

GOVERNMENT SS ONE

THIRD TERM SCHEME OF WORK

1. (a) Political participation (b) Centralization and Decentralization
2. Delegated legislation: Definition, types and reasons
3. Delegated legislation: Merits and demerits, control
4. Citizenship: meaning, Ways of acquiring citizenship
5. Citizenship: Ways of losing citizenship
6. Political party, party manifestoes and its importance
7. Mid-term break
8. Party system
9. Pressure group
10. Factors working against the success of pressure groups, dangers, comparison between pressure group and political party
11. Revision
12. Examination

(WEEK ONE)

DATE: 30TH MARCH – 3RD APRIL, 2020

CLASS: SS 1

SUBJECT: Government

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political participation is defined as the process in which individuals get themselves involved in the political activities and in the decision making of their country.

FORMS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

1. Voting in election
2. Holding of public offices
3. Contesting elections
4. Supporting political parties
5. Belonging to a political party
6. Supporting candidates for elective posts
7. Protesting and demonstration against negative government policies
8. Partial political participation like rallies, campaigns, etc
9. Observatory political participation e.g listening to political talks, discussions, debates, etc

PURPOSE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

1. Management of nation's resources
2. Correction of the ills of the society
3. Failure of the past government
4. As occupation. (People join in order to fulfil their political career)
5. For respect and prestige in life
6. Decision making (in order for people to contribute their quota)
7. Avenue for money making

FACTORS AFFECTING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

1. Lack of trust in government
2. Fear of intimidation
3. Political apathy or lack of interest in politics

4. Ignorance or illiteracy
5. Frequent removal of elected government
6. Poverty

CENTRALIZATION AND DECENTRALIZATION

Centralization means the process by which political power is located or concentrated in a single central decision making body. This is when governmental powers are concentrated in a single central authority as in unitary states e.g Britain, France, e.t.c.

REASONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF CENTRALIZATION

1. Homogenous nature of a state. It is best practiced in a homogenous state where there is no sharp differences in religion, language, beliefs, etc
2. Small country (It is practiced in a relatively small country)
3. Power concentration (power concentration in a central government)
4. No constitutional division of labour
5. Strong central government
6. No conflict of authority
7. Flexibility of the constitution

MERITS OF CENTRALIZATION

1. Decision making powers is more effective
2. Cost of running centralized government is lower compared to decentralized system
3. It makes for quick action since only central government makes decision
4. It makes for a strong government
5. It creates no room for conflict of authority
6. It prevents inefficiency and waste of resources
7. It promotes unity
8. It makes for effective coordination of functions

DEMERITS OF CENTRALIZATION

1. It encourages dictatorship
2. It makes for remoteness of decision making centre from where the decisions are to be implemented

3. It can only operate in homogenous society
4. It lowers political participation
5. It may create disaffection in the system leading to secession
6. It is only workable in a small territory
7. It does not accommodate every interest group

DECENTRALIZATION

Decentralization means the sharing of power between the central government and other constituent units within a political system. Here, powers are constitutionally shared between the central government and other constituent units like the state and local governments e.g Nigeria, USA, practiced decentralization.

TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION

1. **Devolution:** This is when the central government may decide to setup or create constituent or subordinate levels of government in different parts of the country with powers to make decisions in specified areas as related to the locality. e.g Britain
2. **Deconcentration:** Here, the central government sets policies for the local areas, appoints some officials with some powers and authority, and delegates them to carry out specific functions thereby regulating government policies at the local government level. e.g France

MERITS OF DECENTRALIZATION

1. Quick development is achieved
2. There is competition among various units resulting in some states developing much better than others
3. It brings government nearer to the people
4. There is absence of dictatorship
5. The fears of the minority are removed from the domination by the majority
6. It increases efficiency
7. It affords the leaders opportunity for leadership training
8. It encourages political stability

DEMERITS OF DECENTRALIZATION

1. There is delay in decision making process
2. Functions of government are duplicated
3. There are differences in the level of development

4. It can breed sectionalism since the country is composed of different units, interests groups.
5. It is costly to operate
6. The centre is weak because of the autonomy of the various units

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Explain the term 'Representative Government'.
2. What conditions are essential for the existence of a representative government. (WAEC SSCE MAY 1995)
3. STUDY THE SSCE (WAEC) PAST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON WEEK ONE TOPICS ABOVE.