SOCIAL STUDIES

**J SS ONE SECOND TERM NOTE**

**CULTURE**

Culture is defined simply as a way of life of a people, which includes their beliefs, their mode of worship, their art and crafts, language, religion, technology, dressing, way of thinking, dancing, eating habits as well as their political and economic systems.

Culture is the social heritage of a particular group of people.

**Components of culture.**

1. **Tangible or material culture:** these are physical object made by the society to meet and satisfy the needs of people. They are things such as clothes, foodstuffs, houses, beads, calabash, bridges etc.
2. **Intangible or non material culture:** these are abstract or intangible things found in our ways of life, they are things we can neither see no touch but have become part of us such as rules, beliefs, values, customs and languages.

**Characteristics of culture.**

1. Culture is created: culture is a s a result of what human beings have concluded/agreed upin to be the best way to cope with and make good if their environment. Simply put, culture was created for man and not man for culture.
2. Culture is learned: culture is not inherited or gotten by birth but it is learned. Through inculturation, which is the process of learning, we learn culture from families, media, peers and institution.
3. Culture is integrated: all the cultural aspects are inter-connected with each other, that is, one must learn about all of its parts and not just a few. When one part changes it tends to affect other aspects.
4. Culture is shared: no human being or society exist in complete isolation, so culture is not a personal property. The fact that we share culture with other members of our group enables us to act in socially appropriate ways.
5. Culture is based on symbols: a symbol is any object that is used to represent another object(abstract) an has a particular meaning identified by the same people who share the culture. However, for culture to be transmitted successfully from one person to another or from one generation to another. A system of symbols need to be created that translate the ideas of the culture.
6. Culture is dynamic: cultures are usually in constant change. Because most culture are in contact with other cultures, they all exchange ideas and symbols otherwise they would have problems changing environments.
7. Culture is universal: this means that culture is universal to mankind and not peculiar to a particular group. Every culture is good in itself in relation to the people who possess it. Culture remains relevant to them for as long as they cherish it. It can be rightly said that no culture is superior/inferior to the other.
8. Culture is continuous: culture does not die as it is passed downs from one generation to another.
9. Culture is prescriptive: culture prescribes for us the choices we have to make in our language, food (eating), drinking, dressing and music.
10. Culture is adaptive: it can always be adjusted to fit into people’s situations. It can determine how people are to act, but it does not mean we are slaves of culture.

**Features of culture**

1. Language: it is a set of symbol used to communicate message. It enables us to name or label things around us. All cultures have a spoken language, but not all have a written language.
2. Folktales: various groups use folktales to teach children and adults moral lessons about life.
3. Music and dance: music and dance are used for entertainment, and they serve as a means of expressing one’s mood or state of mind. In Africa, especially in Nigeria, all ceremonies are accompanied with music and dance.
4. Art and craft: these are products of human imagination that teaches us about cultural values. They include painting, literature, sculpture, etc. in western Nigeria, people had distinctive face marks, customs and regalia for their kings and people of importance.
5. Food: various ethnic groups have its own types of food. The type of food shows the environment from which a tribe comes from.
6. Dressing: it is a part of culture that helps to identify a particular tribe or ethnic group. For example, the Yoruba dress in ‘iro and buba’(for women) and ‘agbada’(for men), the fulanis dress with a lot of beads and so on. A lot of the clothes Nigerians wear are made by them.
7. Religion and belief: beliefs have to do with an individual or societal religious belief. The religion of a particular people is part of their culture.

**Functions of culture.**

1. Values: culture brings together the values and norms of a society in a more or less systematic manner.
2. National pride: it provides one of the most important basis for social solidarity. Social solidarity implies loyalty and devotion. When the people in a nation have common feelings, common goals to achieve it results in national pride.
3. Trade mark: culture functions as a trade marks that differentiates one culture/tribe from the other.
4. Molding of social personality: culture is the dominant factor in establishing and molding the social personality. A person is known and described by his name, language, his manner of dressing and his values. Culture gives all of these.
5. Bahavioural pattern: the culture of a society provides behavioural pattern. It prepares man for group life. It also provides rules and norms to follow and conform to.

**SOCIALISATION**

Socialization can be defines as a process of learning the norms, customs and ideologies of a social group in other to fit in acceptably.

Socialization can be defined as the process whereby a new born baby, a man or woman acquires acceptable behaviours through their interactions with other members of the society.

**Elements of socialisation.**

This refers to those involved in the process of socialization. They include

1. The socialiser: thus is the instructor such as the parent, teachers, elders, relations etc.
2. The socialisee: this is the learner, the one who receives instructions from the socialiser.
3. The socializing agent: this is the environment where socializing takes place.

**The process of socialization.**

The process of socialization refers to the ways or various steps taken towards achieving socialization. This could be achieved through western education which is the formal way or through the process of traditional education whereby people receive instructions in their homes and in open society, this is the informal way.

The process through which socialization take place includes:

1. Direct learning: this occur when a child learns under a consciously planned teaching and learning condition. In the classroom or elsewhere.
2. Learning from models: this is when a child or a mature person learns by observing and imitating people around him/her. This form of learning can also take place by watching television and films. Those whom individuals imitate are called models.
3. Incidental learning: this happens when a child learns from things that are not planned or intended directly to teach. Some of the things learned under the process may not be desired.
4. Role learning: this is when an individual learns to perform their duties assigned to him in the society. Role learning is the effort made by an individual while trying to perform the duties assigned to him by the society.

**Agents of socialization.**

1. **The family:** the family is the first agent of socialization of a child. The parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives act as the immediate socialization agents of the child. These are various things a child learns from his family, some of which are; good morals, religious beliefs, food, language, greetings, home chores, etc
2. **The school:** the school is the place where formal education takes place. As a child grows, he joins the school where he spends most of his time in the day relating with other individuals under the guidance of the teacher. Schools try to teach individuals neatness, punctuality, orderliness and respect for authority.
3. **The peer group:** this group consists of individuals who share the same age, educational level and location. The peer group can either have positive or negative habits.
4. **The mass media:** the mass media plays an important role in the socialization of children. It includes many forms of communication such as newspaper, magazines, bill board, radios, films, internet, television, watsapp, facebook and so on. Both positive and negative influence could be gotten from the media.
5. **Religious organization:** they affect the belief of members. Through their sermons and teachings help to discourage bad habits and encourage people to do good things. They also preach against inhumanity, exploitation and oppression.
6. **Community:** this is a group of people living in the same geographical area or neighborhood and share common interest together. The traditional community plays an important role in socializing the child.

**Importance of socialization.**

1. Social interaction: a child is able to function well in the society by virtue of socialization. By learning the language and culture of parents, children learn to associate and mingle and the also learn to work together to help family members.
2. Personal information: man is a social being, he has to learn how to function in a society so that he can benefit from his relationship. As a process, socialization helps a child to be molded to specific directions through the process of accepting and or rejecting particular beliefs, attitudes and norms.
3. Sex roles: it explains why human beings, male and female behave in different ways. This affects how both genders are treated even as they grow up.
4. Communal spirit: socialization encourages/promotes communal spirit which is used to execute meaningful social and economic projects in the communities.
5. Acquisition of necessary skills: it is a means by which human infants begin to acquire the necessary skills to perform effectively in the society.

**Effects of socialization.**

**Good qualities.**

1. Discipline: the individual is made aware of what is required of him in the society, he also requires new skills that will help him contribute positively to the society.
2. Contentment: the individual learns the basic rules of being satisfied with what he has and working for more if he desires.
3. Sensitivity: the individual learns empathy. He learns to be helpful, tolerant and to judge correctly and fairly.
4. Integrity: the spirit of moral uprightness is instilled in an individual for his own good and for the good of the general public.
5. Knowledge of basic rights: from socialization, the individual learns from his basic rights and responsibilities and cannot be persuaded into accepting anything less.

**Bad qualities.**

1. Lying and general dishonesty.
2. Stealing.
3. Disrespect for elders.
4. Thuggery.
5. Cultism.
6. Individual who associate with evil people or lured into evil environment could learn and practice evil behavior.
7. Societies and communities who do not strictly oppose evil behavior such as child abuse, laziness and violence. Any child who grows up in such society is likely to take to such bad qualities.

**ROAD SAFETY AS AN AGENT OF SOCIALISATION**

Any group whose aim is to protect members of a society against one form of danger or the other can be organized as a socializing agent. One of such group is the road safety club.

Road safety club was established as a means of teaching the youths to become better road users.

The club follows the establishment of the government agency called federal road safety commission (FRSC). They are a volunteer group, they are not paid for carrying out their duties.

The federal road safety commission used to sensitize youths on road safety tips. And in other to enhance this program, the Federal Road Safety Corp had to include road safety as one of the Community Development Schemes (CDS) group during the one year service. The clubs where then established in primary and secondary schools with weekly trainings and different activities to continually teach youths.

**History of road safety club.**

The first deliberate policy in Nigeria on road safety was the creation in 1974 of the National Road Safety Commission (NRSC), by the then military government. The impact of the commission was, however, not sustained. In 1977, the military administration in oyo state established the Oyo Road Safety Corps which made some local significant improvement that lasted till 1983, when it was disbanded by the federal government.

When Nigeria become the second most prone traffic accidents countries, the Nigerian government saw the need to establish the present FRSC in 1988 to address accidents on the highway.

**Roles of the road safety club.**

Among the several roles of the FRSC under the 2007 Act, here are few of them.

1. Educating motorist and members of the public on the importance of discipline on the highway.
2. Recommending measures, works and device designed to eliminate or minimize crashes on the highways.
3. Controlling traffic on the highways.
4. Organizing quizzes and debates on road safety related issues in schools.

NYSC (RSC) this is a community development program for youth corp members during their one year service and a partnership between the FRSC and NYSC. Their roles are as follows:

1. They become special marshals or regular marshals in other to promote FRSC.
2. Club members are also trained to clear obstructions on any part of the highways to make them safe. In carrying out this assignment, members learn to work together as a group thereby getting socialized.
3. Club members also give prompt attention and care to victims of accidents.

**The structure of the FRSC.**

The road safety management has three (3) tiers which are:

1. The regular marshals: this are those who work in the offices of the FRSC.
2. The special marshal: this are women and men who volunteer to manage traffic especially on busy roads.
3. Road safety clubs: this is the third tier, it is the club level in schools. The road safety club membership is open to any body that is interested.

**Roles of the road safety club in the socialization of youths.**

1. Protection of vulnerable people from road accidents.
2. Advocacy and sensitization.
3. Guidelines.
4. Signs and symbols.

**FRIENDSHIP**

A friend is a person you know like and trust. Friendship could be between two or more people, in as much as friendship plays a huge role in giving us happiness, it does not and should not depend on what a friend could give the other.

**Importance of friendship.**

Friendship is important to grow children, especially the adolescents because it helps them to enjoy their growth from childhood to adulthood.

The following are the major **importance of friendship**

1. Conflict resolution: friendship gives people the opportunity to know how to settle disputes.
2. Confidant: our friends help us to grow our confidence. Friends also discuss issues and problems with each other. No good friend reveals each other’s secrets to third party.
3. Change of unhealthy lifestyle: a good friend encourages a person to change unhealthy lifestyle or habits.
4. Provision of fun and excitement: friends help you to catch fun and excitement through recreation and companionship.
5. Loyalty: good friends always defend each other both positively and publicly.

**Factors that determine choice of friendship.**

1. Common interest.
2. Age.
3. Educational background.
4. Similar family background.
5. Ethnic background.
6. Common values.

**Behaviours that enhance friendship.**

1. Supportiveness.
2. Forgiveness.
3. Honesty.
4. Loyalty.
5. Respect.
6. Trust.

**Factors that destroy friendship.**

1. Rejection of peer group.
2. Dishonesty.
3. Disrespect.
4. Negativity.
5. Selfishness.

**ASSERTIVENESS**

**Assertiveness:** is the ability to express ones opinion, feelings, attitudes and rights without fear and in a way that does not infringe on the rights of others. In other words, he is not afraid to talk or air his mind. An assertive person is bold and confident.

**Aggression:** is the opposite of assertiveness. It involves the presenting and expressing ones opinion with no respect for other people’s feelings, need and opinions.

Characteristic of an aggressive behavior

1. Losses temper.
2. Shouts allot.
3. Wants to be right at all cost.
4. Boast allot.
5. Bullies others.
6. Lacks confidence and self esteem.

**Passiveness:** this is when a person is not responding to something that they should respond to. They allow people to walk over them. When people are passive they feel they have no control over their lives, they feel confused.

Characteristics of a passive behavior.

1. Inability to say what they want/need.
2. Always blaming and accusing others(they always play the victim)
3. Isolate themselves.
4. Frequently makes compromise at the interest of others.
5. Keep quiet when people take advantage of them.
6. Does not ask for help.

**Manipulation:** this is an attempt to indirectly change the opinion or behavior of others. They use deception and force to get what they want.

Characteristic of a manipulative behavior.

1. They are two-faced.
2. They play one person.
3. They are always suspicious of other people motive.
4. They control groups.
5. They lie allot.

**Behaviours that improve assertive skills.**

1. Making firm decision: young people should be able to make firm decision. A firm decision is one without discord or disparity. They should be able to say no to sexual invitations or refusing alcohol when offered by friends.
2. Honesty: being honest requires courage and wisdom because a honest person may be taken for granted. Making crucial changes in our lives requires being honest with ourselves.
3. Refusal skills: refusal skills is when you clearly communicate that you do not want something, you have the right to say no to someone who is persuading you to do what you do not want to do or what is not right for you.
4. Offering a compromise: compromise is an assertive skill. This is when you agree to less than what you first asked for while your partner or the other party also does the same.
5. Speaking up for oneself: the ability to speak for yourself and to say no are directly related to your ability to set boundaries. When you do not speak up for yourself, it gives others the room to walk over you.
6. Positive self esteem: accepting who you are and what you have to offer the world is a major part of having high self esteem. One needs to build his/her self esteem and create a positive self awareness.

**Negative outcome of assertiveness.**

1. Back biting: people who cannot speak up for themselves perceive assertive people as being too much and so they grumble and talk about such people behind them.
2. Punishment: older people may take offence when a younger person tries to be assertive they associate it with rudeness and so they may punish the child. Even teachers may fall in this category.
3. Over apologetic: the other party may be excessively apologetic or strangely humble to you which may leave you feeling bad at the end of the day.
4. Embarrassment: after an assertive person has boldly and honestly declared their views, the other party may feel embarrassed in public.
5. Aggression: the other party may become hostile and hope to scare you into submission.