abeokuta, Olumo Rock.

Important Festivals: Agemo, Obinrin Ojowu, Egungun, Oro, Igunnuko Masquerades.

## **11. Resources in Ondo State**

The capital of Ondo state is Akure and the main towns are: Ondo town, Oko-Akoko, Ikare-Akoko,

Agricultural Resources: Ondo State is the leading Cocoa producing area in Nigeria.

Points of Interest: National Museum at Owo which houses the wood and ivory carvings, brass and bronze works, excavated at Egbaren Estate, Owo in 1971, Ikogosi Warm Spring, Idanre Hills, Igbokodo Water Front, Ipole-Iloro Water falls, Oko Marie Hills at Oka-Akoko, Ebomi Lake at Epinmi-Akoko, Aiyetoro Holy Apostle Community.

## **12. Resources in Osun State**

The capital of Osun state is Oshogbo and the main towns are: Ile-Ife, Ede, Ilesha, Ejigbo, Iwo, Igbajo.

Agricultural Resources: Cocoa, Coffee, Soya beans, Kola-nuts, Tobacco.

Natural Resources: Marble, Tin Columbite.

Points of Interest: Osun Shrine at Oshogbo, Opa Oranmiyan at Ile-Ife, Places of Owa Obokun in Ilesha and the Oni, Ife City Walls at Ile-Ife.

## **13. Resources in Oyo State**

The capital of Oyo is Ibadan and the main towns are Ogbomosho, Oyo, Iseyin, Saki, Eruwa, Fiti. Ibadan, the state capital is the largest indigenous city in Africa, south of the Sahara with a population of about 1.4 million people.

Mineral Resources: Tin, Gold, Columbite and Marble exist in commercial quantities.

Agricultural Resources: Tobacco, Cocoa, Palm Produce, Beans, Plantain, Cassava, Maize, Kolanuts.

Points of Interest: University of Ibadan, Zoological Garden located inside the University of Ibadan, Agodi Zoological Garden, Cocoa House, First Television Station in Africa (NTA -Ibadan).

Traditional Festivals: Egungun, Ode-Ibadan

## **14. Resources in Plateau State**

The capital of Plateau state is Jos and the main towns are: Akwanga, Awe, Bukuru, Barkin Ladi, Keffi, Lafia, Langtang, Nassarawa, Pankshin, Shendam, Von.

Natural Resources: Jos is the cradle of Tin mining operations on the Jos Plateau.

Agricultural Resources: The State has unique and beautiful climate that is conducive for the production of many crops and livestock varieties that flourish in both tropical and temperate environments, for example cotton, groundnuts, rice, Irish potatoes, maize, soya bean.

Points of Interest: Plateau state has a very rich cultural heritage. The major culture is one of the earliest iron smelting cultures dating between 500 BC and AD 200 is associated with the area. The National Museum at Jos, the oldest in the country. Museum of Traditional Nigerian Architecture, containing various architectural designs of major Nigerian ethnic groups. Jos wildlife Safari Park, Zoological Gardens. Asop Falls, Kura falls, Wase Rock, Kerang volcanic Mountain where the population Swan brand spring water is produced Shere Hills.

### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. Which Nigerian state is rich in crude oil?
2. Which Nigerian state is rich in zinc?
3. Which Nigerian state is rich in iron-ore?
4. Which Nigerian state is rich in Tin?

## Week 10

# **Topic:Mineral Resources In Nigeria And Location (III)**

### **1. Resources in Rivers State**

The capital of Rivers state is Port Harcourt and the main towns are: Bonny, Bori, Ahoada, Town Brass, Buguma, Yenagoa, Abonema, Akassa, Okrika, Degema.

Natural Resources: Crude Oil, Natural Gas

Agricultural Resources: Oil Palm, Citrus fruits, Coconut, Banana, Cassava.

Points of Interest: Isaac Boro Park – the zoo which has a wide variety of animals, Nigeria’s first petroleum refinery at Elesha Elema, Water Glass Boatyard. Isaka Holiday Cruise Island, Oil well at Oloibiri.

The Riverine town of Bonny with the beautiful Finima Beach. Monument of King Jaja of Opobo and the relics of the Akassa raid of 1859. Slave transit hall at Akassa. The Ogidi Shrine at Nembe. The Onne Port.

### **2. Resources in Sokoto State**

The capital of Sokoto is Sokoto and the main towns are Gusau, Yelwa, Gwandu. Sokoto is a major centre of Islamic scholarship in Nigeria.

Mineral Resources: Gold, Clay, Kaolin, Gypsum, Salt, Marble, Granite, Flipper and Limestone.

Agricultural Resources: wheat, Maize, Millet,Guinea Corn, Rice, Beans, Groundnut, Cotton, Sugarcane,Tobacco. Livestock production is a major activity in Sokoto State.

Points of Interest: Sokoto State has a rich history of culture and traditional festivals as well as many sites of historical or religious value which are of abiding interest to both scholars and tourists. Dyeing of fabrics – Fulani attires and wrapper known as “Wagambari,” Famous Moroccan leather products of trans – Saharan trade era has its roots in Sokoto. The museum, Emir’s palace, Gibadi Rocks – ancient fossils that are believed could provide a clue to the origin of the tomb of Usman Dan Fodio.

### **3. Resources In Taraba State**

The capital of Taraba is Jalingo and the main towns are: Gembu and Takum

Agricultural Resources: Taraba has soothing temperature and climate with a rich vegetation that not only caters for herds of cattle but also grows a very popular and unique tea which is now being processed for export because of the richness of the flavour.

Points of Interest: Gashaka and Karimbela Game Reserves present an alluring scenery to tourists and visitors.

### **4. Resources in Yobe State**

The capital of Yobe state is Damaturu and the main towns are Potiskum Nguru.

Agricultural Resources: Millet, wheat.

Points of Interest: Biu Plateau which has a very conducive tourist weather condition.

#### **ASSESSMENT.**

1. Which states in Nigeria are rocks most present?
2. Which states in Nigeria can wheat be found?
3. Which states in Nigeria can oil palm be found?
4. Which states in Nigeria can millet be found?

**SS1**  
**GEOGRAPHY**  
**THIRD TERM**

## Week 1&2

# Topic: PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

## Presidential System of Government

A presidential system of government is a single executive system whereby a man or woman is both the head of state and the head of government. Examples of countries with presidential constitutions are: USA, Spain, Phillipines and Nigeria.

## Characteristics of Presidential System of Government

1. All executive power is vested in the president.
2. There is a clear cut separation of power.
3. The system of checks and balances are pronounced.
4. The president and ministers are not members of the legislature.
5. The president can appoint some of his minister outside the party.
6. The president can be removed through impeachment.
7. The party discipline is weak.
8. It is not compulsory for the president to come from the party which has majority in the legislature.

## Merits of Presidential System of Government

1. The president is the symbol of unity since the whole country is his constituency.
2. Presidential system of government facilitates quick decision making and provides effective leadership.
3. The president receives praises and blames for the activities of his administration.
4. It allows the president to make use of the needed experts outside the party system.
5. The principle of separation of power can prevent the government from becoming a dictator.
6. Individual ministers are accountable for their deeds and misdeeds.

## Parliamentary System of Government

It is a system of government whereby the head of state is separated from the head of government in terms of personalities and functions. It is also called cabinet system. The head of state may be called queen, Emperor, General or President while the head of government is tagged Prime minister. Examples of countries operating this system are; Britain, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, etc.

## **Functions of cabinet in a parliamentary System of Government**

The functions of a cabinet are varied: in some countries it is a collegial decision-making body with collective responsibility, while in others it may function either as a purely advisory body or an assisting institution to a decision making head of state or head of government. In some countries, the cabinet is called “Council of Ministers” or “Government Council” or lesser known names such as “Federal Council” (in Switzerland), “Inner Council” or “High Council”. These countries may differ in the way that the cabinet is used or established.

In some countries, particularly those that use a parliamentary system (e.g., the UK), the Cabinet collectively decides the government’s direction, especially in regard to legislation passed by the parliament. In countries with a presidential system, such as the United States, the Cabinet does not function as a collective legislative influence; rather, their primary role is as an official advisory council to the head of government. In this way, the President gets opinions and advice in upcoming decisions.

## **Collective Responsibility**

Cabinet collective responsibility, also known as collective ministerial responsibility,[1] is a constitutional convention in governments using the Westminster System that members of the cabinet must publicly support all governmental decisions made in Cabinet, even if they do not privately agree with them. This support includes voting for the government in the legislature. Some Communist political parties apply a similar convention of democratic centralism to their central committee. If a member of the cabinet does wish to openly object to a cabinet decision then they are obliged to resign from their position in the cabinet.

Cabinet collective responsibility is related to the fact that, if a vote of no confidence is passed in parliament, the government is responsible collectively, and thus the entire government resigns. The consequence will be that a new government will be formed, or parliament will dissolve and a general election will be called. Cabinet collective responsibility is not the same as individual ministerial responsibility, which states that ministers are responsible and therefore culpable for the running of their departments.

## **Features of a Parliamentary System**

1. All ministers are chosen from the legislature.

2. Prime minister and key ministers are directly responsible to the legislature for any policy initiated by them.
3. The party that has majority in the legislature forms the government.
4. There is the principle of collective responsibility.
5. There is a strong party discipline.
6. There is fusion of powers.

## **Merits of Parliamentary System of Government**

1. It encourages a great working relationship between the legislature and the executive.
2. Cabinet system makes the executive indirectly responsible to the people through the legislation.
3. It encourages team spirit among the cabinet ministers.
4. The official opposition serves as effective watchdog on the government.
5. Party discipline facilitates quick decision making.

## **Demerits of Parliamentary System of Government**

1. Parliamentary system is often unstable when a coalition government is formed.
2. The principle of collective responsibility makes it difficult to allocate praises and blames on a particular minister.
3. The fusion of power may lead to dictatorship.
4. Party discipline kills individual initiative of the ministers and the legislature.

## **The Difference Between Parliamentary And Presidential System of Government**

The major difference between these two systems is that in a Presidential system, the executive leader, the President, is directly voted upon by the people (Or via a body elected specifically for the purpose of electing the president, and no other purpose), and the executive leader of the Parliamentary system, the Prime Minister, is elected from the legislative branch directly.

In the Presidential System, it is more difficult to enact legislation, especially in the event that the President has different beliefs than the legislative body. The President only responds to the people, the legislative branch can't really do anything to threaten the President. As a result, he can make it more difficult for the legislative body to do anything.

In the Parliamentary system, if the Parliament doesn't like the Prime Minister, they can cast a vote of no confidence and replace him. This tends to make the executive leader subservient to the Parliament.

Bottom line is, if you believe that government should have more checks and balances, then a Presidential system will give you that. If you believe that it should have the power to enact laws quickly, then you should go for a Parliamentary system.

## **Exercises**

1. Explain Presidential system of government.
2. What are the main features of Presidential system of government that differentiate it from the Parliamentary system?
3. Discuss the functions of the cabinet in a parliamentary system of government.
4. What are the merits and demerits of the Parliamentary system?
5. Outline the collective responsibility of the cabinet in the Parliamentary system.

## Week 3&4

# Topic: Monarchy, Republican And Military Forms of Government

**Monarchy** is a form of government in which a group, usually a family called the dynasty, embodies the country's national identity and one of its members, called the monarch, exercises a role of sovereignty. The actual power of the monarch may vary from purely symbolic (crowned republic), to partial and restricted (constitutional monarchy), to completely autocratic (absolute monarchy).

### Forms of Monarchy

#### **Dependent monarchies;**

In some cases monarchs are dependent on other powers (see vassals, suzerainty, puppet state, hegemony). In the British colonial era indirect rule under a paramount power existed, such as the princely states under the British Raj.

In Botswana, South Africa, Ghana and Uganda, the ancient kingdoms and chiefdoms that were met by the colonialists when they first arrived on the continent are now constitutionally protected as regional and/or sectional entities. Furthermore, in Nigeria, though the dozens of sub-regional polities that exist there are not provided for in the current constitution, they are nevertheless legally recognised aspects of the structure of governance that operates in the nation. In addition to these five countries, peculiar monarchies of varied sizes and complexities exist in various other parts of Africa.

#### **Succession**

The rules for selection of monarchs varies from country to country. In constitutional monarchies the rule of succession is generally embodied in a law passed by a representative body, such as a parliament.

#### **Hereditary Monarchies**

In a hereditary monarchy, the position of monarch is inherited according to a statutory or customary order of succession, usually within one royal family tracing its origin through a historical dynasty or bloodline. This usually means that the heir to the throne is known well in advance of becoming monarch to ensure a smooth succession.

## **Elective Monarchies**

In an elective monarchy, monarchs are elected, or appointed by some body (an electoral college) for life or a defined period, but otherwise serve as any other monarch. There is no popular vote involved in elective monarchies, as the elective body usually consists of a small number of eligible people. Historical examples of elective monarchy include the Holy Roman Emperors (chosen by prince-electors, but often coming from the same dynasty), and the free election of kings of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. For example, Pepin the Short (father of Charlemagne) was elected King of the Franks by an assembly of Frankish leading men; Stanisław August Poniatowski of Poland was an elected king, as was Frederick I of Denmark. Germanic peoples had elective monarchies.

## **Merits of Monarchy**

### **1. It brings about a solid government.**

Monarchy's singularity of power provides people with a symbolic and focused area for group loyalty and identity. There will only be one individual who will make the decisions, so they will be made quickly, and there will be fewer arguments with regards to new policies going to be imposed.

### **2. It can lead to leadership stability.**

A monarch has life tenure and is not subject to national elections, unlike other heads of state under other political systems.

### **3. It offers more savings for the government with the absence of elections.**

This form of government reduces the huge amounts of expenditure of the country from the elections, as there is no need to elect the next leader. The existing monarch will be the one to choose who his or her successor.

### **4. It allows for a non-partisan leadership.**

Monarchs are born to rule without the obligation to answer to anyone. On the other hand, politicians need to win the elections and reach out to the people to try to win their votes, which is something that monarchs do not really experience.

### **5. It encourages respect for the ruler.**

The masses will have greater respect for their monarch than an elected president, as the latter can rule for only a certain term.

### **6. It lessens cases of corrupt practices.**

Nations that are being ruled by monarchs experience less corruption. Also, these rulers know that they are not ruling for a term, so they most probably have no lust for money. They do not intend to misuse their authority for corrupt practices.

### **7. It looks into family as a state model.**

A monarch is considered as the country's father and the subjects are his children. This form of government is an organic kind of human organization that everyone can easily relate to.

**8. It does not share blames.**

A monarch would not share the blame or pass it to others once he makes a bad decision in the same way that politicians do. However, it is just him while politicians are hundreds.

**9. It encourages leadership suitability.**

An heir to the throne will be taught the proper ways to rule as early as his/her childhood years, while traditional politicians only learn about these things when they are already grown up.

**10. It is useful for civilized and undeveloped societies.**

In the beginning of time, man was barbarous and uncivilized—he was not at all disciplined. During such a time, monarchy was the only form of government that made man disciplined and law-abiding.

## **Demerits of Monarchy**

**1. It might lead to a poor leadership.**

Monarchy requires a single person ruling the entire country as long as he or she lives. This means that the masses do not have the power to remove him or her from leadership even if he is not functioning accordingly.

**2. It does not allow democratic legitimacy.**

A monarch is not elected or chosen by the people, unlike politicians.

**3. It might lead to having a leader who might not be as serious as needed.**

A person who knows that he or she will rule the country for the rest of his or her life might not take the responsibility to serve for the betterment of the people seriously. He is aware that he or she does not answer to anyone, which can lead to economic disruption.

**4. It lacks democratic accountability and liability.**

If a monarch has become an inefficient and bad leader, he cannot be held liable by the people.

**5. It invests much power and fame to a single individual.**

A monarch is recognized as a supreme legislator, judicator and executor. Though he is helped by personal advisors, he still has the final say, and no other person is allowed to break this.

**6. Its structure is very difficult to change internally.**

In the event that monarchs become irresponsible and ineffective, it can be quite difficult for the people to force these leaders out or replace them with those they think are more effective.

**7. Its hereditary office for its leader is not justifiable.**

The post of monarchs is the highest, and only a competent person should hold it. If a

head of state's office is hereditary, the leader shall hold it irrespective of his capability, which might create problems for the administration.

#### **8. It can degenerate into tyranny.**

Power can corrupt anyone, and after sometime, a king or his successors might degrade themselves and exploit the people, bringing into the administration tyranny.

#### **9. It can lead to inequality of wealth.**

In a monarchy type of government, the leader, his ministers and the ruling class would amass wealth, but the common people's plight would remain miserable. Neither the public would get higher positions nor enjoy any kind of special right.

### **Republican Form of Government**

The republican system of government is that system in which the sovereignty of the state resides in the people. It can be described as a system in which people elect officials to represent them and take political decisions on their behalf. In this system, the Head of State is elected. Examples republican countries are the United States, France and Ghana.

### **Features of Republican**

#### **Fixed Term of Office**

In a republican system of government, the constitution prescribes a fixed term of office for the president, usually, four years, but in some cases five or even seven years. The mandate of the president can be renewed only once, after which the president can no longer be constitutionally be elected. Another person must offer him or herself to be elected.

#### **Periodic Elections**

In a republic system of government, elections are conducted periodically and all political positions are contested for by individuals. For example Ghana and the United States, among other republican countries organize general elections every four years.

#### **Universal Adult Suffrage**

In a republican system of government, elections are held on the basis of universal adult suffrage. This means all qualified adult voters are allowed to cast their ballots.

#### **Supremacy of the Constitution**

In a republican system of government, the constitution is the supreme law of the land. Any other law found to be inconsistent with any provision of the constitution can be challenged in the court of law. If proven, such law is declared null and void.

#### **Rule of Law**

A republican government practices the rule of law is upheld. In other words, a republican government respects all the tenets of the rule of law which include supremacy of the law, equality before the law and the principle of liberty.

## **Fundamental Human Rights**

In a republican system, the fundamental human rights of all citizens are guaranteed under a constitution. The clauses that talk about these fundamental rights are also mostly entrenched in the constitution so that it could prevent the government of the day from tampering with it.

## **Military Government**

A government that is established during or after military occupation by the victorious country in an armed conflict.

## **Difference Between Republicanism and Monarchy**

The major difference between a republic and a monarchy is the fact that a monarchy is ruled by a monarch, i.e. a king or a queen, whereas in a republic, the people choose who they want to rule them.

Both the republic and the monarchy are old forms of government. There is no known start date to monarchy, it exists back to a time when humans started settling down and started making civilizations. The modern republic system however dates back to the Roman civilization, which is credited with having the first practicing republic that directly led to the republics of the modern world.

Within the monarchy, the role of the leader, i.e. a king or a queen is passed through generations, from parent to child, and so on. Monarchies believe in the Divine Right of Kings, which basically states that a king has been selected by God to rule the people.

Republics, on the other hand, stand for the power of the people, which basically means that in a republic people are allowed to vote for a leader. The person with the most votes is elected as leader. The idea behind a republic is 'we the people', basically that the people would have the right to govern themselves.

## **Exercises**

1. Describe the different ways by which monarchies can be formed.
2. What are the main features of an hereditary monarchy?
3. Why is there no popular vote in an elective monarchy?
4. Differentiate between a monarchy and a republican system of government
5. Outline five (5) features of a republican form of government.

## Week 5&6

### **Topic: Constitution And Constitutionalism**

#### **Constitution:**

Constitution can be referred to as a book or document which contains the rules and principles by which a state is governed. It is the fundamental laws and principles that prescribe the nature, functions and the limits of a Government.

#### **Constitutionalism;**

The doctrine or system of government in which the governing power is limited by enforceable rules of law, and concentration of power is limited by various checks and balances so that the basic rights of individuals and groups are protected.

A commitment to limitations on ordinary political power; it revolves around a political process, one that overlaps with democracy in seeking to balance state power and individual and collective rights; it draws on particular cultural and historical contexts from which it emanates; and it resides in public consciousness.

Constitutionalism recognizes the need for government with powers but at the same time insists that limitation be placed on those powers. It envisages checks and balances by restraining the powers of governmental organs by not making them uncontrolled and arbitrary.

#### **Features of Constitution:**

- (1) Organisation and powers of the government;
- (2) Principles and rules governing the political process;
- (3) Relations between the people and their government; and
- (4) Rights and duties of the people.

#### **Sources of Constitution;**

1. Convention
2. Judicial decisions
3. The common law

4. constitutional conferences
5. Historical records and artifacts

## **Types of Constitution:**

### **1. Written Constitution:**

A written constitution means a constitution written in the form of a book or a series of documents combined in the form of a book. It is a consciously framed and enacted constitution. It is formulated and adopted by a constituent assembly or a council or a legislature.

Garner writes, "A written constitution is a consciously planned constitution, formulated and adopted by deliberate actions of a constituent assembly or a convention." It provides for a definite design of government institutions, their organisations, powers, functions and inter-relationships.

It embodies the constitutional law of the state. It enjoys the place of supremacy. The government is fully bound by its provisions and works strictly in accordance with its provisions. A written constitution can be amended only in accordance with a settled process of amendment written in the constitution itself. It is a duly passed and enacted Constitution. The Constitutions of India, the USA, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, Switzerland and several other states, are written constitutions.

### **2. Unwritten Constitution:**

An unwritten constitution is one which is neither drafted nor enacted by a Constituent Assembly and nor even written in the form of a book. It is found in several historical charters, laws and conventions. It is a product of slow and gradual evolution. The government is organised and it functions in accordance with several well settled, but not wholly written rules and conventions. The people know their Constitution. They accept and obey it, but do not possess it in a written form. An unwritten constitution cannot be produced in the form of a book.

However, an unwritten constitution is not totally unwritten. Some of its parts are available in written forms but these do not stand codified in the form of a legal document or a code or a book. According to Garner, "an unwritten constitution is one in which most and not all, rules are unwritten and these are not found in any one charter or document."

The Constitution of the United Kingdom is an unwritten constitution.

## **Difference between Written and Unwritten Constitutions:**

(1) A written constitution is written in the form of a book or document, whereas an unwritten constitution is not written in such a form.

(2) A written constitution is made and enacted by a constituent assembly of the people. An unwritten constitution is the result of a gradual process of constitutional evolution. It is never written by any assembly.

(3) A written constitution is usually less flexible than an unwritten constitution. An unwritten constitution depends mostly on unwritten rules or conventions which do not require any formal amendment.

(4) A written constitution is definite. Its provisions can be quoted in support or against any power exercised by the government. An unwritten constitution cannot be produced in evidence. It has to be proved by quoting its sources and practices.

However, the difference between written and unwritten constitutions is not organic. A written constitution has written parts in majority. Along with these, it also has some unwritten parts in the form of conventions. In an unwritten constitution, most of the parts are unwritten and are not written in the form of a book. However some of its parts are also found written in some charters and other documents.

### **3. Flexible Constitution:**

A Flexible Constitution is one which can be easily amended. Several political scientists advocate the view that a flexible constitution is one in which the constitutional law can be amended in the same way as an ordinary law. Constitutional amendments are passed in the same manner by which an ordinary law is passed.

British Constitution presents a classic example of a most flexible constitution. The British Parliament is a sovereign parliament which can make or amend any law or constitutional law by a simple majority. Laws aiming to affect changes in a constitutional law or in any ordinary law are passed through the same legislative procedure i.e., by a simple majority of votes in the legislature. Similarly, a Constitution is flexible when the procedure of amending it is simple and the changes can be made easily.

#### **(A) Merits of a Flexible Constitution:**

(i) First, a major merit of the flexible constitution is its ability to change easily in accordance with the changes in the social and political environment of the society and state.

(ii) Secondly, it is very helpful in meeting emergencies because it can be easily amended.

(iii) Thirdly, because of its dynamic nature, there are less opportunities for revolt. The constitution has the ability to keep pace with the changing times. The people do not feel the need for revolutionary changes.

(iv) Finally, since the flexible constitution keeps on developing with times, it always continues to be popular and remains up-to-date.

## **(B) Demerits of a Flexible Constitution:**

(i) First, a flexible constitution is often, a source of instability. Flexibility enables the government in power to give it a desired dress and content.

(ii) Secondly, it is not suitable for a federation. In a federation, a flexible constitution can lead to undesirable changes in the constitution by the federal government or by the governments of federating units.

## **4. Rigid Constitution:**

The Rigid Constitution is one which cannot be easily amended. Its method of amendment is difficult. For amending it, the legislature has to pass an amendment bill by a specific, usually big, majority of 2/3rd or 3/4th. For passing or amending an ordinary law, the legislature usually passes the law by a simple majority of its members.

A rigid constitution is considered to be the most fundamental law of the land. It is regarded as the basic will of the sovereign people. That is why it can be amended only by a special procedure requiring the passing of the amendment proposal by a big majority of votes which is often followed by ratification by the people in a referendum.

The Constitution of United States of America is a very rigid constitution.

## **(A) Merits of a Rigid Constitution:**

(i) First, a rigid constitution is a source of stability in administration.

(ii) Secondly, it maintains continuity in administration.

(iii) Thirdly, it cannot become a tool in the hands of the party exercising the power of the state at a particular time.

(iv) Fourthly it prevents autocratic exercise of the powers by the government.

(v) Finally a rigid constitution is ideal for a federation.

## **(B) Demerits of a Rigid Constitution:**

(i) First, the chief demerit of a rigid constitution is that it fails to keep pace with fast changing social environment.

(ii) Secondly, because of its inability to change easily, at times, it hinders the process of social development.

(iii) Thirdly, it can be a source of hindrance during emergencies.

(iv) Fourthly, its inability to easily change can lead to revolts against the government.

(v) Fifthly, a rigid constitution can be a source of conservativeness. It can grow becomes old very soon because it cannot Keep pace with times.

Thus, there are both merits and demerits of Flexible and Rigid Constitutions. The decision whether a state should have a flexible or a rigid constitution, should be taken on the basis of the needs and wishes of society. No hard and fast rule can be laid down as to whether a state should have a flexible or a rigid constitution.

In fact, a constitution must have both a certain degree of rigidity as well as an ability to change for keeping pace with the changing times. An excessive rigidity or excessive flexibility should be avoided. The Constitution of India is partly rigid and partly flexible. In several respects, it is a rigid constitution but in practice it has mostly worked as a flexible constitution.

### **Purpose of Constitution:**

1. To promote public general welfare
2. To establish justice
3. To ensure domestic tranquility
4. To provide common defense

### **Exercises**

1. Define constitution.
2. How does the constitution ensure that the basic rights of individuals and groups are protected?
3. (a) What are the features of constitution (b) Name the sources of constitutions you know.
4. List the different types of constitution.
5. Differentiate between a written and an unwritten constitution.

## Week 7

# Topic: STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

## THE LEGISLATURE

As the second arm of government, the legislature is responsible for the enactment of laws which not only give backing to the government policies but also guide interactions between the government and the governed. The legislature is made up of elected legislative like members of the house of representative, senate and house of assembly.

### FUNCTIONS OF LEGISLATURE

The primary function of the legislature is to make law for the good government of the country

Approval of policies of the executive organ e.g. treaties and declaration of law

Control of public funds and expenditure are under the legislature control as well as government spending and taxation

Monitoring and evaluation of government activities i.e. it checks the activities of government agencies

It has the power to amend the constitution

The legislature educates members of the public through debate issues

It has power to impeach an head of state if he commits a very serious offence

### TYPES OF LEGISLATURE

**There are two types of legislature:**

**Bicameral legislature:** This refers to a two chamber legislature. There is the lower house and the upper house. Membership of the lower house is by popular election in some

countries e.g Nigeria and USA, also members of the upper is also done by election. In some countries such as Britain, membership of the other house is not by election.

**Unicameral legislature:** This the existence of one legislature chamber in a country. This is the type of legislature of the state level in Nigeria. Examples of unicameral legislatures are Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kenya e.t.c

## **THE JUDICIARY**

This is the law adjudicating (judging) section of government. This section has appointed people who have the authority to interpret Acts of Parliament and to decide if laws and previous decisions apply to a particular case. The judiciary also provides a mechanism for the resolution of disputes.

## **FUNCTIONS OF THE JUDICIARY**

The Judiciary interprets the laws.

Th judiciary punish offenders who do contrary to the law

They ensure peace and orderliness in the society

The provincial judiciary operates in much the same way as the national judiciary. The judiciary is the branch of government that deals with the administration of justice.

The judiciary is responsible for ensuring that the law is upheld, interpreting the law, applying the law to specific cases, and that those citizens who have broken the laws are punished. The courts, the judges and the magistrates comprise the judiciary.

## **BILLS**

A bill is not a law until it is signed into law by the executive in order words a bill is defined as a proposal of action discussed.

## **TYPES OF BILLS**

**Public bills:** This has to do with the issue confronting the country and it is usually a bill proposed to the executive hands of government

**Private member bills:** This is a bill introduced by a parliamentarian or law maker

**Money bills:** This bill informs us on how government involves itself in raising and spending of money (Budgets). It is usually introduced by the executive arm of government

## **PROCEDURES AND HOW BILLS BECOME LAW:**

When a senator or a representative introduces a bill, he or she sends it to the clerk of his house, who gives it a number and title. This is the *first reading*, and the bill is referred to the proper committee.

The committee may decide the bill is unwise or unnecessary and *table* it, thus killing it at once. Or it may decide the bill is worthwhile and hold hearings to listen to facts and opinions presented by experts and other interested persons. After members of the committee have debated the bill and perhaps offered amendments, a vote is taken; and if the vote is favorable, the bill is sent back to the floor of the house.

The clerk reads the bill sentence by sentence to the house, and this is known as the *second reading*. Members may then debate the bill and offer amendments. In the House of Representatives, the time for debate is limited by a *cloture rule*, but there is no such restriction in the Senate for cloture, where 60 votes are required. This makes possible a *filibuster*, in which one or more opponents hold the floor to defeat the bill.

The *third reading* is by title only, and the bill is put to a vote, which may be by voice or roll call, depending on the circumstances and parliamentary rules. A member who must be absent at the time of a vote may contract (or "pair") with a member of the opposition to abstain, balancing each other out.

The bill then goes to the other house of Congress, where it may be defeated, or passed with or without amendments. If the bill is defeated, it dies. If it is passed with amendments, a joint congressional committee must be appointed by both houses to iron out the differences.

After its final passage by both houses, the bill is sent to the president. If he approves, he signs it, and the bill becomes a law. However, if he disapproves, he *vetoes* the bill by refusing to sign it and sending it back to the house of origin with his reasons for the veto. The objections are read and debated, and a roll-call vote is taken. If the bill receives less than a two-thirds vote, it is defeated and goes no further. But if it receives a two-thirds vote or greater, it is sent to the other house for a vote. If that house also passes it by a two-thirds vote, the president's veto is *overridden*, and the bill becomes a law.

Should the president desire neither to sign nor to veto the bill, he may retain it for ten days, Sundays excepted, after which time it automatically becomes a law without signature. However, if Congress has adjourned within those ten days, the bill is automatically killed, that process of indirect rejection being known as a *pocket veto*.

## **Exercises**

1. What are the basic functions of the legislature in any state?
2. Differentiate between the two types of legislature with examples.

3. Define bills
4. Explain the process a bill pass through before becoming law.
5. Describe the Nigerian Judiciary and explain five (5) of its functions.

## Week 8/9

### **Topic: Basic Principles of Government**

#### **Definition Of Rule Of Law**

Rule of law is the law that states that the law is supreme over all the citizens and even those in governments, must be subject to and protected by the law.

Rule of law is the absolute supremacy of the law over everyone in a country. The law of the land supersedes all her citizens. It is the people cognizance of law and living below it.

#### **Principles of the rule of law.**

1. **Equality before the law:** This principle state that no one is above the law and the law has no respect for any person rather people should respect it. Occupation or position of authority does not make one different from another in the face of the law.
2. **Impartiality:** This principle states that the law is not partial. The law applies the same level of punishment for offenders no matter the person's status. No one is guilty of an offence unless such individual has been tried in the law court and pronounced guilty.
3. **Supremacy:** This states that the law is supreme over anybody no matter who you are.
4. **Fundamental human right:** This principle states that the citizens of the country should enjoy certain basic right and liberties under the law.

#### **Limitations to Rule of Law**

1. **Ignorance:** This did not allow most citizens of a country know their right.

2. **Poverty:** most citizens can not fight because their poor especially when they are infringed upon.
3. **Illiteracy:** citizens who can not read or write will not no their right and they will be infringed upon.
4. **Head of State immunity**
5. **Diplomatic immunity**

## **FACTORS THAT ENSURE THE OPERATION OF RULE OF LAW**

1. Government powers are defined in the fundamental law
2. Government powers are effectively limited by the legislature
3. Government powers are effectively limited by the judiciary
4. Government powers are effectively limited by independent auditing and review
5. Government officials are sanctioned for misconduct
6. Government powers are subject to non-governmental checks
7. Transition of power is subject to the law

## **Meaning of Fundamental Human Rights**

The fundamental right that humans have by the fact of being human, and that are neither created nor can be abrogated by any government.

Human rights is simply the natural right and privileges enjoyed by citizens of any given state which are usually outlined in the constitution of the state. It is the duty of a state to ensure that her citizens enjoy these rights.

These was the major reason why the United Nations Organization (UNO) urged are member states and all government of the entire world to incorporate the existence of human rights in the their constitutions for easy and proper references.

## **Human Rights according to 1999 constitution are outlined as follows:**

- The right to life
- Freedom from slavery act
- Right to acquire and own movable and unmovable property
- Freedom of the press
- Right to fair hearing
- Right to dignity of human person
- Freedom of movement and freedom of expression
- Right to private and family life
- Freedom of unlawful detention and imprisonment

## **Classification of Human Rights**

1. **Civic and political rights (known as first rights);**  
they are as follows –

- Right to vote
- Right to seek redress
- Right to freedom of personal liberty
- Right to life
- Right to petition
- Freedom of joining and forming associations
- Right to freedom of conscience

## 2. Economic and Social rights (known as second rights); they are as follows

- Right to work
- Right to fair compensation
- Right to own property
- Right to petition
- Right to form and join trade unions
- Right to free choice of employment

## 3. Environmental rights (known as third rights); they are as follows

- Freedom of movement
- Right to social security
- Right to private and family life
- Freedom from slavery
- Right to security and protection from inhuman treatment

## Limitations to Human Rights

Human rights abuse refers to the infringement on the rights of an individual resulting in the individual not being able to enjoy his or her fundamental rights. These abuses may result from the following:

1. A citizen is not likely to enjoy his rights when such rights are detrimental to other people's rights.
2. A citizen may be denied of his right in order to protect the security of the state.
3. During the period of emergency, a citizen may be denied his/her rights. For instance if a country is in a state of war, there may be restrictions which may invariably jeopardize the right of a citizen.
4. A citizen may be denied his right if it is in the interest of defence for his nation.
5. A citizen may be denied his right if it is in the interest of public order.
6. A citizen may be denied his right to prevent trespasses.

## SEPARATION OF POWER

**Meaning;** Separation of powers is a principle which enables each arm of government 'carry out its constitutional functions.

It denotes the practice of dividing the powers of a government among different branches thereof

### **Merits of Separation of Power:**

#### **1. Protection of Liberty and Rights:**

The theory of separation of powers protection to the liberty and rights of the individual, and protects him from different of despotism and oppression.

#### **2. Increase in Government's Efficiency:**

As powers are distributed among the government departments, these departments gain deep knowledge of the matters they with, and become more efficient.

#### **3. Limited Government:**

As powers are distributed among different depart these departments enjoy only limited powers. This prevents rise of dictatorship.

#### **4. Prevents Abuse of Power:**

Separation of powers accompanied by check and balance is an effective check against abuse of power and arrogance of power.

### **Demerits Of Separation of Power :**

This theory, though adopted by most countries, has not escaped criticism. It has criticized not only as impossible but also as undesirable. According to Sabine, "Montes was guilty of oversimplification. He united his theory to a hasty and superficial analysis the constitutional principles of liberty." Finer said that it was futile to rigidly apply the theory of separation of powers to modern condition.

The theory of separation of powers has been attacked on the following grounds.

#### **1. Wrong Reading of British System:**

By the time Montesquieu developed his theory of separation of powers, there had come into being the Cabinet system of govern" There was not in Britain then separation of powers. On the contrary, there was 'concentration of responsibility.' Having witnessed the British people enjoying liberty, Montesquieu wrongly concluded that in Britain there was separation of powers. He misread British politics.

## **2. Not Fully Possible:**

This theory is not fully possible. The executive has some role in rule-making, and the legislature also performs some judicial functions. For example, impeachment which is judicial in nature is done by the legislature.

## **3. Administrative Complications:**

Separation of powers results in administrative complications. It becomes difficult to forge cooperation, coordination and harmony among the organs of government. The smooth working of modern governments demands not so much separation of powers as 'co-ordination' of powers.

## **4. Confusion and Deadlock:**

Separation of powers leads to jealousy, suspicion and friction among the organs of government. While producing disharmony and confusion, it may paralyse the administration. As a result, the administration often fails to take quick decisions even at a time of crisis.

According to Finer, the theory of separation of powers throws "governments into alternating conditions of coma and convulsion." Another scholar is of the view that "separation of powers means confusion of powers."

## **5. Inequality of Powers:**

This theory is based on the principle of equality of powers, but this principle is flawed. In the parliamentary system, the legislature which represents the people is most powerful while the executive is most powerful in the presidential system.

## **6. Not the Sole Factor of Liberty:**

Separation of powers may contribute to liberty, but it is not the only factor of liberty. Liberty also depends a lot on the psyche of people, their outlook, their political awareness, customs and traditions, fundamental rights, rule of law, independence of judiciary and economic equality.

## **7. Balance Disturbed:**

The government, performing various important functions, has become increasingly powerful. Besides being the problem-solver and crisis-manager, it is also required to provide welfare to people. All this has made the executive very powerful, and disturbed the balance among the three organs of government. Planning, security and welfare demand not so much separation of powers as their 'fusion'.

## **8. A Misnomer:**

This theory is a misnomer, because what it means is separation of function, not separation of powers.

## **HOW SEPARATION OF POWERS OPERATES IN A PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**

### *The president or the executive*

In a presidential system of government, the president is directly elected by the people in a general election. The constitution does not allow the president to appoint his ministers from parliament but rather from outside. All executive powers are vested in the president and he performs both the ceremonial duties and the governmental functions.

### *The legislature*

The legislature is also elected directly by the people or in places where the second chamber operates, by use of other means. The members cannot ever become members of the executive. The constitution does not allow that. The legislature is responsible for the making of laws for the state.

### *The judiciary*

The members of the judiciary are appointed by the president but this is based on the recommendations of the Judicial Service Council of the state. The main function of the judiciary is to interpret the laws of the land and to settle disputes that arise between one person and the other or between the state and an individual.

## **HOW SEPARATION OF POWERS OPERATES IN THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**

### *Separation in institution*

The three arms of government are separate in terms of institution. The judiciary, as an institution, is different from the executive and the legislature. They may even be housed in different locations or buildings.

### *Separation in personnel*

The members of the executive are all members of the legislature. In fact, the head of the executive is the leader of the majority party in the legislature. Some of the members of the legislature are also members of the judiciary. For example, in Britain, the Lord

Chancellor is a member of both the legislature and the executive in spite of the fact that he is the head of the judiciary.

### ***Executive as initiator of bills***

In the parliamentary system, it is the cabinet that initiates bills before the bills are sent into the legislature. By the time the bills get to the parliament, they may have been well thought through and therefore there is not much to do before the bills are passed. Even if it becomes difficult, the executive has majority in parliament so it can force the bill to go through.

### ***Court of Appeal***

In the past, the highest court of the land was the House of Lords. Though the House of Lords was the second chamber of the legislature, it was at the same time the Court of Appeal. This has since changed. Today, there is a Supreme Court separate from the House of Lords.

### ***Collective responsibility***

The members of the executive, that is the cabinet, are as a bloc responsible to the legislature for every action they take in the performance of their duties. The only way a cabinet member can absolve him or herself of blame is when a decision is made in cabinet is to resign. Once he or she does resign, he is bound by every decision that is made.

## **CHECK AND BALANCE:**

Meaning: It's a system that makes it possible for some people or parts of an organization to control the others, so that no particular person or part has too much power or influence.

### **Merits:**

1. All of the branches have equal power.
2. It guarantees individual liberty
3. It prevent leaders from becoming tyrants
4. It makes a government democratic and stable.

### **Demerits:**

1. It takes long for laws to be made official

## **Exercises**

1. Explore four (4) principles of the rule of law.
2. Why are there limitations to the rule of law?
3. Outline the factors that ensure the operation of the rule of law in any West African Country.
4. What is the meaning of fundamental human rights according to the 1999 constitution?
5. Explain the principle of separation of power.

## Week 10

# Topic: Representative Government

## Meaning:

A Representative Government is the type of government in which the citizens or the electorate are allowed to elect their leaders i.e. representatives. It is an indirect form of democracy.

## Features of Representative Government

1. **Political equality** (influence)
2. **Majority rule;** the candidate who gets 50% of the votes plus at least 1, wins. if the election is between more than 2 candidates, then it is narrowed down to the 2 with the highest percentage of votes and then the people vote between them.
3. **Political competition and choice:** voters must have more than one candidate to choose from
4. **Transparency in government**
5. **Political accountability:** the masses have a right to remove an incumbent from office if they are not abiding by the law and/or correctly doing their job

## Conditions for its Establishment:

- First the assembly must be freely representative as it is possible to make it.
- Second, members must be free to discuss issues with complete frankness and to reach decision without hindrance
- Third, the assembly's decision must be binding and enforceable.

A truly representative parliament according to J.H. Price involves the following requirements: free elections, a proper register of electors, proper constituencies and real choice of candidates and programmes, a politically educated electorate, frequent elections.

For free elections, the voters should have the opportunity of choosing the people they wish to represent them. They must therefore have genuine freedom of choice. Any eligible candidate should be allowed to stand for election without hindrance and the voter must feel himself free to vote for him with no fear of unpleasant consequences.

Voting must therefore be by secret ballot, in order that the individual voter's decision may never be known to anybody else.

## **Merits of Representative Government:**

### **1. Citizen Representation**

With this form of government, the people have the say in who is elected into any form of government office. These elected officials then make decisions based on what the people want, and in the best interest of majority of people. They represent the citizens in ways that they could not do for themselves.

### **2. A Place To Turn To**

By having elected officials in all areas of the country, if someone has an issue that they think should be addressed or something that they feel should change, they can easily access their local official. These officials can then help them with their problems and guide them through the steps they need to take to get it to the next level of government.

### **3. High Participation**

Knowing that they have a voice in the government urges people to be more educated and up to date on issues that are happening in the country as well as the world. Each year we see an increase in the amount of people showing up to vote for their officials.

## **Demerits of Representative Government**

### **1. Misplaced Trust**

Once the election process is over, the people's voice in government is virtually done. They have to put their faith and trust in the person that they elect to communicate and do things that they've promised to do. This is rarely the case. Many times these elected officials have ulterior agendas that are not in the best interest of the citizens.

### **2. The Majority Rules**

The election process of representative government focuses solely on the majority. The minority groups, no matter how significant their issues may be, are rarely represented simply because they do not have the majority of the votes to get an official into office. This causes a feeling of separation with these groups as well as feeling like their issues are not as important.

### **3. No Accountability**

Once elected, officials can do whatever they please, and this often includes breaking campaign promises that they made to be elected in the first place. When things go wrong, or not in favor of the people, there are no repercussions for these officials. The only possible consequence that could come is that they would not be reelected.

## **Exercises**

1. Why is representative government an indirect form of democracy?

2. Highlight five (5) features of a representative government.
3. Explain the conditions necessary for the establishment of a representative government.
4. Give four (4) merits of a representative government.
5. Outline the demerits of a representative government.