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**PROGRAMME:
DEMOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS**

COURSE: DSS 427

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DSS 427
POPULATION AND POLITICS II
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Questions

Q1. Justify the statement ‘The nature and character of Nigeria’s ruling class is crucial in the determination of the rules and processes of political competition’

Q2. State the main components of Regional Planning in order to implement National Population Policy for Sustainable Development.

Q3. Discuss the common features of Nigerian elections?

Q4. The population of Nigeria is predominantly rural. Explain briefly

Q5. State the features of any good Census exercise.

Q6. Define the following terms: Infant Mortality, Total fertility rate and Morbidity.

Q7. Discuss the differences of Census exercises in Nigeria from 1952-2006.

Q8. What are the major sources of population data in Nigeria?

Q9. Outline the plausible reasons for the failure of electoral system in present day Nigeria.

Q10. What do you understand by the term ‘Civil Registration’?

Q11. Discuss the objectives of National population policy.

Q12. State the guiding principles for the National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development.

Q13. Discuss briefly the political implications of population composition and changes in Nigeria.

Q14. What are the specific goals of National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development?

Q15. Briefly explain the types of internal migration.

Q16. Outline the key targets have been set to guide National Policy, programme planning and implementation.

Q17. Discuss the implications of movement of people without crossing the international boundaries in Nigeria.

Q18. Discuss briefly the interaction of population distribution with urbanization in Nigeria.

Q19. What are the pictures of Geo-political extent and population size of Nigeria?

Q20. State the factors influencing the demographic profile of Nigeria.

ANSWERS

Q1. This can be buttressed with the following reasons:

This character shapes the forms of political organisations or parties that emerge or that are allowed to participate in the competition for state power. In discussing the nature and character of the ruling class a number of factors are important such as the degree of patriotism of the class, the nature of the values that it subscribes to as a class, the degree of its ideological cohesion or, on the other hand, differentiation, its level of tolerance for diverse political views, its degree of maturity and independence, the level of its grounding in the historical challenges confronting the people not only as members of a given nation state but also as members of a larger racial group and humanity as a whole.

- There is general agreement that the ruling class in Nigeria has always been fractious, unprincipled, grasping, cowardly and unpatriotic. It is also characterised by 'arbitrariness, insensitivity, greed, dishonesty, abuse of power' (Sagay, 1995), the 'tenacity for office' (Awolowo, 1974) and two paradoxical complexes: a superiority complex in relation to

subordinate interest groups and classes in Nigeria and an inferiority complex in relation to the members of the ruling classes in the advanced capitalist countries.

- The members of Nigeria's political class have a total abhorrence for commitment to principle in politics and national life. Thus members of the class are bought and sold, have no loyalty to ideals and seek to be in politics largely to obtain any form of gratification. Members of Nigeria's ruling class have a proclivity for corruption. Indeed Andreski (1968) has gone as far as to argue that African rulers have a naturally strong desire to steal. As he put it, "the newly independent African states provide some of the closest approximations to pure kleptocracy that have been recorded.
- The use of public funds for private enrichment is the normal and accepted practice in African states and the exceptions are few and inconclusive." Andreski has been rightly attacked not because his pinpointing of corruption as a major value of the governing class of African rulers is wrong but because he then proceeds, from a decidedly racist point of view, to locate the cause of corruption in the psychology of the African. The proclivity for material gratification through corruption precludes members of the ruling political class from committed political praxis. Indeed, in terms of anomic and unprincipled conduct, members of Nigeria's political class can be ranked as perhaps the worst in the world. Marx (1978) has noted that the ruling ideas in any age are the ideas of the ruling class in that age. It is thus not surprising that a generalised state of anomie also pervades the Nigerian nation and its politics.
- One other characteristic of members of the ruling class, which has had particular and serious implications for the competition for power in Nigeria, has been their opportunistic elevation of ethnic identity as the basis for defining the legitimacy of the claim to power. Today, this ethnic identity has assumed such monstrous proportions that it is used as a basis for rationalising and even justifying major forms of crime and opportunism. Consider, for example, the report on the front page of the Vanguard Newspapers of Friday August 6, 2004 (pp. 1-2) on the reaction of the Ohaneze to the discovery by the police of several corpses in shrines at Ihiala. The Secretary – General of the pan-Igbo socio-cultural group is reported to have 'dismissed the police raids as ridiculous' and as 'calculated to portray the Igbos as cannibals'. Earlier, as the nation faced the horrors of the murders of Kudirat Abiola, Chief Rewane and other pro-democracy patriots in the hands of Abacha's paid assassins, self – proclaimed champions of Northern ethnic interests not only attempted to play down the horror of the assassinations but also to suggest that those charged with the murders were being hounded because they were Northerners.

Q3. The common features of Nigerian elections are:

- ✚ First, they have been particularly characterized by massive frauds, the intimidation of political opponents and controversy. The governments in power have had their own designs and used the instruments of the state in penetrating electoral brigandage, thuggery, violence and warfare.
- ✚ Secondly, while there has been continuity in violence and warfare, there has been lack of continuity in the political organisations through which both violence and warfare have been conducted. Each period has thus produced new political formations reflecting not only the penchant for lack of principle and shifting allegiance among members of the political class but

also the total de-ideologisation of the issues on which members of the class were divided into antagonistic camps. For example, the major political parties in the 1951 – 1966 period were the NPC, the NCNC and the AG. Between 1979 and 1983, the major political parties in the field became the NPN, UPN and NPP. Between 1987 and 1993, the members of the political class were herded into the NRC and the SDP. During Abacha's viagra assisted ill-fated self-succession bid, the two herds metamorphosed into the famous 'five leprous fingers on the same leprous hand'. Between 1999 and 2003, the five leprous fingers changed majorly into the PDP, AD and the ANPP.

- ✚ Thirdly, what is striking about this pattern of lack of continuity in the political platforms used by members of the political class to compete for power is not simply that the names of the platforms keep changing; it is rather that there is simply no pattern to the way in which members of the class change their political allegiance. This situation assumed such tragic proportions in the 2003 elections that an individual politician could and did change party membership three or four times on the same day. Over the years, this shifting political allegiance has meant that there has been no tradition of party building among members of the political class.
- ✚ Fourthly, the sudden shifts and turns in political commitments and orientations have meant that the parties have not been defined by ideological positions that set them apart from each other. And yet, such defining and at the same time limiting ideologies are crucial to the development of a genuine political culture for several reasons:
 - ✓ First, they indicate the overall direction of development favoured by the different sections of the political class. They thus enable the electorate to make informed choices.
 - ✓ Secondly, they permit reforms within the political parties themselves as the constant interaction between the favoured ideology and reality creates a permanent tension towards change and realignment of the different components of the ideology. In the process, the parties change and become more tuned to the demands of society.
 - ✓ Thirdly and perhaps most importantly, they prevent the seizure of the centre stage of political action and practice by calculations based on primordial and potentially divisive political orientations. Indeed, one clear consequence of the absence of an ideologically driven political competition among the political elite in Nigeria is the resort to ethnicity as the primary credential for qualifying for the stake to power. The practice not only reinforces primordial divisions; as a result of this fact, it also prevents the emergence of a national consciousness and national identity.
 - ✓ A fourth common denominator of elections and electoral practices is the increasing materialisation of politics. With each succeeding election, the financial stakes are raised to such a level that only those who have previously exercised state power or worked in close collaboration with the state in the process of the primitive accumulation of capital are able to back their political claims. In the 2003 general elections for example, we witnessed the scandalous spectacle where political candidates claimed not only to have budgeted but in fact to have expended billions of Naira in the elections. These claims were preceded by comical fund raising activities where political office holders announced contributions to their campaign funds running into billions of Naira. A closer scrutiny of these fund raising events would simply reveal that they were used to announce the sums that the politicians in government house had appropriated from the coffers of the state to fund their elections.

Q5. (i.) Individual enumeration (ii.) Universality within a defined territory
 (iii.) Simultaneity (iv) Defined periodicity

Q7. In order to discuss the features and differences of Census exercises in Nigeria from 1952-2006; we consider the following issues:

- Politics of 1962, 1991 and factors leading to the recount of 1963 census
- Cost of 1962 census exercise was over 4 million pounds.
- The figure of 1962 census was cancelled after a heated and prolonged controversy which featured due to the fact that some states in Nigeria had inflated their census figures
- There was a new recount in 1963 which was rejected by the government of eastern and Midwestern Nigeria.
- Federal government together with the government of northern and western Nigeria accepted the census figures.
- The eastern Nigeria took the federal government to court on the grounds that the handling of the census by the latter was unconstitutional, ultra vices and illegal.
- The case was lost when the Federal Supreme Court ruled that it had no jurisdiction over the administrative function of the Federal government hence the official figure still remain 55.6 million.
- Census board spent three and a half months before the preliminary figure for 1963 was announced.
- The census board said that it was delayed since its figure passed through a number of exhaustive tests to ensure their accuracy and acceptance. Up till today, there is a growing opinion in Nigerians abroad that the census board returned an excessively high total figure.
- Growth rates implied by the census board are ridiculous and unrealistic. There was a gross undercount in 1953 or a deliberate over count in 1962 and the mass of evidence provided by various incidents during and after the 1962 census suggested that there was large scale inflation in 1962 and also in 1963.

Q9. The plausible reasons for the failure of electoral system in present day Nigeria include: **The nature of the political parties, the nature and role of the press, the partisan use of state security agencies by the ruling section of the political elite, the character and action of electoral bodies and agencies, the provisions of electoral rules as contained, for example, in the constitution, and the appetite for power by the specialists of violence and warfare as being responsible for the failure of representative democracy in Nigeria.** There is no doubt that these factors have played an important role in the failure of the electoral system in Nigeria. But it needs to be pointed out that these factors are not only causally related; they are themselves determined by other factors such as the historical context of processes of formation of the Nigerian state, the nature and character of the Nigerian state, the nature and character of Nigeria's ruling class in terms of the political, economic and social values of members of the dominant coalition within the ruling class, the strength of oppositional pro-democracy forces in society and the character of the international economy and politics. To suggest lasting solutions

to the failure of representative democracy in Nigeria, there is a need to understand the nature of these forces and their interrelationships. Such an understanding will also prevent us from focusing upon cosmetic solutions and challenge us to exhibit the courage and creativity necessary to deal with the situation.

Q11. The objectives of National population policy include the following:

1. Increase understanding and awareness of the interrelationships between population factors, social and economic development, and the environment, and their mutual importance to the long-term sustainable development of Nigeria.
2. Expand access and coverage and improve the quality of reproductive and sexual health care services.
3. Strengthen and expand a comprehensive family planning and fertility management programme that ensures that all couples / individuals who want them have uninterrupted access to a reasonable range of contraceptive methods at affordable prices, and is also adequately responsive to the needs of infertile and sub-fertile couples.
4. Strengthen and improve safe motherhood programmes to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity and enhance the health of women.
5. Reduce infant and child mortality and improve the health and nutritional status of Nigerian children through expanded access to high-quality productive, preventive, and curative health care services.
6. Promote Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) programmes to increase reproductive and sexual health knowledge, awareness, and behavioral change among Nigerians.
7. Empower women to participate actively and fully in all aspects of Nigeria's development and effectively address gender issues.
8. Enhance the involvement of men in reproductive health programmes and health care.
9. Increase the integration of adolescents and young people into development efforts and effectively address their reproductive health and related needs.

10. Increase and intensify coverage of population and family life education programmes.
11. Accelerate the integration of reproductive health and family planning concerns into sectoral programmes and activities.
12. Use effective advocacy to promote and accelerate attitudinal change towards population and reproductive health issues among public and private sector leaders.
13. Reduce and eventually eliminate harmful social and cultural practices that adversely affect the reproductive health of the population through the promotion of behavioral change and appropriate legislation.
14. Strengthen the National response to **HIV/AIDS** to rapidly control the spread of the epidemic and mitigate its social and economic impacts.
15. Encourage the integration of population groups with special needs, including nomads, refugees and displaced persons, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and remote rural dwellers into the development process.
16. Accelerate progress towards integrated urban and rural development and balanced population distribution.
17. Increase enrolment and retention of children, especially girls, in basic education and raise literacy levels among Nigerians.
18. Accelerate the integration of population factors into development planning at national, state and local government levels.
19. Improve the population, social, and economic database; promote and support population and development research; and help leadership groups recognize the important contribution that planning and data utilization make to the good governance of Nigeria.

20. Improve systems for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the population policy and for reviewing the policy at periodic intervals.

Q13. The basic components of population change are: Fertility, mortality, migration, population and development and labour force

Q15. **Rural rural migration:** is movement of people from a village to another far distant village for the purpose of farming e.g. movement of cattle by the cattle rearers in the North and other locations in Nigeria. The predominance is agricultural activities.

Rural urban migration: is the movement of people from villages to the cities where there are social infrastructures. For instance, the young school leavers are predominant migrants here.

Urban urban migration: is the movement of people from cities to the cities with greener pastures and better opportunities of life.

Urban rural migration: is the movement of people from cities to the villages where there are grossly inadequate social infrastructures. The people who engaged in this type of movement are retired people from either private or public organizations.

Q17. **The implications of internal migration are:**

- Unemployment
- Social ills
- Housing problem
- Shortage of Social services
- Overcrowding of the urban centers
- Terrible hold-up on the high-ways
- Increasing standard of living
- Hikes in prices of food and other essential commodities
- High dependency burden on the relatives that are established in the cities

Q19. (i) **Geo-Political Extent:** The Federal Republic of Nigeria covers an area of 923,768 km² and consists of 36 States and a Federal Capital Territory. These are subdivided into 774 Local Government Areas. It extends from the Atlantic Coast in the South to the edges of the Sahara Desert in the North. It is linguistically, culturally and ethnically diverse.

(ii) **Population Size:** Nigeria is by far the most populous country in Africa and is among the ten most populous countries in the world. According to the 2006 Census, Nigeria has a population of about 140million persons, consisting of 71,709,859 Males and 68,293,683 Females with a sex ratio of 105.0.