

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME: POLITICAL
SCIENCE**

COURSE: POS 321

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POS321: POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR

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QUESTIONS

1. Critically examine the determinants of political behaviour in Nigeria
2. Interest can unite and divide individuals in a society, it then means that differential and contradictory behaviour is inevitable within the political system. Discuss at least ten of these interests.
3. Examine the argument of the Marxist theory in relation to political behaviour
4. Conceptualize the term democracy, what are the attribute of a good democratic nation
5. How does the rational theory help our understanding of political
6. Discuss fully the major criticism against the behavioural school of thought
7. Explain the various sources of public opinion
8. What is political participation? In what ways can a person participate in politics?
9. In what ways is political socialization important to political behaviour?
10. What are the approaches to the study of election and what are the factors that can affect electoral behaviour?
11. Examine the factors that have made the media, as an agent of political communication, to be deeply enmeshed in the political process.
12. How is political culture different political participation?
13. Examine the scope of political behaviour.
14. Discuss in detail, the various factors that determine political socialization
15. Examine the origin and development of political behavioural approach
16. Explain in details, the determinants of political behaviour
17. Critically examine the meaning and emergence of political behaviour

18. Examine the relationship between political culture and political behaviour
19. Examine the basic principles guiding the behavioural approach to studies in political science.
20. Explain the impact of political socialization on political behaviour

MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)

Question One

This question requires that students briefly define political behaviour. Political behaviour is the study of the way people think, feel, and act with regard to politics. It is the behaviour of man in a social system that gives him shelter, protection configured in terms of power.

They are to mention and explain the determinants of political behaviour which include;

- territory and population,
- Party orientation,
- Issues orientation,
- socio-economic status,
- Religious affiliation and identity,
- Rural –Urban residency,
- Personality, Public opinion,
- Social class,

Question 3

This question requires a brief introduction stating that Marx offers a theory of political behavior based on the class structure of a given society. Then, followed by explanation of the basic arguments of Marxist theory in relation to political behaviour including;

- Serfs, slaves, peasants, and workers have an objective interest in engaging in collective action together.
- Class defined as position within the economic structure; position within the property system
- The structural definition leads to the assumption that there are only a small number of classes –major and minor –corresponding to the major intersections of the property system.
- Class consciousness: an identity in which the agent explicitly considers himself as a member of a particular class supported by traditions and social groupings.
- The material-social conditions of class identity: Material conditions lead to specific features of consciousness and identity. Marx refers to some of the conditions that lead to class consciousness as proximity, similar working conditions, and normal social interaction with people in similar circumstances.
- Members of exploited groups will come to recognize the fact of their exploitation and their common interests with other members of the group.
- Members of the exploited group will come to see that they can improve their conditions through collective action.
- Members will have the motivational resources necessary to mobilize together.
- Social movements based on class identity will arise to challenge existing exploitative property relations and political institutions.
- Rebellions are rational strategies of collective self-defense on the part of subordinate classes

Question 5

First give a brief introduction stating that rational theory is both a normative and an empirical theory of individual behaviour, and also a formalized logical structure that serves as the foundation for much theorizing in political science and economics.

Then explain the arguments of the rational theory in relation to political behaviour as follows:

- The basic idea is that we can understand what people do by assuming that they behave rationally as individuals.
- Political behaviour is not solely the product of psychological drives, socialization or organizational norms. Rather, individuals have goals they try to achieve, acting as rationally as their knowledge, resources and the situation permit.
- In other words, people always try to maximize their interests when it comes to things like whom to vote for or whether to volunteer politically.
- It claims both that we ought to behave purposefully in accordance with our values, and that we do behave so.
- Choice of political behaviour is based on preference
- it ties individual choices to preferences, underscoring choice as purposeful behaviour.
- all alternatives from which one chooses are comparable and individuals are capable of, and do form, judgments as to whether one item is better than another or whether the two are equally good
- Individuals are presumed to always choose their most preferred alternative
- This implies that we can explain an individual's choice behaviour by an understanding of their preferences and the alternative consequences of the choices from which the choice is being made.

Question 7

This question requires a brief explanation of public opinion which is the collective views of large segments of the population on an issue of national concern

Then mention and explain the sources of public opinion as follows

- Personal experience
- Mass Media
- Pressure Groups
- Opinion leaders
- Political parties
- Government

Question 9

In answering this question you will give a brief introduction explaining political socialization as a process by which the norms associated with the performance of political roles as well as fundamental political values and guiding standards of political behaviour are learned.

Then explain the importance of political socialization important to political behaviour as follows

- Means by which individual internalizes politically relevant attitudes, beliefs, cognitions and values of a political system
- Political Socialization ensures the intergenerational transmission of political norms, values, symbols and ideas
- Political socialization helps to maintain continuity and stability in the society
- Political socialization helps to ensure some degree of discipline among member of a political community
- Political socialization equips members of society with basic skills necessary for political participation or the performance of important political roles.

Question 11

Students are to brief introduction stating the fact that modern politics are increasingly shaped by the dynamics of public communication and as a consequence, the success of governments is to a large extent dependent on their ability to communicate effectively to the broader public.

They are to examine the factors that have made the media to be deeply enmeshed in the political process to include

- The declining effect of the primary agents of political socialization. The media now become the principal mechanism through which information about issues and policies are presented to the public
- The development of a mass television audience from the 1950s onwards and more recently the proliferation of channels and media output has massively increased mass media's penetration of people's everyday lives. This means that the public now relies on the mass media more heavily than ever before for source of news and current affairs information.
- The media have become more powerful economic actors. Major media corporations are major global players. There are media businesses such as Microsoft, AOL-Time Warner which have accumulated so much economic and market power that no government can afford to ignore them.

What are the approaches to the study of election and what are the factors that can affect electoral behaviour?

Question 13

This question requires a brief definition of political behaviour, then a discussion of the scopes of political behaviour as follows;

1. Some regard it as a distinct and specific area of study within the noble discipline of political science and such scholars are Lipset, Blumer, Harold Lasswell, Wallas,

Robert Lein, etc. They argued that the political behaviour of man like every other behaviour of man emanated from his political environment. The origin and mode and dynamics of such interacting and initiative are vast enough to constitute a distinct area of study in political science.

2. Some regard it as simply as an approach to the study of political science, in other words, it is a type of mental orientation or methodology, which conditions the instinctual advocates to the study of political science. Consequently, a new style of enquiry emerged in the form of behavioural approach

Question15

A brief introduction of the various approaches in political analysis is required. This should be followed by explanation of the origin and development of political behavioural approach as follow;

The behavioural approach in the field of political science owes its origin to the intellectual development in philosophy, sociology and psychology, particularly of note is the writing of Pavlor in Russia and John B. Watson in USA, who contributed extensively on behavioural psychology and the works in the field of philosophy psylogical positivists have also exerted considerable influence in the use of behavioural approach became very prominent and was used to enhance understanding in the investigation of voting behaviour, political behaviour, party identification and attitudes, etc. Some of the prominent writers in the field include Graham Wallas of England and Arthur Bentley of the United States. Notwithstanding the fact that several European scholars, psychologists, philosophers and social scientists have significant contributions in the field of behaviouralism, its revolution received patronage mainly from the American political scientists. Remarkably, Charles E. Merriam of the Chicago University takes the credit as the intellectual father of this movement. In collaboration with other political scientist, he developed methods of research, derived from the

methodology of psychology, sociology and mathematics as a result of this development, a good number of other European scholars shifted to the United States in the 1920s. More so, in the years preceding the Second World War, the movement joined memorandum and began to use the quantitative data and statistical tables as expatiated by Stuart Rice and Harold Gosnell. In fact, behavioural movement affected virtually every scholarly work of the time particularly the writings of Harold Lasswell, Gabriel Almond, Robert Dahl, David Easton and Karl Deustch. All these scholars and many more contributed immensely to the behavioural revolution.

Question17

Students need to first define political behaviour as the study of the way people think, feel, and act with regard to politics.

- Or the behaviour of man in a social system that gives him shelter, protection configured in terms of power.
- Or that pattern of behaviour, which relates to power in order to increase power, to protect power, to modify power or to use power in advancing the individual or the collectivity from any already given power situation.
- This pattern of behaviour constitutes the universal aims and objectives of the political man.
- It is however important to note that political behaviour extends far beyond governmental behaviour, which connotes the machinery of lawmaking (policies).
- The behaviour of individuals such as tribal organization or anomic, all constitute political behaviours. However, one thing that has persisted in all political system is the vital role, which human behaviour plays in the development and operations of political system. In fact, whatever the type of political system that is adopted by the people or imposed on them, the

impact of human behaviour on the system has made far-reaching and sometimes fundamental changes on the system generally.

- A living political system is a change in system, structures, institutions, principles and manifestoes, etc. on their own cannot lead to change.
- It is the behaviour of the citizens that account for so much of the inevitable change. These citizens are leaders, followers, anarchists, terrorists, the masses, etc. they also include groups like human right organizations, anomic and institutional organizations, etc. In fact, when we weigh human and non-human on a scale, man behaviour is heavier than non-human element in the shaping of political system and it is ultimately the chief decisive factor in the political system. These human elements include both individual and group behaviour. Individuals bring in their character and their aggregate demonstrate their own characteristic.
- The two together or in institution, influence the nature of political system in any given universe. Therefore, in the study of politics we ask: what impact can the human individual make on the political system? How can individual and groups interact in a political system
- Every political system is constituted by static and mobile structure. The static structures perform the role of maintenance of law and order and translation of policy decisions into actions. The roles performed by these static structures are essentially routinized roles for the maintenance of law and order.
- On the other hand, the mobile element or structures refer more specifically to the less-structured and less-framed human processes in the political system, which work by self-automated dynamism that propels change in the political system.

- That is to say, these activities singly or collectively go by the designation of political or better still, political behaviour.
- In the past, the static categories were accorded primacy by political scientists but the mobile (human element) were sufficiently studied, however the more modern tendency is to highlight the identity and importance of the dynamic processes.
- It is in fact, the dynamic combination and interaction of these features (human activities in the political system) that we here designate by the generic name – political behaviour that is the behaviour that wheels the machinery of governance.

Question 19

Usually it is expected that students give a brief introduction by defining behaviouralism. The basic principles are then discussed as follows;

- Regularities: Behaviouralists argue that there are discoverable uniformities or regularities in political behaviour and that these can be expressed in systematic generalizations or theories with explanatory and predictive value.
- The political behaviour of individuals is not arbitrary but is governed by certain discoverable factors.
- Verification: All statement, generalizations or theories about political behaviour must be based on factual observation and must be testable or verifiable by reference to actual political conducts.
- This process of empirical verification is most important criterion for assessing the validity, acceptability or utility of any generalization or statement about political behaviour

- Techniques: The observation of political behaviour and the verification of statements and generalizations arising from the observation must be based on the use of reliable and sophisticated scientific techniques.
- Quantification: The use of statistical and mathematical measurement can help to achieve adequate precision or accuracy in study of political behaviour. Therefore there must be a shift in method from the qualitative judgement that dominated Normative –Philosophical studies to the quantitative measurement that are usually associated with the natural and the physical sciences.
- Systematization: Political research should not be an end but means to develop systematic theory or generalization. As such empirical research should be theory-oriented and theory-directed.