

## GOVERNMENT

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) syllabus in Government is to prepare the candidates for the Board's examination. It is designed to test their achievement of the objectives of the course in Government.

These objectives are to:

- i. appreciate the meaning of government;
- ii. analyse the framework and specify the institutions of government;
- iii. explain the concept of citizenship and define the duties and obligations of a citizen;
- iv. appreciate the process of political development;
- v. evaluate the political development and problems of governance in Nigeria;
- vi. assess the role of Nigeria as a member of the international community and the workings of international organizations.

### DETAILED SYLLABUS

#### PART 1: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES	OBJECTIVES
<p><b>1. Basic concepts in government</b></p> <p>a. Power, Right, Legitimacy, Authority, Sovereignty;</p> <p>b. Society, State, Nation, Nation-State;</p> <p>c. Political Processes Political Socialization, Political Participation, Political Culture.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify the fundamental concepts in governance;</li> <li>ii. analyse various political processes;</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Forms of Government:</b> Monarchy, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, Autocracy, Republic, Democracy-definitions, features, merits and demerits.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. distinguish between different forms of government.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Arms of Government:</b></p> <p>a. The Legislature – types, structure, functions, powers;</p> <p>b. The Executive – types and functions, powers;</p> <p>c. The Judiciary – functions, powers, components.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify the duties and obligations of the various arms of government and their agencies;</li> <li>ii. relate each arm to its functions.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Structures of Governance:</b> Unitary, Federal, Confederal-features, reasons for adoption, merits and demerits.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. compare the various political structures of governance.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>5. Systems of Governance:</b> Presidential, Parliamentary and Monarchical.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. distinguish between the different systems of governance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>6. Political Ideologies:</b> Communalism, Feudalism, Capitalism, Socialism, Fascism, Communism</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. differentiate between the major political ideologies;</li> <li>ii. contrast modes of production,</li> </ol>
<p><b>7. Constitution</b> Written, Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. compare the nature of constitutions</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Principles of Democratic Government:</b> Ethics and Accountability in Public Office, Separation of Power/Checks and Balances, Individual and Collective Responsibility, Constitutionalism, Rule of Law.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify the principles of democratic government;</li> <li>ii. determine the application of these principles;</li> </ol>
<p><b>9. Processes of Legislation:</b> Legislative Enactment – acts, edicts, delegated legislation, decrees.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. analyse the processes involved in the making of laws.</li> </ol>
<p><b>10. Citizenship:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Meaning, types</li> <li>ii. Citizenship rights;</li> <li>iii. Duties and obligations of citizens.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. differentiate between the various types of citizenship;</li> <li>ii. specify the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.</li> </ol>
<p><b>11. The Electoral Process:</b> Franchise, Election, Electoral System, Electoral Commission.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. analyse the various electoral processes.</li> </ol>
<p><b>12. Party Systems:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Definition, function and types</li> <li>ii. Political parties – Definition, Organization, functions.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. distinguish between types of party system;</li> <li>ii. assess the role of political parties</li> </ol>
<p><b>13. Pressure Groups:</b> Definition, types, functions and modes of operation.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. distinguish between pressure groups and political parties</li> </ol>
<p><b>14. Public Opinion:</b> Meaning, functions and measurement.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. assess the function of public opinion;</li> <li>ii. compare methods of assessing public opinion.</li> </ol>
<p><b>15. The Civil Service:</b> Definition, characteristics, functions, structure, control and problems.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. analyse the significance of civil service in governance.</li> </ol>

TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES	OBJECTIVES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PART II POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA</b></p> <p><b>1. Pre – colonial Polities:</b> Sarauta, Emirate, Tiv, Igbo, Yoruba – structure/system of governance</p> <p><b>2. Imperialist Penetration:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The British process of acquisition – trade, missionary activities, company rule, crown colony, protectorate;</li> <li>b. The British colonial administrative policy – direct and indirect rule;</li> <li>c. Impact of British colonial rule-economic, political, socio-cultural;</li> <li>d. Comparison of British and French colonial administration.</li> </ol> <p><b>3. Process of Decolonization</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Nationalist Movements – meaning, emergence, goals, strategies, nationalist leaders – Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello and others; emergence of nationalist parties.</li> <li>b. Influence of External factors;</li> <li>c. Constitutional development – the Clifford (1922), Richards (1946), Macpherson (1951), Lyttelton (1954) and Independence (1960) Constitutions.</li> </ol> <p><b>4. Post – Independence Constitutions</b> 1963, 1979, 1989 and 1999 – characteristics and shortcomings</p> <p><b>5. Institutions of Government in the Post – Independence period;</b> The Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary – structure, functions and workings</p> <p><b>6. Public Commissions Established by the 1979 and Subsequent Constitutions:</b> The Civil Service Commission, the Public Complaints Commission, Electoral Commissions and others – objectives and functions.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. compare pre-colonial systems of governance</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. trace the processes of imperialist penetration;</li> <li>ii. assess the impact of British policies;</li> <li>iii. distinguish between British and French colonial practices.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evaluate the process of decolonization;</li> <li>ii. assess the roles of nationalist leaders and parties;</li> <li>iii. assess the impact of external forces and ideas (Pan-Africanism, Back-to-Africa Movements, etc),</li> <li>iv. compare the various constitutional developments.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. assess the workings of the various constitutions.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evaluate the operations of the arms of government and their agencies, e.g the civil service, armed forces, police, courts and others.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evaluate the operations of public commissioners;</li> <li>ii. assess the problems of, and constraints on</li> <li>iii. the public commissions.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>7. Political Parties in the Post-Independence Period:</b> Political parties, party politics – First, Second, Third and Fourth Republics.</p>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. contrast political process in the republics.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. The Structure and Workings of Nigerian Federalism:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Rationale for a Federal System</li> <li>b. Tiers of government and their relationship</li> <li>c. Creation of States – 1963, 1967, 1976, 1987, 1991, 1996;</li> <li>d. Problems of Nigerian Federalism – census, revenue allocation, conflicts etc. solutions e.g. Federal character, etc.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. examine the workings of Nigerian federalism;</li> <li>ii. identify its problems;</li> <li>iii. evaluate the corrective measure adopted.</li> </ol>
<p><b>9. Public Corporations and Parastatals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Definition, types, purpose and functions</li> <li>b. Finance, control and problems;</li> <li>c. Deregulation, privatization – objectives, features, merits and demerits;</li> <li>d. Comparison between public corporations and parastatals.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. examine the operations of public corporations and parastatals;</li> <li>ii. identify the processes involved in privatization and commercialization;</li> <li>iii. assess the economic importance of privatization and commercialization.</li> </ol>
<p><b>10. Local Government:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Local government administration prior to 1976;</li> <li>b. Features of local government reforms (1976, 1989) – structure, functions, finance and inter-governmental relations;</li> <li>c. Traditional rulers and local governments.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. trace the evolution and structure of local government;</li> <li>ii. identify the major problems faced by local governments.</li> </ol>
<p><b>11. The Military in Nigerian Politics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. factors that led to military intervention;</li> <li>b. structure of military regimes;</li> <li>c. impact of military rule – political, e.g creation etc. economic, e.g SAP, etc.</li> <li>d. processes of military disengagement.</li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evaluate the reasons given for military intervention;</li> <li>ii. assess the achievements of military rule;</li> <li>iii. determine the conditions that necessitated withdrawal from governance.</li> </ol>

TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES	OBJECTIVES
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PART III: NIGERIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><b>1. Foreign Policy:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Definition, purpose, determining factors;</li> <li>b. Nigerian foreign policy; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Relations with major powers;</li> <li>ii. Relations with developing countries.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>2. Relations with African Countries:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Africa as “centre piece” – guiding principles, implementation and implications;</li> <li>b. NEPAD – origin, objectives and implications.</li> </ol> <p><b>3. Nigeria in International Organizations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The United Nations;</li> <li>b. The Commonwealth;</li> <li>c. The Organization of African Unity;</li> <li>d. The African Union;</li> <li>e. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);</li> <li>f. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PART IV: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>1. International Organizations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ECOWAS;</li> <li>b. OAU, AU;</li> <li>c. Commonwealth;</li> <li>d. UNO;</li> <li>e. OPEC; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Origin, objectives, structure, functions, achievements, problems and prospects of these organizations.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify the major objectives of Nigerian foreign policy;</li> <li>ii. analyse Nigeria’s aligned posture;</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evaluate the role of Nigeria in continental affairs;</li> <li>ii. assess the role of NEPAD in developing Africa.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. analyse the dynamics of Nigeria’s involvement in international organizations;</li> <li>ii. assess their contribution to the development of Nigeria.</li> </ol> <p>Candidates should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. identify international organizations;</li> <li>ii. assess the role of these organizations in world affairs.</li> </ol>

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Adigwe, F (1985). *Essentials of Government for West Africa*, Ibadan: University Press Plc.
- Anifowose, R and Enemu, F. C (eds)(1999). *Elements of Politics*, Lagos; Malthouse Press Limited.
- Appadorai, A. (1978). *The Substance of Politics*, London: Oxford University Press.
- Ball, A. R. (1983). *Modern Politics and Government*, London: macmillan.
- Ikein, A. A. (1990). *The Impact of Oil on a Developing Country, The Case of Nigeria*, Ibadan; Evans.
- Ofoegbu, R. (1977). *Government for the Certificate Year*, London: George Allen and Unwin.
- Ojiako, J. O. (1981). *Nigeria Yesterday, Today and \_\_\_\_\_ ?* Onitsha: Africana Educational Publishers (Nig.) Ltd.
- Olawale, J. B (1987). *New Topics on Ordinary Level Government*, Ilesha: Jola Publishing.
- Omolewa, M. (1991). *A Certificate History of Nigeria*, Ibadan: Longman.
- Oyediran, O. Nwosu, H., Takaya, B., Anifowoshe, R., Femi, B., Godwill, O. and Adigun, A. (1990). *Government for Senior Secondary Schools, Books 1, 2 and 3*, Ibadan: Longman.
- Oyeneye, I., Onyenwenu, M. and Olusunde, B. E. (2000). *Round-Up Government for Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination: A complete Guide*, Ibadan: Longman.
- Oyovbaire, S., Oguna, A. E. C., Amucheazi, E. C., Coker, H. o. and Oshuntuyi, O. (2001). *Countdown to Senior Secondary Certificate Examination: Government*, Ibadan: Evans.