

FIRST TERM E-LEARNING NOTE

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT

CLASS: SS2

SCHEME OF WORK

WEEK TITLE

1. Elections: Meaning, Functions, Demerits and Types of Elections, Merits and Demerits of Types
2. Types of Voting- Merits and Demerits of each Type of Voting- Free and Fair Election- Meaning, Conditions Necessary for the Conduct of a Free and Fair Elections
3. Electoral Commission- Meaning Features and Functions.
4. Public Administration- The Civil Service: Meaning, Features, Structures/Classes, Functions, Problems and Control: The Civil Service Commission- Meaning, Functions, Ombudsman, Meaning and Functions
5. Public Corporation- Meaning, Characteristics, Reasons for Setting up Public Corporations, Functions, Organizational Structure, Differences between Public and Civil Service, Control of Public Corporation.
6. Local Government: Definition, Powers and Functions, Reasons for the Creation of Local Government, Control of Local Government, Control, Problems and Suggested Solutions to Problems of Local Government.
7. Pre-Colonial Political System in Nigeria; Hausa/Fulani Political System, Igbo Political System.
8. Pre-Colonial Political System: Yoruba Political System- Pre-colonial Political Institutions with their Functions-Traditional Rulers, Council of Elders, Secret Societies, Age Grade etc.
9. Colonial Administration: Historical background, Meaning, Reasons, Features and Classification.
10. British Colonial Policy: Indirect Rule System-North, West and East- Merits and Demerits of Indirect Rule.
11. French Colonial Policy: Historical Background- French Colonial Policies-Assimilation and Association- Features and Reasons for the Failure of Assimilation-Compare British and French Colonial Policies.

WEEK ONE
TOPIC: ELECTIONS

CONTENT

- Meaning, Functions and Demerits
- Types of Elections
- Merits and Demerits of types

MEANING OF ELECTIONS

An election may be defined as an act of choosing or selecting candidates into different offices in government. The candidates are to represent the people of a country in the parliament or in other positions of government. It is a contest between competing political parties or groups to acquire political power through the ballot i.e. electorate's mandate.

FUNCTIONS/ADVANTAGES OF ELECTIONS

Elections are held to serve the following functions;

- Choosing of Representatives; Elections makes it possible for the citizens to choose those that will represent their interest and opinions in the government.
- Elections are used to change a government smoothly and orderly.
- Elections confer legitimacy on the government as representatives of the people
- Election makes the government responsive to the needs of the people since it can be voted out
- Elections give the political parties the opportunity to educate the people on national issues.
- Elections are used to test the popularity of the government or a member of parliament.
- Elections help to integrate the different societies.
- Elections help to socialize the people.

DEMERITS OF ELECTIONS

- Elections bring about polarization of the people of a country into antagonistic groups.
- The division of people in a country caused by election brings about disunity in a country.
- Elections are too expensive to conduct.
- Minority groups are usually not favored during elections.
- Elections cause uneven development as a result of neglect of areas that failed to vote for the party in power.
- Elections breeds nepotism, divisionism and ethnocentrism.
- Elections enthrone politicians who deceive the people with their fake manifestoes and sugar-coated tongue.

Evaluation Questions

- What is election?
- Identify five functions of election

TYPES OF ELECTION

Direct Election

This is the method by which the electorate cast their votes directly in choosing people to represent them in the legislature and other offices in government. Only the qualified voters are allowed to carry out this political exercise.

ADVANTAGES OF DIRECT ELECTIONS

- It gives voters the freedom of electing members of the legislature without interference
- It is a necessary...