

SSE 221: NIGERIAN SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

UNIT 1 CONCEPT OF SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Social institution is an organized system of social relations that embodies certain common values and procedures and meets certain basic needs of society. Every society has the following major social institutions namely: the family, religion, education, polity or government, economy and legal institutions.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. explain the concept of socio-political institution; and
- ii. identify and explain the various socio-political institutions.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand the contents.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Institution: this is a formalized procedure that perpetuates organizing principles of social life from generation to generation.

Conjugal: family is made up of the husband and his wife.

Education: process of developing the individual physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially for his welfare and for the welfare of the society.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 EXPLANATION OF SOCIAL INSTITUTION

Social institution can be seen to be very important to the attainment of some of the needs of the society which are necessary in ensuring the maintenance and survival of society.

Social institutions are organised patterns of beliefs and behaviours centred on basic social needs. Every society has the following major social institutions namely: the family, religion, education, polity or government, economy and legal institutions.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is social institution?
2. List three (3) major social institutions you know.

3.2 POLITICAL INSTITUTION

In the traditional system of government, the various social and economic institutions form an integral part of the political institution. These include Age grade association, hunters group, heads of small and extended families, the village, town or city.

Role of political institutions in the society includes: protecting the interest of the citizens, ensure that peace is maintained in the society; ensure that justice, equity and fair play is maintained; promulgation of laws in the society, ensure that laws are implemented through the executive, ensure good governance in the society.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Explain the concept “political institution”.
2. List two major political institutions.
3. Mention two (2) roles of political institutions.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Social institutions are organized patterns of beliefs and behaviours centred on basic social needs. Social and economic institutions form an integral part of the political institutions. Social institutions include; the family, religion, economic and legal institutions.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. What is social institution?
2. State two (2) major social institutions you know.
3. Explain the concept political institution.
4. List four (4) roles of political institution.

6.0 REFERENCES

Ebirim, D.C. and Uzoagba, B.C (2011). Introduction to Nigerian cultural environment and institution. Owerri: Publishing Company

UNIT 2 FUNCTIONS OF SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

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- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Functions of Socio-Political Institutions
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In unit 1, we examined the concept of socio-political institutions, we identified socio-political institutions to include, the family, religion, education, polity or government, economy and legal institutions. In this unit, we shall examine the functions perform by these institutions for social stability in more detail.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. identify the various components of socio-political institutions; and
- ii. identify the functions of some major socio-political institutions.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand every aspect of it.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Family: it is a group of people who are related by blood, marriage and cares for its members in the society.

Education: process of developing the individual physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially for his welfare and for that of the society.

Socialization: a process of teaching younger generations the culture of the society. It is sometimes referred to as acculturation.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 FUNCTIONS OF SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Family: The family, the basis of society as a social institution, performs important functions some of which include:

1. **Reproduction:** Every society experiences loss of its members through death and for a society to endure these dead members, it must be replaced through reproduction. Thus, the family contributes to human survival through its function of reproduction.
2. **Socialization:** The child's socialization begins from the family. The family exerts much socializing influence on the child.
3. **Regulation of sexual behaviour:** It is a universal practice and function of the family, to regulate the sexual habits of its members for order in society.

Religion: The functions of religion include:

1. It creates and maintains social group solidarity. It helps to draw together all those who are of the same faith and belief and unite them in social brother-hood or sisterhood relationship.
2. It helps to improve social human relationship. When man imbibes the virtues preached and extolled by various religions of the world such as love, justice, and honesty, life in the society becomes more enjoyable and pleasurable.
3. It reduces worries and anxiety over the things of this world and earthly wealth.
4. It provides a source of identity.
5. It offers solace in times of trial.
6. It strengthens the moral order of people in society.

Education and its functions:

1. **Transmission of culture:** As a social institution, education performs the function of transmitting the dominant culture of society through school. Each generation of young

people is exposed to the existing beliefs, norms, values and patterns of behaviour expected of its people or society.

2. Education promotes social and political integration. It unites individuals politically and socially into the main stream of their culture to teach students what it means to be a Nigerian. From a functional perspective, therefore, the common identity and social integration fostered by education contribute to societal stability and consensus.
3. Another major function of education is social selection/selecting of talents. This is done through the school. It is a sort out mechanism which select people based on ability.
4. Maintaining social control: Through the school students are taught various skills and values which will be essential in their future positions within the labour force.
5. Education serves as an agent of social change. Majority of the various changes taking place in Nigeria today is a bye product of education.
6. Innovation function: Education, by promoting critical attitude of mind, reflective thinking and intellectual alertness, serve to provide society with innovations.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. List three (3) functions of the family
2. List and explain two (2) functions of religion
3. Differentiate between the functions of the family and the school

ROLE OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE SOCIETY

- i. They protect the interest of the citizens.
- ii. They ensure that peace is maintained in the society.
- iii. They ensure that justice, equity and fair play is maintained in the society.
- iv. They help in promulgation of laws in the society.
- v. They help in conducting election.
- vi. They ensure that there is good governance in the society.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Enumerate five (5) functions of legal institutions
2. List and explain the functions of political institutions.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have been exposed to the functions of socio-political institutions. These institutions include, religion, education, political, legal and family. The focus here was to highlight the functions they perform in society for the benefit of the individuals and the society at large.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Discuss the functions of socio-political institutions

6.0 REFERENCES

Ebirim, D.C. and Uzoagba, B.C (2011). Introduction to Nigerian cultural environment and institution. Owerri: Publishing Company

Ebirim, D.C. and Edi, A.O. (2014). Introduction to Nigeria cultural environment. Owerri: M.C. Publishers

UNIT 3 FAMILY AND MARRIAGE INSTITUTION**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Definition of the Concept Family
 - 3.2 Types of Families
 - 3.3 Duties of Members of a Family
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We live in groups made up of the father, mother or mothers and children. This is the nuclear family. Sometimes we live in a house where other relations such as uncles, aunties, in-laws, grand-parents and so on also live with us. This is the extended family. In this unit, we are going to learn about the family which in its simplest form in society, and is made up of a man, his wife or wives and their children. A highlight of nuclear and extended family will be presented.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. define the concept of family;
- ii. identify two basic types of families;
- iii. discuss the duties of members of the nuclear type of family;
- iv. list at least 4 functions of families;
- v. identify at least four common problems of families; and
- vi. show the importance of families in a society.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

To get the best out of this unit, you must be guided by the following:

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand everything.
- ii. Do not skip parts, you must study through it systematically.
- iii. You must do all exercises and assignments.
- iv. You should try to observe the activities of families around you.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Household chores: minor works done in the house

Psychologically: feeling satisfied in the mind

Social placement: putting somebody in a social position, usually in the society.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT FAMILY

It is a group of human beings (at least two adults of opposite sex, and their children, if any) who are related by blood and owe themselves certain important social responsibilities. In its simplest term, a family is made up of a husband, his wife and their children.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Explain what the concept family means
2. List 2 important features of a family

3.2 TYPES OF FAMILIES

Two types of families are the nuclear family and the extended family

Nuclear Family:

This is the simplest type of family. It is made up of a man (husband), his wife and children. In many parts of Africa, including Nigeria, the adult men are traditionally allowed to marry more than one wife (that is, they can marry two, three or more wives) and each wife may have children for the same husband. A family form emerges in which there is a man (husband), wives and children. This form of family is also classified as a nuclear family.

Extended Family:

In the extended family, membership of extended families is normally wider than that of the nuclear family. Apart from the husband, wives and children; it also includes grandparents, parents, their relations, uncles, aunties and grand and great grandchildren.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. How many types of families were mentioned above?
2. Name them.
3. How many forms of nuclear family were described above?

3.3 DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF A FAMILY**Father:**

1. Acts as head of the family, directing his wife and children.
2. Cares for members of the family, providing shelter, food, clothing etc.
3. Performs the role of husband to the wife.
4. Provides security cover for members of his family.

Mother:

1. Performs the role of wife and companion to the husband
2. Acts as head of the family in the absence of the father
3. Prepares food for members of the family
4. Helps to educate the children
5. Cares for the children by washing their cloths and keeping them clean

Children:

1. Run errands
2. Assist with household chores
3. Take care of the younger ones

FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY FAMILIES

1. Reproduction of the young

2. Nurturing the young into maturity and self-reliance
3. Training (Socialization) of the young for effective participation in the affairs of the large society.
4. Helping to place the child, socially in society.
5. Loving and protecting members, which is psychologically satisfying.

COMMON PROBLEMS OF FAMILIES

1. Inability to reproduce
2. Inability of the father to meet the needs of other members of the family
3. Unfaithfulness on the part of the wife or/and the father
4. Divorce, leading to lack of care for the children
5. Interference in family affairs by outsiders, leading to misunderstanding within families.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. What would happen if one of them (father, mother, children) fails to perform the relevant duties?
2. What advice would you give to a father, mother or children who always fail to perform the relevant duties?
3. Write out two family problems not listed above.
4. List two things that are likely to happen if a married couple is divorced and the children lack care.

4.0 SUMMARY AND COCNLUSION

A family is a group of human beings consisting usually of at least two adults of the opposite sex together with their children. There are two types of families: the nuclear and extended family.

Members of a family perform useful duties which help it remain together. The family itself is an important basic social unit in the society, reproducing, socializing and as an agent of social placement and that of preparing the young ones for later meaningful participation in the affairs of the larger society.

5.0 TUTORED-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. What is a family?
2. List the types of families discussed in this unit.

3. Would you want to see families/marriages breaking up?
4. Do you think that it is desirable to set up one's own family?
5. List three ways that the father can ensure harmony in the family.

6.0 REFERENCES

Ebirim, D.C. and Edi, A.O. (2014). Introduction to Nigeria cultural environment. Owerri: M.C. Publishers

Ezegbe, M.O. (2012). Foundations of social studies

Pivotal Teachers Training Programme for Universal Basic Education (UBE): Course book on social studies (2000)

UNIT 4 KINSHIP GROUPS**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 1.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Kinship Descent
 - 3.2 Patrilineal and Matrilineal Descent Rules
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Two persons are kins when one descended from the other. For instance, a grand-child descends from grandparents or when both descended from a common ancestor or ancestries. This does not connote that kinship is only biologically reckoned. However, blood tie or blood relationship is very important but not a necessary condition for kinship.

Since the 21st century adoption of children, most especially male children by families who do not have, is seriously gaining attention. Thus, an adopted child for example has no blood relationship with the people who adopted him or her. Yet they are his or her kinsmen. Two parents may have a covenant to treat each other as brothers and sisters, or as father and child without any blood relationship. On the other hand, a migrant who has none of his town's man or woman around, may decide to have his landlord or co-tenant or any other person he can rely on as his kinsman or woman. He may rely on him or her for assistance. This type of kin relationship which is not tied by blood relationship is known as fictive kinship.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. explain the concept of kinship correctly; and
- ii. explain the term fictive kinship.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand the whole content.

- ii. Attempt all the activities and TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Kinship: persons who are related by blood, that is, persons who descended from one another 'such as a grandchild descended from grandparents', persons who have agree to treat one another as kins despite the fact that they have no blood tie.

Patrilineal, unilineal descent: this is a situation where descent is traced through the mother only.

Bilateral descent: this is also referred to as double descent. Here descent is traced from both male and female.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 KINSHIP DESCENT

Kinship descent may be divided into two viz: unilineal or bilateral unilineal descent in patrilineal, unilineal descent or agent, descent is traced through males only. The person whose descent is being reckoned and his sibling belong to the father descent group. On the reverse, the matrilineal (cognate) system traces descent through the females alone. Ego and her siblings belong to Ego's mother descent group. Usually, the mother eldest brother is the authority figure (Ekwonwa, 2002).

Bilateral descent is traced from both father and mother line, in principle both sides are of equal importance. Ego and his siblings, belong to both their paternal and maternal kin groups. Examples of bilateral descent include Yako people, which is one of the semi-Bantu speaking people living in Northern part of Cross River State.

In several places in Africa, for example, Abolima, in Rivers State of Nigeria, there is a custom whereby a woman may go through a rite of marriage with another woman and thereafter stands in the place of father (pater) to the offsprings of the wife whose physical father (genitor) is an assumed 'lover'.

Kinship, therefore, results from the recognition of a social relationship between parents and children which is not the same thing as the physical relation and may or may not coincide with it.

3.2 PATRILINEAL AND MATRILINEAL DESCENT RULES

This can be differentiated through marriage rules. The regulation of marriage takes the form that marriage is forbidden between any two persons who are related through a mother line. The rule is that their cousin, descendants of the great-grand parents should not marry. This seems to have been the rule at one time in England, and in some part of Ohafia people of Abia State of Nigeria. Here, people can marry their fathers' brothers daughters (cross cousin marriage) but not their mother's brother's daughter or son who he or she regards as his/her kinsman of the second order.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Explain fully the concept of Kinship
2. Differentiate between patrilineal and matrilineal descent.

FUNCTIONS OF KINSHIP GROUP

Kinship group helps to retain the norms and values of one generation to the next by perpetuating traditional ways of life.

1. Kinship serves as basis for common political interest, close identification, ownership of property, trust, reciprocities and social interaction.
2. In the absence of or weak development of political structures, kinship group provides an effective system of social interaction.
3. The understanding of a kinship system as a working system links human beings together in an orderly arrangement of interactions by which particular customs are seen as functional parts of the social machinery.
4. It presents the use of a set of norms and patterns of behaviour. It socializes and teaches us how to follow step by step the prescription and the proscriptions of society.
5. Kinship, especially fictive kinship serves as convenient way of establishing norms of social interaction in an ambiguous situation.
6. Kinship arrangement enables persons to live together and to cooperate with one another in an orderly social life.
7. In primitive society, kinship group serves as a chief factor in maintenance of social unity and substituted the framework within which the individual is assigned economic and political functions.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

Identify three functions play by kinship group in Nigeria.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have examined the concept of kinship groups, its meaning, types, such as fictive kinship, patrilineal and matrilineal descent etc. You have also examined the functions played by kinship groups in our society.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Explain why fictive kinship has overshadowed kins that are related by blood tie.

6.0 REFERENCES

Benard, (1975). Kinship and family organization. London: John Wuley and Sons Inc.

Ekwonwa, M.O. (2003). Nigeria social political institutions: A text for social studies education.
Owerri: Ugofaith Publishers

UNIT 5 SOCIETY, CULTURE AND IDENTITY**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Definition of the Concept Of Society
 - 3.2 The Concept of Culture
 - 3.3 The Concept of Identity
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We live in groups or environment where people maintain social relationships. The word society, in everyday language, embraces all kinds and degrees of social relationships among human beings in a given community. In such community or society, people maintain a generally accepted mode of conduct, dress code, feeding habit and so on. This is otherwise known as culture. As they have their peculiar and specific style of life system for which they are known such as tribal marks, dressing, language, music and so on, they are easily identified (identity).

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. define the concept of society, culture and identity;
- ii. identify three basic divisions of culture;
- iii. mention and explain four categories of identity; and
- iv. list at least four characteristics of culture.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- I. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand everything.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Norms: group endorsed standards of behaviour which people must, may, should or should not do.

Language: it is the ability that distinguishes human beings from other living organisms (the use of symbols, signs and gesture).

Beliefs: proposition or notion people have about something.

Values: people's socially or culturally acquired perception of what is desirable or undesirable.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF SOCIETY

The word society embraces all kinds and degrees of social relationships among human beings in a given community. It is a group or number of persons with a definite geographical location who share a common set of habits, ideas, and attitudes and consider themselves a social unit.

3.2 THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE

Culture is perceived as the totality of the material, spiritual, artistic, intellectual and other accomplishment, of a people which give some indications of their way of life, their mode of existence and the by-products of their type or level of civilization. Culture can, as well, be defined as a system of ideas, values, beliefs, knowledge and customs transmitted from generation to generation within a social group.

DIVISIONS OF CULTURE

1. **Material culture:** This consists of all the materials or tangible items that members of a society have and use. These include all works of arts and crafts, industrial and technological tools and machines, furniture, dresses etc.
2. **Non-material culture:** Non-material culture embraces ideas, beliefs and values that are shared by a human group. These include myths, beliefs, language, superstitions, music and songs etc.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE

1. **Stability of culture:** Culture is stable and at the same time changing. Culture is stable when we realize that people hand over their beliefs, values and norms from one generation to the other.
2. **Cultural change:** In spite of its continuity and stability, culture, as a component of the dynamic society, is also changing e.g In the pre-colonial era, the birth of twins was seen as a curse and the visit of evil element to the couple. Today, the birth of twins is seen as double blessing to the couple.
3. **Culture is observable:** This is through the observation of cultural artifacts such as farming implements, tools, and dresses.
4. **Cultural borrowing:** No culture is completely isolated from other cultures. Hardly does one find a culture that has not borrowed from other cultures for its development.
5. **Cultural attachment:** Human beings are affiliated to the culture they belong to and associated with the accepted cultural values, attitudes and practices.

Other characteristics are cultural persistence, cultural relativism, cultural variability and cultural sharing.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Define the concept of society.
2. What is culture?
3. Mention the two basic divisions of culture.
4. List four characteristics of culture.

3.3 THE CONCEPT OF IDENTITY

If a group of people belong to one culture and commonly share the same culture pattern, perceive themselves as members of the same cultural group, they are regarded as having an identity.

CATEGORIES OF IDENTITY

1. Family identity
2. Age-group identify
3. Cultural group identity
4. Primordial identity

5. National identity
6. Grassroots identity

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Define the concept of identity
2. List four categories of identity

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Society embraces all kinds and degrees of social relationships among human beings in a given community. Culture can be regarded as a system of ideas, values, beliefs, knowledge and customs, transmitted from generation to generation. Divisions of culture include material and non-material culture. Features and characteristics of culture includes: cultural stability, cultural change, cultural observation, cultural borrowing, cultural attachment, and so on.

Identity is conceived as an exhibition of certain basic common cultural characteristics by which a person can be identified as a product of a given culture or a member of a given society.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. What is culture?
2. Define the term identity.

6.0 REFERENCES

- Ebirim, D.C. (nd). Selected themes in social studies education in Nigeria
- Ezegbe, M.O. (2008). Foundations of social studies
- Mezieobi, K.A. (1992). Themes in social studies education.

UNIT 6 GOVERNMENT AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 The Definition of Government
 - 3.2 A Highlight of Good Government as a Social Organization
 - 3.3 The Concept of Government as a Social Organization
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Using the theory of individual consent, which was developed in detail by John Lock (1632 – 1704), man lives in a surrounding that has many problems. Man strongly wishes to have natural rights, namely, life, liberty and property. Lock, in his argument, explained that men and women live in the state of nature without certain natural rights, namely, life, liberty and property. In the course of time, when they discover that it is difficult for them to protect these rights without a common authority to safeguard their rights, in the process, each gives his consent to the arrangement. The collective consent of all the people then becomes the source of political authority and the powers of the state over those who gave their consent. In this unit, the definition of government will be given. A highlight of good government as a social organization will be presented. The concept of government as a social organization or social institution will also be discussed in full.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. define government correctly;
- ii. Highlight good governance; and
- iii. identify the concept of government as a social organization.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand the contents.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Government: a group of people that govern a community or unity. It sets and administers public policy and exercise executive political and sovereign power through customs, institutions, and laws within a state.

The three arms of Government: The executive, legislative and judiciary.

Social Organization: a group of social network connected by social relations, performing a social role

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 THE DEFINITION OF GOVERNMENT

Government has many definitions. It can be defined as the act of ruling and as a group of people that govern a community or unity. It sets and administers public policy and exercise executive, political and sovereign power through customs, institutions, and laws within a state. It has three aims, namely: The judiciary, executive, and legislative. The legislative makes laws, judiciary interprets the laws, and the executive enforces the laws.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is Government?
2. Identify and explain the three arms of Government.

3.2 A HIGHLIGHT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Good government is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It is not about making correct decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions.

Good decision-making processes and good governance, share several characteristics. All have a positive effect on various aspects of local government including policies and practices, meeting procedures, service quality, protocols, councilor and officer conduct, role clarification and good working relationships.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

1. Good governance is accountable.
2. Good governance is transparent.
3. Good governance follows the rule of law.
4. Good governance is responsive.
5. Good governance is equitable and inclusive.
6. Good governance is effective and efficient.
7. Good governance is participatory.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Identify the characteristics of good governance.
2. What are the three ways that indicate good governance?

3.3 THE CONCEPT OF GOVERNMENT AS A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Here, the government takes full control over all the social organization in the economy. Social organization or social institution refers to a group of social positions connected by social relations, performing social role.

It can also be defined in a narrow sense as any institution in a society that works to socialize the groups or people in it. Common examples include education, governments, family, economic system, religion, and any people or groups that you have social interaction with. It is a major sphere of social life organised to meet human needs. They are patterns of relationship (Role, status) which is expected to be maintained as pertain rules and regulations, with a focus and functions to be performed and bring about social change order. Examples are the family, religion, economy, and polity. Social organization can take many forms depending on the social context. For example, for family context, the corresponding social organization is the extended family.

In the business context, a social organization may be an enterprise, company, and corporation. In the education context, it may be a school and a university. In the political context, it may be a government, and a political party. Experts officially commonly recognize these five major social institutions that have been evidence in some way in every civilization in history: government, religion, education, economy, and family.

To give a simple example: productive institutions are depending on educational institutions for a skilled work force, educational institutions are depending on the government for their funding, and government institutions rely on productive institutions to create wealth to finance government spending. Sociologists call this institutional dependence.

Organizations can include political bodies (political parties, congress, department of correction) social groups, (churches, clubs, athletic association) economic bodies (unions, co-operations) and educational bodies (schools, training centers, colleges).

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have examined the term ‘government’ in which you learnt that the government is seen as a group of people that governs a community or unity. It sets and administers public policy and exercise executive, political and sovereign power through customs, institutions and laws within the state. And it determines the social organizations.

We have highlighted good concept of government as a social organization. We have seen it in full in the types of social organizations, and the social context of the social organization.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Define government and mention its aims as you know.

6.0 REFERENCES

Armed forces rank chart in army; www.answercom-answercom
Wiki Answer categories history politics and society and politics government
www.goodgovernance.orgau/about_goo John Lock (1632 – 1704)

UNIT 7 COMPONENTS OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
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 - 3.1 Explanation of The Concept of Political System
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

A political system is a system of politics and government. It is usually composed of the legal system, economic system, cultural system and other social systems. However, this is a very simplified view of a much more complex system of categories involving the views: who should have power or authority, the processes involved in securing power in the society and how some social institutions/organizations influence the political system of a particular society. In this unit, the concept of political system and its components will be discussed.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. explain the concept of political system; and
- ii. identify and explain the various components of the political system

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand the contents.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Political system: is a complete set of institutions, interest groups such as political parties etc.

Political parties: simply a group of people who are united by a common interest or ideology, who engage in power struggle for the purpose of capturing power and controlling the machinery of government and public policies.

Pressure group: is a collection of people who have come together with the aim of protecting the rights and interests of their members.

Electoral process/system: all the processes in which the electorates or voters go through while electing their leaders in the nation.

Constitution/law: are regarded as the body of rules, regulations, principles, norms and conventions by which a particular society or country is governed.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 EXPLANATION OF THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL SYSTEM

A political system is a complete set of institutions, interest groups such as political parties, trade unions, lobby groups and the relationships among those institutions and political norms and rules that govern their functions.

A political system is composed of members of a social organization (group) who are in power. A political system is one that ensures the maintaining of order and rationality in the society and at the same time makes it possible for some other institutions to also have their grievances and complaints put across in the course of social existence. Political system can also be seen as a way in which the government makes policies in order to make their administration better organised.

From the above explanations and analysis, it can easily be understood that a political system has to do with the social institutions of the society and how they deal with political matters such as political norms and rules which govern them.

It is also seen as a way in which the government makes policies in order to make their administration simple and more organised.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is political system?
2. Identify some institutions of the political system.

3.2 THE COMPONENTS OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

The components of the political system are as follows:

Political parties

A political party simply means a group of people who are united by a common interest or ideology, who engage in power struggle for the purpose of capturing power and controlling the machinery of government and public policies. This can also be defined as a group of people who have come together with the aim of acquiring power in a country, in order to control the affairs of the country and other public policies.

In Nigeria, presently, there are a lot of political parties, about 63 registered political parties some of which include the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), All Progressive Congress (APC), United Nigeria Peoples Party (UNPP) and others. It is through political parties, being one of the components of political system that leaders of the nation emerge in every ripe tenure. Indeed, political party is a very important component of the political system.

3.3 ELECTORAL SYSTEM/PROCESS

Electoral system can be defined as all the processes in which the electorates or voters go through while electing their leaders in the nation. It can be seen as all the processes in which all the electorates are expected to go through when trying to elect new leaders in the country. Electoral system can be divided into two types namely: direct election and indirect election.

In direct election, the electorates vote directly for candidates of their choices. While in an indirect election, the electorates elect or select (Electoral College) who now elect leaders on behalf of every other members of the nation or society. Without electoral system process, it will be difficult for leaders to emerge in the societies, so it is a very paramount component of the political system.

CONSTITUTION/LAW

Constitution/law is a very important component of the political system. This is because constitutions are regarded as the body of rules, regulations, principles, norms and conventions by which a particular society or country is govern.

Without law and constitution, the political system will not endure as there will be an incessant political instability in the nation. This is so because the constitution helps to place every citizen of the society both the leaders and the ruled on check, and as such, the citizens tend to comply with the nations set rules and regulations.

PRESSURE GROUPS

Pressure groups are a collection of people who have come together with the aim of protecting the rights and interests of their members. Pressure groups are not organised to contest election with

other political parties of the nation, rather they have the interests of their members at heart. What pressure groups do is to pressurize the government to fast-track or to implement any policy made for their organization or for their groups. This they do in order to avoid being marginalized by the government. Examples of pressure groups include: the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), and the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).

From the above explanation, it could be seen that some of the components of the political system are the political parties, electoral system, constitution/law and the pressure/interest groups.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. What is political party?
2. Why do we need constitution/law in our societies?
3. What are electoral processes?

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have examined the concept of political system and its components. System is about a complete set of institutions, interest groups, lobby groups and the relationship between those institutions and the political norms and rules that govern their function. In the components of political system, which are the parts that help the political system to endure, we discussed some of these components to be political parties, electoral system, the pressure groups and the law/constitution of the nation or society.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Why are pressure groups formed?
2. List any four components of the political system you know

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**UNIT 8 CONCEPT OF POLITICAL PARTIES, DEVELOPMENT, TYPES AND
FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES****CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Explanation of Concept of Political Parties
 - 3.2 Functions of Political Parties
 - 3.3 Types of Political Parties/Systems
 - 3.4 Development of Political Parties
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

One peculiar feature of the origin and development of political parties in Nigeria is that the pre-existing tribal and cultural associations, trade union and other groups metamorphosed into political parties. The tribal, traditional and cultural associations have served as boards for the formation of political parties in Nigeria. Formation of political parties in Nigeria had since the colonial era adopted multi-party system, followed the tripartite nature of the Nigerian Federation. Those political parties whose formation pre-dated the political independence of the Nigerian Federation were primarily formed in order to awaken political consciousness of the people, so that they can control their own affairs by achieving self-government.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. explain the concept political parties; and
- ii. state and explain the functions of political parties.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand all sections.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Political parties: organised group of people who share similar political view with the aim of gaining political power.

Types of Political parties: Zero party, one party, multi-party system.

Functions of Political parties: Appointment of leaders, education of electorates, a link between the government and the people making government account etc.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 EXPLANATION OF CONCEPT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

A political party is an organised group of people who share similar political opinions, principles, interests and beliefs with the aim of gaining political power and governing the country. It is the electoral commission of a country that determines which political associations qualify as a political party. Political association therefore metamorphosed into political parties after undergoing a lot of processes.

In America, two political parties exist: the Republican and the Democratic parties. In Nigeria during the first and second republics, there were the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP), Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), Action Group (A.G), Northern People's Congress (NPC), National Party of Nigeria (NPN), People's Redemption Party (PRP), etc political parties which have their own constitutions.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is a political party?
2. Which body is responsible for registering political parties?
3. Political parties always emanate from which group?

3.2 FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. **Appointment of Leaders:** The political parties help to select and appoint leaders and personnel for government of a country through election processes.
2. **Education of the Electorates:** They educate the electorates or citizens on political right through their political rallies.

3. **A Pivotal Wheel:** The political parties serve as a bridge that connects and makes it possible for people of a country to get nearer to the government with their numerous problems.
4. **Accountability:** In order to win future elections, political parties persuade their members who are in power to be accountable to the electorates who have power of rejecting them in any future election.
5. **Implementation of Government Policy:** They help the government in power to carry out its policies and implement its decisions for the good of the people.
6. **Choosing of good Leaders:** It provides electorates possible options of choosing good leaders and prevents imposition of dictatorial leaders on the people of a country.
7. **Dissemination of Information:** They help the government in power in disseminating information about government policies, and the public thereby bridging the communication gap between the government and the electorates.

3.3 TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES/SYSTEMS

1. **Zero Party:** It is where elections are conducted and contested base on personal attributes, capability and programmes presented by individuals. Candidates do not contest election under the banner or on the platform of any political party.
2. **One Party:** A political system in which only one political party is legally and constitutionally allowed to operate, or through gradual elimination of other political parties through the electoral process.

The formation or existence of other political parties apart from the legally recognized or perpetuated in power in one party state is regarded as an act of treason which may earn the leaders of such party imprisonment, deportation or detention. This type of party can only operate better in small countries with small population.

3. **Two Party System:** Is a political system in which only two political parties are legally and constitutionally allowed to operate or two major political parties dominate in winning substantial portion of the votes and form government. For example, only two political parties were allowed to participate in Nigeria elections during the ill-fated third republic between 1977 and 1993. This system of political parties can for example be found in U.S.A, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain.
4. **Multi-Party System:** It is a political system in which more than two political parties are allowed to compete for gaining of political power and governing the country. In a multi-party system that tends to be an extension of two-party system, one party seldom wins a clear-cut majority of seats in the parliament to enable it form a government.

Coalition Government: Is one formed by two or more political parties that come together as a result of the inability of the existing parties having won a clear-cut majority seat in the parliament. This type of government guarantees majority seats in the parliament.

Franchise: It is the rights of every qualified adult citizen of a given society to vote and be voted for in an election. The electors are constitutionally known as electorates, while those seeking to be elected are called candidates. Franchise is of two types: limited franchise and universal adult suffrage.

Electoral System: It is the process and procedures by which citizens of a democratic country select through either direct voting or indirectly, those who will represent them in the parliament and other positions in the government.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

The development of political activities in Nigeria started fully in 1923 with a party called Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) formed by Herbert Macaulay sequel to the elective principle introduced in Hugh Clifford constitution in 1922. Series of political activities took place in order to prepare Nigeria adequately for self government. Some of these parties were Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons (NCNC), Action Group (AG), Northern People's Congress (NPC), in the colonial era and the National Party of Nigeria (NPN), National People's Party (NPP), United Party of Nigeria (UPN), Great Nigerian People's Party (GNPP), People's Redemption Party (PRP), etc during and after independence.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. What are the functions of political parties?
2. Identify and explain the types of political parties.
3. Trace the origin of political parties in Nigeria.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have examined the concept of political parties in which you learnt that it is organization that metamorphosed from political association, tradition, cultural activities of the people. In types, functions and development of political parties, political parties are associated with the activities of the people. They also act as a tool used by the society to organise and do things accordingly.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Explain what a political party is.
2. Examine the various types of political parties and make your suggestion on which political system should Nigeria practice.

6.0 REFERENCE

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UNIT 9 PRESSURE GROUPS IN NIGERIA**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Explanation of Pressure Groups in Nigeria
 - 3.2 Types of Pressure Groups
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Individuals hold similar sets of values and beliefs based on ethnicity, religion, political philosophy or common goal. When these individuals who share common values come together to pursue their common interest without necessarily trying to replace government in power, but to pressurize them to act in a manner that will make the government to take a desired line of action; those individual are referred to as a pressure group. In this unit, the concept of pressure group will be discussed as well as the various types of pressure groups.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to;

- i. explain the concept of pressure group; and
- ii. identify and explain the types of pressure groups and their activities in Nigeria.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Read through this unit carefully and ensure you understand all sections.
- ii. Attempt all the activities and assignments in this unit.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Pressure Group: a group of individuals who attempt to influence government decision or people in the government structure for the purpose of achieving group interest.

Interest Group: It is a group chiefly concerned with promoting the interest of its members such as trade unions, they are sometimes called lobbying group.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT

3.1 EXPLANATION OF PRESSURE GROUPS IN NIGERIA

In democratic societies, pressure groups constitute one of the major linkages between government and the governed. It is an organization of individuals who seek to influence the outcome of government policies on issues of special concern to them. Nigeria, as a developing and heterogeneous nation, is blessed with human beings who share similar beliefs, values, and political philosophy, this has made it possible for the emergence of many pressure groups in Nigeria who present and represent the interest of their members. The purpose of pressure group is to achieve influence towards its side or favourable to its side over specific policies, rather than to achieve control of the governmental power as a whole.

Pressure groups have no boundaries in political parties. They exist in the parliament. They exist even in large and small organizations. It also exists among ethnic or language or occupational groups. Thus, pressure group is a feature of both ancient and modern society and as social needs and problems increase in society; more and more people share similar opinions and thus come together as interest or pressure groups to achieve their goals. Pressure groups are formed to lobby for the solution of specific issues in society. Thus, pressure groups conceal itself with the welfare of society as a whole, or with that of some underprivileged group.

In Nigeria, one of the most powerful pressure groups is the combined power of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC). By forming a pressure group, people seek to express their shared beliefs and values and influence change within communities and socio-political structures such as government and corporation.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. What is pressure group?
2. Identify two roles perform by pressure groups in Nigeria.
3. Identify three values people may share together that may bring them together to form a pressure group.

3.2 TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS

Pressure groups differ based on philosophical alignment. In this section, six different types of pressure groups were examined. They include communal pressure groups, associational pressure

groups, sectional pressure groups, promotional pressure groups, institutional pressure groups, and anomic pressure groups. Let us examine them one by one.

(a) Communal Pressure Groups

Communal pressure group is that pressure group that draws its members based on birth rather than recruitment. Examples of such groups are families, tribes and ethnic groups. Communal groups are founded on the basis of shared heritage and traditional bonds and loyalties. In Nigeria, ethnic, tribal and kinship ties are often the most important basis of interest articulation. Some examples are Oduwa People's Congress (OPC), Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Afenifere, Ohaneze, MOSOP, MASSOB.

(b) Associational Pressure Groups

Associational pressure groups are formed by people who come together to pursue shared but limited goals. Mainly, they are characterized by voluntary action and the existence of common interest, aspiration or attitudes. Some examples include trade unions, chambers of commerce and manufacturers associations, ethnic associations and religious association. Associational groups are often very active in representing the interests of their members in the policy process.

(c) Sectional Pressure Groups

These exist to advance or protect the interest of their members. Trade unions, business corporations, trade associations and professional bodies are the prime examples of this type of group. Their sectional character is derived from the fact that they represent a section of the society workers, employers, consumers, an ethnic or religious groups etc.

(d) Promotional Pressure Groups

These are pressure groups that promote some causes, which may not directly benefit their members. The Red Cross Society, Rotary Club International, National Action Committee on Aids, Human Right Groups.

(e) Institutional Pressure Groups

These are groups that are part of the machinery of government and attempt to exert influence in and through that machinery. Bureaucracies and the military are very clear examples of institutional pressure groups. Institutional pressure groups are formed and have other political or social functions in addition to interest articulation, either as corporate bodies or as smaller groups within these bodies (legislative blocs, office cliques, groups in the clergy or ideological cliques in bureaucracies) such groups express their own interest or represent the interest of other groups in the society.

(f) Anomic Pressure Groups

These are interest groups that use violence, demonstrations, arson, assassination, strikes and the like in expressing their aims and objectives. Anomic groups are usually spontaneous groups that form suddenly when many individuals respond similarly to frustration, disappointment, or other strong emotions. They are flash affairs, rising and subsiding suddenly; without previous organization or planning. Frustrated individuals may suddenly take to the streets to vent their

anger as news of a government action touches deep emotions or as a rumour of new injustice sweeps the community.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. List four types of pressure groups and ways through which they recruit their members.
2. Explain the difference between anomic pressure groups and institutional pressure group.
3. Itemize five functions of pressure groups.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have examined pressure groups in Nigeria and it is defines as a collection of individuals who holds a similar sets of values and beliefs based on ethnicity, religion, political, philosophy or a common goal. We also examined the types of pressure groups and how they come about their membership. The types of pressure groups were identified as communal, associational, sectional, promotional, institutional and anomic pressure groups.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. What is a pressure group?
2. List four types of pressure groups and ways through which they recruit their members.

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UNIT 10 CONSOLIDATION**CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
 - 2.1 How to Study This Unit
 - 2.2 Word Study
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 Socio-Political Institutions
 - 3.2 The Concept of Culture
 - 3.3 Political Parties
- 4.0 Summary and Conclusion
- 5.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 6.0 References

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Unit 10 of this module is very important. It will give you an opportunity of revising all you have done in the preceding units and allow you to find out how much you can remember.

This unit reminds you about the concept of socio-political institution, functions of socio-political institutions, family and marriage institutions, kinship groups, society, culture and identity, government as a social organization, major components of a political system political parties in Nigeria and pressure groups in Nigeria.

2.0 OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- i. define the concept of socio-political institution;
- ii. list three major social institutions you know;
- iii. list three functions perform by the family;
- iv. identify two functions perform by kinship group;
- v. explain the two broad divisions of culture; and
- vi. discuss the functions of political parties.

2.1 HOW TO STUDY THIS UNIT

- i. Revise all definitions and meaning of the major concepts used in this module, some of these are, socio-political institutions, the family, kinship, culture, political parties, pressure groups etc.
- ii. Go through carefully the summaries in this unit 1-9 of this module.
- iii. Read the revision note which proceeds each unit.
- iv. Attempt all activities and assignments given.

2.2 WORD STUDY

Revise all the definitions and explanations of the words and major concepts used in this module and make sure that you fully understand them.

3.0 MAIN CONTENT**3.1 SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

Socio-political institutions are those institutions established by society for effective human interaction and smooth running of the social system. These include the family, religion, polity or government, economy and legal institution. Social institution is very important to the attainment of some of the needs of the society which are necessary in ensuring the maintenance and survival of society. In traditional system of government the various social and economic institutions formed integral part of the political institution for instance, age grade, extended families, and the village. The key role of socio-political institution is to protect the interest of the citizens and ensure that peace is maintained.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE I

1. Define socio-political institutions
2. Give three examples of socio-political institutions.
3. Write two functions of socio-political institution.

THE FAMILY

The family is a group of human beings (at least two adults of opposite sex and their children if any) who are related by marriage blood and owe each other certain important social responsibilities.

We have the nuclear family and the extended family.

Nuclear family: This is the simplest type of family. It is made up of a man, his wife and children. The children may be borne by them or adopted.

Under the extended family structure, membership is normally wider than that of nuclear families. Apart from the husband, wives and children, it also includes, grand-parents parents, their relations, uncles, aunties and grand and great grand-children.

FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE FAMILY

- 1) Reproduction of the young
- 2) Nurturing the young into maturity and self-reliance.
- 3) Training (socialization of the young for effective participation in the affairs of the large society).
- 4) Social placement of the children born to it.

5) Loving and protecting members, which is psychologically satisfying.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE II

1. Differentiate between nuclear and the extended family structure.
2. List 3 functions performed by the family.

KINSHIP GROUPS

Two persons are kins when one descended from the other for instance, grandchild is descended from grandparents or when two descended from a common ancestor or ancestry. This does not connote that kinship is only biologically reckoned. However, adopted children are accepted as kins even though there is no blood tie between the adopted and the adopter.

To person may agree to treat each other as brothers and sisters or as father and son or mother and son as the case may be without any blood relationship. Consequently, a migrant who has none of his towns man or woman around, may decide to have his landlord or tenant or any other person, he can rely on as his kinsman or woman. This type of kinship relationship is called fictive kinship.

FUNCTIONS OF KINSHIP GROUP

Some of the functions played by kinship are as follows:

1. Kinship serves as basis for common political interest, close identification, ownership of property, trust, reciprocities and social interaction.
2. Kinship arrangement enables persons to live together and to cooperate with one another in an orderly social life.
3. In primitive society, it serves as a chief factor in maintenance of social unity and constituted the frame work within which the individual is assigned economic and political functions.
4. It serves as a convenient way of establishing norms of social interaction in an ambiguous situation
5. Kinship presents to us a set of norms of usage and patterns of behaviour. It socializes and teaches us how to follow step by step the prescriptions and the proscriptions of society etc.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE III

1. Define the term kinship
2. What do you understand by fictive kinship
3. Enumerate 3 functions of kinship group.

3.2 THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE

Culture is a system of ideas, values, beliefs, knowledge and customs transmitted from generation to generation within a social group. It is the totality of people's way of life.

Basically, culture is divided into two broad types, namely, material and non-material aspect.

- Material culture- This consists of all materials or tangible items that members of a society have and use; these include works of arts and crafts, industrial and technological tools and machines, furniture, dresses etc.
- Non-material culture- This refers to ideas, beliefs and values that are shared by a human group. The following are some examples, ideas, beliefs and values that are shared by a human group such as myths, legends beliefs, language, superstitions music, dance, songs, etc.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE IV

1. What is culture?
2. Differentiate between material and non-material aspects of culture.

3.3 POLITICAL PARTIES

A political party is an organized group of people who share similar political opinions, principles, interests and beliefs, with the aim of gaining political power and governing the country. In Nigeria's present day democratic dispensation, there are about fifty (50) registered political parties, prominent among them are, the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), All People's Congress (APC), Labour Party (LP) etc.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Appointment of leaders
2. Dissemination of information to members and the general public.
3. Education of the electorates.
4. Implementation of government policies
5. Political parties make it easier for people to get nearer to the government etc.

SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE V

1. Define the term political parties.
2. List three functions of a political party.

4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Socio-political institutions are those institutions established by society for effective human interaction.
- The family is a group of human beings at least two adults of opposite sex and their offspring's if any.
- Kinship group refers to people who are related by blood or and those who have lived together for along period of time and have identified people around him or her who treats them as kins.
- Culture is the total way of life of a people. It is divided into material and non-material culture.
- Political party is an organized group of individual who share similar political opinion, principles, interests and beliefs with the aim of gaining power and controlling the government of the country.

5.0 TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss three functions of kinship group.
2. Discuss three functions performed by the family institution.
3. Write short notes on socio-political institution in Nigeria.

6.0 REFERENCES

See Unit 1-9