

GOVERNMENT SS1 FIRST TERM

SCHEMES OF WORK

WK1: DEFINITION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER

- a. Definition of Government
- b. Attributes or characteristics of Government
- c. Functions of Government
- d. Importance of studying Government

WK2: BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. State, Power, Authority
- b. Legitimacy, Sovereignty

WK3: BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Democracy
- b. Type of Democracy
- c. Features or characteristics of Democracy
- d. Advantages and Disadvantages
- e. Political Culture, Political Socialisation

WK4: BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Feudalism, Communalism, Socialism
- b. Capitalism, Mixed Economy, Communism.

WK5: BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Fascism, Nazism, Totalitarianism
- b. Oligarchy

WK6: TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Unitary system of Government
- b. Federal system of Government

WK7: TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Presidential System of Government
- b. Parliamentary System of government

WK8: TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT

- a. Confederal System of government
- b. Monarchical System of Government
- c. Republican System of Government
- d. Military in Government

WK9: CONSTITUTION

- a. Sources of the Constitution
- b. Features of Constitution
- c. Types of Constitution
- d. Constitutionalism

MEANING AND SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT

Government can be defined as the machinery through which the will of the state is administered. It consists of the institutions and individuals responsible for making and enforcing laws and maintaining peace and order within the state.

The need for government came up as a result of people living together, interacting and working together as well as forming different associations. This living together may bring about conflicts, disagreements, crises of different dimensions etc, the result would be that rich will exert force to oppress the poor. Therefore there, the need to have a body capable of regulating their daily activities arises.

If there is no such agency, anarchy could reign in the society. There is the need for people to elect and establish among themselves an agency (Government) with political power and authority to direct all activities in a state.

Government can be defined in three ways:

1. Government as institution the state.
2. Government as a process or art of governing.
3. Government as an academic field of study

1. Government as an Institution of the State

Government is the machinery of the state in which the state apparatus is being run. Government is therefore an institution through which the will of the state is formulated, expressed and realized for the attainment of its goals, through its three arms namely: Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. The main organs involved in this process are the Legislature who makes laws, the executive implement the laws and the Judiciary interpret the laws.

2. Government as a process or the Art of Governing

It involves making policies, enforcing laws, maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, and providing essential public services.

Through government, rules and regulations are made, interpreted, implemented and enforced. Through these, the activities of the society are regulated.

3. Government as an Academic Field of Study

Government viewed as an academic field of study is a social science subject taught in many Schools and colleges – including institutions of higher learning called Political Science

a. These include: Public Administration: This studies the methods and means of managing a State.

b. International relations: This studies relations between nations as well as the socio-political and economic environments surrounding or governing such relations i.e. Foreign policy etc.

c. Political Theory: this is the study of descriptions and explanations of the origin, nature, characteristics, and objectives of human organisations.

Characteristics or Attributes of Government

The following are the attributes of government as an institution an institution of the state:

1. **Law:** These are laws make by the government and entrenched in the constitution, it a guide to the activities, beliefs and behavior of the citizens. It define the rights and obligations of the citizens as well as the government.
2. **Political Power:** This power enables the government to influence the citizens to obey law and execute it policies.
3. **Personnel:** Government also possesses team of qualified personnel who are responsible for law making, execution, interpretation and punishment of offenders. This team of personnel make up what is called the civil service.
4. **Revenue:** Government need enough fund in order to functions effectively and execute its programmes.
5. **Public support:** All types of government need public support to legitimize their existence. Such support enable a conducive atmosphere for effective functioning of government.
6. **Welfare Services:** Provision of essential services, e.g. electricity, water, housing, hospitals, etc., to the citizens will improve their welfare and standard of living. This is essential for any responsible government.

Functions of Government

1. **Law making:** Government is responsible for law making in a country to ensure peace and orderliness in the society.
2. Maintenance of law and order through the police force and law courts.
3. Protection of lives and property
4. Provision of employment opportunities.

5. Defense of the country against external aggression.
6. Provision of social amenities. Amenities like electricity, portable drinking water, health center, good roads, etc.
7. **Administration of justice:** The judiciary settles between individuals and between individuals and government.

The Importance of Studying Government

1. The study of Government enables an average citizen to participate more effectively in the government of his country, and correctly assess political events and reacts to them.
2. The study of Government helps to provide solutions to our political problems.
3. It helps citizens understand their rights, duties and obligations.
4. It promotes spirit of nationalism and patriotism among citizens.
5. Prepares students for career in politics, law, public administration and related field.
6. The study of government helps to prevent mistakes of some past political leaders from being repeated.
7. The knowledge of government is very useful to draftsmen, and to members of the legislature, the executive and Judiciary.

THE STATE

A state may be defined as a politically organized body of people occupying a definite geographical territory with an organized government entirely free from external control and with coercive power to secure obedience from her citizens and others. When we talk about state in this context we are not referring to the component part of a country like in Nigeria that practices federalism. We do mean states like Lagos state, Kaduna state, Plateau state, Imo state, etc., but we referring to a country. Examples of states we mean in this discussion are Nigeria, Togo, USA, China, Ghana, Britain, India, etc.

Characteristics of a State

1. **Population:** This an importance attribute of a state. For a state to exist, there must be a given number of people occupying her territory. Which has no minimum or maximum that will occupy it.
2. **Defined Geographical Territory:** A State must possess a definite territory which has limit to its size. This territory must have clear cut boundaries that will separate it from other states.
3. **Government:** It is the machinery set up by the state to pilot its affairs, the existence and survival of a state are maintained by the government.

4. Sovereignty: A State must have the supreme power to enable it make and enforce laws on the people within the state. Such as Sovereign state must be free from external control.

5. Permanence: A State remains a permanent feature. Government changes many times but a state remains permanent.

6. Recognition: A state must be recognized both internally and externally

NATION

A nation is a group of people united by common history, culture, language or traditions. Or a nation is a group of people who share common historical experiences, culture, language, traditions, religion, ancestry, or values and have a strong feeling of unity and belonging. A nation may not have its own independent government or territory. Another definition states that a nation is a people who regard themselves as one because of common identity and a desire to live together under one political system or one government.

SOCIETY

Society includes every kind and degree of relationship entered into by men, whether organized or unorganized, direct or indirect, conscious or unconscious, cooperative or otherwise. Or a society can equally be referred to as a group of people living together in an organized communities sharing similar values, laws, traditions, while cooperating to achieve common goals and satisfy their needs.

There are many different groups in the society like the church, family, ethnic group, educational institutions, age groups and trade unions which do influence social life but do not own their origin or whatever to the state.

Relationship between State and Society

1. Government is established by the state to regulate and hold society together.
2. State is concerned with social relationships expressed through government, society suggests many social relationships which may not be expressed through the state.
3. Society may be organized or unorganized co-operative or antagonistic, while state must be organized for law and under a government.
4. A State must have a definite boundary and sovereignty. These attributes are not attributes of a society.

POWER

Power may be defined as the ability or capacity to control the actions of others through the possession of means of sanctions. Or power is the ability to make people do what you want or to influence their actions and decisions. By exercising power, others may be forced to change their actions against their will and to compel obedience on their part. However, sanctions are used if there is non-compliance.

In government, power enable leaders and institutions to make decisions, enforce laws and maintain order in society.

Forms of Power

I. Political Power: This is the type of power exercised a government in steering the affairs of the state. This type of power which resides in the three organs of government is derived from the constitution.

II. Physical Power: This type of power which is also known as naked power involves the use of force to compel obedience. The outcome of the application this type of power could bring discomfort or even leads to death.

III. Economic power: This type of power involves the use of economic resources at a person's disposal in controlling the actions of others or influence the policies of government. e.g. Aliko Dangote.

IV. Military power: This type of power is exercised by those who control the instrument of suppression like the armed forces. These instrument can be manipulated to overthrow civilian government and for the defend of the state.

Sources of Power Or Means of Acquisition of Power

1. The constitution: The supremacy of the constitution makes it authoritative for the electorate to exercise power through the ballot box. i.e. election. The president derives executive power from the constitution likewise the national assemblies.

2. Through inheritance: This is heredity and it is mostly with the royal families. This is a common means of acquiring traditional power.

3. Position of Authority: One's position of authority can confer some elements of power on the person.

4. Though coercion: Power can be obtained through the use of force especially the military.

5. Through Charisma: Many people acquire power through their personal influence and capacity to inspire devotion. This power comes from a person's special qualities, such as confidence, intelligence, honesty, courage, or ability to inspire others.

6. Through Economic Resources: This power is obtained through wealth, financial resources, or ownership of property and businesses.

AUTHORITY

Authority may be defined as the power or right to give orders and enforce obedience.

Authority is the legal and legitimate right to give orders, make decisions, enforce obedience, and expect compliance from others. It the recognized power that a person or institution possesses because of their position, office, law or accepted customs.

Simply authority means the lawful right to command, direct, or control the actions of others.

Sources of Political Authority

- 1. Tradition Authority:** This source of authority is derived from hereditary families, based on the existing customs and tradition. e.g. Oba of Lagos.
- 2. Legal Authority:** This type of authority is derived from a body of rules and regulations governing a given society e.g the constitution.
- 3. Charismatic Authority:** The source of this type of authority is the exceptional personal characteristics.

Types of Authority

- 1. Political Authority:** This is the power given on a group of individuals by a written constitution to make decisions and enforce obedience. e.g. the president and legislators.
- 2. Coercive Authority:** This is the type of authority involving the use of force.
- 3. Delegate Authority:** This is the authority conferred on a subordinate to exercise certain powers.
- 4. Traditional Authority:** This is power legitimized and defined by customs, traditions and long-established practices.
- 5. Legal/Rational Authority:** This is power legitimized and defined by law and held by those who are legally qualified.
- 6. Charismatic Authority:** This is based on the exceptional qualities, personality, or leadership ability of individual. e.g. influential religious leaders, national heroes, inspirational political leaders.

EXERCISE 1.

State five differences between power and authority.

LEGITIMACY

Legitimacy refers to the acceptance and recognition of a government's authority by the citizens. A legitimate government governs with the consent and support of the people, not merely through force or coercion. A government is considered legitimate, if it comes into power through constitutional means. Elected governments are legitimate.

A legitimate government is one that is constitutionally elected and is acceptable to the populace(the people).

Factors that determine Legitimacy

- 1. Popular participation:** For a political system to be accorded legitimacy, the various interest groups such as political parties, pressure groups, etc must be allowed to take part.
- 2. Popular Support:** A government is said to be legitimate if it receives the popular support of the citizens.
- 3. Good Government:** people accord legitimacy to a government which meets up their expectations of good governance. A government that provides quality public services, promote development, and improve the welfare of the people gains public acceptance.
- 4. Foreign Diplomacy:** The foreign policy adopted by a government of a country determines the support other nations will accord to such government.
- 5. Leadership:** A leader that performs creditably well in office will make people to accept his regime as a legitimate one.
- 6. Customs and Traditions:** Respect for the establish customs and traditions of the society can help to sustain or determine legitimacy.
- 7. Protection of Human Rights:** Respect for the fundamental rights and freedom of citizens enhances the legitimacy of a government.

SOVEREIGNTY

According to Professor A. V Dicey, Sovereignty may be defined as the absolute power of the state to exercise supreme legal authority over its own affairs within its territory without any form of external control. Sovereignty also mean the supreme power and authority of the state over the citizens. It is 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 care to employ, without any interference by other states.

The idea of sovereignty originated from Jean Bodin (1530-1590), a French political thinker and philosopher.

Characteristics of Sovereignty

- 1. Absoluteness:** The modern sovereign state issues orders which are binding on all citizen and associations within the territory and receives orders from none.
- 2. Permanence:** Sovereignty is permanent as long as the state exists.
- 3. Indivisibility:** the powers of sovereignty which are supreme, absolute, final and coercive cannot be divided or shared.
- 4. Comprehensiveness:** The power of sovereignty is wide in scope and all-embracing which is binding on all persons or groups within the territorial jurisdiction.
- 5. Absence of Foreign control:** The power of a sovereign state is supreme within its territorial jurisdiction without any foreign control.

6. Inalienability: It cannot be permanently transferred to another state.

Types of Sovereignty

1. **Legal Sovereignty:** This is the power to make and enforce laws in a given state.
Example: The National Assembly in Nigeria.
2. **Political Sovereignty:** The people exercise this power through the ballot box by voting for those they want to delegate to power.
3. **De Facto Sovereignty:** This is the sovereignty acquired by force e.g Armed

Forces Ruling Council by General Ibrahim Babangida. By overthrowing the legitimate sovereign of the state through invasion or resolution.

4. **De Jure Sovereignty:** This is sovereignty recognized by law and the international community. This type of sovereignty opposed to physical exercise or use of force.

5. **Internal Sovereignty:** This is the supreme power of the State to make and enforce laws within its territorial are of jurisdiction.

6. **External Sovereignty:** This is the independence of a state from foreign control or interference.

Exercise 2.

Discuss six limitations to the sovereignty of a state.

DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a system of government based on popular consent. Abraham Lincoln in his 1863 Gettysburg address defined democracy “as the government of the people by the people and for the people”.

Democracy is a system of government in which the people have the supreme political power and exercise that power either directly or indirectly through elected representatives.

TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Direct /Classical Democracy: This is a form of democracy where the right to make political decisions is exercised directly by the whole body of citizens, acting under procedures of majority rule. All the citizens attend the assembly and take part in decision making in order to govern the state or society. This type of democracy was practiced in ancient small Greek city states.

2. Indirect/Representative Democracy: This is a type of democracy where citizens elect a few individuals (representatives) to make laws and govern the state on their behalf. This is what is practiced globally today, including Nigeria, the USA and Ghana. Citizens exercise the right to make political decisions, not in person, but through representatives chosen by the people and accountable to them.

Features of Democracy

1. Free and Fair Election: Elections must be conducted periodically and must be free and fair. Leaders are chosen according to the will of the people.

2. Rule of Law: Everyone, including government officials, are subject to the law.

3. Existence of party systems: Democracy allows the existence of more than one political party.

4. Fixed Term: Elected office holders stay in office for a fixed term. For example in Nigeria the president, governors etc. stay in office four years and could be re-elected for another four years. (Second term).

5. Fundamental Human Rights: Democracy guarantees and protects the basic rights and freedom of citizens. Such as freedom of speech, freedom of association, etc.

6. Freedom of the Press: The radio, newspapers and television should be free to write and express issues without any hindrances.

7. Independent Electoral Commission: There has to be independent and impartial electoral body to be able to conduct and organize all elections.

Merits of Democracy

1. It promotes political participation: it encourages citizens to be involved in their government and politics.

2. Free Choice of Leaders: The electorates are given the opportunity to elect leaders of their choice.

3. Stability: There is political stability through periodic elections.

4. Decision making: Persuasion and argument are used in making decisions rather than violent means.

5. The Rule of Law: Democracy promotes equality of persons, protection of their possessions and their fundamental human rights.

6. Tolerance: Democracy encourages tolerance of views of the opposition. The majority will have it way, but the minority must have a say.

Demerits of Democracy

1. **Representation:** The representative of the people may be representing their own interest. Votes are not weighed but are counted.
2. **Corruption:** Elections are often manipulated to favour self-centered and irresponsible representatives through thuggery and the use of money.
3. **Expensiveness:** It is very expensive to operate.
4. **Inadequate Political Education:** Inadequate political education may make voters to collect money for their votes.
5. **Rule of Ignorance:** Democracy does not pay attention to quality but quantity. Votes are not weighed but are counted.
6. **Slow Decision-making:** Decision can be slow
7. **Political Instability:** Political instability can occur if governments change frequently.

Exercise 3

Write about the history of the rise of democracy.

POLITICAL CULTURE

This is the beliefs and knowledge people have with regard to the political system, this concerns the feelings of the people towards the political system. It refers to usual attitude, beliefs and perception of people towards politics. Or political culture is the pattern of political beliefs, values, attitudes, and behaviours shared by the people of a country.

Political culture determines the way people think about political leaders, political institutions, elections, political parties, and national issues. It is passed from one generation to another through the process of socialization. Example of countries with developed and established political culture are Britain, USA and France.

Components of Political Culture

1. **Cognitive Orientation:** This has to do with knowledge and awareness. Refers to what people know and believe about politics, government and political institutions. Example: knowledge about constitution, elections, political parties and government policies.
2. **Evaluative Orientation:** This has to do with judgments and opinions. This refers to the extent the people can critically assess the functioning of their political system or events, institutions and leaders based on their values standards. Example: believing that a government policy is fair or unfair, effective or ineffective.
3. **Affective Orientation:** This has to do with feelings and emotions. Refers to people's emotional attachment or feeling toward the political system, leaders, symbols, and institutions. i.e. the activities and performance of government. Example: pride in one's country, trust in government, or dislike of a political party.

Determinants of Political Culture

1. Historical Development: The course of historical development in a particular society determines the attitudes, values and beliefs in politics. For example, the various revolutions in France in the 18th century influenced the country's politics in the 19th and 20th centuries. In Nigeria past political events such as colonial rule, military governments, civil wars and democratic transitions shape people's attitudes toward government and politics.

2. Ethnic Differences: Ethnic traditions, customs, and cultural values affect political loyalty, leadership preferences and voting behavior.

3. The impact of Colonialism: European colonial legacy has tremendous influence on new states in Africa, Latin America and Asia. To a large extent, it determines their political culture. For example, Nigeria inherited its federal structure and the political beliefs, values and attitudes from Britain.

4. Political Instability: Constant instability in the political system bring about dissatisfaction by the populace, constantly it affects their political values attitudes in politics.

5. Socio-economic Structure: People in urban and industrialised societies have higher educational standards thus, people participate in the decision making process than the rural society which are rather conservative.

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Political socialization refers to process by which the citizens are educated on the values, attitudes and beliefs of the political system. Or political socialization is the process of teaching and learning political values, beliefs and attitudes from one generation to another.

Political socialization it is the process by which people learn about government, politics, citizenship, rights, duties, and responsibilities. Through political socialization, citizens become aware of how government works and develop attitudes toward political leaders, political institutions, and public policies.

AGENTS OF THE POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

1. The Family: The family is the first and most important agent of political socialization. Children from politically conscious families tend to be more politically aware and interested in politics. Family teaches children respect for authority, introduces political beliefs and values, influences party preference and instils patriotism and discipline.

2. The school: Educational institution play significant role in the political socialization of the citizens of a country. Schools educate students about government and citizenship. Play roles like: teaching civic education and government, promote national unity, develop leadership skills, encourage respect for national symbols and teach democratic values.

3. Peer Groups: The group one move with i.e. friends and classmates influence political opinions. Some roles they play are exchange political ideas, influence voting behavior, encourage political discussions and shape political attitudes.

4. Political Parties: Political parties educate their members and the public through their manifestoes and campaign, educate voters, mobilize political support, recruit political leaders, encourage participation in elections, etc.

5. The Mass Media: The mass media include radio, newspapers, television and magazines people are socialized through what they read, listen to and watch in the mass media. Mass media provide political information, educate citizens on government activities, report elections, influence public opinion and promote political awareness.

6. Religious Institutions: Churches, mosques, and other religious organization also influence political beliefs. It is difficult to divorce politics from religion. Religion teaches moral values, encourages peaceful coexistence, promote justice and honesty, encourages responsible leadership, etc.

7. Pressure Groups: Pressure group educate offer their member leadership training and educate them on their political rights, duties, and obligations. They promote political awareness, influence government decisions and defend members' interests.

FEUDALISM

Feudalism can be defined as a political, economic, and social system that existed mainly in medieval Europe between the 9th and 15th centuries. Under this system, land was the main source of wealth and power. Kings granted land to nobles in return for military service and loyalty, while peasants (serfs) worked on the land in exchange for protection and the right to live on it.

In a feudal society, people were organized into different social classes, with each class having specific rights, duties and responsibilities.

Social Structure of Feudalism

1. The king

The king was the highest authority and owned all the land. He granted land to nobles in return for military service and loyalty.

2. Nobles (Lords or Barons)

a. Received land from the king.

b. Governed their territories.

c. Protected the people living on their estates (fief or feud).

d. Supplied soldiers to the king.

3. Knights

- a. Professional soldiers.
- b. Received small portions of land from nobles.
- c. Defended the kingdom and fought during wars.

4. Peasants (Serfs)

- a. Formed the largest group.
- b. Worked on the land
- c. Paid taxes and rendered labour services.
- d. Received protection from their lords.

Political Organization of Feudalism

- a. The king was the head of the kingdom.
- b. Nobles governed different regions.
- c. Local courts settled disputes.
- d. Laws varied from one manor to another.
- e. Political authority was decentralized.

Economic System of Feudalism

- a. Agriculture was the main economic activity.
- b. Land was the basis of wealth.
- c. Trade was limited
- d. Most communities produced their own food, clothing and tools.
- e. Taxes were often paid in produce or labour instead of money.

FEATURES OF FEUDALISM

- 1. Feudalism is based mainly on hierarchical order of ownership of land.
- 2. Ownership of land is vested in the king or monarch or emperor

The land users or serfs hold land or fief in return for the services they render to their lords or kings.

- 3. The land owners or lords are duty bound to protect the serfs
- 4. The vassal keeps possession of land as long as he performs his feudal duties

5. If a vassal died without heir, his property reverted to the Lords.
6. If a vassal was guilty of treason, the lord might claim his possession by forfeiture.
7. An estate whether big or small, was called a fief or feud, hence the term 'feudalism.'
8. The king is the law maker, commander and judge over his vassals or serfs.

MERITS OF FEUDALISM

1. It fostered among the big landlords self-reliance and love of personal independence.
2. It instituted orderliness and avoided total chaos
3. The feudal system encourages decentralization
4. It encouraged agricultural production.
5. It promoted loyalty between rulers and subjects.
6. It maintained law and order within local communities.
7. It reduced external attacks through military organization.

DEMERITS OF FEUDALISM

1. Disintegration of the state i.e. the absence of a strong national government could give room to anarchy.
2. Feudalism is an exploitative master servant relationship.
3. It encouraged inequality between the rich and the poor.
4. Serfs had little or no freedom.
5. Power was concentrated in the hands of a few nobles.
6. The system weakened national unity because local lords were often more powerful than the king. Loyalty and obedience is not to the government but to the land owner.

COMMUNALISM

Communalism a social, political and economic arrangement in which landed property and other natural resources are collectively owned, managed and co-operatively harnessed by the community for the common good of everybody. Participation community development is open to everybody. Communalism refers to a system of collective ownership of property and co-operation among members of a community in the execution of developmental projects. One of the founding fathers of communalism Julius Nyerere of Tanzania maintained that communalism is like returning to traditional practices and the rejection of unsuitable aspects of imported alien culture.

FEATURES OF COMMUNALISM

- 1. Collective ownership of property:** Land and natural resources belong to the entire community. No individual has absolute ownership of communal land.
- 2. Collective ownership of institutions:** Schools, farms, common health facilities, etc. are collectively owned by the people.
- 3. Cooperation:** Members work together on farms, roads, markets, and other community projects.
- 4. Self-government:** communal government is likened to self-government, where public issues are raised and discussed openly.
- 5. No Room for Exploitation:** There is no room for exploitation, the resources are for the common good of everybody.
6. Members are economically and socially self-sufficient in their needs.
7. The community is granted the widest degree of autonomy with distinct identity

Exercise 4

State six differences between feudalism and communalism

SOCIALISM

Socialism may be define as a political and economic system in which all means of

Production, exchange and distribution of goods and services are collectively owned and controlled by the state (government) former Soviet Union, Bulgaria, China, and Cuba, are examples socialist state. The main aim of socialism is to ensure equal distribution of the nation's wealth. The theory originated as a protest against the evils of capitalism. Karl Marx, a German (1818-1883), propounded this theory.

Russia was the first country to embrace socialism. Other countries that at one time or the other practiced this system include: China, Romania, Poland, etc. In Africa, Tanzania, Ethiopia, etc. also practiced socialism.

FEATURES OR ATTRIBUTES OF SOCIALISM

1. State owns and control all the means of production.
2. It is democratic in nature.
3. Absence of economic rivalry among producers on one hand and consumers on the other hand.
4. Goods and services are not produced mainly to yield profits but to satisfy the needs of the citizens.
5. All factors produces enough goods and services to meet peoples want.

6. Equal distribution of wealth and resources.
7. Limited private ownership.
8. Emphasis on social welfare.
9. Free or subsidized education and healthcare.

MERITS OF SOCIALISM

1. One of the merits of socialism is that it leads to equitable distribution of resources.
2. Socialism caters for the interest of all citizens.
3. Socialism creates no room for hoarding.
4. Socialism ensures job security.
5. Socialism is democratic in nature.
6. Reduces the gap between the rich and the poor.
7. Protects Workers from exploitation.

DEMERITS OF SOCIALISM

1. One of the arguments against socialism is that it suppresses individual initiatives.
2. It would be recalled that socialism makes people lazy and unenterprising
3. Socialism is not self-regulating and self-functioning
4. Socialism does not encourage faster economic development.
5. Absence of economic competition in a socialist economic system lowers the quality of goods produced.
6. Possibility of corruption in state-owned enterprises.
7. Limited consumer choice.

Exercise 5

State six differences between capitalism and socialism

CAPITALISM

Capitalism may be define as an economic and political system in which all means of

Production, and exchange of goods and services are owned and controlled mainly by private individuals or private businesses rather than the government. Under capitalism, individuals are free to establish businesses, invest capital, produce goods and services and earn profits.

e.g. USA, New Zealand, Canada, the united Kingdom, Germany, and Japan are capitalist countries.

Capitalism is based on the principles of private ownership, free enterprises, competition, and profit-making.

Features of Capitalism

1. **Private ownership and control of all means of production:** individual and private organizations own business, industries, land and other resources.
2. **Consumer Sovereignty:** Choices are made by the people, they decide how to spend their money.
3. **Profit making:** The basic motive of production is profit-making.
4. **Competitive Market:** Many firms compete with one another to attract customers, improve quality, and reduce prices.
5. **Specialisation:** It is highly specialised system coupled with a high degree of efficiency.
6. **Labour:** Labour is marketable commodity in a capitalist economy.
7. **Class War:** The order of the in a capitalist economy is the existence of class war between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.
8. **Price Mechanism:** prices are determined by the forces of demand and supply.

MERITS OF CAPITALISM

1. **Consumer Choice:** consumers enjoy a wide variety of goods and services.
2. **Encourages Hard work:** People work harder because they can earn profits and reward.
3. **Economic Development:** Economic development is rapid. Private investment promotes industrialization and national development.
4. **Quality of Goods:** capitalism bring about increase in the quality of goods and services produced and provided respectively.
5. It encourages economic competition among producers and consumers
6. **Employment Opportunities:** Businesses create jobs for workers.
7. **Promotes Innovation:** Businesses develop new products and technologies to remain competitive.

DEMERITS OF CAPITALISM

- 1. Exploitation of Workers:** Capitalism is utterly exploitative, some employers may pay low wages to their employees even when they are making enough profit. Or provide poor working conditions.
- 2.** It encourages few rich individuals at the expense of the majority
- 3. Income inequality:** Inequitable distribution of income. The gap between the rich and the poor is very wide, the rich may become richer while the poor remain poor.
- 4. Profiteering:** Profit-making is the driving force at the expense of human life, producers make excessive profits to the detriment of consumers.
- 5. Unemployment:** Capitalism creates job insecurity unemployment. The few available job created cannot go round the large number of job seekers. Businesses may lay off workers during economic downturns.
- 6. Rivalry:** There is an unhealthy rivalry among producers of different or same products in a capitalists system.
- 7. Wage-slave:** Capitalism makes a worker a 'wage-slave'. His ability to express himself in his work is absent.
- 8. Crime:** Unemployment can make people go into crime, e.g. smuggling, 419 (Advance Fee Fraud), etc.

Capitalist Mode of Production

In a capitalist mode of production, three major features are visible.

- 1. Uneven Distribution:** The means of production are unevenly distributed, those who own businesses, industries and other productive assets often earn much more than ordinary workers. They monopolized the means of production. This can create a wide gap between the rich and the poor.
- 2. The Greater Part of the Population not having means of Production:** They are without means of production, but their labour power. Since they don't have the means of production, they earn a living by selling their labour to employers in exchange for wages or salaries.
- 3. Commodity Production:** It gives a capitalist society some of the characteristics of a market. In a capitalist economy, producers manufacture goods and provide services with the intention of selling them to consumers. The money earned from these sales is used to cover production costs and generate profit.

Exercise 6

Write on the concepts of Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.

MIXED ECONOMY

Mixed economy is an economic system in which both the government and private individual own and control the means of production and distribution of goods and services. It combines features of capitalism (private ownership) and socialism (government ownership). In a mixed economy, the government controls important sectors such as electricity, water supply, defence, and public transportation, while private individuals and companies own and operate businesses such as farms, factories, banks, hotels and shops. Nigeria is a good example of a country that operates a mixed economy.

Features or Characteristics of a Mixed Economy

1. Coexistence of public and private ownership.
2. Freedom for individuals to own businesses and property.
3. Government ownership of key industries
4. Government regulation of private businesses.
5. Both government and private individuals own the means of production, distribution, exchange of goods and services.
6. There is a class system i.e. upper, middle and lower classes in the system. In fact, there is political and economic inequality.
7. There are some degree of competition in the production and distribution of goods and services in the system.

COMMUNISM

Communism may be define as an economic system of government in which the means of productions and distributions are totally controlled by the state (government). Communism is a political and economic ideology that advocates a classless society in which all means of production and distribution (such as land, factories, industries, and natural resources) are owned collectively by the state or the community rather than by private individuals. Its main objective is to achieve equality by eliminating private ownership and social classes. This is based on the teachings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in their book, The Communist Manifesto. The slogan of communism is: "from each according to his ability and to each according to his needs." North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, China, etc. are believe to be communist states. Communism is the highest stage of socialism.

FEATURES OF COMMUNISM

- 1. State Ownership of the means of production:** Total ownership of means of production and distribution by the state
- 2. Classless society:** There is no distinction between the rich and the poor.
- 3. The use of force:** The state use force or violence in achieving its goal.

- 4. One-party system:** Most communist states are one-party states.
- 5. Equality:** Distribution of resources to citizens according to their needs and ability.
- 6. Common Ownership:** Resources belong to the whole society rather than individuals
- 7. Confiscation of Property:** Private property are confiscated and subsequently re-distributed
- 8. Origin:** communism arose as an attack on the evils of capitalism.

FASCISM

Fascism may be defined as the philosophy, principle and organization of the

Aggressive nationalist and anti-communist dictatorship under Benito Mussolini,

Italy in 1922. Fascism is a political ideology and system of government in which all power is concentrated in the hands of one leader or a single political party. It emphasizes absolute obedience to the state, extreme nationalism, and the use of force and violence to suppress opposition.

Under fascism, and the state.

FEATURES OF FASCISM

1. Fascism encourages aggressive nationalism and racism.
2. It opposes communism, socialism and democracy.
3. Only one political party is allowed. Other political parties are banned.
4. The state is superior to individuals, in fact, the individual can be killed in the pursuance of the goals of the state.
5. The leader has the all the power of the state (supreme power). Legislative, judicial, and execute powers.
6. It rejects God's law and forbids any form of religion in its entirety.
7. Fascism encourages absolute obedience. Citizens are expected to obey the government without questioning its decisions.
8. The government control the media and limits freedom of speech and expression.

NAZISM

Nazism as a political ideology belief in idealism and the superiority of the German race, Nazism was practiced by Adolf Hitler in 1933 to 1945 in Germany. Nazism is system of government introduced by Adolf Hitler in Germany that promoted dictatorship, extreme

nationalism, one-party rule, and belief in the superiority of the Aryan race over other races. It opposed democracy and concentrated all power in the hands of the leader.

Nazism is a form of totalitarian government in which one leader and one political party control the country, while citizens have little or no political freedom. Nazism rejected democracy, individual freedom, and political opposition. Under Nazism, all political power was concentrated in the hands of Adolf Hitler, who ruled Germany from 1933-1945.

FEATURES OF NAZISM

1. Absolute power was vested in Adolf Hitler. The leader is always right and he controls all power of government.
2. There is the existence of only one political party e.g. the Nazis political party.
3. Government controls the economy centrally.
4. Opposition is not allowed.
5. Government owns and controls mass media.
6. Nazism encouraged strong loyalty and devotion to Germany above all else.
7. Nazis believed the Aryan race was superior other races are considered inferior.
8. Expansionism: Hitler aimed to expand German territory, contributing to outbreak of the Second World War.

TOTALITARIANISM

Totalitarianism is a system of government in which the state (government) has complete control over every aspect of the lives of its citizens. The government controls politics, the economic, education, religion, the media, culture, and even private life. Citizens have little or no freedom to oppose the government.

In a totalitarian state, one political party and one leaders usually dominate the country, and opposition is not tolerated. Examples Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler in 1933, Fascist Italy under Benito Mussolini-Fascist Italy in 1922, former USSR under Joseph Stalin, and North Korea under the Kim dynasty.

FEATURES OF TOTALITARIANISM

- 1. Absence of Constitution:** There is no limit to the power of government because there is no constitution.

2. Suppression: Absence of all forms of opposition. The government uses force to suppress those who oppose any of its policies.

3. State Control of Mass Media: There is absolute control of the mass media. Newspapers, television, radio, and social media are controlled by the government.

4. Dictatorship: The government is headed by a dictator, e.g. Adolf Hitler of Germany.

5. Suppression of Fundamental Human Rights: Freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and the press are restricted.

6. Terrorism and Oppression: There is the use of force and terror to impose the will of the leaders on the people. For example, secret police and concentration camps are used to detain and torture political opponents.

7. One-party System: The system is usually practised in one-party state. Only one political party is allowed to exist. Opposition parties are banned.

8. Control of the Economy: The economy is highly centralized. The government determines what to be produced. The government regulates production, distribution, and economic activities.

OLIGARCHY

Oligarchy is a system of government in which political power is concentrated in the hands of a small group of people. This small group may consist of wealthy individuals, military leaders, influential families, religious leaders, or members of a political elite who govern the state for their own interests or those of their group.

The word oligarchy comes from two Greek words: Oligos which means “few” and Archein which means “to rule” so, oligarchy means “rule by a few.”

Forms of Oligarchy

1. Authoritarianism: Authoritarianism is a form of government in which the subjects are expected or compelled to submit blindly to the authority of the ruler. In this type of system, freedom of thought, religion, etc. are not allowed.

2. Aristocracy: It is the rule by few individuals who belong to the highest social rank in the society. In most cases, people with noble birth. People with intellectual capability, it is often referred to rule by the elite in the society.

3. Theocracy: Theocracy is the government headed by a priesthood or religious leaders. It is divine and laws made are through divine inspiration. The Vatican City in Rome, for example, is a theocratic state headed by the Pope.

4. Plutocracy: Plutocracy is the government controlled by few rich and powerful groups in the society. It is easy for the group to control political power because they have economic power.

5. Autocracy: This is a form of government in which one person or a small group of people rule with absolute power and authority without caring for the wishes of the people. For example, France during Louis XIV and Nazi Germany.

Exercise 7

Write short note on the following:

- i. Diarchy
- ii. Gerontocracy
- iii. Kraterocracy
- iv. Stratocracy
- v. Timocracy
- vi. Meritocracy
- vii. Technocracy
- viii. Geniocracy