

GOVERNMENT

FOR

Senior Secondary School

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EDUBASE

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SS 1

GOVERNMENT

FIRST TERM

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Week 1&2

Topic- Meaning And Scope Of The Subject Matter

Government as an Institution of the State;

It is a machinery established by the state to organize, formulate and implement policies in the society. Government has three main institutions that assist it to carry out its responsibilities. These institutions are called arms, organs or branches of government.

These are: the executive, legislature and judiciary. The legislature makes law, the executive implements the law while the judiciary interprets the law.

Government as an Art or Process of Governing:

Government is seen as a process of administering a given state. This is because the activities of a given government involve a clear – cut procedure specifically laid down in the constitution of a state.

Government as an Academic Field of Study;

Government includes the study of political institutions in the state, ideas, values and doctrines about politics, political thinkers on what constitute the welfare of the people. Government is called political science in the tertiary institution. Government or political science can be divided into 5 branches.

Characteristics of Government

1. **Power:** This is the ability to command others to behave in a certain way or take a particular course of action irrespective of their wishes.
2. **Law:** This refers to a body of rules that regulates the conduct of the people.
3. **Revenue:** Imposition and collection of taxes, royalties, etc helps to generate funds for the government.
4. **Personnel:** This refers to the able bodied men and women who assist government to implement policies.
5. **Public Support:** It confers legitimacy on government and it gives it authority to rule.

6. **Provision of Social Amenities:** The responsibility of the government is to provide for the welfare of the people, e.g. security, pipe borne water, road, schools, electricity, etc.

Functions of Government

1. Government maintains law and order through the activities of law enforcement agencies like the police, army, etc.
2. It protects the people from internal and external attacks.
3. It fosters a sense of belonging and unity in a state.
4. It settles disputes between individuals, groups and institutions through various courts.
5. Government provides social and infrastructural facilities for the people.
6. It regulates the economy through its monetary and fiscal policies.

Importance of Studying Government

1. Government gives political education and equips the citizens with thoughtful mind.
2. The knowledge of the constitution can enable an individual to defend his freedom.
3. Government widens the political horizons of students.
4. The knowledge about powers and limitations of office holders can prevent the emergence of a dictator.
5. It gives leadership training to the students.
6. Government equips students to become an effective politician, political adviser, etc.
7. Government enables us to know our political environment and how the task of government is carried out.

Exercises

1. Define government as an institution of the state.
2. Government as a process of administering a given state is what?
3. Mention the three arms of government?
4. State five (5) characteristics of government.

5. Highlight 4 importance of government.

Week 3

Topic- The State and its Features

The State;

A state may be defined as a politically organised body of people inhabiting a defined geographical entity with an organised legitimate government. A state is free from external control and possesses the power to secure obedience from the citizens. U.S.A, Nigeria, Ghana etc are examples of states.

Features of a State

1. **Permanence:** The state remains a permanent feature.
2. **A defined territory:** A state has a defined territory with a limit to its size
3. **Government:** It is a machinery set up by the state to pilot the affairs of the people.
4. **Sovereignty:** The supreme power to make decisions and enforce same on the people is with the state. It is free from external interference and control.
5. **Population:** A state has a given number of people making up the entity and with time such number is bound to increase.

State and Nation

A state exists where there are a territory, people, a government and sovereignty, while a nation may be seen as a body of people who feel to be naturally linked together by the same language and culture.

The Society ;

Society is referred to as the association of human beings, suggesting the whole complex of relations of man to his fellows. There is the complicated network of groups and the institutions expressing human association.

There may be different groups in the society like the church, family, the trade unions etc which do influence social life but do not owe their origin to the state.

The state regulates human conduct, it orders us not to commit murder, not to steal and it prescribes punishment for their violation.

The Difference/Relationship Between State, Nation and Society;

The word “state” generally refers to the collectivity of institutions that regulate and govern the internal affairs of a country circumscribed by recognized international boundaries; and manage its relations with other states. State institutions include: the law making authority or polity; the political executive authority and government that implements and enforces the laws and delivers essential services for the general peace and prosperity of the country; the judiciary; and the military. The state derives its legitimacy from its legal authority and ability to provide peace, order and good government and to preserve the sovereignty and unity of the country.

The word “nation” often refers to a group of people sharing a common history, language(s), culture and customs, giving it a unique identity in relation to other peoples. A nation is not necessarily confined within a given country. For example, in South Asia the Pashtun would be considered a nation whose members reside in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Similarly the Jewish people may be considered a distinct nation although they reside in many countries. It is quite possible to have two or more nations or distinct peoples within a given country such as Canada, the United States and Belgium.

The word “society” refers to a community or social organization built upon commonly accepted rules, principles, norms and expectations that manage relations between its members and organizes their activities toward shared purpose(s).

Exercises

1. Define a state.
2. Describe the basic functions of a state.
3. Differentiate between a state and a nation
4. What is a society?
5. State any four (4) difference between a society and a nation.

Week: 4

Topic: Basic Concepts of Government

Power: is the ability to enforce decision or command others to take a course of action irrespective of their wish to do so. It is the ability to command others to behave in a certain way. For example, a political leader may have the ability to control the action of others by promising those who support him wealth or honors and he may threaten to deny such rewards to those that oppose him. Sanction is often applied for non-compliance.

Forms of Power;

1. Political power: it is the power derived from the people and the constitution. It is used in mobilizing the human and material resources of the state to achieve desired purpose.
2. Military power: It is exercised by the state to maintain internal and external security through the mobilization of the armed forces.
3. Economic power: It is exercised by those who own and control the means of production, distribution and exchange in a state.

Means of Acquiring Power;

1. By succession or inheritance: This is based on hereditary and it is mostly with the royal families. In a traditional society, the prince acquires the power to rule after the death of a king by virtue of belonging to a royal family.
2. By election: In all modern democratic states, power is acquired through election.
3. By coercion or force: Military often acquires political power by forcefully overthrowing a government through a coup d'état.
4. Through charisma: Some leaders acquire power and command obedience from their followers because of their attractive personalities.
5. Through economic resources: Power can be acquired when an individual is rich and has lots of properties.

Meaning of Authority:

This is the right of a person to command and direct others. It means the formal or legal right to make and enforce laws which the citizens obey. The people being commanded see it as a duty to obey the authority.

Forms of Authority;

1. Political authority: This is the right to issue command, make decision or policies and secure compliance from the people.
2. Administrative authority: This refers to the right of professionals or senior civil servants and managers to make decision and secure obedience.

iii. Judicial authority: This is the right of the judges to issue command in form of fines and other punishments and secure obedience.

1. Military authority: This refers to the rights of the members of the armed forces to use force in maintaining the security of a state.

Means of Acquiring Authority;

1. Legal authority: The right to exercise legal authority is derived from a body of rules and regulations of a particular state.
2. Traditional authority: This is derived from the customs and traditions of the people.
3. Charismatic authority: This is derived from the belief that individuals possess certain qualities which makes him to be accepted as a leader.

Types of Authority;

1. Traditional Authority: This is found in simple traditional society where the chief or council of elders exercise authority based on customs and traditions of the people.
2. Charismatic Authority: This is an authority derived from the belief in the exceptional ability of a leader which inspires allegiance among the followers.
3. Legal/Rational Authority: It is derived from the constitution of a modern democratic state exercised through the three organs of government.
4. Delegated Authority: This authority is mostly given to someone to exercise functions and responsibility on specific areas.
5. Technical Authority: It is based on the level of expertise the individual has acquired on the job.
6. Political Authority: It is the authority conferred on persons holding political offices.
7. Positional Authority: The position a person holds determines the level of his authority to his subordinates.
8. Coercive Authority: It is the authority based on the use of force or threat.

Differences between Power and Authority;

1. Power is the ability to command whereas authority is the right to give commands.
2. Unlike power where obedience is based on sanctions, authority is based on the power attached to the office of the incumbent.
3. People obey power holders for fear of sanctions while in authority, obedience is based on the legitimacy of the order.
4. Resistant to power is met with force while authority is not resisted for it has legitimacy in its orders.
5. Nevertheless, the two compliments each other as no one can exist in isolation.

Exercises

1. Name and explain two basic concepts of government.
2. Outline the forms of Power available in any one West African State.
3. Enumerate the ways by which a government can acquire Authority.

4. List and explain five (5) types of Authority.
5. Describe any four (4) differences between Power and Authority.

Week: 5

Topic: Legitimacy and Sovereignty

Legitimacy is the acceptability of government and political system by the people. They are regarded as lawful. A government is legitimate if it has come into office through a recognized and accepted procedure such as free and fair elections.

Factors that Affect Legitimacy

- i. In a society where there are common value accepted by large members, the government and political system based on such values will be legitimate.
- ii. In a state where there is a long period of political contact, legitimacy is enhanced.
- iii. National symbols and festivals promote legitimacy.
- iv. Good government enhances the acceptability of government by the people.
- v. Economic prosperity which allows the people to meet their basic needs enhances legitimacy.
- vi. Popular participation of various segments of the people in government promotes legitimacy.

Meaning of Sovereignty

It is popularly defined as the supreme power of a state to make and enforce laws within its jurisdiction without any external interference. Sovereignty also means that the power of the state (exercised by a body of persons known as sovereign) to make laws and enforce them with all the means of coercion it cares to employ without any external interference by other states. The idea of sovereignty originated from Jean Bodin (1530-1590), a French political thinker and philosopher. Sovereignty is derived from a Latin word 'superanus' which means supreme. Therefore, sovereignty can be defined as that which is supreme in state.

Types of Sovereignty

- i. External Sovereignty: This refers to powers of government in a state to conduct its affairs without any external interference.
- ii. Legal Sovereignty: This is the power of a government to make and enforce laws in a state with all coercive force at its disposal.
- iii. De-facto Sovereignty: It refers to the body of people who use force to make citizens obey their will.
- iv. De-jure Sovereignty: It is a body made of laws and its application.
- v. Internal Sovereignty: It is the power the state has to make and enforce laws within its area of authority.
- vi. Political Sovereignty: It is a body which is supreme and the will of the state is obeyed.

Characteristics of Sovereignty

1. Indivisibility: Sovereignty is the supreme and final coercive power of the state over the people living within the state.
2. Permanence: Sovereignty is a permanent feature of the state irrespective of what happens to the government.
3. Absoluteness: The powers of a sovereign state are absolute and cannot be restricted.
4. Independence: Sovereignty implies independence of a state from external control.

5. The powers exercised by the state are wide and encompassing.

Location of Sovereignty in a State

1. Location in a federal state: It recognises the different authorities, power and functions to exercise.
2. Location in a unitary state: It recognises only the central level authority.
3. The electorate: The electorates have the ultimate power to decide who will be their representatives.
4. In a monarch: Britain is a good example where the location of sovereignty can be traced to the Queen in parliament.
5. Location in a military regime: Military regime is highly centralised.

Limitations to Sovereignty

1. The sovereignty of a state is limited by the action of the internal organisation it belongs to. E.g., United Nations Organisations (UNO).
2. States that disobey international laws may face some sanctions.
3. Less developed countries depend on developed countries for aids of different dimension.
4. Customs and traditions of a state are considered before and when making laws.
5. Some categories of pressure groups need to be contacted before laws are made and executed.
6. The military strength of the super powers especially the U.S.A enables them to interfere decisively in the internal affairs of weaker states with impunity.

Exercise

1. Define legitimacy
2. What are the factors that affect legitimacy?
3. (a) Define sovereignty. (b) How did sovereignty originate?

4. Highlight the types and characteristics of sovereignty in modern governments

5. What are the limitations to in most West African countries?

Week ; 6&7

Topic: Democracy

Definition;

Democracy can be defined as a government of the people, by the people and for the people in ordinary terms.

Democracy is a system of government in which all the people of a state or nation are involved in making decisions about its affairs, typically by voting to elect representatives to a parliament or similar assembly.

Features of Democracy:

(i) Elected representative:

In democracy representatives elected by the people make laws and frame policies of the government.

(ii) Elections are held to elect the representatives:

All adult citizens have the right to participate (vote) in .the elections. Elections should be free and fair and must be held at regular intervals. Citizens who have reached a certain age (in India, it is 25 years for election to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies) are allowed to contest elections.

(iii) Civil liberties:

An important characteristic of democracy is that it grants top civil liberties to the citizens. They enjoy freedoms of speech, expression, and information. Citizens have a right to form, join or quit an association. It includes the right to form political party.

(iv) Rule of law:

Another characteristic of democracy is that it ensures rule of law. Law is supreme and all the citizens are equal in the eyes of law. No one is above law.

Types of Democracy;

1. **Political Democracy:** this refers to the extent to which actual political power is determined by one's social destiny which belong to the vast majority of citizen. The emphasis is on the place and role of people in government. In simple language, political democracy arises when the people of a country have a say in the administration of their country, i.e. when political leaders are not imposed on them.

2. **Economic Democracy:** This is the acceptance of the basic quality of man as human and the basic responsibility of all adult men and women for their own destiny. In simple language, economic democracy arises when a country can produce the goods she needs without relying on other countries, i.e. when a country is economically independent .

Merits and Demerits of Democracy;

Merits:

. **Responsible and accountable Government:** The democratic form of government is run by the elected representatives of the people of the country. It is the people of the democratic country who rule the country through their representatives. Thus, the elected representatives act responsible for the well-being of citizens of the country. Democracy ensures popular control and popular responsibility and the elected representatives remains accountable to them.

2. Equality and fraternity: Democracy preaches the equality and fraternity of men. The idea of the equality of man was strengthened by the idea of nationalism. Every nation felt that it had the right to be free, to throw off foreign domination. If that is so, if a nation has the right of self-determination, it follows logically that every man has the right to determine how he will be governed. The modern world is dominated by two principles, viz. democracy and nationalism.

3. Sense of responsibility among common people: The achievements of democracy are many. It has infused into the common people a sense for responsibility and power. It has enriched the life of the people who take a warm interest in the affairs of their country and of the world. With greater and greater democracy has come greater and greater freedom. Everyone is free to express his opinions, and although occasionally there may be restrictions on individuals, personal liberty is the goal of democracy, and there is more freedom in democracy than in any other form of government.

4. Self-government: Democracy has gradually become universal because it is inevitable. Man is born with an innate tendency to be free, and he cannot help feeling that he should govern himself. He may be more effectively governed by others, but he will say that good government is no substitute for self-government, and in actual practice, democracy has improved the lot of the common man beyond the dreams of his forefathers who lived under kingship or feudalism. The common man is now not only freer, but he is more educated and wealthier and happier than he used to be in the part.

5. Development and prosperity for all: Democracy ensures development and prosperity for all. Democracy brings the greatest good for the largest number of people. Democracy can realize the concept of the welfare state where every man or women can claim the right to food, to education and to employment. Day by day, through a just distribution of taxes, through various welfare measures, the distinction between the rich and poor is being abolished and the equality of man is being realized.

6. Popular Sovereignty: The supreme power vests in the hands of the common-people of the country. If the elected representatives act irresponsibly, then they can be dropped in the next election. Hence, democracy ensures sovereignty of the people.

7. Sense of cooperation and fraternal feeling: Every citizen, men or women, rich or poor, is considered equal in the eyes of law. The feeling of unity, oneness, and cooperation is the basis of democracy. The dignity and honour of every individual is protected without any discrimination. The social gap is thus reduced.

Demerits;

Democracy is the best form of government so far found, but democracy is not without its defects and its critics. In ancient times when states were small, men would gather in a particular place and decide everything by vote. Here democracy was direct.

1. Indirect or representative democracy: As the size of states is becoming larger and larger, we have to content ourselves with indirect or representative democracy. We vote for our representatives, and it is they who carry on the government, and the common man relapses into political indolence. So the vast majority of people who form the electorate are politically active only once or twice in four or five years. Very often, it is found that the elected representative is a power-loving person. They work for their personal and ignore the interest of the nation.

2. Lack of educated and experienced voters: A large number of uneducated voters participate in the election process. As they have very little to do in matters of government except recording their vote, they have no political experience and become victims of powerful people who deceive them with large promises and use them for their own private ends.

3. Equal voting right to both wise, average and innocent person: The common people have no political experience. They don't have the political wisdom. A wise, average, and an innocent person have equal voting rights. Ignorant people may or may not vote for the right candidate. It is only likely that a company of innocent people will elect one among-st themselves and not the right candidate to represent them. It cannot, therefore, be the best form of government. At times, average people fail to accept new ideas. They tend to attach to stick to old ideas and select candidates on the basis of tradition. The masses hardly care for logic and reason. They easily react to popular slogans.

4. Freedom to all shades of opinion: Another charge against democracy is that as it gives freedom of expression to all shades of opinion. It easily leads to the formation of parties, and party government only means talk and talk and talk, democratic parliaments being more or less dignified debating societies.

5. Delay in decision making process: The power is not centralized which delays the decision making process. A number of formalities are to be observed in decision making and adopting process. At times, it becomes difficult to take quick measures in the best interest of the country. This acts as an hindrance for economic growth and development.

Conditions Necessary for a Successful Operation of Democracy;

1. Citizens should be allowed to participate in the government of the country.
2. Principles underlining democracy should be adhered to.

3. People should be allowed to elect their leaders into office through free and fair election.
4. The country allows different political parties to participate.
5. Democracy thrives where there is opposition.

Political Culture;

Meaning;

Political culture is the “set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments that give order and meaning to a political process and which provide the underlying assumptions and rules that govern behavior in the political system”. It encompasses both the political ideals and operating norms of a polity. Political culture is thus the manifestation of the psychological and subjective dimensions of politics. A political culture is the product of both the history of a political system and the histories of the members. Thus it is rooted equally in public events and private experience.

Component of Political Culture:

1. Cognitive Orientation
2. Evaluation Orientation
3. Affective Orientation.

Determinant of Political Culture;

1. The Historical Factor:

History plays an important role in the making and evolution of Political Culture. Historical events always influence the shaping of political culture in a big way. French political culture bears a deep impact on the French Revolution and the “Declaration of Rights of Man and of Citizen.” Likewise, the American Declaration of Independence, the War of Independence and the Civil War of mid-19th century exercised a big influence upon the American Political Culture.

2. Political Continuity or Discontinuity:

The continuity or discontinuity of a political system determines the nature of its political culture. Continuity of political process helps the evolution of a participant political culture and secures the linkage between the past and the present.

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Definition:

Political socialization is a lifelong process by which people form their ideas about politics and acquire political values. The family, educational system, peer groups, and the mass media all play a role. While family and school are important early in life, what our peers think and what we read in the newspaper and see on television have more influence on our political attitudes as adults.

Agent of Political Socialization:

Family

There is no better way to start than to talk about the role of family in our social development, as family is usually considered to be the most important agent of socialization. As infants, we are completely dependent on others to survive. Our parents, or those who play the parent role, are responsible for teaching us to function and care for ourselves. They, along with the rest of our family, also teach us about close relationships, group life, and how to share resources. Additionally, they provide us with our first system of values, norms, and beliefs – a system that is usually a reflection of their own social status, religion, ethnic group, and more.

Schools

The next important agent of childhood socialization is the school. Of course, the official purpose of school is to transfer subject knowledge and teach life skills, such as following directions and meeting deadlines. But, students don't just learn from the academic curriculum prepared by teachers and school administrators. In school, we also learn social skills through our interactions with teachers, staff, and other students. For example, we learn the importance of obeying authority and that to be successful, we must learn to be quiet, to wait, and sometimes to act interested even when we're not.

Peer Group

Another agent of socialization that relates to school is our peer group. Unlike the agents we've already discussed – family and school – peer groups give us an opportunity as children to form relationships with others on our own terms, plus learn things without the direction of an adult. Our peers have an incredible amount of influence on us when we're young, so it's understandable that parents worry about the type of friends we choose. Often, we discuss topics and learn behavioral norms from our peers that our parents do not or would not approve of.

Exercises

1. Define Democracy.
2. What conditions are necessary for the successful operation of democracy?
3. What are the features of democracy?
4. Highlight the different features of democracy.
5. State five (5) merits and demerits of democracy?

Week: 8

Topic: Communism, Socialism And Capitalism

Definition;

Communism may be defined as a political and economic system in which the community through the common ownership, collectively controls all the means of production of goods and services, exchange and distribution.

Karl Marx (1818–1883) writes that; communism will be achieved if the state serves as an instrument of coercion and repression cease to exist. The slogan of communism is from “each according to his ability and to each according to his needs”.

Characteristics of Communism

1. The state applies the use of force to achieve goals.
2. Most communist states are one-party state.
3. The economic planning is highly centralized.
4. The community through the common ownership collectively controls all the means of production.
5. Productive activities are meant for common purposes.
6. Class distinction in the system is discouraged.
7. There is equal distribution of the nation's wealth among citizens.
8. Communism arose as an attack on the evils of industrialization.
9. Most communist leaders are dictators.

Socialism;

This is philosophical , political an economic theory which says that “land transport, the chief industries, natural resources e.g coal, water, power etc, should be owned and managed by the state or by public bodies and wealth equally distributed.

Features of Socialism:

1. Public or state ownership of means of production
2. A heavy graduated income-tax
3. Abolition of right of inheritance

4. Elimination of excessive exploitation and inequality
5. Confiscation of all property

Merits of Socialism:

Prof. Schumpeter has advanced four arguments in favour of socialism: one, greater economic efficiency; two, welfare due to less inequality; three, absence of monopolistic practices; and four, absence of business fluctuations. We discuss these merits of socialism one by one.

(1) Greater Economic Efficiency:

Economic efficiency under socialism is greater than under capitalism. The means of production are controlled and regulated by the central planning authority towards chosen ends. The central planning authority makes an exhaustive survey of resources and utilises them in the most efficient manner.

Increased productivity is secured by avoiding the wastes of competition and by undertaking expensive research and production processes in a coordinated manner. Economic efficiency is also achieved by utilising resources in producing socially useful goods and services which satisfy the basic wants of the people, like cheap food, cloth, and housing.

(2) Greater Welfare due to Less Inequality of Income:

In a socialist economy there is less inequality of income as compared with a capitalist economy because of the absence of private ownership of the means of production, private capital accumulation, and private profit. All citizens work for the welfare of the state and each is paid his remuneration according to his ability, education and training. All rents, interests and profits from various sources go to the state which spends them for public welfare in providing free education, cheap and congenial housing, free public health amenities, and social security to the people.

(3) Absence of Monopolistic Practices:

Another advantage of socialism is that it is free from monopolistic practices to be found in a capitalist society. Since under socialism all means of production are owned by the state, both competition and monopoly are eliminated. The exploitation by the monopolistic is absent. Instead of private monopoly, there is the state monopoly of the productive system but this is operated for the welfare of the people. In the state-owned factories, socially useful commodities are produced which are of high quality and are also reasonably priced.

(4) Absence of Business Fluctuations:

A socialist economy is free from business fluctuations. There is economic stability because production and consumption of goods and services are regulated by the central planning authority in accordance with the objectives, targets and priorities of the plan. Thus there is neither overproduction nor unemployment.

Demerits of Socialism:

A socialist economy has also certain disadvantages:

1. Loss of Consumers' Sovereignty:

There is loss of consumers' sovereignty in a socialist economy. Consumers do not have the freedom to buy whatever commodities they want. They can consume only those commodities which are available in department stores. Often the quantities which they can buy are fixed by the state.

2. No Freedom of Occupation:

There is also no freedom of occupation in such a society. Every person is provided job by the state. But he cannot leave or change it. Even the place of work is allotted by the state. All occupational movements are sanctioned by the state.

3. Malallocation of Resources:

Under socialism, there is arbitrary allocation of resources. The central planning authority often commits mistakes in resource allocation because the entire work is done on trial and error basis.

4. Bureaucratic:

A socialist economy is said to be a bureaucratic economy. It is operated like a machine. So it does not provide the necessary initiative to the people to work hard. People work due to the fear of higher authorities and not for any personal gain or self-interest.

There is no doubt that a socialist economy is better than a capitalist economy because of its overwhelming merits. But it is disliked for the loss of political, economic and personal freedoms.

Difference between capitalism and socialism;

The primary difference between capitalism and socialism is that capitalism promotes innovation and personal pursuits, while socialism promotes societal fairness and equality. A capitalist economy accepts that income polarity is a reality in order to motivate high performers to develop new ideas and products for personal gain. A socialist economy tries to balance wealth through policies that ensure each person has an adequate amount of income, food and supplies.

The holder of economic control also varies. In a capitalist system, private companies and individuals drive the economy by developing successful businesses, making money and paying workers. In socialism, the government controls the economy by allocating resources and coordinating the redistribution of wealth.

Exercises

1. What is communism?
2. Outline the characteristics of communism.
3. Explain the meaning of socialism.
4. Highlight four (4) arguments in favour of socialism.

5. Discuss the difference between communism and socialism.

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Week9

Topic: Communalism:

Communalism is the first, most primitive and the simplest mode of production where the land and what is produced on the land belongs to all the members of the community and are equitably distributed or shared.

Features of Communalism;

1. What is produced belongs to the community.
2. The society is classless
3. Production is at subsistence level
4. The means of exchange is by barter
5. Absence of commodification of labour

Feudalism;

Feudalism can be defined as the identification of landed property with sovereignty over a parcel of land which becomes a private hereditary possession and an asset to the family.

Characteristics of Feudalism

1. Vassals hold land in trust for the Lords.
2. There was evidence of a close personal bond between the lord and the vassal.
3. If a vassal dies without heirs, his property is reverted to the Lord.
4. If a vassal was guilty of treason, the lord might claim his possession by forfeiture.
5. This system is based on land ownership.
6. The overlords are duty bound to offer protection to themselves.

Merits of Feudalism

1. Order and personal loyalty: Feudalism gave some order and avoided total chaos by bringing together the strong sentiments of personal loyalty connected with the possession of land.
2. Frame work: Feudalism provided a temporary frame work of order on which a true and reliable national life could grow.

3. Self-reliance: It fostered among the big lords, self reliance and love of personal independence.
4. Spirit of liberty: Feudalism succeeded in keeping alive the spirit of liberty in medieval Europe.

Demerits of Feudalism

1. Inability to form strong national government.
2. State of anarchy was inevitable in such a system.
3. The system was based on confusion and was badly organised.
4. The state was roughly disintegrated and could no longer act as a whole.
5. There is obedience to common law.
6. Feudalism created confusion between private and public rights.

Fascism

Fascism is defined as a form of government headed by a dictator in which government has a total control over all activities in the state and personal liberties are denied the people. It originated in Italy under Benito Mussolin.

Features of Fascism

1. The leader has all the powers of the state, i.e. legislative, judicial and executive powers.
2. All authority and rights within the state originates from the leader.
3. It is limited to the few elite groups.
4. No political opposition is tolerated or allowed.
5. It denies individuals of their liberties.
6. Government owns and controls the mass media as a means of propaganda.
7. The state's economy is highly centralised.

Totalitarianism

Totalitarianism is defined as a form of government in which the state has absolute control of everything, including all aspects of the citizens' life. In this form of government, law is seen as a product of the will of rulers.

Features of Totalitarianism

1. There is no limit to the powers of the government because there is no constitution.
2. The government is headed by a dictator.
3. People are given little or no attention.
4. The government uses force to suppress those who oppose any of its policies.
5. There is absolute control of the mass media.
6. It is a highly centralised economy.
7. The system is usually practiced in a one-party state.

Exercises

1. Differentiate between Communalism, Feudalism, Fascism And Totalitarianism.

2. Enumerate five (5) common features of communalism.
3. What are the factors militating against the adoption of feudalism by modern governments?
4. What are the characteristic of a fascist state?
5. (a) What is totalitarianism? (b) What are the similarities between totalitarianism and fascism

Week: 10&11

Topic: Types And Characteristics of Government

Unitary System of Government

A unitary system of government, or unitary state, is a sovereign state governed as a single entity. The central government is supreme, and the administrative divisions exercise only powers that the central government has delegated to them.

Features of Unitary System of Government:

1. A Single Central all-powerful Government:

In a unitary state, all the powers are vested with one single central government whose authority is supreme over all the parts of the state. It alone legislates for the entire state. Local Governments can make rules under powers specifically delegated to them by the central government.

2. Local Governments exist at the will of the Central Government:

In a unitary state, the local governments are created and given powers by the central government. These work as administrative units or as departments of the central government. They operate as the central government directs. Their boundaries and powers can be changed at will by the central government.

3. Constitution can be Written or Unwritten:

Since there is no division of powers and all the powers belong to the central government, there is no special need for a written constitution. The constitution can be written or unwritten in accordance with the wishes of the people.

4. Flexibility of the Constitution and Administration:

The central government alone has the power to amend the constitution and in this sense the constitution of a unitary state is always flexible.

5. Single Uniform Administration:

The existence of an all-powerful central government exercising power over all the people and places leads to the existence of a single, stable and strong administration for the whole state. The administration is simple in organisation and direct in approach towards all local and national issues. It has neither the complexities arising out of double citizenship and dual administration as characterised a federation. It is a system of government run by a single executive, single legislature and single judicial system.

Merits of Unitary System of Government:

1. A Uniformed Nation

One of the most advantageous points of a unitary government is that everyone feels a sense of belonging. It inspires uniformity among the states of the nation, as well as patriotism because everyone has a major thing in common. All of the laws and policies span for the entire nation, so there is no disdain over one state having more freedom or liberties than others.

2. Quick Change is Good Change

Things can happen very quickly, and on a large scale, within a unitary government. Since there is only one branch of power, things do not have lengthy processes to get through before being approved or put into effect. This is extremely beneficial for the entire nation.

3. Management Made Simple

Managing the economy of a country underneath a unitary government is as easy as could be. Since all of the laws pertaining to things like taxes span the entire nation, it is simple to manage the fluctuations of the economy.

4. Taxes Go To Better Use

In this form of government, there are no duplication of any types of services. Often times there are federal services available, as well as local government efforts for the same services. This wastes the tax payers money. Since there are no local forms of government in a unitary government, there is no duplication and thus less tax payer money being spent on the same services.

5. Local Branches Are Possible

Many people argue that a unitary government is ineffective because it overlooks local issues. The government can still choose to allow local branches of the government to be set up to deal with these types of issues. This flexibility makes a unitary government a wonderful option.

Demerits of Unitary System of Government;

1. Easily Fall Out of Touch

Since all of the power is centralized, it becomes all too easy for the government to fall out of touch with what the majority of citizens truly want or need. This can cause conflict between the government and it's people, which is never a good sign for a country.

2. Response Is Slow

There is only one avenue to travel if you have a local issue within the government. The system becomes very easily bogged down with these smaller issues, that they rarely ever get resolved. Even if they do get some attention, it can take a ridiculously long amount of time.

3. A Glorified Dictatorship?

Opponents of unitary governments claim that all of its characteristics and inner workings are nothing but a dictatorship with a larger dictator. This isn't entirely untrue. Since there is only a single unit of power, the citizens can become easily exploited for the government's own benefit. There is also no checks and balances within a government of this kind, leaving many things up to chance.

4. Communities Are Lost

Another major issue with unitary governments is that all local sense of security, community, and pride are lost. No one is allowed to go against the government, and everywhere you go in the nation is under the same rules. There is no diversity, and no sense of local pride.

Federal System of Government;

A federal system of government is one in which there is constitutional division of power among different levels or three tiers of government (federal, state and local government).

In a federal system, the federal or central authority represents the whole and acts on behalf of all in certain matters while the state is authorized with powers of legislation and administration within constitutional limits.

Features of the Federal System of Government;

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

Reasons for Adopting the Federal System of Government:

1. **Size:** A state is a large territory may adopt a federal system for administrative convenience.
2. **Heterogeneity:** A state may adopt federalism as a result of the diverse population with different languages and cultures.

3. **Security consideration:** A group of small states may unite to form a federal state for fear of an imagined or real enemy. An example of such state is Switzerland.
4. **Economic reason:** A group of autonomous states may adopt federalism in order to pool their resources together for mutual benefit.
5. **Historical reason:** Historical antecedents like colonialism, past trade ties may lead to a federation of hitherto autonomous state.
6. **Geographical proximity:** The desirability of states to form a federation depends on their geographical closeness to one another.

Merits of Federal System of Government:

1. Federalism brings the government nearer to the people.
2. It is a system that achieves unity in diversity. It brings people with cultural backgrounds together to work as one.
3. It widens political participation.
4. It allows each unit to develop at its own pace and to set its own priority.
5. Government policy can be easily adapted to meet local needs in federal state.
6. Employment opportunities are created for more people to be employed.
7. The burden of the central government is reduced.
8. There is supremacy in the constitution of a federal state.

Demerits of a Federal State

1. A federal state is very expensive to run because of duplication of government ministries and agencies.
2. There is possibility of conflict between the tiers of government while exercising their powers.
3. It often brings disunity in the state.
4. Federal system encourages uneven development among the component units.

Exercises

1. What are the features of a unitary system of government?
2. Examine five (5) merits and demerits of unitary system of government.
3. What are the different divisions of the federal system of government in a country like Nigeria?
4. Highlight the conditions necessary for the adoption of a federal system of government.
5. Explain the merits and demerits of a federal system.

SS1

GOVERNMENT

SECOND TERM

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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

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.

Monarchies

Elective

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

Monarchies

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 principle by which a state is governed. It is the fundamental laws and principle 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&8

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 is 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.

The judiciary punishes 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 other 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 *veto*es 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 9/10

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 departments 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 government. 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 11

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.

SS 1

GOVERNMENT

THIRD TERM

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Week1/ 2/3

Topic: Delegated Legislation

Meaning of Delegated Legislation

Delegated legislation means the exercise of legislative power by an agency that is subordinate to the legislature. This subordinate body acquires the power from the act of the legislature. Power is transferred from the principal lawmaker to the lower body, which may be the executive, cabinet, council of minister, or a specific administrative agency, by the mechanism of delegation.

TYPES OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION

There are different types of delegated legislation:

- Statutory Instruments
- byelaws
- Orders in Council
- Court Rule committees
- professional regulations.

Reasons For Delegated Legislation

1. Despite the ever-increasing volume of primary legislation, the complexities of governing a sophisticated society (and even a developing society) demands the delegation of some legislative functions to inferior bodies such as ministers and administrative agencies. Clearly parliament does not have time or resources to enact every single piece of legislation that is needed in the form of primary legislation, which can be fully debated and scrutinized in accordance with legislative procedures. The result is delegated legislation- legislation produced by an 'inferior body' which nevertheless has the force of law.
2. Tackling the complexities of modern administration in an efficient and efficient manner demands an atmosphere of complexity. Parliament has to follow strict legislative procedures to make a single law. Hence, it will be far from being flexible without delegating some of its powers to the executive.

Merits of Delegated Legislation:

- Saves limited time in Parliament;
- Allow rapid change;

- Lack detailed or technical knowledge. E.g. Specific details in Abortion Act, Road Traffic detail
- Quick response to new developments, e.g. Foot and Mouth outbreaks. The Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act allows the quick addition of new prohibited groups.
- Enables minor changes to statutes, e.g. Variations in sentences, approval of motor vehicle changes.
- Model bylaws available from Whitehall.
- Withdrawal or amendment easy.

Demerits of Delegated Legislation

- Implies that Parliament has insufficient time to scrutinize it. Parliament is not reviewing legislation properly.
- Sub-delegation of powers a further problem (although not for EU statutory instruments), which causes complexity and confusion.
- Sheer volume causes complexity – it is impossible for anyone to keep abreast of all delegated legislation.
- Lack of publicity, not known about by the public (and often lawyers).
- It is undemocratic as most regulations are made by civil servant or other unelected people, except for local authority bylaws made by elected Councillors.

Control of Delegated Legislation

Delegated legislation is controlled by the Parliament and the judiciary. Overall, the Parliament has control along with statutory committees who take into account the delegated powers made by a Bill. Using the negative resolution procedure statutory instruments can become legislation in either two ways. One of the ways it commences is when after the statutory instruments is written, it is shown to Parliament. However, if after forty days there are no counter arguments it instantly becomes law, if there is some concern then it is debated upon. The other procedure is more oppressive as the Parliament does not amend any statutory instruments in fact only one out of ten instruments are passed under this procedure.

Exercises

1. What is delegated legislation and how is it authorized?
2. Outline the different types of delegated legislation.
3. Why is there need for delegated legislation?
4. Enumerate the merits and demerits of delegated legislation.
5. Describe the process of controlling delegated legislation.

Week 4

Topic: Citizenship

Meaning:

Citizenship is the condition or status of being a legally recognized member of the state, being a citizen gives a person rights, duties and obligations.

WAYS OF ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP

1. **By Birth:** A person is a citizen by birth if either of his parents is a citizen of a country. It can also be explained when a child is born in a particular state i.e. a child born to Nigerian couple in United State is automatically a citizen of the country.
2. **By Nationalization:** One can become a citizen of a country through nationalization. This is possible if he can satisfy the constitutional requirements for nationalization.
3. **Marriage or Registration:** If a woman is married to a person of another nationality, she can acquire the citizenship of her husband's country through registration. For example, a Nigerian woman married to a British man or a British woman married to a Nigerian
4. **Dual Citizenship:** It is legitimately possible for a person to hold citizenship of two countries. For example, a child born to a Nigerian parent living in the USA becomes a US citizen as well as a Nigerian citizen because the parents are Nigerians
5. **Honorary Citizenship:** An individual could be honored with the citizenship of another country. This is made possible if the individual as distinguished him/herself in a particular area could be through academics or by doing something globally beneficial to a country.

Week 5&6

Topic: CITIZENSHIP: Ways Of Losing Citizenship

WAYS OF LOSING CITIZENSHIP

1. **Through disloyalty:** A naturalized citizen can lose his citizenship if his activities are prejudicial to the country's corporate existence
2. **Supporting Another country:** If a citizen is found supporting another country engaged in war with his country, his citizenship may be deprived him
3. **Imprisonment:** The individual can also lose his citizenship if within a period of say 5-7 years after of becoming nationalized, he gets involved in a criminal case, resulting in his incarceration for some years.
4. **Treason:** The nationalized citizen can equally lose his citizenship, if found guilty of this offence
5. **False Declaration:** If there is a fundamental breach of the citizenship agreement binding him e.g false declaration
6. **Renouncement:** The individual can lose his citizenship by renouncing it

RIGHTS OF A CITIZEN

Fundamental human right means that every individual at birth is endowed with certain rights- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Most of these rights are recognized and entrenched in the constitution of most countries. Therefore it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that its citizenship enjoys these rights

These rights include:

1. The right to life, security, protection of law and undisturbed access to the court of law
2. Freedom and protection from slavery and forced labor
3. The right to vote and to be voted for in any political election
4. Right to ownership of property and protection from deprivation of property
5. Freedom of forming and joining any political association
6. Freedom of movement without any restraints
7. Freedom from unlawful detention, arrest and torture
8. Freedom of expression and of the press
9. Right to education
10. The right to a fair hearing
11. Freedom of religion

WAYS OF SAFEGUARDING CITIZEN'S RIGHTS

1. Independent judiciary which can adjudicate on matters of citizen right infringement
2. Respect for the rule of law
3. Free press which can serve as a watch dog against abuse of human rights
4. Awareness on the part of citizens on their rights
5. Existence of human right commission
6. Ruling according to the rule of law
7. Introduction of programs to enlighten the people

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZEN

1. Obedience to the law
2. Prompt payment on taxes and other compulsory bills
3. Helping law enforcement agency in exposing and attacking crime
4. The citizen is expected to appear as a witness in court when summoned to provide evidence
5. Participating in electoral process to elect public office holder

LIMITATIONS TO A CITIZEN'S RIGHT

1. A citizen has no right to slander another citizen
2. A citizen who is convicted and imprisoned may lose his voting rights and movements while in prison
3. A citizen has no right to trespass into another person's property
4. Government may restrict citizen's movement during emergency period e.g. curfew
5. Citizen may be denied to own some property e.g. weapons of some category
6. Citizens may be deprived of their lives and this could happen if they take another person's life and are condemned by court.

Exercises

1. Outline the ways one can lose citizenship.
2. List and explain six (6) rights of a Nigerian citizen.
3. Highlight the ways the rights of a citizen can be protected.
4. What are the duties and obligations of the citizen to the state?
5. Under what circumstances can a citizen's rights be breached?

Week 7

Topic: Political Parties

Meaning of Political Party:

A political party is an organization of people of like-minds united by the common desire to obtain the mandate of an electoral constituency to form and operate a government.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTY

Mass parties: These are political parties that are structured to allow as many citizens as possible to take membership. Membership of mass parties are mainly composed of different sections of the society

Elitist parties: These parties either deliberately or otherwise limit membership to a few elitist in a society and these elitists are of the upper class.

Ideological parties: Some parties are formed mainly to promote a particular ideological belief, a good example is Adolph Hitler national socialist party (NAZI).

Oligarchy parties: These are parties that are formed by and which invariably revolves around certain individuals.

Features of Political Party

1. It should be honest and just in decision making
2. Organizing and conducting election in a political system
3. Responsible for the conduct of free and fair election in a country
4. Having the sole power of announcing electoral result
5. It's an independent and electoral power body

Functions of Political Party

1. Political parties unite the people on major issues affecting the states
2. It serves as a line between the people and government
3. It enables the government's accountability to the people
4. It provides an organization for running the government
5. It serves as an avenue for changing government

Exercises

1. What is a political party?
2. What is the number one goal of political parties?
3. List and explain five (5) types of political parties in your country.
4. Discuss any four (4) features of political parties.
5. State and discuss the functions of political parties.

Week 8

Topic: PARTY SYSTEM

Definition of Party System:

Refers to a political arrangement in which government can only be constituted upon the election of a political party in democratic electoral setting. A party system is a concept in comparative political science concerning the system of government by political parties in a democratic country.

TYPES OF PARTY SYSTEM

ONE PARTY/SINGLE PARTY SYSTEM: It is an arrangement in which only one single party is legally recognized to converse for vote and present candidate for election. It is common feature for communist or socialist country e.g. North Korea, Cuba, China, Kenya e.t.c

TYPES OF ONE PARTY SYSTEM

1. **True Single party:** This effectively prevents the formation of any other active parties
2. **Hegemonic party:** This enjoys unchallenged authority and the law does not operate formally against any opposition.
3. **Pre-dominant party:** This is a party which is elected and continues to be elected.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A ONE PARTY SYSTEM

1. One officially recognized
2. Recognized by the constitution
3. No private control of the mass media
4. There is only one ideology to the country
5. Government policies are strictly enforced

ADVANTAGES OF ONE PARTY SYSTEM

1. It promotes unity as all politician are accommodated within the only existing party
2. It makes use of the most competent people
3. It is economical
4. It makes the process of decision making faster

DISADVANTAGES OF ONE PARTY SYSTEM

1. It is non-democratic as it does not present the voters with choice
2. It encourages violence of government
3. It gives room for corruption
4. There is limited political education for the people

TWO PARTY SYSTEM: This is an arrangement in which only two political parties are recognized to contest for elected posts, a good example is the United States where they have republican and democratic party which are dominant. Britain is another good example where they have labor and conservative party

CHARACTERISTICS OF TWO PARTY SYSTEM

1. There is room for another contesting party
2. It gives room for press freedom
3. There is opportunity for choice of candidate and parties
4. It accommodates democratic principles and allows operation of rule of law

ADVANTAGES OF TWO PARTY SYSTEM

1. It is more democratic than one party system because it allows for choice of candidates and program
2. It promotes political stability in the country
3. It prevents dictatorship which can come up in a one party system
4. It facilitates the existence of an opposition party to check on the excesses of the ruling party and government

DISADVANTAGES OF TWO PARTY SYSTEM

1. Division of the country into two factions
2. Decision making sense to the slower
3. It is more expensive to run
4. It does not promote unity
5. It may encourage electoral malpractices

MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM: This is an arrangement in which multiple of parties exist with each producing a reasonable and good candidate to be elected into government. This party system is regarded as a democratic party system for example, Since Nigeria's second republic (1979-1985), it has recognized different political parties, a coalition government is usually formed in a multi-party system.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

1. Existence of many parties
2. Legal recognition of all political parties
3. Easy choice of individual parties and programs
4. It enhances political education
5. It gives room for coalition government

ADVANTAGES OF MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

1. It increases scope of political participation
2. It gives room for wider choice for the electorate
3. It reduces the chances of the emergency of a single party dictatorship
4. It encourages party organization through competition

DISADVANTAGES OF MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

1. It may aid political instability as different people/parties from a government one after the other in succession
2. It brings bribery and corruption
3. Forming a coalition government is usually weak and unstable
4. It may lead to confusion due to too many political program

ZERO PARTY SYSTEM: This has to do with a standard where party leaders are elected by people on individual basis. There is no political party and candidates are mostly independent and elected according to their members.

ADVANTAGES OF ZERO PARTY SYSTEM

1. Proper management of time
2. Discourages electoral malpractices
3. The conduct of election is very simple to operate
4. It reduces cost
5. Decision making is quick and opposeful

DISADVANTAGES OF ZERO PARTY SYSTEM

1. It may encourage political instability
2. There is absence of public manifesto

Exercises

1. Define party system and explain five (5) types of party systems.
2. What are the characteristics of a multi-party system?
3. What are the main advantages and disadvantages of a one-party system?
4. Differentiate between a one-party and a two-party system.
5. Define a zero-party system.

Week 9

Topic: PRESSURE GROUPS

MEANING OF PRESSURE GROUP

This is an organization of like minds coming together in a formal way with a view of protecting or advancing some particular interest. A **pressure group** is an organized **group** that seeks to influence government (public) policy or protect or advance a particular cause or interest. **Groups** may promote a specific issue and raise it up the political agenda or they may have more general political and ideological objectives in mind when they campaign.

TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUP

1. **Gender Pressure Group:** This pressure group is set up solely to defend gender interest.
2. **Economic Professional Pressure Group:** This is pressure group set-up to converse for economic issues
3. **Ethnic or Cultural Pressure Group:** This is formed along ethnic interest e.g. Odua people congress (OPC), Arewa people's congress (APC)
4. **Religious Pressure Group:** Such groups influences government policies over religious issues e.g. Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Muslim students society (MSS)
5. **Anomic Pressure Group:** This is an unorganized group or action group working against the decisions of the government
6. **Social Pressure Group:** Are generally out to promote the interest of their members e.g. boy's scout, girls guide. E.t.c.

FACTORS THAT CAN AID EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS OF PRESSURE GROUP

1. Existence of high degree of dedication and unity
2. Supply of adequate funds
3. Capacity of the leadership
4. Relevance of its aims and objectives

MODE OF OPERATION OF PRESSURE GROUP

This is also known as techniques to achieve their objectives and they include the following:

1. The use of a mass media like radio, TV, newspaper, press conference
2. The use of dialogue between representatives of government and pressure group
3. The use of ultimatum: This comes up after different avenues of dialogue has been exhausted without result
4. Mounting of pressure on the executive arm of Government
5. Working alliance with political party
6. Demonstration/ Protest
7. Consultation

Exercises

1. Define pressure groups.
2. Outline five (5) types of pressure groups.
3. Explain four (4) modes by which pressure group operate.
4. Describe four (4) factors that can determine the effectiveness of pressure groups.
5. Give five examples of pressure groups in Nigeria.

Week 10

Topic: FACTORS WORKING AGAINST THE SUCCESS OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Most pressure groups have a variety of goals and make a variety of compromises as part of their on-going negotiations and campaigning. For some groups, success may just be ensuring that rival groups do not achieve some of their objectives.

Political culture

This is the extent to which pressure group activity is regarded as legitimate. In Britain, it is generally accepted that pressure groups have a role to play in the political process.

Opposing groups

These can cancel each other out – or at least reduce the impact of each other's activities. Obvious examples might be the pro- and anti-abortion campaigns or the pro- and anti-hunting groups.

Attitude of the government

This is the extent to which decision making is open to influence. Under the Conservative government from 1979, particularly under Mrs Thatcher, there was less likelihood of pressure group influence being successful – the government often pressed ahead on its convictions regardless of outside opinion, for example over NHS reform.

The election of the Labour government in May 1997 was seen by many as opening up the political system to greater influence by pressure groups.

In general, governments will be more receptive to pressure on policies which they favour, and from groups which share their basic values. For example, the Institute of Directors gained significant influence during the Conservative years. Governments are also more likely to be open to influence on issues which are peripheral to their main policies rather than central to them.

DANGERS POSED BY PRESSURE GROUPS

- They are quite biased in favour of their own interest. Campaigns by pressure groups may not present a balanced argument
- E.g. Fathers 4 Justice may not understand that the courts and mothers are trying to achieve the best outcome for their kids

- Members are often very passionate, they may resort to undesirable tactics like violence or criminal behaviour to promote their cause
- E.g. Animal activists have damaged scientific animal testing labs and threatened workers and their families, members of Countryside Alliance and Fathers 4 Justice have demonstrated in The House of Commons
- Opinions held by pressure groups may only help a small minority of the population

COMPARISON BETWEEN PRESSURE GROUP AND POLITICAL PARTY

Both political parties and pressure groups seek to influence Government, but it is their methods, organisation and ultimate goals that set them apart. Political parties put up candidates for election to the legislature, and by doing so they seek to form a government (or if this is unrealistic, say for a minor party, to influence the current government.). Pressure groups, on the other hand, do not usually put up candidates for election, although this is not always the case. For political parties, however, their main (and usually only) aim is to get as many candidates elected as possible.

Parties and pressure groups also differ in terms of overall aim. Political parties produce manifestos that cover broad policy areas, such as Health, Education, and Defence, the idea being that citizens will vote for that party because of what the reforms they want to implement to improve the country. Pressure groups, however, usually have a single policy area that they focus on, like the Environment, animal rights, or saving a local school from closure. They will not usually create a manifesto, although general aims will be laid out in a mission statement of sorts.

Unlike pressure groups which are selfish and concerned with the welfare of their members only, political parties want to assume direct responsibility for these policies by seeking to monopolise or share with other parties positions of political power.

We talk of interest group articulation, that is to say that groups express demands and attitudes in the political system and party aggregation, the means by which these demands and attitudes are put into a wider and coherent programme and presented to the electorate. Thus, political parties may be seen as perverting selfish group interest from dominating and distorting the decision making process.

Political parties perform integrative process of the entire state and do not use any form of divisive tendencies in achieving their objectives. Whereas the political culture of societies determines the shape, intensity and direction of pressure group activity. Pressure groups are said to be narrow minded, parochial, selfish and insensitive to the cause of the majority whereas the political parties must solicit, negotiate and obtain the mandate, cooperation, solidarity and support of the majority to remain in government.

Exercises

1. What are the factors that can militate against the success of a pressure group?
2. Describe how opposing pressure groups can negatively impact each other's success.

3. Why is attitude of government important to the success of pressure groups?
4. Enumerate four (4) dangers posed by pressure groups.
5. Differentiate between pressure groups and political parties.