

NAME:.....CLASS:.....

SECOND TERM E – LEARNING NOTES

JS 3 (BASIC 9)

SUBJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION

SCHEME OF WORK

WEEK: TOPIC:

1. **Protection of the Rule of law**(a) Meaning of the rule of law. (b)The Rule of law e.g. equity before the law, all laws must be obeyed by all citizens, etc. (c) Protection of the rule of law (legal process, independent judiciary, equity, justice, fair-play, good governance etc.
2. **Voters Education:** (a) Meaning of voting. (b) Voter's registration. (c) Importance of voting. (d) The process of voting.
3. **Elections:** (a) Meaning and importance of elections. (b) Electoral bodies: INEC/SIEC, National, State government. (c) Need for free and fair elections. Electoral Malpractices in Nigeria and how to prevent them.
4. **The Current Nigerian Constitution:** (a) Meaning of Constitution. (b) Sources of the Nigerian Constitution. (c) Features of the Nigerian Constitution (e.g title, preamble, etc)
5. **Role of Citizens in Constitution Development:** (a) The Process of constitutional development (b) The Role of citizens in constitutional development (voting e.g electing representatives to the National Assembly or constitutions drafting committees, or being voted for, sending memorandum to National Assembly, etc.
6. **National Security:** (a) Meaning of national security. (b) Role of citizens in maintaining national security vigilance, supplying information to security agencies on potential threats, remaining law abiding displaying patriotism, etc
7. **National Security:** (a)National Security Agencies (a) Military (b) Para-Military services (SSS) (c) Civil Defense, etc (d) Police (e) State Security (SSS), (f) Immigration Service etc.
8. **Intensive Revision**
9. **Intensive Revision**
10. **Examination**

WEEK 1

DATE.....

TOPIC: PROTECTION OF THE RULE OF LAW

CONTENT: 1. Meaning of the Rule of law

2. The rule of law e.g equity before the law, etc.
3. Protection of rule of law (legal process, independent judiciary, equity, justice etc)
4. Benefits of the rule of law

Sub-Topic 1: MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW AND THE RULE OF LAW E.G EQUITY BEFORE THE LAW, ETC

MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW:

Definition of the Rule of Law: this is the absolute supremacy or predominance of the law over everybody both the ruler and the ruled and all decisions taken in a country. The rule of law is associated or practiced in a country that operates a democratic government (Democracy). Hence there can be no democracy without the rule of law. In the rule of law there is no “**arbitrariness**”-that is

law not according to rule: based on the decision of a judge or court rather than in accordance with any rule or law (Constitution)

The rule of law means supremacy of the law, equality before the law and the adoption of fundamental human rights in a democratic state

EVALUATION:

- (a) Define the Rule of law
- (b) The Rule of law is associated with _____ form of governance.
- (c) What do you understand by the term “arbitrary”

THE RULE OF LAW (Principles of the rule of law)

This principle was formulated by A.V. Dicey in 1885

The concept of the rule of law has three major features:

- (a) **The supremacy of the law:** the rule of law is supreme (the highest) over every

citizen of a country, either the president or the common man on the street. Under this law nobody can be punished without being found guilty of a crime (that is he/she must have broken a law). All government officials must obey the law of the land, and if they do otherwise they too would be duly punished. Therefore the supremacy of the law serves as a restriction to any action of any citizen in a country.

- (b) **Impartiality or Equality before the Law:** all citizen is equal before the law irrespective of their status or position, therefore anyone that violates the law will be punished accordingly, and that is after the person has been tried in the ordinary court of the land and found guilty. Equality before the laws means that an “ordinary” citizen can bring any government or official for trial and vice-versa if the person has offended. The judiciary should be independent and impartial.
- (c) **Liberty of Individuals (Protection of human rights):** Every country and government must protect the rights and liberty of its citizens. Everyone has the freedom and right to choose whatsoever pleases him/her as long as it will not violate any of the laws in the constitution, hence the right to freedom of worship, life, to own personal property, association, religion etc must be well protected. No one must prevent others from enjoying the freedom of whatever he chosen to operate. Once one feels his/her right is being violated either by the government or an individual he/she is free to bring the matter to the court for redress.

Others are:

1. Upholding the rule of law as the only basis for dispensing justice
2. Recognizing that all citizens are equal before the law
3. Accepting that there should be good governance
4. Accepting that the judiciary must be independent.

NOTE: The rights of every citizen are normally stated in the constitution. These rights are divided into three:

- a. Absolute right: e.g right to life, right to protection against torture etc.
- b. Qualified right: e.g right to private life, right to freedom of expression, right to movement etc
- c. Protection right: eg right to protection against discrimination etc

EVALUATION:

1. Explain the three major features/distinctive/principle of the rule of law
2. List two other features of the rule of law

Sub-Topic 2: PROTECTION OF RULE OF LAW(legal process, independent judiciary, equity, justice etc.

Every citizen has certain rights on the citizens, most of which has been spelt out in the constitution. Examples of these are: Child's right law, freedom from unlawful detentions, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom from subjection to torture and indecent treatment etc. if decisions of an individual's right were to be arbitrary then these rights will not be fully protected. Every government must make sure that all citizen rights are protected duly and thus must punish anyone who violates or abuses any right of citizens.

There are various ways set up to protect these rights of citizens by the rule of law:

1. Following Legal process and due process-that is seeking redress at the court of law, and defaulters punished according to...