

GOVERNMENT

3RD TERM S. S. 1 WEEK 1

Topic: Rule of Law

Content of the Lesson

RULE OF LAW

Principles and Limitations to the application of Rule of Law.

Definition: Rule of law is the supremacy of law over everybody in a political system.

The principles of the rule of law was propounded by professor A.V Dicey in his book "Introduction to the Constitution (1885). He wrote that the administration of a country should rule or exercise their authority in accordance with the established laws or exercise their authority and such established laws should be supreme to both the government and governed.

Principles / Features of the Rule of Law.

1. **Principle of equality:** It states that laws should apply equality to all citizens of a country irrespective of their economic or political status. Nobody should be above the law. Also acctot legal facilities should be gained.
2. **Principal of Impartiality:** This principle of a view that the law should be impartial in dealing with offenders. This means that no person should be punished for any offense otherwise established by the court. Any accused person is still regarded as a suspect by law and should be attained for not more than hours without individual in court.
3. **Principal of Individual Rights:** Every human being is entitled to an exercise of fundamental rights and freedom and then when their rights are nolated, citizens should have the right to seek address from the court when the court have the judicition to entertain such cases.

Other Features of Rule of Law are:

4. **Access to Legal Facilities:** Any accused person should be allowed to have access to his lawyer and other facilities that might be useful in the preparative of his case.

5. **Provision of the Constitution:** Every government should rule the people according to the establishment laws and provision of the constitution.
6. **Fair Hearing:** Anybody arrested for any offence is still a suspect and should be given fair hearing.
7. **The Laws should be made Public:** Trivial of cases in courtesy should be made public at well.
8. **Right to Approval:** The individual should have the rights to appeal when not satisfied with the judgement of the cover courts.
9. **Back biting of Laws:** Laws must not be back bitted.
10. **Right of Individuals:** Right of an individual should be enforced and guaranteed.

Limitations to the Application of Rule of Law

1. **Immunity of Head of State:** He may not be sued or appear to court. This privileged is not extended to the citizen and is a limitation to the rule of law.
2. **Diplomatic Immunity:** Diplomatic cannot be persecuted on the country where they are residing as credited representative of the country.
3. **Immunity of the Parliament:** This laws makes one immune from very utterance actions or statements needs in parliament.
4. **Delayed Justice:** Justice delayed is agreed to be justice denied the reason is that some individuals have spent years in custody with their case frequently postponed.
5. **Tribunals:** They are not constitutional or legal court membership of a tribunal. In most cases are people without knowledge. Individuals right for a fair hearing are always derived from them.
6. **Delegated Legislature:** Most bodies or organisation exercising their power of legislation are often made possible for the rights to be violated and even without the possibility of obtaining any address.
7. **The rich and privileged fair:** They often use their health and positions to prevent justice. This is a limitation to the application of the rule of law.
8. **Types of Government:** A one party system can grow into dictators thereby limiting the application of the rule of law.

9. **The Military in Politics:** Intervention of the military in political of the rule of law.
10. **State of Emergency:** If a country in crisis or about a fight war, state of emergency would be denied by some of their rights.
11. **Customs and Traditions:** In the process of trying to respect, customs and traditions of a particular people, the application of the rule of law may be neglected.
12. **Unlawful Detention, Arrests, Torture:** Certain punishments administered by the law enforcements agents eg. The police to the application of the rule of law.
13. **Attribute of Government:** In most cases exercise refuse to the decision of the law's court.
14. **Illiteracy, Poverty and Ignorance:** This can limit the application of the rule of law.

WEEK 2

Topic: Fundamental Human Rights (FHR) and Constitutionalism.

Content of the Lesson

Fundamental Human Rights (FHR)

Meaning: Fundamental Human Rights can be defined as those in alienable (natural) rights, and privileges enjoyed by the citizen of a given state or country, which are usually stated in the constitution of the country. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that its citizens enjoy these rights.

These are the rights the United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1948 called on all member states and governments of the world to incorporate in their constitution such rights include:

1. The right to life, security and protection from inhuman treatment
2. Freedom from slavery.
3. Freedom from unlawful detention and imprisonment
4. The right of seek redress in court
5. Freedom of movement.
6. Freedom of joining and forming associations
7. Freedom of expressions
8. Freedom of the press etc.

Types of Fundamental Human Rights (FHR)

Fundamental Human Rights consist of natural, socio-economic and political rights.

- A. **Natural Rights:** This refers to right to life, freedom of thought, conscience, speech and religion others include - Freedom from slavery, deprivation of personal liberating and freedom from torture.

- B. **Socio-Economic Rights:**
 - i. It includes right to own property.
 - ii. Right to just and favourable condition of service ie. Equal pay for equal work. Others are: right to social security.
 - iii. Right to education and marriage etc.
 - iv. Freedom from discrimination in employment on the basis of colour, sex and race.

- C. **Political Rights:** It refers to the rights to participate in politics and other governmental affairs. The rights include
 - i. Freedom of movement
 - ii. Freedom of association
 - iii. Freedom of vote and be voted for.

Reasons for the Entrenchment of Fundamental Human Right in the Constitution.

1. **It makes for easy References:** Since constitution are documented, it can easily be referred to.
2. **It Prevents Dictatorship:** The inclusion of fundamental human rights in the constitution prevents dictatorship thereby limiting the power of the rules.
3. **Protection of Citizen's Rights:** It equally ensures constitutional protection of citizen's right.
4. **To comply with U.N.D's Directive:** This is to adhere to the UND's standard.
5. **To Seek Redress:** To enable citizens seek redress for violation of their rights in law courts.
6. To uphold the principles of rule of law, hence nobody is about the law.

Means / Mechanism of Safe Guarding Fundamental Human Right.

1. The judiciary should be free and independent to give fair hearing and ruling in all cases involving human right violation.
2. The international community should exert pressure and where necessary, place sanctions in countries that abuse the fundamental rights of their citizens.
3. The level of illiteracy and ignorance has to be reduced to enable the people to challenge human right violation and abuse.
4. Press freedom should be upheld and encouraged and criticize all cases of human right violation in society. A free press would be able to truly reflect public opinion.
5. There should be a constitutional provision on human right, to enable citizens to enforce their rights through due process of law.
6. There should be checks and balances in government to prevent one arm of government from becoming too powerful and authoritarian.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Limitations of the Fundamental Human Rights (FHR)

Sub-Topic: Constitutionalism

Limitation to Fundamental Human Right (FHR)

1. In the event of war or political crisis, the government may declare a state of emergency, thereby curtailing the citizen's freedom of movement, association and expression.
2. The rights of a citizen can be legally curtailed by the government when the citizen violates the law of the land. Eg. Person may be sentenced to prison if he has been found guilty of an offence by a court of law and this would limit his fundamental right of movement and association.
3. Able bodied citizens are sometimes conscripted into the armed forces in time of war in order to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country.
4. Ban on movement and association, as sometimes obtains in some countries, limits the free movement of citizens in the society.

5. Forceful acquisition of property such as land, for the state use limits the right of ownership by citizens.
6. Laws of sedition (Conduct or speech enacting to rebellion). Libel (published false statement that is damaging to a person's utterance about a person) limits the citizen's fundamental rights of free expression.
7. An individual's rights are limited by the rights of the society as a whole and those of other individuals

Constitutionalism

Definition: The term means that the power of government should be defined and limited by the dictates of the body of the fundamental laws of the land known as the constitution.

Again, the actions and activities of government and its officials should be in line with the provision of the constitution.

The constitution therefore, outlines the different organs of government, their functions and their relation. Specifies the rights and obligations of the citizens.

The principles of constitutionalism is not constitution on itself but limits government and individual actions and activities according to constitutional restraint. It states that nobody no matter how highly placed is above the law and that the law is no respecter of anybody. This principle of constitutionalism empowers the judiciary to declare any action that conflicts with the constitutional provision as null and void or ultra vires (beyond one's legal power or authority). It also grants individuals the chance to challenge any action of government viewed as unconstitutional in the law court.

A constitution itself is a document which contains all the fundamental laws, rules and conventions through which a state is governed.

Purposes/Importance of Constitutionalism.

1. **Equality before the Law:** It stresses the fact that nobody is above the law irrespective of the person's position or work.

2. **Limitations in the Exercise of Function:** This implies that the activities of those who govern should not be absolute. There is constitutional limitations on the exercise of their functions.
3. **Fundamental Human Rights:** Constitutionalism enhances the protection of the citizens fundamental human right.
4. **Popular Sovereignty:** Constitutionalism promotes the right of every adult to vote and be voted for at any political election.
5. **Judicial Independence:** Constitutionalism implies that only the constitutional court and supreme courts.

WEEK 3

Topic: Separation of Powers

Content of the Lesson

Separation of Powers

Definition: Separation of power may be defined as the division of governmental, political powers that exist in any given state into the three organs of government this implies that all the amount of governmental political powers that exist in a given state should not be rested or consolidated in one person or one organ of government if these powers are divided into the three organs of government the chances of dictatorship or tyranny will be reduced barest minimum. Writers like Lord Acton declared on one of the writing that “Power corrupts but absolute power corrupts absolutely”.

It was a friend political thinker and jurist Baronde Montesquieu who developed and popularised the principle of separation of powers in the book entitled “E spirit des wis” meaning the spirit of laws – published in 1748. Political scientists like Locke, Jefferson, Rousseau, Bodin, Plato and Aristotle had earlier expressed the views on the principle of separation of powers.

Montesquieu argued inter (among other things) that of rights liberty and freedom of citizens are to be maintained and guaranteed, then the three

organs of government must be separated and entrusted to different people to administer.

There will be chaos, violence, dictatorship, tyranny and oppression, if there is no separation of power. Again, the function of government of law making, execution and adjudication should be handled by different organs of government without interference.

Merits of Separation of Powers

1. Separation of powers guarantees and maintains the rights, liberty and freedom of the citizens
2. Powers are separated among the organ of government in order to avoid chaos, violence, dictatorship, tyranny and oppression in a country.
3. It leads to division of labour and specialization in the art of governance.
4. It results in one organ checking the activities of other organs known as checks and balances.
5. Separation of power without unnecessary interference makes for smooth running of government.
6. It brings about efficiency and orderliness in the administration of a country.
7. It maintains law and order which ensures rapid progress, economic and political development
8. The rule of law which is one of the ingredient of democracy is guaranteed in the practice of separation of powers.
9. It ensures stable political system in a country
10. It prevents excesses and recklessness in the part of the organs of government.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Demerit of Separation of Powers.

Sup-Topic: Checks and Balances

Demerits of Separation of Powers.

1. It is argued that separation of powers into three organs of government tend to lower the quality of decisions and policies made by these organs.
2. Strict application of the principle shows down the smooth running of government.
3. Separation of powers without interference from other organs may make these organs to be inefficient.
4. The institution of checks and balances that apply with the separation of powers can lead to political instability in the country.
5. The application of the principle of checks and balances may be lead to unhealthy rivalry among the organs of government.
6. It is also argued that the rights, liberty and freedom of the citizens are violated as a result of the powers allocated to these different organs of government.
7. As a result of the overlapping nature of the functions and authorities of government complete separation of powers is near impossible etc.

Checks and Balances

Meaning: The principle of checks and balances advocates (emphasis the power of any {one) of the organs checking the activities of the other. These constitutional acts of checks and balances have to check abuse of office, constitutional violation and naked use of powers by different organ of government.

The principle of checks and balances advocates that hence, there will be mutual independence among the organs of government, they should act as watch dog of each other to avoid misuse of power.

The principle of checks and balances applies in both parliamentary and presidential system of government, for instance, the executive can veto the legislature's bill, it can also dissolve parliament, as well as make judicial appointment and promotions.

On the other hand, the legislature can check the executive power to appoint ministers, it can setup committees to investigate activities of executive and has the power to impeach the president for gross misconduct.

In like manner, the judiciary has the power to review both the executive and judicial actions. It has the power to declare the activities of either the executive or the legislature null and void and without effect.

Merits of Checks and Balances

1. **Excessive use of Power:** It prevents excessive use of power by any of the organs.
2. **Orderliness and Efficiency:** It makes for orderliness and efficiency in the exercise of their functions.
3. **Respect for Human Rights:** Checks and balances promote the enhancement of the freedom and liberty of individuals in the society.
4. **Entrenched in the Constitution:** It makes for a smooth working of the constitution. Since such is embedding in the constitution.
5. **It prevents Dictatorship:** It prevents the possibility of the emergence of a dictatorial government.
6. **Control of Power:** Checks and balances help in controlling power among the three organs of government.
7. **Decision Making:** It makes for a through decision making process in a country.

Demerits of Checks and Balances

1. **Interference:** There are some traces or evidence of one organ interfering in the affairs or functions of the others. E.g Legislative approval of some key appointments made by the executive (appointment of ministers and ambassador etc.)
2. **Power of the President:** Some of the judicial and legislative powers of the president run counter to the issue of separation and checks and balances of power. Eg. In the area of pardoning an individual who has offended the state.

3. **Impeachment:** The power of impeachment bestowed upon the legislature is inimical (harmful, unfriendly) to the working of checks and balances. E.g it makes the executive a puppet to the legislature.
4. **Power of Veto:** The power of veto in the executive can affect the working of this principle.
5. The principle of Checks and balances also violates the theory of separation of powers by the fact that the president names all federal judges and approved by the legislature.
6. The power of approval of all treaties, concluded by the executive granted to the legislature makes the legislatures to participate in the executive function of policy making and execution which negates the theory of separation of powers etc.

Relationship between the two Principles

The same as the demerits of checks and balances discussed above.

WEEK 4

Topic: Representative Government

Sub-Topic: Features and Merits

Content of the Lesson

Definition: Representative government is defined as a government of elected representatives of the people.

It is a democratic government in which the citizens elect representatives who act as their agents in law making and implementation.

It is also called Indirect Democracy: Those elected through organised elections, rule on behalf of the people and with every assurance that their interest will be enhanced and protected. The system is based on accountability and responsibility of the political leaders. Elections into different positions in government are conducted periodically.

Features of Representative Government

1. **Free and Fair Election:** In every representative government elections are conducted free and fair, devoid of any electoral malpractice.
2. **Periodic Election:** Elections are conducted periodically. In some political systems it could be every four or five years. This is done in order to renew or replace the representative.
3. **Independent Electoral Commission:** This body in-charge of elections should be independent of its functions or duties
4. **Free Press:** The press should be free so as to be able to disseminate information to the people on policies, programmes and choice of candidates and political parties.
5. **Existence of Law Courts:** People should have free access to the courts whenever they are aggrieved.
6. **Rule of Law:** The provisions of the constitution as well as laws of the land must be observed and obeyed by both the rulers and the ruled.
7. **Freedom of Choice:** The people should have free choice to make when deciding for political parties and candidates.
8. **Universal Adult Suffrage:** All adults citizens must have the opportunity to vote and be voted for in any political election.
9. **Political Education:** Education and sensitization of the citizens to be politically conscious will help them to know their rights especially political rights.
10. **Well Defined Electoral Constituencies:** Electoral districts and constituencies should be properly delimited to ensure equitable representation of the people.
11. **U-To-Date Electoral Register:** An up-to-date, regularly revised electoral register should be provided which will help to remove fraud.
12. **Independent Judiciary:** There should be an effective independent judiciary which is free from executive and legislative control, so as to be able to try any election cases impartially.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Merits and Demerits of Representative Government

Content of the Lesson

Merits of Representative Government

1. **Establishment of Democracy:** Representative government affords citizens the opportunity of voting in the political parties and candidates of their choice during elections likewise, they participate in the decision making.
2. **Accountability:** Representative government helps to ensure that people's representative are accountable, responsive and responsible to the electorate.
3. **Rule of Law:** This system of government tends to uphold the rule of law and guarantee fundamental human rights more than other system.
4. **Tolerance of Opposition:** This forms of government is likely to tolerate the views and suggestions of opposition groups because members of the opposition are also members of parliament.
5. **Press Freedom:** Representative government allows greater press freedom which enables even the representatives to publicise their policies and programmes to the people.

Demerits of Representative Government

1. **No True Independence of the Judiciary:** This is because judiciary may be under the control of the government in power
2. **Rigging of Elections:** This is a big threat to a truly defined representative government. The electorate could be derived the choice made.
3. **Illiteracy:** The inability of some voters to properly identify party names and symbols may lead to wrong choice of candidates.
4. **Divergent Interest:** The representative often times don't represent very well due to different shades of interest in the society.
5. **Selfish Interest:** The representatives may not represent adequately their people or community due to some personal interest.
6. **Corruption:** It makes for corrupt practices among the politicians who may want to acquire power at all costs.

7. **Costly to Run:** Too much money, men etc are needed for a successful conduct of elections of this magnitude.
8. **General Belief of the People:** Some people see politics as a dirty game and this can scare away responsible and honest man from contesting in the elections.

WEEK 5

Topic: Political Participation

Sup-Topic: Forms of Political Participation

Content of the Lesson

Definition: Political participation is the process whereby individuals get themselves involved in the political activities and in the decision making of their country.

Forms of Political Participation

The various forms of political participation includes:

1. **Involvement in Campaigns:** Some citizens participate in politics by attending political party meeting to enable them identify the policies, programmes and political party candidates contesting elections.
2. **Voting during Election:** The citizens of a country participate in politics by voting for the candidates of their choice during elections.
3. **Holding Political Offices:** There are people that participate in politics so that they can hold or occupy political offices. The offices may be elective or non-elective e.g office of the president, governor or minister or commissioner.
4. **Analysing Political Issues:** Some people participate in politics by analysing and discussions may focus on personalities and manifestoes of candidates and political parties contesting elections and may take place in non-formal situations or through the mass media. The analysis affords voters the opportunity of assessing the candidates critically before casting the vote.
5. **Contesting Election:** Qualified active (political) participant may decide to stand as candidates seeking election into public office.

6. **Supporting Candidates during Election:** Citizen participate in politics by supporting the candidate of their choice during such support helps the candidate to win elections in order to control the machinery of government.
7. **Membership of Pressure Groups:** Individuals can form pressure groups to influence political events.
8. **Dissemination of party Propaganda:** A good number of people participate in politics by disseminating parties information and policy objectives to influence the electorate to vote for their candidate during elections. Other serves as polling agents for candidates at elections.
9. **Protest /Criticism and Petitions:** Some candidates for elections and government appointment. Such people atimes write petitions against politicians and government officials and may suggest alternative solution to the problems facing the government.
10. **Financial and Material Assistance to Political Parties:** Some wealthy individual participate in politics by sponsoring the ideas, programmes and objectives of candidates and political party of their choice. In the case of political party, such assistance helps them to serve good party secretariat and other requirements that could assist them in winning elections.

The Purpose of Political Participation

1. **Decision-Making:** Some people participate in politics in order to contribute their quota in the decision making process of the country.
2. **Failure of Past Government:** Some people take part in politics because past government have failed the people especially in the areas of provision of amenities e.g water, electricity, housing, good roads. Etc.
3. **Correction of Ills in the Society:** The idea of some people coming in the political system is to correct some of the ill in the society e.g bribery and corruption, tribalism, drug pushing etc.
4. **Avenue for Money-Making:** To some people the essence of political participation is money making and other gains associated with it.
5. **For Respect and Prestige:** Some individuals participate in politics because they want to acquire respect and prestige in life.

6. **As Occupation:** Some individuals could claim that politics is the occupation they have chosen and so their active participation is in fulfilment of their political career.
7. **Management of the Nation's Resources:** Some individuals with enough resources and skills take part in politics because, they want to be involved in managing equitably the nation's economic resources.

WEEK 5

Topic: Centralization and Decentralization.

Content of the Lesson Centralization

Definition: Centralization is the process by which power is located in a single central decision making body in a country. The highest degree of centralization is achieved where all the power of government are vested in a central authority. The degree of centralization is highest in a unitary state. In other words, there is absence of sharing of power between the centre and the subordinate tiers of government.

Example of unitary states are: Britain, France etc.

Reasons for its adoption include thus:

1. Best practised in a homogenous state, state that has the same language, religion and belief.
2. Small country all the ethnic groups are represented in government
3. Flexibility of their constitution
4. Power to modify the constitution is the same process used to pass laws
5. No constitutional division of power between the central government and other component units etc.

Decentralization

Definition: Decentralization is a process whereby governmental powers is shared between the central government and other constituents units within a political system. In this system, constitutional powers and other

constituent units eg. State and local government. Nigeria and USA are good examples.

Types of Decentralization

1. Devolution
2. Deconcentration
1. **Devolution:** Is the process whereby political authority is transferred from the central government to semi-autonomous units such as local government owned corporations. Such devolved powers are enshrined in the constitution and are not the creative of the central government. Eg. The relationship between the central government and regional government in a federal system of government. Devolved powers may therefore, only be withdrawn, reduced or enhanced after an amendment to the relevant provisions of the constitution. Here, it is the central government that develops powers to the subordinate tiers which themselves are subject to the central government.
2. **Decentralization:** Is the delegation or transfer of administrative and supervisory powers to local governments and outposts. It applies especially to government agencies. Eg. In Nigeria are; Nigerian ports plc, Nigerian customs service and NEPA. Such agencies receive full powers to provide services on behalf of the relevant department or ministry.

WEEK 5 PERIOD 2

Topic: Delegated Legislation

Sub-Topic: Forms or Types

INTRODUCTION

The students have been taught centralization which is the process by which powers is located in a single central decision-making body in a country and decentralization which is the process whereby governmental powers is shared between the central government and other constituent units within a political system. Hence, the teacher introduces the topic of the lesson.

DELEGATED LEGISLATION.

Definition: Delegated legislation is defined as the act of transferring powers and functions through the acts of parliament to other organizations such as ministries, local governments, public co-orporation (NEPA water board). Laws made by these bodies are referred to as bye-laws. Delegated legislature is a special features of modern government.

Forms/ Types of Delegated Legislation

1. **Bye-Laws:** These are laws made by ministries. These powers are conferred on them through the Act of parliament.
2. **Statutory Instruments:** These are ministerial or departmental orders or rules made or issued by ministers, commissioner and senior civil servants under the authority of acts of parliament e.g No Smoking in the public institutions.
3. **Provisional Orders:** These are temporary general rules or orders made by individuals or bodies authorized by the minister to make such rules until the parliament could endorse or confirm them.
4. **Order in Councils:** This refers to all the power delegated to the British monarch to make a Royal proclamation when there is no need to exercise unusual legislative powers in the country. Eg. The monarch can declare war when the territorial integrity of the state is threatened by external enemies.
5. **Court Decisions:** The decisions of a judge that are binding as if they are an act of parliament also constitute delegated legislation.
6. **Warrants:** Search for senior police officers to suspected person and bench warrants by high courts judges for a person to appear before the courts to give evidences are parts of delegated legislation.

Merits of Delegated Legislation

1. **Reduction of work load:** Delegated legislation has succeeded in reducing the pressure of work on parliament.
2. **Useful for Emergence:** In case of emergencies like external attacks, the executive can take quick decisions.
3. **It saves time:** It saves parliament enough time, whose legislative machinery could break down of it were to enact all laws.
4. **Efficiency:** It makes for efficiency and precision.

5. **Experiment:** It is useful where experiment is desired. Most local governments have achieved something realistic through this experiment.
6. **Adjusting to Changing Situation:** With this development modern government can adjust to changing situation and easily take care of antigencies.
7. **Conforms to Local needs:** Through developed legislation, local authorities are empowered to make law based on their social milieu and local needs.
8. **Easy to Understand:** Delegated legislation are made based on the level of understanding of the people of the are the laws will be applied.
9. **It save costs:** Delegated legislation saves cost in terms of material and human resources and the formalities involved in the passage of bills.

Demerits of Delegated Legislation

1. **It violates the principle of the rule of law:** It violate the principle of the rule of law which lay emphasis on the freedom of citizen.
2. **Lack of Publicity:** The numerous bye-laws, rules and regulation are not known to the common citizen because they are not well publicized.
3. **It violates the principle of separation of power:** It violate the principle of separation of powers and the sovereignty of the legislature.
4. Concentrates to much people in the executive by allowing the executive arm of government to make laws, delegated legislation makes it possible for too much powers to be concentrated in the executives at the expense of other arm of the government.
5. **Too many law-making bodies:** It involves too many law-making bodies thereby, rendering the power of the judiciary to review the activities of the legislature difficult.
6. **Abuse of Power:** The departments involved in this exercise can easily abuse powers delegated to them.
7. **It is undemocratic:** Most of the law made by some of these bodies are draoomad, (extremely cruel or severe) and undemocratic and do not have the support of the people.

8. **The Executive could become Dictatorials:** The executive arm seems to have too much powers at its disposal which could make them become dictatorial.
9. **It Violates the Principle of Parliamentary Supremacy:** It is because other bodies or organizations are equally involves in performing legislative functions.
10. **Legislative Functions could be eroded:** Laws made by these bodies may have a negative effect on legislative functions of parliament.
11. **It may not be Acceptable:** Most of the laws and rules enacted, may not be widely accepted because enough consultation was not made before their formulation and implementation.
12. **Parliamentary Control:** The laws made by some of these bodies and their activities may lack effective parliamentary control.

WEEK 6

Topic: Citizenship

Content of the Lesson Citizenship

Definition: A citizen is defined as a legal member of a state with full constitutional or legal rights in the country in which he or she resides.

Citizenship is the status enjoyed by nationals of a country which entitles them to full legal, economic, social and political rights a citizen is therefore entitled to vote and be voted for in his/her country.

At the same time he/she is obliged to defend the country whenever he is called upon to do so. Foreigners or aliens in a country are therefore not regarded as citizens. A citizen enjoys certain rights and privileged and owes certain responsibilities and obligations to the state.

However, “dual citizenship” is possible. This is a situation where a person holds citizenship of two countries at the same time. It is possible where the constitution of a state expressing approves of it, otherwise, citizenship of one country must be renounced before a new one could be acquired. An example of dual citizenship exists when a child born to Nigerian parents living in

Britain or elsewhere becomes the citizen of that country. The child is also a Nigerian because the parents are citizens of Nigeria.

Ways/Method of Acquiring Citizenship

1. **By Birth:** a person is a citizen by birth of either of his parents, mother or father is a citizen of a country.
Decent: A person's citizenship is also determined by his/her father's citizenship i.e persons who are born to parents or grandparents who are citizens of a particular state are automatic legal member or citizens of that state.
2. **By Naturalisation/Application:** A citizen or person who has lived in another country for a period of 15 years in the case of Nigeria, can apply for citizenship of the country where by resides.
3. **By Marriage or Registration:** This is a method by which a woman/women married to a person of another nationality acquire the citizenship of the husband's country through registration. E.g a Nigeria woman married to or British or a British woman married to a Nigerian.
4. **Dual Citizenship:** It is legitimately possible for a person to hold citizenship of two countries. Eg. A child born to Nigerian parents living in U.S.A becomes a U.S citizen. The baby is also a Nigerian because the parents are Nigerian.
5. **Honorary Citizenship:** An individual could be honoured with the citizenship of another country if the individual has distinguished him/herself in a particular area. Eg. Miriam Makebe of South Africa was honoured by Liberia, Ethiopia and Guinea
6. **By Conquest:** Through conquest after secessionist struggles, citizenship of certain individuals may be changed by acquiring a new status. Eg. The Eritrean people changed their citizenship to that of their new state after the secessionist forces have succeeded in carving a new state out of Ethiopia. Also, Pakistan's who lived in the old Eastern Pakistan became citizens of Bangladesh after a successful secessionist struggle.

Qualification for Citizenship

1. The individual must attain a required age as stipulated in the law of the country.
2. He/she must possess a good character.
3. The individual must have lived a specified number of years in the country. Eg. 15 years for Nigeria
4. He/she should contribute to the progress of the country.
5. He/she has to show the willingness to live and stay in the country.
6. A foreigner can qualify to be a citizen of a country through marriage

PERIOD 2

Topic: Rights, Duties and Obligation's of Citizens

Content of the Lesson

Definition: The rights of a citizen are the benefits and privileges to which he/she entitled for being a citizen of a country. These rights are essentially Human Rights as recognised by the United Nations and Embodied in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are:-

1. Right to life, liberty and security of persons.
2. Freedom and protection from slavery and forced labour.
3. Right to ownership of property and protection from deprivation of property.
4. The right to vote and be voted for in any political election.
5. Freedom of forming and joining any political association.
6. Right to education
7. Freedom of movement without any restraint
8. Freedom from unlawful detention, arrest and torture
9. The right to a fair hearing
10. Freedom of conscience thought and religion
11. Right to freedom of opinion and expression
12. Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association
13. Right to dignity of human person
14. Right to freedom from disseminator on the grounds of sex, race or tribe, creed or political opinion.
15. Right to freedom from torture, in human or degrading punishment
16. Right to private and family life. Etc.

Duties and Obligations of a Citizen in a State

1. **Payment of Taxes:** As citizen should pay his tax to provide the state with revenue for social services e.g pipe-born water, hospitals, schools etc.
2. **Obedience to Law:** A citizen should obey the laws of the state for the common good of its citizen
3. **Voting at Elections:** A citizen had to vote during elections, failure to do so may lead to the election of the wrong people into public offices.
4. **Detection and Prevention of Crimes:** Citizen should always assist the laws enforcement agencies in defecting and preventing crimes in the society.
5. **Rights to Individual:** A good citizens should not interfere with the rights of another citizen.
6. **National Symbols:** A good citizen should show respect for national symbols e.g flag, Anthem etc.
7. **Loyalty:** A good citizen must show loyalty to his/her country and must not support another country against his own country.
8. **National Service:** A citizen should obey the call to serve his country though the NYSC (National Youth Service Corp) etc.

Differences between a Citizen and a Non-Citizen

1. A citizen is a legal member of a country while a non citizen is not
2. A citizen owes allegiance to the country, a non citizen does not
3. A citizen enjoys full civil and political rights which a non-citizen does not
4. A citizen will be able, ready to put his life at stake in defence for the territory of the country, a non citizen will not be ready to do so unless as a mercenary.
5. A citizen takes the country as his permanent home of abode while a non-citizen takes the country as a temporally home of abode.
6. A non-citizen should be deported if the need arises, but a citizen cannot be deported no matter what.

7. Unlike a citizen is qualified to register as a voter, a non-citizen is disqualified.
8. A citizen has the right to contest elections for a political office while a non-citizen has no such rights.
9. A con-citizen may not be allowed to perform certain jobs for reasons of state security, a citizen will not be denied such an opportunity.
10. A non-citizen may not be employed in a position in which a citizen is qualified.
11. A non-citizen enjoys legal protection more than a non-citizen etc.

WEEK 8

Topic: Parties and Party System

Sup-Topic: Characteristics and Functions of Political Parties.

Content of the Lesson

Political Parties

Definition: A political party is an organised group of like-minded person seeking to take control of government through constitutional means.

It is also defined as organised group of people who share similar political opinions, principles, interest and beliefs with the aim of gaining political power and governing the country.

Equally, it is an organised group of citizens who act together as a political unit, having distinctive aims and objectives in the state and acting together in order to obtain control of the government.

Joseph Schumpeter observed that the first and foremost aim of each political party is to prevail over the others in order to get into power or to say in it.

Note that it is the goal of training political power that distinguishes political parties from other groups in the political system e.g pressure group.

In Nigeria First Republic (1963-1960) NPC, AG and NCNC were the prominent political parties that contested elections political parties have their own constitutions that direct eh conduct of their political activities in the country they exists.

Characteristics of Political Parties

1. Political parties are organised groups based on the electoral commission's laid down rules
2. They aim at contesting elections, gaining political power and governing a country.
3. Political parties are made of people who share similar political opinions, principles, interests and beliefs.
4. Political parties have ideologies they tend to implement when they come to power.
5. They are guided by different political party manifesto.
6. They show loyalties to electorate who determine their political success in order to win elections.
7. Political parties use persuasive rather than coercive means of coming into power.
8. They have cohesive leadership
9. Political parties draft their different constitutions that direct the conduct of their political activities.
10. Good political parties are organised to reach everybody in the society.
11. Political parties express their views on every subject and matter that affects the society as a whole etc.

PARTY MANIFESTO

It is defined as the cardinal plans, principles, policies or programme of a political party which the party intends to fulfil to the electorate if it is elected into power.

It can also be referred to as the aims and objectives of a political party.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. **Unity:** Political parties unite the people on major issues affecting the state.
2. **It serves as a Link:** Political parties always serve as a link between the people and government.
3. **Accountability:** They enable the government to become accountable to the electorate through constructive criticism of the government in power.

4. **Machinery for Recruitment:** Political parties provide machinery for recruiting political leaders.
5. **Clarification of Issues:** Political parties try to clarify issues and provide relevant information on candidates and current events thereby encouraging the electorate to be more interested in governmental activities.
6. **Control of the Government:** Political parties exist to contest elections and control the government.
7. **Provision of Organization:** They try to provide an organization for running the government.
8. **Chance of Government:** With political parties contesting elections, change of government is made possible with ease.
9. Political Parties educates the electorate through h campaigns and rallies which stimulate their political awareness.
10. Political parties, especially when they are in power, help to disseminate information on government police to the people, and pass information from the people to government.
11. The manifestoes of political parties serve as a ready source from which government policies can be formulated.
12. Political parties in power help to provide amenities like electricity, pipe borne water etc.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Party System

Content of the Lesson

Types of Party System

1. **Branch/Mass Political Parties:** It is a large political party with grass-roots fellowship. It is composed of people from every walk of life. Its membership cuts across ethnic, religious and sectional interest. The programme or manifestos of such parties are directed towards the welfare of the people.
2. **Caucus/Elite Political Party:** It is a political party made up of people of upper class in the society. Its membership is limited to the well-to-do in the society. It is usually conservative in outlook.

3. **Religious Political Party:** Religious doctrines existing in a country determine the formation of these parties. In some countries, religious parties are very strong in the political parties eg. Iran.
4. **Broker Political Party:** It is a party of both the rich and the poor. They work towards bridging the gap between the rich and the poor and promoting equality and welfare of the people.
5. **Mega Political Party:** It is a political party formed by an amalgamation of several splinter political parties. It is a very large or big political party
6. **Charismatic / Personality Political Party:** It is a party formed or led by an individual with unique and enviable quality, talents etc. members are attracted to it because of the charisma of its leaders.
7. **Ideological Parties:** These are political parties which are based on different political ideologies or beliefs which form the bases of existence of these parties. Eg. Communist party of Russia, Chinese Socialist party etc

PARTY SYSTEM

Definition: Party system may be defined as the conduct of government based on the number of political parties within the system. The formation of government on party basis therefore depends on the party that wins majority votes in an election.

TYPES OF PARTY SYSTEM

The type of party system to be adopted on a country depends greatly on the number of active political associations that met the requirement and the number of political parties specified in the constitution.

1. ZERO PARTY SYSTEM

A zero-party system exist where elections are conducted and contested on personal attributes, capacities and programmes presented by individuals, or on the platform of any political party.

2. ONE PARTY SYSTEM

One party system: one or single party system can be defined as one in which only one legal and legitimate political party is

constitutionally recognised in the country. No other party is recognised and can therefore not exist. One party system is a common feature of communist or socialist countries. It operates better in a smaller country both in population and land mass and non-multicultural society. Eg. North Korea, Cuba, China, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia etc were formally one-party states.

Types of One Party System.

1. **De-Jure One Party System:** This is a one party system in which one political party is legally and constitutionally allowed to operate. The system is constitutionally allowed to operate. The system is practiced in China, Cuba, Malawi and defunct Russia.
2. **De-Facto One Party System:** This type of one party system exist where there is no legal or constitutional prohibitions on other parties to exist rather the competing political parties are gradually eliminated from functioning through the electoral processes. Eg. Senegal under Leopold Sedar senghor.
3. **Predominant Party:** This is a party which is elected and continues to be elected because the electorate so desire. It is mostly found in Asian countries.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. There is only one legal and constitutionally recognized party in most case.
2. The legal and constitutionally recognised party is the running party.
3. There is no official opposition
4. No private individual is allowed to own and publish a newspaper, magazine etc.
5. There is only ideology for the country and it is for the party in government.
6. A one party state can develop to become dictatorship.
7. Election is contested by one political party.
8. There is limited scope of political education for the electorate
9. Mass media are centrally controlled.
10. Press freedom is curtailed.
11. News published by the mass media are censored.

12. The system tends to have strong and dedicated leadership.
3. **TWO PARTY SYSTEM:** Two party system may be defined as the existence of only two major political parties in a country or political system. These two parties are constitutionally recognized to contest elections. Britain is a good example of two party state. They have two major political parties-labour and conservative parties, Liberia party is a minor party. In U.A.A they have Democrats and the Republicans other countries are Canada and Australia.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. Existence of only one dominant political parties or existence of two legally and constitutionally recognised political parties.
2. Opposition part and divergent view are recognised and allowed.
3. The rule of law and democratic principles are allowed to operate.
4. It provides room and opportunity for choice views are recognized and allowed.
5. Press freedom is guaranteed as there is no press censorship
6. The power of the electorate to change responsible and corrupt government is ensured since it allows provision of irresponsible and periodic election.

4. MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM:

Multi-Party System: It is defined as a system with more than two political parties contesting for political power in a country. All the parties are dully registered and recognised by laws. Eg. Nigerian's second Republic (1979-1983) had six recognized political parties: NPN UPN, NPP, GINPP, PRP and NAP. In multi party system a coalition government may be formed, if no party had absolute majority seats in parliamentary election. However, coalition government is mostly common with parliamentary democracy.

A multi-party system demands a high degree of political maturity, a culture of tolerance and understanding and a high standard of political

discipline. Examples of countries that practices this system are France, Italy Sweden, Switzerland, India, Zambia, Zimbabwe tec.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. Existence of more than two political parties of almost equal strength.
2. Abundant choice of programmes and political parties are ensured.
3. Decision making process involves wider representation of divers opinions and interest.
4. Usually, it leads to the formation of a coalition government because it is difficult for a single political part to form or control government.
5. It widens and enhances further scope of political education
6. It enhances regular and periodic election for change of government.
7. It prevents dictatorship
8. Democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law are promoted by the multi party system.
9. There is respect for the rule of law by political leaders and citizens making up the system

Importance of a Party Manifesto

1. It gives direction to the party programme of action.
2. It shows the ideological direction of the party.
3. Party manifesto explains how the party intends to achieve its programme when it comes to office.
4. It is usually a magnetic pull to the electorate which attracts more support and followership to the party.
5. It helps the electorate to have insight into objectives and planned programmes of the political party.
6. It tries to educate the electorate.
7. It helps the electorate to access the party.

WEEK 9

Topic: Pressure Groups

Sub-Topic: Types and Characteristics.

Content of the Lesson

Pressure Groups

Definition: Pressure groups may be defined as any group of people abound together by some common interest or profession who engage in some activities to influence government policies to their own advantage.

- ✓ It is equally defined as an organised social interest groups formed with the aim of pursuing its interest and influencing government policies to their own.
- ✓ It is equally defined as an organised social interest group formed with the aim of pursuing its interest and influencing government policies to the benefits of its members but not attempting to control government machinery directly by contesting elections.
- ✓ Also it is defined as organised groups, which influence government decisions socially or economically, without necessarily entering into elections activities for the control of government.

Pressure group use persuasion rather than coercion in achieving their aims or do not field candidates to contest elections in their name but may give material and moral supports to political parties. However, some have argued that pressure groups are part of the political process and that they attempt to reinforce or change the direction of government policy, but do not wish as it were, to be in government.

Types of Pressure Group

1. **Economic Pressure Groups:** These pressure groups focus on the economic well being of their members. They comprise mostly producers and manufacturers. Eg. Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN).
2. **Professional or Occupational Pressure Groups:** These are pressure groups embracing workers of the same occupation or profession who try to protect their work or professional interests. Eg. Nigerian

Medical Association and National Union of Road Transport Workers etc.

3. **Religious Pressure Groups:** There are pressure groups of people that belong to the same religion and wish to influence government decisions in favour of their belief or members. Eg Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and the Christian Association of Nigeria.
4. **Promotional Pressure Group:** These are pressure groups that promotes some causes which may not directly benefit their members. Eg National Council for Eradicating Illiteracy. Human Right Groups and the Red Cross, Nigerian Bar Association etc.
5. **Educational Pressure Groups:** These are groups whose major aims are to seek for the improvement of the educational system and protecting the educational interest of their member. They include the NUTS, Student's Union (NAILS) ASUU etc.
6. **Social Pressure Groups:** These groups like Old Girls Associations, Students Unions and Youth Clubs etc are aimed at promoting the social interest and welfare of their members.
7. **Nigerian Labour Congress (N.L.C):** All the trade unions in Nigeria are under this body. It is the parent body that can officially represent the interest of the workers with the government. There are state chapters of NLC.
8. **Anomic Pressure Groups:** These are interest groups that used violence, demonstrations, arson, associations, strikes and the like in expressing their aims and objectives. They are groups not well organised but may be interested in some common goals. Direct demonstrators and student riot groups are examples.

Characteristics of Pressure Groups

1. Pressure groups exist to protect the common interest of members and not to take over governance as political parties do.
2. To carry out their activities, pressure groups depend on dues including support from other sources who appreciate their causes.
3. Pressure groups are well organised, without organisation pressure groups cannot function effectively. Large pressure groups may have branches coordinated from the headquarters by effective leaders.

4. Because members are bound together by common professions and other interest, pressure groups rarely recruit members. So, their membership is limited by profession, location, religion or other common interests.
5. A pressure group should also understand the political environment in which it works. Different approaches will be needed to relate with civilian or military government.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Mode of Operation or means Adopted by Pressure Groups to achieve their Aims.

Content of the Lesson

Mode of Operation or means adopted by Pressure groups to achieve their aims.

1. **Strikes and Boycotts:** Occupational pressure groups may employ strikes and boycotts to achieve their aims where other means fail. In trying to avoid the great loss that may arise from a long term strike, the owners of the organization may agree to what the pressure group demands. If the strike is directed at government, the government may negotiate with the pressure group in order to ensure industrial peace and political stability.
2. **Lobbying:** This involves representative of pressure groups trying to persuade legislators to pass laws that are favourable to their members. It originated in the United States of America. Today, pressure groups try to influence every arm of government whose programmes could affect their functions.
3. **Publicity Dialogue Campaigns:** Pressure groups organise intensive campaigns through meetings, rallies, house to house campaigns, posters, handbills, stickers and conferences to attract public support and get their aims achieved.
4. **Mass Media:** Pressure groups advertise and sponsor programmes on the radio, television and news papers to convince citizenry to embrace their position as the most appropriate one for the whole society.

5. **Letters and Petitions:** Pressure groups write letters of information or complaint to officials of the legislative or executive arm of the government try to convince them of their view point.
6. **Electroveering Campaigns:** Pressure groups go out to campaign and vote for candidates who will be sympathetic to their cause. They on the other hand campaign against candidates they believe are not in support of their cause.
7. **Demonstrations:** Pressure groups also use demonstrations which may be peaceful or violent. In peaceful demonstrations, they march, carrying placards staking the demands. If this fails, violence could be restored to by pressure groups to achieve their objectives. Examples are tertiary students who abduct school administrators and bun vehicles.
8. **Warfare:** If other means seem ineffective pressure groups could employ (guerrilla) warfare means to achieve their goals. Eg the maumau struggle for independence in Kenya and the Independence struggle in Mozambique and Angola etc.

Functions of Pressure Group

1. Pressure groups act as the watchdogs that check the activities of the government.
2. Pressure groups are watchdogs prevent mal-administration and check dictatorial tendencies of any government
3. Although pressure groups do not contest elections, they help to ensure smooth elections by showing concern in every stage of elections such as endorsing candidates, issuing campaign propaganda, raising money etc.
4. Pressure groups like Chambers of Commerces, Mining, Agriculture and Industry, Trade Associations etc contribute immensely to the executive growth and development of a country.
5. Pressure groups influence and help to change some obnoxious (offensive, unpleasant) policies of the government like the signing of Nigeria Anglo Defence Pact of the First Republic that was nipped in the bud through pressures from pressure groups, students and workers that protested against the pact in 1962 saw it as continuation of British colonialism.

6. Pressure groups contribute a lot in educating their members and members of the public on their political rights.
7. They help to increase the standard of living of their members through fighting for increase in their salaries and wages.
8. Pressure groups offer useful expert advice to government
9. Some expert members of pressure groups serves government in different categories like Tribunals, panels, committees etc.
10. Pressure groups act as useful bridge that line the people to the government.
11. They serve as platform through which people can express their public opinion.
12. Pressure groups helps to promote the welfare of members of the public by rendering free medical and legal services by NMA and MBA.
13. Pressure groups play important role of dissemination of information on government policies to both the members and members of the public through their activities thereby bridging the communication gap between the government and the governed.

Differences between Pressure Groups and Political Party

S/N	Pressure Groups	Political Parties
1	They influence government policies and pursue the interest of the members.	They contest elections and control the government.
2	Pressure groups are basically self-seeking and not organised to reach everybody in the society	Political party is organised to reach everybody in the society no self-seeking
3	Pressure groups do not accommodate different groups in the society	Political party tends to accommodate virtually different interest in the society in terms of membership
4	Pressure groups are only concerned with matters affecting their members eg. Salaries, allowances and loans	Political parties express opinions on several issues eg education, health, housing & agriculture etc.

	etc.	
5	Pressure groups pursue interest and goals that will improve the life-style of their members only.	Political parties pursue goals, interest that will improve the life style of the people in the society
6	Candidates contest election for the leadership of their groups or unions and not for the people	Candidates from political parties are to contest elections with the aim of being in government and ruling the people
7	Pressure groups cease to exist when they have successfully influence the government with their aims achieved	Political parties organise themselves into rallies, debates, lecturers etc capable of projecting their ideologies in order to win more followership.

WEEK 10

Topic: Public Opinion

Sub-Topic: Formation of Public Opinion

Content of the Lesson PUBLIC OPINION

Definition: Public Opinion may be defined as belief, values and attitudes, which are commonly held and expressed by the majority of the people in a given public issue.

- It is also what people think concerning a particular national issue or question as proposed by the government.
- It refers to the expressed view of a cross-section of citizens on government policies and actions.
- Whether they are proposed, in progress or already carried out.
- Equally, it is the collective beliefs, judgements or vies held by majority of citizens of a country about public policy or actions of the government.

Besides, the level of literacy rate in a country determines mainly how many people will be interested in public issues.

In African countries where majority of the citizens are illiterate, only very few citizens express their views on public issues. Therefore, public opinion may not always be the opinion of majority of the citizens in the country if there is no consensus.

However, a consensus of opinion may be formed when majority of people in a given country has similar or same opinion on any sensitive issue of National importance. Eg some of the public issues where Nigerians expressed their opinions include. Legislation of Abortion in the 2nd Republic, the issue of obtaining the IMF loan by Babangida's regime etc. With the help of public opinion / outcry issues were dropped / turned down.

FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

1. **The Mass Media:** Mass media like magazines, news papers, radio, television, journals, posters, handbills, leaflets, films etc serves as a source of information and have a mass appeal, ie. A great effect on very large extent to the masses / people. It's messages influences people in forming or changing their opinions.
2. **Pressure Groups:** These organised social interest groups employ different methods in trying to influence public opinion and government policies.
3. **Political Parties:** Political parties with the help of their manifestoes, rallies etc act as the basis of public opinion formation in a country.
4. **Bureau of Information:** This bureau is established to inform the public on the activities of government. It helps the public to form opinions on policies made and implemented by the government.
5. **Symposia and Lectures:** Public opinion can be formed through holding of lectures and symposia, where ideas on matters of public importance are expressed.
6. **Rumors and Gossips:** Many citizens not well informed may from their opinions form common rumors and gossips.

7. **Government Role:** The type of explanations and education the government gives to members of the public about its policies and actions go a long way in influencing public opinion.
8. **Influential Citizens:** Citizens such as traditional rulers, intellectuals, tycoons, analysts and other intellectual citizens not at the corridors of power act as public opinion moulders in a country.
9. **Norms and Values:** Norms and values of particular group of people largely influence their opinion. Thus, people belonging to the same religion, profession, geographical area or ethnic groups are most likely to hold common views on some issues.
10. **Ideology:** The main ideology in a particular country will largely determine public opinions on some government policies. The majority of citizens in a capitalist society, eg will be against total control of education and transportation by the state.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Measurement of Public Opinion

Content of the Lesson Measurement of Public Opinion

Public opinion can be measured in various ways like.

1. **Elections:** Elections serves as a means of measuring public opinion on the popularity or otherwise of a government, in a free and fair elections, a government which public opinion favours, wins such election and vice versa.
2. **Referendum:** This is a method of referring a political questions or government policy to the electorate for approval or disapproval
3. **Mass Media:** Public opinion is measure or determined through views people expressed freely in the mass media
4. **Opinion Poll:** This is a method in which sections of the public are elected to respond to questions in and important issue. The question come through questionnaires or interviews and the aggregates of the responses is taken as public opinion on such matter.

5. **Opinion Leaders:** The expressed views of some influential citizens such as intellectuals, business tycoons, artistes, politicians and traditional rulers are recognised as representing the opinion of a section or part of a country. Such citizens are opinion leaders.
6. **Public Response:** Members of the public sometimes respond to government policies and actions by mass demonstrations in support or against such programmes. This indicates public opinion
7. **Government Agencies:** These agents like government public relations, outfits and information agencies educate the citizens on government policies and try to monitor the opinion of the people on such policies. They communicate such opinion to the government, which may elicit intensification, reduction or withdrawal of action.
8. **Attendance:** Attendance at government functions may determine the level of public support for such programme or the government in general
9. **Telephone Calls:** Most of the radio stations in Nigeria today adopt this method by presenting phone-in-programme a sort of random sampling of the opinions of the public.
10. **The letter to Government:** Citizens may write letters to government agencies expressing their opinions on a particular issue of national importance.

Importance's / Functions of Public Opinion

1. **Policies and Activities of Government:** Public opinion helps the government to know the feelings of the people concerning its policies and activities.
2. **Need of the People:** The people's problems, needs and desires are known to government through public opinion
3. **Checking the Excesses of Government:** Through this method, the government is made to account for its actions.
4. **Good Policies:** Public opinion helps the government to formulate adequate policies that will meet the demand and alleviate the suffering of the people.
5. **Cabinet Reshuffle:** Public opinion can bring about the removal of a minister or his movement to other departments.

6. **Support of the People:** It determines the extent of support the people have for such government.
7. **To be watchful:** Public opinion helps the government to be watchful were its actions or activities as it relates to the people .
8. It serves as avenue through which public views are channelled to the government
9. Public opinion especially opinion polls provide valuable information about those contesting election.
10. It helps the voters to cast their votes for popular candidates etc.

WEEK 11

Topic: Electoral Process

Sub-Topic: Conditions of Franchise / Suffrage

Content of the Lesson Electoral Process

Definition: Electoral process is the method by which the electorate in a democratic country votes for some citizens who will represent them at the legislative and executive arms of government.

Suffrage or Franchise

Suffrage or Franchise is the right of adult citizens of a nation to vote and be voted for in an election. The electors are constitutionally known as the electorate while those seeking to be elected are called candidates. However, the right to vote and be voted for varies from country to country.

The History / Development of Suffrage

Voting rights are usually fought for, because they are not always extended to all citizens of a country. Till the early twentieth century. Women were denied voting rights in Britain and America. The activities among them formed the suffrage movement which eventually won voting rights for adult women like their male / men counterparts.

In Nigeria, the right to vote has developed from the colonial period during which elections in Lagos and Calabar were based on properties, educational qualifications and the social status of citizens. These criteria determined those who could vote and be voted for. Increasingly the base of the Franchise was broadened to accommodate all qualified adult citizens. This is known as universal franchise.

Conditions/Qualifications for Suffrage/Franchise

1. **Citizenship:** Only citizens of a country are allowed to vote. Aliens are disallowed from voting / or being voted for.
2. **Age:** There is usually a voting age - eighteen years in some cases and twenty one in others.
3. **Presidential Qualification:** Voters are required to be in continuous residence in a constituency before they can be allowed to vote. The period may be as little as three months or as much as five years or more.
4. **Tax Payment:** Tax payment is a condition for voting or being voted for in some elections.
5. **Educational Background:** Regulations may stipulate minimum educational qualifications for those seeking elective offices. Illiterate are thus usually bored from seeking high government posts.
6. **Criminals Record:** Those with criminal records or prisoners are usually disallowed from contesting elections.
7. **Bankruptcy:** Those who are known to be bankrupt may not be allowed to vote or be voted for.
8. **Sanity:** Persons of unsound mind are usually excluded from voting or being voted for.
9. **Registration:** Only those who have registered for elections can vote or be voted for etc.

PERIOD 2

Topic: Types of Suffrage / Franchise

Sub-Topic: Purpose of Holding Election

Content of the Lesson

Types of Suffrage / Franchise

There are two main types of Franchise

- a. Limited or restricted franchise
- b. Unlimited franchise or universal adult suffrage.

A. LIMITED OR RESTRICTED FRANCHISE: The right to vote and be voted for here is purely restricted only the qualified voters are allowed to vote or stand to be voted in a political system. The criteria for voting and be voted for may depend on the following:

1. **Sex:** In some countries, only the male may be allowed to vote or contest elections.
2. **Race or Colour:** Race or colour can determine the right to vote. Eg formerly in South Africa, only the whites had the right to vote and be voted for in a society dominated by racial discrimination
3. **Residential Qualification:** A number of months or years an individual has lived in a particular area will determine his right to vote.
4. **Education:** In some countries the level of education is a determining factor to the exercise of one's franchise.
5. **Religion:** Religion is also a determining deciding factor in some countries
6. **Property Acquired:** In some countries of the world, size of property an individual has, will qualify him to vote or be voted for in election.
7. **Poverty:** Poverty can deny citizens the right to vote or be voted for in a political system.

B. UNLIMITED FRANCHISE OR UNIVERSAL ADULT SYSTEM

Age: This type of franchise is the most popular and universally acknowledged. It is constitutionally and democratic. All qualified

adults (men or women) are allowed to vote and be voted for in this system. However, there are still some qualifications to be met by individual before voting. The conditions or qualifications are not restrictive as in limited franchise. These are some of the qualifications required to vote in this system.

1. **Age:** Age is one of the qualifications necessary for voting. In Nigeria, eg only 18 years and above can vote. In Britain, USA, also 18 years, Germany is 20 years, India 21 years.
2. **Citizenship:** Only the legal citizens and those who are citizens through naturalisation are qualified to vote and be voted for in most democratic systems.
3. **Registration:** Citizens can only vote in a system if they are properly registered, and issued with voters card.
4. **Sanity:** A voter must have all the senses in an acceptable manner before he or she can vote.
5. **Bankruptcy:** Those declared bankrupt cannot vote or be voted for.
6. **Residence:** In some countries, voters must have lived up to a stipulated number of years or months before voting could be done in that country.
7. **Alien:** Non-citizens are not allowed to vote or be voted for.
8. **Criminal:** Criminals and those with criminal records may be disqualified from voting in some political system
9. **Under Age:** In Nigeria, eg those below 18 years cannot vote in any political election.
10. **Insanity:** Insane persons cannot vote in any political election.

Purposes / Functions of Election

1. **Choosing of Representative:** Elections makes it possible for the citizens to choose those that will represent their interest and opinions in the government.
2. **For Changing of Government:** Elections serve as a processes of changing government in a country through peaceful means.

3. **Negates Obnoxious Policies:** Elections makes it possible for people to decide the type of policies that should be adopted by government by choosing political parties with policies of their choice though the manifestoes they presented to them during electioneering campaign.
4. **It makes Rulers Accountable:** Election makes it possible for the leaders to be accountable / submit themselves to the electorate in order to review their mandate to the people when they are in power.
5. **Fosters Democracy:** Democracy that makes it possible for people to participate in the government of their country thrives / grows and develops more through elections.
6. **It is used to Measure Public Opinion:** Elections are used to measure public opinion on certain issues in a country.
7. **Bestows Legitimacy:** Elections legitimise the rule of any government or representative in a country.
8. **Education of Electorate:** Electorate are educated more during election periods on their political rights by political parties and electoral commission.
9. **Integration of Various Groups:** Various ethnic religious and political groups come together in order to win election.
10. **Used to test the popularity of Rulers:** Elections are used as barometer for quaging the popularity of political leaders.
11. **Encouraging of Health Competitions:** Elections encourage and promote healthy political competitions in a country.