

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME: POLITICAL
SCIENCE**

COURSE: PSI 224

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PSI 224: NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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QUESTIONS

1. Examine the emergence of federal political structure in Nigeria.
2. Explain the process of British colonization of Nigeria
3. Examine the basic provisions of the First Republican Constitutions of Nigeria.
4. Explain the implications of colonial policies on the Nigerian contemporary politics
5. Give a detailed account of military intervention in Nigerian politics between 1966 and 1976.
6. Explain the various crises that culminated to military takeover in 1966
7. What are the factors that necessitated the introduction of indirect rule policy in Nigeria?
8. How bogus was Gowon's post-civil war national development plan and what was the aftermath?
9. Discuss the criticisms against the 1922 Clifford Constitution
10. The Clifford's Constitution of 1922 recorded landmark improvements in the political development of Nigeria. Discuss.
11. Explain the major provisions of the 1946 constitution of Nigeria.
12. Examine the impact of the 1946 constitution on Nigeria's political development
13. Examine the impact of Macpherson Constitution on the evolution of federalism in Nigeria.
14. Examine the impact of 1954 Littleton Constitution on the Nigeria's federalism.
15. Account for the remote and immediate causes of the fall of Nigeria's First Republic
16. Enumerate the causes of the 1966 military coup.
17. Explain the challenges of the Fourth Republic of Nigeria.

18. In spite of the stipulation for national political parties in the 1979 Constitution, party politics in the Second Republic still toed the path of ethnic-based parties of the First Republic. Discuss.
19. Explain the various issues that constitute “national question” in Nigeria.
20. Explain the view that Nigeria’s crisis is a result of the mistake of the 1914 amalgamation.

MODEL ANSWERS IN ALTERNATE SEQUENCE (ODD NUMBERS)

Question 1. Examine the emergence of federal political structure in Nigeria.

Answer:

This question requires that students should give brief introduction of colonial administration in Nigeria.

Students now explain the emergence of federal structure in Nigeria as follows;

Before the 1951 Constitution was promulgated into law, Sir John Macpherson presented its draft and allowed Nigerians to debate it at conferences which took place at every strata of the society.

- The conferences debated the questions of federal system under which each different Region of the country would exercise a measure of internal autonomy.

- They also discussed the modalities for operation and sharing of power between the regional and the central governments.

-All the regional representatives at the conference favoured federal political structure for Nigeria

-Sir John Macpherson’s constitution substantially reflected some of the views and recommendations of the conferences.

-It introduced a federal system by dividing constitutional powers between the central and the regional legislatures with the central legislative power superseding the regional laws.

-It maintained the three regional structures - North, East and West with Legislative and Executive Councils established in each.

-It introduced a Revenue Allocation formula based on the principles of Derivation, Needs and National Interest.

-it soon became obvious that the Macpherson’s Constitution was unworkable because the document contained some provisions that were contradictory to the principles of federalism.

-The provision of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954 however laid a foundation for a federal structure for Nigeria by providing for a clear division of both legislative and executive powers between the Central and the Regional governments.

-The regions were made independent of the centre in that it transferred all the legislative and executive powers to the regions with some exclusively reserved for the centre.

Question 2: Explain the process of British colonization of Nigeria

Question 3: Examine the basic provisions of the First Republican Constitutions of Nigeria.

Answer:

The constitution maintained the characteristic features of bicameral Westminster model type of parliamentary government both at the Central and Regional government.

The Constitution was a Federal constitution which divided powers between the Central and the Regional Governments. The exclusive powers as contained in the constitution were reserved for the Central Government while the residual powers were the preserve of the regional units. Both the Federal and the Regional Government or rather Legislatures were competent to legislate with respect to matters contained in the concurrent list

In February 1961, a plebiscite was conducted to determine the disposition of the Southern Cameroons and Northern Cameroons, which were administered by Britain as United Nations Trust Territories. By an overwhelming majority, voters in the Southern Cameroons opted to join formerly French-administered Cameroon over integration with Nigeria as a separate federated region. In the Northern Cameroon, however, the largely Muslim electorate chose to merge with Nigeria's Northern Region.

The 1963 Republican constitution replaced the 1960 independence constitution. Both the 1960 (independence) constitution and the 1963 (Republican) constitution were basically the same. The only differences were the provisions for a ceremonial President (1963) in place of the Queen of England (1960) and the judicial appeals system which terminated with Supreme Court (1963) rather than the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council (1960) (*Nigeria Constitution, 1963*)

One of the most significant changes made by the 1963 republican constitution was to sweep away these imperial bases of the pre-existing Constitution.

Question 4: Explain the implications of colonial policies on the Nigerian contemporary politics

Question 5: Give a detailed account of military intervention in Nigerian politics between 1966 and 1976.

Answer:

On January 15, 1966, Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu led the first ever-military coup in Nigeria that led to the death of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and Premier of Northern Nigeria, Chief S.I. Akintola, the Premier of Western Region, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of Nigeria, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, Federal Minister of Finance and other military officers. The coup was poorly carried out in certain parts of the country and there was a strong accusation of tribalism. The Northern People accused Chukwuma as well as his fellow coup plotters of staging an Igbo coup. This was because most of the officers killed during the coup were those from other parts of the country. The then general officer commanding of the Nigerian army, Major-General Johnson Thomas Ununakwe Aguiyi Ironsi was sworn-in as the Military Head of State of Nigeria.

On 29 July, 1966, six months after the first coup plot, three young military officers of Northern background led by Lieutenant Colonel Murtala Muhammed staged a counter coup to even the score. This led to the death of Major-General J.T.U. Aguiyi-Ironsi, Head of State, Col. Francis Adegunle Fajuyi Military Governor, Western region and other military officers. General Yakubu Gowon was then sworn-in as the Military Head of State.

In July 1975, a group of Colonels sacked the government of General Yakubu Gowon in a bloodless coup. General Murtala Muhammed also masterminded this coup. In this coup, no lives were lost. General Murtala Muhammed assumed power in July 1975.

On 13 February 1976, six months later, Lieutenant-colonel Bukur Suka Dimka with his loyalist staged an abortive coup which claimed the lives of three officers; General Murtala Muhammed, Head of State, Col. Ibrahim Taiwo, Governor of Kwara State and Lt. Akintunde Akinsehinwa,

ADC to Muhammed. This led to their arrest and subsequent execution of one civilian and 38 soldiers, including Major-General Illya Bisalla, five Colonel, four majors and other officers for their role in the failed coup. Civilians involved in the coup included: Abdulkareem Zakari, a staff of Radio Nigeria, Lagos and Helen Gomwalk, sister-in-law of Joseph Gomwalk, were tried by military tribunal and punished. Zakari was executed for his involvement in the coup while Helen Gomwalk bagged a life sentence. She was later given amnesty by the Shehu Shagari administration.

Question 6: Explian the various crises that culminated to military takeover in 1966

Question 7: What are the factors that necessitated the introduction of indirect rule policy in Nigeria?

Answer:

Students will answer this question by explaining the following factors

- i. administrative convenience
- ii. economic factor
- iii. language barrier
- iv. Sustenance of African culture

Question 8: How bogus was Gowon's post-civil war national development plan and what was the aftermath?

Question 9: Discuss the criticisms against the 1922 Clifford Constitution

Answer:

Students are to give a brief introduction stating that though the elective principle of the Clifford Constitution was commendable, it was criticized by the African elites on the basis that it limited the franchise of Africans.

They criticisms against the constitution are:

- i. Only the British subjects or protected persons who met the condition of possession of properties and annual gross income of 100 Pound Sterling were qualified to vote, or be voted for.
- ii. The Executive Council was predominantly white officials to the exclusion of Africans.

- iii. The North was excluded from the purview of the Legislative Council. African elites regarded this as a divide and rule policy of the British Government to slow down the awareness of the people.
- iv. The retention of veto power on policy issues by the Governor did not make the new Legislative Council any better than the one it sought to replace.

Question 10: The Clifford's Constitution of 1922 recorded landmark improvements in the political development of Nigeria. Discuss.

Question 11: Explain the major provisions of the 1946 constitution of Nigeria.

Answer:

Regionalism: It divided Nigeria into three regions – North, West and East and established legislative councils in each of the regions, thereby allowing the people of each region to develop at their own pace.

Central Legislative Assembly: For the first time, the northern part was brought within the same legislative authority.

Regional Legislative Power: It gave powers to the regional assemblies to elect members to the central legislature.

Retention of Elective principle: It retained the elective principle of the 1922 constitution with the limited franchise to Lagos and Calabar but increased the number of the unofficial members at the Legislative Council.

Retention of veto power: The constitution also retained the veto power for the Governor.

Question 12: Examine the impact of the 1946 constitution on Nigeria's political development

Question 13: Examine the impact of Macpherson Constitution on the evolution of federalism in Nigeria.

Answer:

Sir John Macpherson, before promulgating the 1951 constitution into law, presented its draft and allowed Nigerians to debate it at conferences which took place at every strata of the society from the Central through to the District and village levels. The conferences were to debate, among others, whether to develop federal system under which each different Region of the country would exercise a measure of internal autonomy. Opinions in the conferences favoured federal structure for Nigeria.

The 1951 Macpherson Constitution thus introduced a quasi-federal system in which the constitutional powers were divided between the central and the regional legislatures with the stipulation that in the event of a clash under the concurrent legislative matters, the regional laws was voided to the extent of its inconsistency with that of the central legislature.

The constitution maintained the three regional structures - North, East and West with Legislative and Executive Councils established in each.

Both the North and the West had a bi-camera Legislature each while the East had a single-chamber Legislature.

The Governor had the reserved powers to refuse assent to any bill passed by the central legislature or to enact into law, bills rejected by the parliament.

d) The number of the elected Nigerians into the legislative councils both at the central and regional levels was increased.

e) The Governor was empowered to stop or propose amendment to any regional bill considered to be in conflict with the national interest.

Question 14: Examine the impact of 1954 Littleton Constitution on the Nigeria's federalism.

Question 15: Account for the remote and immediate causes of the fall of Nigeria's First Republic

Answer:

Remote causes

- Unbalanced Federal Structure
- Tribal/Regional Parties
- Intolerance of Opposition
- Controversies over Population Census

Immediate Causes

- Action Group crisis of 1962
- The Trial of Action Group Leaders
- The Controversial 1964/5 Federal Elections
- The 1965 Western Region election riots

Question 16: Enumerate the remote and immediate causes of the 1966 military coup.

Question 17: Explain the challenges of the Fourth Republic of Nigeria.

Answer:

- The politics of godfatherism
- Corruption
- Ethno-religious crises
- Constitutionalism
- 1999 Constitution
- Inter and intra-party conflicts
- Security, etc.

Question 18: In spite of the stipulation for national political parties in the 1979 Constitution, party politics in the Second Republic still toed the path of ethnic-based parties of the First Republic. Discuss.

Question 19: Explain the various issues that constitute “national question” in Nigeria.

Answer:

The following constitute the national questions in Nigeria

- Nigeria Federalism,
- Revenue Allocation,
- Resource Control Issues,
- The Rise of Militancy and the Implications on Nigerian Politics;
- Patronage Politics and the Nigerian political System.
- Executive-Legislative Relationship;
- Inter-Ethno religious Relations
- Census in Nigeria
- Intra and Inter-Party Relationship.
- Constitutionality and Corruption Issues

Question 20: Explain the view that Nigeria's crisis is a result of the mistake of the 1914 amalgamation.