



# FIRST TERM E-LEARNING NOTE

**SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT**

**CLASS: SS1**

## SCHEME OF WORK

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
1.	The Meaning and the Scope of the Subject Matter: Government i) Government as an Institution of the State ii) Government as an Art of Governing iii) Government as an Academic Field of Study
2.	Features/Characteristics of government; i) Features of Government ii) Functions of Government iii) Why we Study Government
3.	Basic Concepts of Government: i) Power ii) Authority
4.	i) Legitimacy ii) Sovereignty iii) Democracy
5.	i) Communalism ii) Feudalism
6.	i) Socialism (ii) Communism (iii) Capitalism
7.	i) Fascism ii) Nazism iii) Totalitarianism
8.	State and Nation; Political Culture
9.	Political Socialization
10.	Characteristics of government: (i) Unitary government (ii) Federal government.
11.	Revision/examination

### WEEK ONE

#### **TOPIC: THE MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER: GOVERNMENT CONTENT**

- Government as an Institution of the State
- Government as a Process or Art of Governing
- Government as an Academic Field of Study

#### **GOVERNMENT AS AN INSTITUTION OF THE STATE**

Human beings in their relationships with one another tend to have diverse and conflicting interests in their existence in the society. The need to regulate the conflict of interest in man and the desire to set up a peaceful society led to the formation of government. If there were no agencies or a body to regulate people's activities, the society would become what Thomas Hobbes referred to as a primitive society. This is a society where life is solitary, poor, wicked and short.

In order to prevent confusion and disorder in a society, people will have to surrender their natural rights to a body or an agency of the state called government. The absence of government in a state will lead to anarchy, that is, a state of disorder and lawlessness where might is right.

Government therefore refers to the body of persons and institutions that make and enforce laws in a state. It is the instrument through which the purpose of the state is formulated, expressed and attained. It is also an agency established by the political community to promote the general welfare of the people.

### **EVALUATION QUESTION**

1. Explain the term Government as an Academic Field of Study
2. Why do we study government?

### **GOVERNMENT AS A PROCESS OR ART OF GOVERNING**

Government as a process or art of governing may be defined as the involvement of organs of government vested with power and authority for maintaining peace and security and also for making and enforcing laws. Through the formulation and implementation of policies in the state, government as a process of...