

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY  
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT  
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME: POLITICAL  
SCIENCE**

**COURSE: PSI 221**

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# **PSI 221: LOGIC AND METHOD OF POLITICAL ENQUIRY**

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## **QUESTIONS**

1. What is a paradigm? What is a paradigm shift? Give three examples of paradigm.
2. Explicate the differences between models and theories with examples
3. What are theories? Discuss the different types of theories. What are the roles of theory?
4. Define the following: models, theories, paradigm, concepts and variables
5. Explicate your understanding of the meaning of citation with examples. Why is citation important in research?
6. What is quantitative research? Discuss the types of quantitative research with examples.
7. Enumerate the differences between scientific theory and scientific law.
8. What is qualitative research? Discuss the types of qualitative research with examples.
9. What are theories?
10. Discuss the following: Focus Group Discussion; In-depth Interview; Case Histories/Case Study
11. Enumerate the characteristics/assumption of scientific method
12. What is the relevance of qualitative research?
13. Give an example each of the following referencing
  - i. In text citation with more than three authors
  - ii. Journal Article with One author
  - iii. Magazine or Newspaper article
  - iv. Journal Article with Two authors
  - v. Journal Article in the Internet
14. Give three hypotheses that can be a law that meet the requirement of a scientific generalization.
15. Give an example each of the following referencing
  - i. A Book with One Author
  - ii. A Book with two authors
  - iii. Chapters in an edited Book
  - iv. Two authored article in an edited book with more than two editors

v. A Book group author as publisher

16. What are scientific laws? Discuss its salient characteristics.

17. What are literatures? What do we mean by the review of literatures? Discuss the categorization of literature.

18. What are hypotheses? How are hypothesis tested? Give three hypothetical questions in any subject.

19. What is scientific generalization? Why is it relevant in political science researches?

20. Discuss the forms of generalization with examples. Demonstrate your understanding of conditional element in scientific generalization. Using clear examples, distinguish between universal and statistical generalization.

### **MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)**

1. A paradigm is a theoretical structure or a framework of thought that acts as a template/example to be followed. It is the dominant orientation that defines the research tradition, prevalent par time within the academic circle. Kuhn describes a paradigm “as a set of scientific and metaphysical belief that make up a theoretical framework in which scientific theories can be tested, evaluated and if necessary revised

b. A change from the use of one paradigm to another.

c. Traditionalism, Behaviouralism, Structuralism, Post-structuralism/Post-modernism

3. A theory is a hypothetical deductive system which describes the inter-relationship between variables as means of explaining a given phenomenon.

b. **Normative** theories are sets of interrelated ideas and proposition that are embedded with an explicit value preference e.g. social contact, force theory etc

**Empirical** theories are sets of interrelated ideas or propositions derives from facts that explains a phenomenon

c.

i. It opens up research problems by identifying what has hitherto been hidden ie why are the girls performing better than the boys academically in CU?

ii. Theory can draw together unrelated fragments of empirical evidence of research. In other words theories help to simplify explanation of the empirical regularities we observe in the social or real world

iii. Gives focus to research because it is theory –dependent in the sense that it is conducted in the light of theory and the data gathered is used to verify original theoretical ideas

5. Citations are text references, which acknowledges the source of the idea that is being used in the body of the text or write up. These references are usually inserted into the text as close as possible to the relevant point as is consistent with clarity and legibility.

Examples

- i. According to Duruji(2008), “the new ethno-nationalism in Nigeria arose due to the long years of violent politics of military rule that did not give room for dialogue and debate in the country”.
- ii. “The dynamics of the international system, where donor community insisted on political and economic reforms made it inevitable for the military in Nigeria as in other developing nations to recede from politics” (Eke 2005, Heaven 2006).
- b. It is important to acknowledge all quoted idea in the body of the text otherwise you will be accused of plagiarism.

7.

Scientific laws are generalization premised on empirical observation of the physical world. In other words, scientific laws are conclusions derived from the confirmation of hypothesis through repeated scientific experiment over a long period of time, making it universally accepted. That is to say that scientific laws are observations that have never had repeatable contradictions.

- Scientific laws are distinguished from scientific theories by their simplicity as scientific theories are generally more complex
- Scientific theories have many component parts and are more likely to change as body of available data emerges and develops
- Whereas scientific laws are summary observation of strictly empirical matters, theory is a model that accounts for the observation, explains it, relates it to other observation and makes predictions upon its premise
- Whereas scientific law notes that something happened, a theory explains why and how that something happened

9. A theory is a hypothetical deductive system which describes the inter-relationship between variables as means of explaining a given phenomenon.

For instance: System theory (stability), Elite theory( participation/governance; Contagion theory (military rule/revolution); Domino theory (spread/momentum); Rational Choice theory (decision/action)

The term Theory has technical and commonsense meaning

In commonsense terms, theory means ideas, propositions and explanations that gets to the essential truth behind something that is often hidden e.g. 'phenomenon of girls doing better than boys in CU'. Therefore theory and truth are equivalent in commonsense knowledge .

Technical meanings of theory proffers conditional connection with explanation that is founded on empirical evidence

Types of theory

Normative theories are sets of interrelated ideas and proposition that are embedded with an explicit value preference e.g. social contact, force theory etc

Empirical theories are sets of interrelated ideas or propositions derives from facts that explains a phenomenon

The goal of scientific research is the construction of a theory.

In political science, they are of two types, middle range theories and Grand theories.

11. Enumerate the characteristics/assumption of scientific method.

- Gives empirical basis for any assertion
- Assumption of determinism, or law of universal causation
- It has to be systematic.
- Specifically, a scientific study is characterized by the verification of knowledge, because belief is not affected by human thinking or preferences
- The scientific method allows for replications. In other words, other people have the liberty to review one's study, to either validate or disprove it.
- Scientific method demands openness in the conduct of an inquiry (Agbabiaka saga).
- The scientific method deal with evidence. Its strong conclusions must be premised on facts.

- Scientific method deals with hypothetical relationships between phenomena (Deprivation and Restiveness)
- The scientific method is self-correcting, i.e. , it makes and allows for correction to be carried out (Atom).

### **13. In text citation with more than three authors**

There is no alternative to democracy in Nigeria” (Duruji 2007 et al).

#### **Journal Article with One author**

Duruji,Moses(2008) “The Changing Context of Ethno nationalism in Nigeria” *Unilag Journal of Politic*, Volume II Number 1 p.23-34

#### **Magazine or Newspaper article**

Okoli,Anayo (2008) “PDP Chieftains urge caution on Abia tribunal judgement” in *Sunday Vanguard* April 13. (Available at [www.vanguardonline.com](http://www.vanguardonline.com) retrieved April 13,2008)

#### **Journal Article with Two authors**

Oyewole, Godswill & Rasheed Adelani(2001) “The role of Library in Nomadic Education in Nigeria” *Nigerian Journal of Curriculum and Instruction* Volume 10,Number 1, p.84-86

#### **Journal Article with three to six authors**

Koran, Jenkins ,Leslie Koran & Ferdinand McDonalds(1972) “Effects of Different Sources of Positive and Negative Information on Observational Learning of a Teaching Skill” *Journal of Educational Psychology*, Volume 63,Number 3 p.405-410

#### **Journal Article in the Internet**

Fredrick,Jess (2000) “Cultivating positive emotion to Optimize health and Wellbeing” *Journal of Prevention & Treatment* Volume 3,Number 2 Article 0001a. Retrieved November 10,2002,from <http://www.journals.apa.org/prevention/volume3/pre003001a.html>

### **15. A Book with One Author**

Duruji,Moses(2007) *A Political Economy of Africa*. Owerri: Heineken Publisher

#### **A Book with two authors**

Ukeje,Benson & Fred Amadi(1996) *Education for Social Reconstruction*. Lagos: Macmillan

#### **An Edited Book with one author**

Amam ,John (2004) ed. *Introduction to Politics*. Ota:Covenant University Press

### **Chapters in an edited Book**

Olawuyi,Goke (2004) “Political Behaviour” in Ayam, John ed. *Introduction to Politics*. Ota: Covenant University Press

### **Two authored article in an edited book with more than two editors**

Duruji, M.M & M.O Ajayi (2008) “ The Management of Ethno nationalism in Nigeria: An Assessment of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra” in Omotor,D.G, F.A. Sanubi & A.I. Ohwona eds. *Readings in Conflict Management and Peace Building in Africa*. Abraka: Delta State University Press

### **A Book group author as publisher**

United Nation (2007) *World Food Security Report*. New York:FAO

17. Literature itself refers to the documented or recorded body of existing knowledge and information.

#### **b. Importance**

- It is important because it is the critical examination of existing knowledge on the subject under study
- Literature review component in the research process is necessary in other to streamline a scientific study and situate it within the existing body of reliable knowledge on the issue under investigation
- Literature review is important because it establishes the background of the study
- It also defines the problem of study
- It sets the framework for the formulation of hypothesis and the carrying on of empirical proofs
- It gives insight into the research design
- It provides the context and justification for research method and procedure

c. Literature can be categorized into three:- primary, secondary and textbook science.

19. Scientific generalization expresses relationship between variables in broad context

## Importance

- They give more sophisticated and wide – ranging description of political phenomena; from facts/detail drawn from sample to developing systematic knowledge of politics
- Give us explanatory and predictive mechanism.
- So development of generalization is essential for political science because it not only describes adequately but explain and predict political phenomena.