

GOVERNMENT SS 2

THIRD TERM SCHEME OF WORK 2020

1. Federalism in Nigeria
2. Development of political parties in Nigeria:
 The First Republic Political Parties
3. The Second Republic Political Parties
4. The Second Republic Political Parties
5. Major political crises in Nigeria
6. Major political crises in Nigeria
7. Mid-term break
8. Election crises in Nigeria
9. Election crises in Nigeria
10. Kaduna State Executive/Legislative Crisis
11. Nigerian Civil War
12. Revision
13. Examination

(WEEK ONE)

DATE: 30TH MARCH – 3RD APRIL, 2020

CLASS: SS 2

SUBJECT: Government

FEDERALISM

Federalism is defined as the system of government in which the governmental powers are shared or divided between the central government and the coordinate/subordinate units or regions like the state/regional and local government or authorities. Nigeria, USA, Germany, etc practice federal system of government.

The powers between the central government and the regions are shared by the constitution as follows:

- a. **The exclusive legislative functions** are given to the central government, which has the power to handle all issues that concerns currency, defense, customs, immigration, external/foreign affairs, etc.
- b. **The concurrent legislative functions** are given to both the central (federal) and state/regional government. They handle issue that concern agriculture, higher education, roads, transport, industrial development, insurance, research, etc.
- c. **The residual legislative functions** are given to the local governments and they handle issues that pertain to primary healthcare and maternity, chieftaincy matters, library, markets, motor parks, etc.

Factors Responsible for Federalism In Nigeria

- 1) Cultural diversity: Nigeria comprises of diverse cultural and ethnic groups, we have over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria and this makes the operation of a federal system possible

- 2) British colonial policy: In order for Britain to rule Nigeria properly they divided the territory into regions and ruled them separately.
- 3) Size of the country: Nigeria has a large population and territory which make federalism the best option
- 4) Availability of human and natural resources: Nigeria has enough human and natural resources to run a federal system
- 5) Geographic factor: The nearness of one geographic area to the other makes it easier for the adoption of a federal system
- 6) For effective administration: In federalism there is duplication of office functions and this brings about effectiveness in administration
- 7) Federalism brings government closer to the grassroots because people get involved in government

Features of the Nigerian Federalism

1. The constitution adopted is written and rigid
2. The powers of the three tiers of government is derived from the constitution
3. The constitutional powers are separated between the executive the legislature and the judiciary
4. The supreme court had the power of judicial review and interpretation of cases
5. The regions were created in an unequal basis
6. There was duplication of functions in every department
7. The constitution was supreme
8. There was bi-cameral legislature e.g. houses of representatives and the senate

PROBLEMS OF NIGERIA FEDERALISM

1. Problem of powers sharing between the federal and states
2. Problem of revenue allocation
3. The fear of domination of one group over the others
4. Corruption, favoritism and nepotism
5. Boundary disputes
6. Problem of census figures
7. Problem of creation states and issues of minority groups
8. The problem of federal character
9. Fear and threat of secession
10. Ethnic based political parties
11. Problem of resource control
12. It breeds sectional consciousness

13. Unnecessary duplication of organs of government

ADVANTAGES OF NIGERIAN FEDERALISM

1. Political unity irrespective of ethnic diversity
2. Social and economic development
3. Recognition of the cultural diversity of Nigerian people
4. It reduces strains and conflicts among the various section of the country
5. Development at each state of the federation
6. Easy governance and administration
7. Inter-dependence and sharing of resources

DISADVANTAGES OF NIGERIAN FEDERALISM

1. The system of federalism is too expensive to operate/run.
2. Inter-state frictions
3. Disparity in development
4. Decisions are not easily taken
5. Problem of secession
6. Promotion of ethnic interests
7. Problems of revenue allocation
8. Problem of power sharing and superiority

ASSIGNMENT: Trace the constitutional evolution of the federalism in Nigeria up to 1954.
(WAEC SSCE JUNE 1996)