SS1 CIVIC EDUCATION NOTE

**You are to copy at least four weeks before resumption.**

**SCHEME OF WORK FOR SS ONE**

**Weeks Topics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **1** |  **Local and world Civic ProblemsNationalistic roles of individuals and groups.**  |
|  **2** | **Representative Democracy: Characteristics of Representative Democracy** |
|  **3** | **Rule Of Law:** **Features, Important and problems of Rule of LawMaximum liberty for its citizens and majority rule with safeguard of minorities**  |
|  **4** | **Constitution: Historic Development and types of constitution** |
|  **5** | **Pillars of Democracy: Strong Institution( Armed Forces, Civil societies****Federalism , State and Local government**  |
|  **6** | **Pillars of Democracy:Citizens responsibilities, Political Parties and Free Press** |
|  **7** | **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Historic BackgroundSeven Freedoms of UDHR**  |
|  **8** | **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): Role of individuals, groups and government in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** |

**LOCAL AND WORLD CIVIC PROBLEMS**

There are certain problems or challenges that come in different forms as people live together and as government manages the affairs of a state. Civic problem refer to occurrence and events that have adverse effects and consequences on the citizens of a particular state. It can be caused by natural, social environmental or economic factors but the criteria (index) standard for defining them as civic problem is when a substantial proportion or people in an area are affected by way of loss of lives and properties injury or displacement while local civic problems connotes those problems that only affect people within a given state or national boundary, world civic problems cut across national boundaries of two or more nations. These problems may be local or international for instance some problems are:

1. Political riots and violence which are product of none acceptance of election results. Eg Western Region in the first Republic which lead to the military coup of January 1966. Post election violence in some states in the northern part of Nigeria after the 2011 election.
2. The Nigeria civil war which is an attempt of the Eastern Region in the first Republic to secede and form Biafra state between 1967 and 1970.
3. Militancy in the Niger Delta which constitute threat to the Nigerian oil business and economy as a whole.
4. The Issue of Boko Haram insurgency that plague the North Eastern part of Nigeria
5. Robbery, riots, HIV/AIDS, Ebola,etc.

World civic problems are therefore of global or international dimensions. In modern times, civic problems assume socio-political and economic rather than national dimension. However, national problems such as land disputes, Resource control, natural disaster like: earthquakes, tsunamis, flood, drought, famine etc, Economic crisis, political conflicts, Ethno-religious conflicts and global terrorism could also have social consequences or result in problems of socio political and economic nature.
**These are some global civic problems:**
1. Global warming and deterioration of the Ozone layers which has made it difficult for Agricultural production due to inaccuracy in weather prediction.

2. Global economic meltdown that has reduced the chances of Nigeria young graduates in getting jobs. Since most companies are going through financial crisis which led to a reduction in work force.

Individuals, government and the international community through our agencies have played various roles in managing local /world civic problems. Some of these include:

1. The Nigerian Government has variously donated food items to the Republic of Niger when the country experienced drought and famine.
2. The international community also intervened by condemning and criticising the Nigerian military government led by Gen. Ibrahim Babangida during his arbitrary rule and annulment of June 12 1993 Presidential election. For instance, FIFA and CAF sanctioned Nigeria from participating in her sporting events at that time.
3. The international court of justice also helped in settling between Nigeria and Cameroun over the Bakassi Penisula though the ruling was in favour of Cameroun
4. The National industrial court (NIC) organised civil societies and labour unions helped in managing the fuel subsidy crises in Nigeria and the violence due to it by mediating with the government and the masses earlier this year.
**SOME AFRICAN NATIONALISTS**

In Nigeria and Africa in general there were different individuals and groups who contributed immensely to the growth of nationalism. They played prominent role in the struggle towards their country’s independency. The following nationalist include Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Dr. Herbert Macauley, Sir Tafawa Balewa, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania e.t.c

1. **Chief Obafemi Awolowo:** He was born in Ikenne Ogun State on March 6. 1909. He obtained his elementary education in missionary schools in Ikenne, Abeokuta and obtained a Bachelor of commerce degree from the University of London through correspondence course in 1944. He co-founded Egbe Omo Oduduwa. In 1950, he began his nationalist struggle when he founded the Action Group (AG) and established the Newspaper called the Nigeria Tribune. He became the first premier of the western region in 1954 and the leader of the opposition government in 1959.Awolowo was the first person to introduce free education in Nigeria. He is regarded as “the best President Nigeria never had” by the late Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu before his death. He died on the 9th May, 1987.
2. **Sir Ahmadu Bello:** He was born on the 12th of June 1909 at Rabbah near Sokoto. He was a great grandson of Uthman Dan Fodio, the Fulani religious leader who founded the Sokoto Caliphate. Ahmadu Bello was instrumental to the formation of the Jaimiyar Mutane Arewa (J.M.A) a cultural association made up of educated Northerners in Zaria in October 1948. A group which was later known as the Northern People Congress (NPC) in 1951. He became the first premier of the Northern Nigeria 1954. His personality and influence saw to the establishment of Ahmadu Bello University of Zaria. He was a mentor to Sir Tafawa Balewa who was the Prime Minister of the first Republic. He was killed in the military coup of the first of 15th January 1966.
3. **Dr. Herbert Samuel Macauley:** He was a nationalist, politician and Engineer. He was regarded as the as the father of Nigerian nationalism. Born in Lagon on 14th of November 1864.he was the grandson of the famous Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther. He was educated at the Christian missionary and later went to England to study civil Engineering. He was a strong opponent of British rule in Nigeria and he embarked on nationalist effort to ensure an end to colonial rule. He founded Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) in 1923, the first political party in Nigeria. He co-founded National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroun with Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe in 1944. He died on May 7 1946 after a brief illness.
4. **Dr. Nnmadi Azikiwe:** He was born in 1904 at Zungeru in Northern Nigeria. After his early education in Lagos he proceeded to united state of America for his first and second degree and returned to Ghana where he started a career in journalism. He returned to Nigeria and established the Africa Pilot Newspaper. After the collapse of the \Nigerian youth movement (NYM) he with some other nationalists formed the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroun (NCNC) and later became the President of that party following the death of Herbert Macauley. He was the first premier of the eastern Region in 1954. He was elected as the president of the Senate in January 1960 and became the governor-general of Nigerian 16th November 1960 and President of Nigeria on 1st January 1963. Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was known for his politics of compromise and crash as he was instrumental in forming coalition government in the first Republic. He died on the 11th may 1996.
5. **Nkwame Nkrumah**: He was the first African statesman to achieve world recognition. He was born in 1909 and became the president of the New Republic of Ghana in 1960. He campaigned ceaselessly for African to have a role and to determine their destiny. He urged Africa to shed their colonial yoke and greet their freedom. He earned four degrees in ten years although he was shy, disorganised but ambitious and persistent. This remarkable life story which touched many of the issues facing modern Africa will open a window of understanding for the general leader as well as for graduate and undergraduate classes.

**Groups:**

1. **National Congress of British West African (NCBWA)** was formed in 1919 in GoldCoast (Ghana) and it dominated by intellectuals led by Carebly Hayford a lawyer. Their main aim was to unite the four British West \African countries of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gambia in their demand for independence.
2. **Gold Coast Abongines Rights protection society** was formed under the leadership of John Mensah Jaribah to fight against the law which converted all land in the Gold Coast into crown land. He later becomes the spoke man for the Natural leaders. Notable leaders are J.P Brown and Jacob Sey.
3. **The West African Students Union (WASU)** formed in London in 1925 under the leadership if Chief Ladipo Solanke. It became a rally point for militant nationalist in and around London.

 **HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY**

The history of democracy can be traced back from classical Athens in the 6th century B.C.E. According to one definition, democracy is a political system in all the member of the society has an equal share of formal political power. Although, it is generally believed that the concept of democracy and constitution was created in one particular place and time identified as Ancient in 50’s BC, there is an evidence to suggest the democratic forms of government, in a broad sense, may have existed in several areas of the world well before the turn of the 5th century. Within that broad sense, it is plausible to assume that democracy in one form or another arises naturally in any well-bonded group, such as a tribe. This is tribalism or primitive democracy. A primitive democracy is identified in small communities or villages when the following takes place; face – to – face discussion in the village council or head man whose decisions are supported by village elders or other co-operative mode of government.

Never the less, on a larger scale sharper contrasts arise when the village and the city are examined as political communities. In urban governments, all other forms of the rule - monarchy, tyranny, autocracy and oligarchy have flourished. Scholars have explored the possibility that advancement toward democratic government occurred somewhere else first as Greece developed its complex social and political institutions along after the appearance of the earliest civilization in Egypt and the Near East.
 With all these claims by scholars, Athens is regarded as the birth place of democracy and it is considered an important reference point of democracy. Athens emerged with a dominating powerful aristocracy. This led to explanation causing significant economic, political and social problems. This problem led to the fight against enslavement by the people against the notables. In 594 Bc, Solon averted the political, economic and moral discipline in archaic Athens and gave Athens its first comprehensive of law. Although some of the reforms failed in the short term, yet heirs often credited with having laid the foundation for Athenian democracy.

Democracy is a form of government to which all eligible citizens participate equally- either directly or through elected representatives in the proposed, development and creation of laws. It encompasses social, economic and cultural condition that enables the free and equal practice of political self-determination.

The term originates from the Greek “demokrata” “rule of the people”, which was joined from demos – a “people” kratos-“power of rule” in the 5th century B.C.E. to donate the political system the existing in Greek city-stab notably Athens. It is an acronym to “Aristocracy” “rule of an elite”. Democracy contrasts with monocracy {government where power is either held by one person) oligarchy (power is held by a small number of individuals).

Karl Popper defined democracy as government that gives opportunities for the people to control their leaders and to dust them without the need for a revolution.

**FORMS OF DEMOCRACY**

There are several types of democracy they are built of two of two basic forms both which concern how the whole body all eligible citizens execute it will.

1. Direct democracy (Classic)
2. Indirect democracy (Representative)
3. **Direct democracy (Classic)**

This is a form of democracy in which all eligible citizens have direct and active participation in the decision making of the government. This democracy gives the voting population the power to:

1. Change constitutional laws
2. Put forth initiative referendums and suggestions for laws
3. Give binding orders to elective officials such as re-voting them before the end of the elected form or initiating a lawsuit for creating a campaign promise.

1. **Indirect democracy (Representative)**

In most modern countries the whole body of all eligible citizens remain the sovereign power but political power is exercised indirectly through elected representative. This concept arose largely from ideas and institutions that developed during the European middle ages of reformation, the ages of enlightenment and the American and French revolution.

Representative democracy is a form of government whereby eligible citizens elect their leaders through periodic elections to represent them at all levels of government for a fixed tenure.

**Feature of Representative Democracy**

1. **Sovereignty of all people:** The people posses final authority and in no way inferior to their elected representatives in terms of power
2. **Rule of law and freedom:** These principles are reflected in all eligible citizens being equal before the law and having equal access to legislative processes. For examples in a representative democracy, every vote has equal weight, no unreasonable restriction can apply to anyone seeking to become a representative and the freedom of its eligible citizens is secured by legitimized right and liberties which are typically protected by a constitution.
3. **Independency of judiciary**: The judiciary which is the arms of the government that dispose justice and settle disputes without fear or favour must be independent of the control of the executive and legislative arms of government. This will be possible when that appointment or based on merit, their tenure is secured and the remuneration comfortable.
4. **Constitutionalism:** The constitution is strictly adhering to government power and rights are from the constitution the duties and limitation of citizens and government are specified by it.
5. **Respect for human right**: Fundamental human rights of the citizens are safe guard. It places a very high value on individual human worth and behaves that the essence or government is to allow individual to develop to full capacity.
6. **Protection of minority interest and majority rule:** Majority rule but the interest of the minority is respected. The will and interest of the large member of a society is reflected in decision making.
7. **Freedom of the representative:** While the representatives are elected by the people to act in the people’s interest, they retain the freedom to exercise their own judgment as how best to do so. This action has been criticized as been contradictory to representative mechanism with democracy.
8. **Equal opportunity:** Equal access and opportunity are given to all citizens to social and economic opportunities.
9. **Accountability to the people**: this implies that the government of a democratic state like Nigeria is responsible to the people as to how the business of the state is carried out.
10. **Periodic Election**: there is a periodic free and fair election
11. **Popular consultation**: This implies that the opinion of the people is always sort before any decision is made in democracy.
12. **Multi-party system**
13. **Freedom of press**

**MEANING OF RULE OF LAW**

The rule of law (also known as Nomocracy) is a principle of government which implies that the law of the land is absolutely supreme over all and sundries. It connotes that the law of the land is above every citizens/ member of a given state i.e whether leaders or followers. Rule of law mainly refers to the influence and authority of laws within society, especially as constrict upon behaviour, including behaviour, of government official. The phrase can be traced back to the 16th century and its was popularized in 19th century by British jurist A.V. Dicey, Aristotle when he wrote “Law should govern” as accredited with the concept.

Rule of law implies that every citizen is subjected to the law. It is in contrast to the divine right, which holds that the ruler is above the law. Rule of law have been view in many ways by scholars but two principal conceptions of the rule of law can be identified by a formalist “thin” definition and a substantive or “thick” definition.

**HISTORY**

Although credit for popularizing the expression “the rule of law” in modern time is usually given to A.V. Dicey development of the legal concept can traced through history to many ancient civilizations, including Greek, China, Mesopotamia, India and Rome. According to the Roman Statesman Cicero in his expression “We are all servant of the laws in order that we may be free”.

In modern times, the first known use of this English phrase occurred around 1500 AD and early examples of the phrase “Rule of Laws” is found in a petition to James of England in 1610 from the house of common. Samuel Rutherford in Lex Rex (1654) was among the first modern authors to give the principle theoretical foundation. The little is Latin for “the law is king” as against the tradition Rex Lex (the king is the law)”. John Lodise, John Adams, Thomas Paine and Samuel Johnson wrote all about the rule of laws and laid down principle that every citizens country of a society is expected to obey. Rule of laws is a principle which states that the laws in a state are supreme and it is these rule that regulate people behaviour (socio-economic and political).

 According to Albert V. Dicey in 1885, he described rule of laws using three simple definitions. According to him rule of law means:

1. Supremacy of ordinary law
2. Equality before the law
3. Right to personal liberty

From his definition, it implies that the law must rule. This means law is supreme to both the ruler and the ruled.

 **ELEMENT OF RULE OF LAW**

1. Supremacy of ordinary law: This means that ordinary law is superior to arbitrary power. All offenders must be punished in accordance to the dictate or prescription of the law.
2. Equality before the law: For Dicey, everyone in equal in the eye of the law irrespective of their status either socio-economic or political status. The treatment melted on a poor employed rural dweller should be the same to be melted on educated, rich Politician under the same situation. It does not provide any form of immunity for political office holds.
3. Right to personal liberty: Because rule law recognizes fundamental human right of every citizen. It implies that fundamental human right are been conferred on every citizen by the constitution and government only has to protect these rights.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF RULE OF LAW**

1. There is an existence of a constitution
2. The judiciary must be independent
3. The effectiveness of the legislatures in making laws must not be compromised.
4. The laws are applicable to all citizens
5. Government rules in conformity with the law
6. There is no oppressive rule by the government

**IMPORTANCE OF RULE OF LAW**

1. Rule of law sustains democratic society
2. It protect the rights of every citizen
3. It prevent government use of power arbitrarily
4. Rule of law promotes good life for all citizen, peaceful and harmonious existence
5. Rule of law improves people’s confidence in the judiciary

**PROBLEMS OF RULE LAW IN NIGERIA**

1. **State Of Emergency**: Citizens are denied some of their fundamental right and the application of rule of law limited when a state of emergency is declared in a country. It gives government excessive power which allows them to indiscriminately arrest and detain without trial.
2. **The types of government**: The type of government adapted in a country for instance autocratic and dictatorial rules, the military rule and one party system or serious problem of application of rule of law.
3. **Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance:** Many people do not know when government violated the principle of rule of law and even if they are aware, do not allow citizens to fight for their right.
4. **Partial judiciary:** Partial judiciary or lack of independence of judiciary is a serious problem to the operation of the rule of law.
5. **Diplomatic/political community:** Politician and ambassadors cannot be sued and prosecuted. Ambassadors are repatriated and politician punished after their tenure.
6. **Obnoxious law**: Many governments deliberately enact laws that have empowered the head of state to arrest and detain citizens without trial. This commits the application of the rule of law.
7. **Police Brutality:** In many countries especially developing ones, the police detain and brutalize citizen for mere accusation of an offence. These acts negate the rule of law that says that accused person should be assumed to be innocent until a court of law presided over by free, fair and impartial judge finds him guilty.
8. **Customs and Tradition:** The application of this rule of law is undetermined if it violate the custom and tradition of the people.
9. **Age limit**: Peoples age play significant role in determining how the rule of law can apply to them. For instance, children under seven years cannot be persecuted notwithstanding the legal offence they have committed.

 Other problems are economic position, security of state, insanity e.t.c These are serious limitations to the application of the rule of law.

1. **CONSTITUTION**

A constitution can be defined as a body of fundamental rule, written, legal or extra legal through which government and her agencies administers the state. It can also be defined as a body of rules, laws, conventions or principle by which the entire citizens are governed.
A constitution regulates the conduct of citizens of a state, so as not to result in disorderliness or breakdown of law and order. A constitution is fundamental to every states because it state the principle of that govern her institutions, it basic beliefs, goals and the relationship between citizens and their state.

 The constitution also established various institution of government and defines their powers. An example of constitution is Nigeria law officially known as “The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria”.

**SOURCE OF CONSTITUTION**

1. **Written laws**: These are laws or principles that are produced for the state by the constitution drafting committees (CDC), ratified by the head of state then inherited by successive government.
2. **Organic law**: This refer to special laws that explain in details the broad constitutional provisions for the establishment and running of government, ministries, department boards and parastatals agencies e.t.c. Organic laws specify the structure and procedure for the running of those government institutions.
3. **Judicial decisions/ Precedents**: This refers to past judgments of competent court which serve as a reference for matters or issues that may arise in the future. By this, the judiciary provides a source of constitution. The judicial take part or contribute to the constitution in two days.
-through court decisions or willing.
-through judicial reveals.
4. **Customs and convection:** These refer to practices and observances that are based on the culture of a particular society which are not necessary part of the constitution but may affect it. Customs and convection are also seen as a source of constitution because they provide a basic upon which the laws of the land are made.
5. **Historic Experience:** the historic experience of a state can also serve as a source of its constitution. For instance, Nigeria experience with colonialism has influenced how the constitution of the Federal Republic define who is a citizen of Nigeria and who is not.
6. **Intellectual works:** Intellectual works of scholars like John Locke, Karl Marx, Thomas Hobbes, Albert Dicey and other recent and past ones are useful for drafting of constitution.
7. **International Laws**: international laws such as the ones made by international organizations like UN – international law of the seas, international civil aviation convention, etc. serve as source of constitution.

**TYPES OF CONSTITUTION**

Constitution is basically categorized into two namely:

1. Written and unwritten.
2. Rigid and flexible.

**WRITTEN CONSTITUTION**

This refer to a body of codified laws, rules, regulations of principle that are explicitly written down compiled into a single document by a constituted assembly charged with the responsibility of formulating such laws. The draft constitution is then adopted by the electorate before the final ratification by the head of state. The major feature of a written constitution is its rigidity which makes it difficult or cumbersome to be amended in any case the written constitution itself states the procedure for its amendments. Nigerian, Ghana, Germany USA are all examples of countries that operate written constitution.

**UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION**

This is a constitution of which fundamental principles of government are not written down or complied into a single document but are made of conventions, organic laws, court decisions etc. which may change over time. An example of unwritten constitution is that of Great Britain. It major feature is its flexibility and the ease with which it can be amended because the procedure for doing so is the same for passing ordinary law.

**RIGID CONSTITUTION**

A constitution is said to be rigid if the procedure of its amendment is not the same for passing ordinary bills(laws) a rigid constitution is therefore one that cannot be amended (i.e changed and modified) easily. This is because rigid constitution requires special processes, procedure for their amendment. Most rigid constitution is usually written (i.e complied into a single document) and their amendment procedures are also contained within the document. Amending a rigid constitution is usually cumbersome and takes a long period of time to be completed because of various consultation, consideration and legal conditions that must be fulfilled. Nigeria Canada, America, Switzerland, Ghana and most modern countries operates rigid constitution

**FLEXIBLE CONSTITUTION**
These are constitution whose fundamental laws can be changed or amended through the ordinary law-making process. That is to say changes can be made to those constitution by the same procedure used in passing ordinary laws in a parliament. Whether a constitution is written or unwritten or federal it is either rigid or flexible in amendment depending on the procedure required to close Great Britain, Ghana (in her first republic), Italy, New Zealand are all countries that practice flexible constitution.
**FEATURES OF A CONSTITUTION**

1. A constitution as a preamble i.e an introduction which states its ideological stands
2. It also indicates a type of party system that is adopted and practiced in that state
3. A constitution also names the organs of government their functions and the relationship between one organ and the others
4. It also specifies the rights and duties of the citizens and the other
5. A constitution states the tenure for political office holders e.g the president and the governors have a four years tenure which they can be re-elected once/ maximum of eight years / while the members of the legislature have no limit to the number of time they can be re-elected into the parliament.
6. A constitution also provides for the revenue allocation to be adopted in a state.
7. It specifies the procedures for its amendment. This is especially true for a written, rigid constitution.
**FUNCTIONS OF A CONSTITUTION**
1. The constitutions made e.g mode of operation by environment and its organization. By this function, that constitution stimulates how the affairs of the constitution and provides guidance as for the function of the three arms of government and their relationship with one another

2. The constitution stipulates the ideological direction of the government e.g its state that Nigeria is a Federal republic that operates democratic system of government.

1. The constitution also performs the function of protection and safeguarding the fundamental human rights of citizens i.e once entrenched in the constitution of state fundamental human rights becomes a legal entitlement of a citizen.
2. A constitution also enshrines the principles of separation of powers so that no organ or power exceed its limit or jurisdiction nor dominated the other.
3. A constitution also serves as a symbol of nationhood and sovereignty. This is because Nigeria’s constitution is one of our national identities and it provides a frame work of regulating the conduct of the citizens so that Nigerians are not bound by laws of other nations but by our own national laws. This exercise the sovereignty of Nigeria as an independent nation
4. It also prevents leaders from becoming too powerful or dictatorial in the way the constitution prevents arbitrary rule.

**MAJOR PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY**

Most developed nations of the world now tend to practice democratic system of government, enabling their citizens to have a fair participation in the running of their government and politics. Democracy is preferred due to the opportunities that citizens have to participate or contribute to the nation’s development. The system however depends in certain institutions and structures which serve as pillars for its maximum operation and functioning. Some of these include:

1. The three tiers of the Nigerian federalism
2. The three (3) organs of government
3. The armed forces
4. Constitution
5. Civil society
6. Free press
7. The electoral system ( The electoral body and political parties)
8. **The Three tiers of the Nigerian Federalism**Nigeria operate the federal system of government also known as FEDERALISM. This refers to an arrangement or governmental system in who which power and authority is shared or divided between the central government and the component parts / regional government by central government. We mean or we refer to the federal, states and local government, are collectively referred to as the tiers of government. In the Nigerian federalism, power and authority is shared on three bases known as the legislative lists: Exclusive, Concurrent and Residual lists.
9. **Exclusive list:** These include areas in which power and function are exercised only by the federal government. Items under this list are aviation, currency, defense, mining, customs and excise, external affairs immigrations etc are absolutely reserved for the federal government.
10. **Concurrent list:** Here power and functions are exercised by both federal and state government. In the event of any confusions however, the position of the federal supersedes that of the state. The state and the federal exercise power concurrently in such areas as health, education, roads, transportation, communication, Agriculture, etc.
11. **Residual list:** These refer to subject or items that are not contained or stipulated in either the exclusive or concurrent lists or in the constitution as a whole. They are usually reversed for the state and local government. It is this system of federalism that gives room for creation of state and local government. In Nigeria for easy administration presently consist of 36 states, and federal Capital Abuja with 774 local government areas. Each state is headed by a governor. The federal capital by the Minister. The local government is the third and lowest tiers of government at the grass root which bring government nearer to the people a lower level for accelerated and fast tracking development. Like the federal both states and local government also have the three arms or organs of government. (Executive, legislature and Judiciary)
Nigeria also has a federal character principle by which all the groups are represented in every aspect of government, including the civil service aspect of government including the civil services. These are usually reserved for the state and local government example include rates, rents, fines etc

**Reasons for the adoption of Federal system in Nigeria**Various reasons account as to why the federal system of government was adopted and being practiced in Nigeria:
**i)** **Geographical size of the country**: Nigeria is a country blessed with a verse territory so that only a federal system of government with its different tiers, can provide a comprehensive government to cover all the nooks and cranny of the Nigeria state. The local government for instance caters for people in the grass/ remote areas so that they are better able to feel the impact of government and contribute to the government and politics of their country.

**ii) Fear of Domination:**
A heterogeneous state like Nigeria is usually characterized by distinction between the majority groups and the minority groups. This often gives rise to fear by the minority group- that they are been dominated and marginalized by the majorities (e.g. Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo) Federalism was therefore adopted to ease this fear and provide a platform for representing and protecting the interest of the minorities

**iii) Tribal Differences**Nigeria is made up of many tribes, ethnic groups and other Scio-cultural division. Thus, the nationalist taught that only the federal system of government can accommodate and embrace all the different sections of the society by developing a uniform language(English) as the Lingua Franca( Official language) of communication between the different linguistic groups.

**iv) The need to bring governance nearer to the people:**through federalism, Nigeria has a the tier of government (local government) which caters for the needs and aspiration of the people in the local areas and make them feel the impact of government

**v) The Desire for unity**This also necessitated the adapting of federalism in Nigeria and has given rise to such notions as “Unity in Diversity” The desire for unity is what has lead to the campaign for national integration.

**Features of Nigerian Federalism**

1. Division and sharing of government power between the central government and the component parts
2. The organs of government are duplicated at all levels of government.
3. The adoption rigid and written constitution
4. Supremacy of the federal government
5. Bicameral legislature
6. **Constitution**
7. **Free Press:** As a major pillar of democracy, free press refers to the freedom to communicate and express oneself freely through means such as various electronics and print media and without interference from the state. Free press is usually protected through constitutional or legal means. It is built on fundamental human right to speech and expression, i.e all human being should be able to communicate freely without hindrance or harassment. An example of free press is the freedom of information bill as was passed by the Jonathan administration when he assumed office.
8. **The Electoral System:** This refers to the entire process laid down for the democratic emergence of a leader in a country i.e election. It also comprise of the electoral body as well as political parties which provides various umbrella bodies or forum through which organized members of the society contest elections. The electoral system is a major pillar of democracy because it provides an avenue for the participation of the general ina nation’s democracy.
9. **Civil Society:** This describes the arena outside the family, state government /politics and market, where people associate to achieve common interest by volunteering in organizations that give voice to the various sectors of the Nigerian society and enrich participation in democratic and civic life. The civil society is a ‘third’ sector, distinct from government and business which serve as intermediary institutions for members of the society to participate in governance. Membership and funding of the civil society organization (CSO) is usually voluntary. Such organization include Non-Government Organization (NGO), not –for-profit Organization (NPO), Organized Labour Group (NLC and TUC) Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union congress respectively, professional association and human right groups among others.
10. **The Armed Forces:** This refers to the organized military agency or institution that is responsible for protection and securing the territorial in of a integrity of a state against external attacks, as well as internal enemies that threatens the sovereignty, peace or stability of the state. The Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria perform their duties for the Nigerian state. It comprises of active duty personnel in three service:
11. The Nigeria Army (NA)
It is the branch of the Nigerian armed force that is based on or specialises on land combat. It is also the largest of the branches and has it primary function carried out on land.
12. The Nigeria Navy (NN)
It is the sea branch of the Nigeria armed forces. It is solely concerned with protecting or defending the nation’s territorial integrity to sea or water ways. The NN also fight against criminals that perpetrate their acts on the water e.g sea pirates.
13. The Nigerian Air force (NAF)
It is the air wing of the Nigerian army that is primarily concerned with the nation’s air force.

**UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)**Every human being is entitled to basic privileges and benefits as a member of the society. They should not be oppressed or subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, regardless of their race, tribe, language or nationality.

Universal declaration of Human Rights means the first global expression or proclamation of rights to which all human beings are entitled to. It proclaims that all human beings are born free and entailed to some basic rights.

**Historic Background**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a document that acts like a global road map for freedom and equality- protecting the rights of every individual, everywhere. It was the first time countries agreed on the freedoms and rights that deserve universal protection in order for every individual to live their lives freely, equally and in dignity.

The UDHR was adopted by the newly established United Nations on the 10 December 1948, in response to the “barbarous acts which (...) outraged the conscience of mankind” during the Second World War. Its adoption recognized human rights to be the foundation for freedom, justice and peace. The UDHR formal drafting committee included consisting of members of the Commission from eight states, selected with due regard for geographical distribution. The Commission was made up of 18 members from various political, cultural and religious backgrounds. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Chaired the UDHR drafting committee. With her were Rene Cassin of France, who composed the first draft of the Declaration, the Committee Rapporteur Charles Malik of Lebanon, Vice- Chairman Peng Chung Chang of China and John Humphery of Canada, Director of the UN’s Human Rights Division, who prepared the Declaration’s blueprint. But Mrs. Roosevelt was recognized as the driving force for the Declaration’s adoption. The Commission met for the first time in 1947 in her memoirs, Eleanor Roosevelt recalled: The first draft of the declaration was proposed in September 1948 with over 50 member States participating in the final drafting. by its resolution 217A (III) of 10 December 1948, the General Assembly, meeting in Paris, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with eight nations abstaining from the vote but none dissenting.
The entire text of the UDHR was composed in less than two years. At a time when the world was divided into Eastern and Western block, finding a common ground on what should make the essence of the document proved to be a colossal task.

The declaration outlines 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us and that nobody can take away from us. The rights that were included continue to form the basis for international human right law. Today, the Declaration remains a living documents. It is the most translated document in the world. It is a globally agreed document that marked out all humans as being free and equal, regardless of sex, colour, creed, religion or other characteristics.

The 30 rights and freedoms set out in the UDHR include the rights to be **free from torture,** the right to **freedom of expression.** The right to **education** and the right to **seek asylum.** It includes civic and political rights, such as the rights to **life, liberty and privacy**. It also includes, economic social and cultural rights, such as the rights to **social security, health and adequate housing**

The UDHR was made by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December 1948 in Paris, France. The declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War (1939). The atrocities committed by the Germany came to the open after the Second World War, the general opinion within the world community was that the United Nations Charter did not define the right of individuals sufficiently, thus, it was necessary to give effect to the charter’s provision of human rights.

The following are the articles of the UDHR

Article 1: All human are born free and equal

Article 2: Everyone is equal regardless of race, colour, Sex, Language, religion, Politics, or where they were born.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life (and to live in freedom and safety)

Article 4: Everyone has the right to be free from slavery

Article 5: Everyone has the right to be free from torture.

Article 6: Everyone has the right to be recognized before the law.

Article 7: We are all equal before the law.

Article 8: Everyone has the right to seek justice if their rights are violated.

Article 9: Everyone has the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10: Everyone has the right to a fair trial.

Article 11: Everyone has the right to be pressured innocent until proven guilty.

Article 12: Everyone has the right to privacy and the freedom from attacks on their reputation.

Article 13: Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and to be free to leave and return to their own country.

Article 14: Everyone has the right to seek asylum from persecution.

Article 15: Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Article 16: Everyone has the right to marry and to have a family.

Article 17: Everyone has the right to own property.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Article 20: Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Article 21: Everyone has the right to take part in government and to have equal access to public service.

Article 22: Everyone has the right to social security.

Article 23: Everyone has the right to work, to equal pay, to protection against unemployment and right to form and join trade unions.

Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.

Article 25: Everyone has the right to a decent standard of living, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services.

Article 26: Everyone has the right to education

Article 27: Everyone has the right to participate in and enjoy culture, art and science.

Article 28: Everyone has the right to a social and international order where the rights in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29: We have a duty to other people and we should protect their rights and freedoms.

Article 30: Nobody can take away these rights and freedoms from us.

**Seven Freedoms of UDHR**

The seven core freedoms of UDHR are the major rights that all member of the United Nations organization must entrench in their constitution and must be benefited by their citizens. The seven core freedoms are freedoms that cannot be taken away from any individual even in emergency situations.

**The seven core freedom of UDHR**

1. Right of life, liberty and dignity of human person. Everyone has the right to live and to live in freedom. Everyone has right to be free from unlawful or arbitrary arrest, detention or deprivation of his her liberty. Everyone is entitled to protection against violence, physical injury, threats intimidation by state officials or private individuals. Group or institutions.
2. Freedom from discrimination by gender, race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law, including protection against discrimination on the grounds of gender, race citizenship, and sexual orientation. Etc.
3. Right to freedom of movement and to choose a residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to come and go as he or she wishes within his or her country. Everyone has the right to leave and return to his or her country.
4. Right to freedom from forced labour, slavery, slavery-like practices and servitude. Everyone has the right to be free from forced labour, unless it is a lawfully imposed punishment for a crime. Everybody has the right to be free from slavery, slavery-like practices, including debt bondage and force or servile marriage and servitude.
5. Right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Everyone has the right to form a true union or join one that already exists. Everyone has the right to organized and to attend peaceful meetings. No one should be forced to belong to a group.
6. Right to expression, thought, conscience or religion. Everyone has the right to practice his or her religion freely to change it and to practice it either individually or with other people.
7. Right to freedom of opinion and expression. Everyone gas the right to speak his or her mind, provided it is done in full respect of the rights and reputation of others. This includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information.

**Role of individuals and groups in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**It is not enough for Nigerian constitution to recognize the UDHR, it is important that these fundamental Human Rights be respected, observed and implemented. Enforcement of the UDHR is a combine responsibility of individuals, groups and government.
These are some of the roles individuals and groups can play
1. Individuals should inquire more on their human rights by seeking for publications and listening to news

1. Individual should show respect for the rights of other fellow human beings and ensure it is not abused.
2. Individuals should be conscious of their right and be ready to defend them when violated by seeking redress in court of law.
3. Individuals have the right to help other human beings whose rights have been violated or abused in raising funds to sue those who have abused them in court
4. The mass media such as newspapers, radio and television should expose instances of government denial of citizens’ rights
5. Individual and group can carry out peaceful protest to ensure that government change bad policies that infringe on the right of the citizens.
6. Civil societies can organize rallies, public lectures etc to sensitize the public on human rights and also to influence government to desist from anti- people policies.
7. Some voluntary organizations such Legal Aid Council, Society of Women Lawyers, Justice Development and Peace Commission etc offer free legal services to poor people who are in custody of the police.
8. Individual can help to translate the UDHR into local languages to spread the awareness about the fundamental human right in the remote communities.
9. Individual should also report Human Right abused to the appropriate authorities such as Public Complaints Commission, Human Rights Watch (HRW), Campaign for Democrcay and Human Rights (CDHR) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

**Role of government in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**

1. Government should make laws that can protect the rights of the citizens
2. Include the fundamental rights in the constitution of the country like Nigeria have it in their constitution.
3. Government should not disobey court orders and should abide by the tenets of the constitution
4. Government should allow the freedom of the press through criticizing freely government officials and institutions
5. Establishment of agencies that can protect the rights of the citizens such as the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP), Legal Aid Council and National Human Right Commission (NHRC).
6. Government can make the teaching of Human Right Education subjects compulsory in Schools. These are subjects like Social Studies and Civic Education.
7. Government should operate a transparent and accountable government and our democratic institutions should be strengthened to promote fundamental human rights.

**LEGAL AID COUNCIL**Legal Aid Council Nigeria was established pursuant to the promulgation of the Legal Aid Decree No. 56 of 1976 to render legal aid and access to justice to indigent persons as widely as possible within its financial resources.

The decree was amended which later became the Legal Aid Act Cap. L9 Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004. To conform with the present democratic dispensation in Nigeria, the law was repealed in 2011 by Legal Aid Act 2011.

Legal Aid Council is the provision of assistance to people otherwise unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. Its centred on providing access to justice byensuring equality before the law, the right to counsel and the right to a fair trial.

**Functions of Legal Aid Council**
 1. Legal representation in court

1. Prison Visitation
2. Visits to police stations
3. Giving legal advice
4. Maintaining a register of judiciary lawyers
5. It monitor the standards and quality of judgement delivered
6. Fight against unlawful arrest and detained of citizen’s
7. Ensure fair hearing and equality
8. Give free legal services and access to justice to the poor or less privilege.

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION** The National Human Rights Commission was established by decree No. 22 of 1995 with the purpose of creating an enabling environment for extra judicial acceptance, enforcement of human rights and facilitation of government’s ability to implement human rights treaty and to provide a forum for public enlightenment.