



**BREEDING**  
**A R E N A**  
*College*

# BREEDER'S GUIDE

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## GOVERNMENT SSS 1

*Mrs. Chidinma C.*

**Term Cultivate**  
**2023/2024**

SCHEME OF WORK – FIRST TERM

GOVERNMENT		
Nurturing What's within		September 9
WEEK	TOPIC	SUB-TOPICS
1	Meaning and Scope of the Subject Matter Welcome Test Definition of Government	Meaning of Government (as an Institution of the State) Characteristics of Government Functions of Government Definition of a State and its relationship to Government Scope of Government
2	Definition of Government (Contd.) Characteristics and Functions of Government	Government as a Process or Art of Governing The Process of Policy Formulation and Implementation by Government Government as an Academic Field of Study Importance of the Study of Government. Meaning of the State State and its Features The Society and its Features The Nation and its Features Difference between a State, Nation and Society
3	Basic Concepts of Government 1 State, Nation and Society	Power as a Concept in Politics Forms of Power How Political Power is acquired and exercised. Political Authority Sources and Types of Political Authority Difference between Power and Authority
4	Basic Concepts of Government 2 Power and Authority	Meaning of Legitimacy The Need for Legitimacy and its Impact in the Stability of the Government. Factors that determine the Legitimacy of a Government. Sovereignty as a Concept of Government. Characteristics of Sovereignty Types of Sovereignty Limitations of Sovereignty in a State.
5	Basic Concepts of Government 2 (Contd.) Legitimacy and Sovereignty	Meaning of Democracy Features/Types of Democracy Merits and Demerits of Democracy
6	Democracy	
7	MID-TERM TEST/BREAK	

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8	Political Culture Political Socialisation	Meaning of Political Culture Components of Political Culture Political Socialisation Agents of Political Socialisation Communalism and its Features, merits and demerits. Feudalism and its Features, merits and demerits. Capitalism and its essential features, merits and demerits. Socialism and its Features, Merits and Demerits.
9	Communalism Feudalism Capitalism Socialism	Communalism and its Features, merits and demerits. Feudalism and its Features, merits and demerits. Capitalism and its essential features, merits and demerits. Socialism and its Features, Merits and Demerits.
10	Communism Fascism Oligarchy Totalitarianism	Communism and its Principles Relationship between Communism and Socialism Fascism and its Characteristics Totalitarianism and its features.
11	REVISION	
12	EXAMINATION	
13	EXAMINATION	

WEEK	TOPIC	SUB-TOPICS

## 1. TOPIC: MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER/DEFINITION

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Week 1

Learning Objectives: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain government as an institution of a state;
- ii. Highlight the characteristics of government;
- iii. Expatiate on the functions of government;
- iv. Describe a state and its relationship to government.

### **Meaning of Government (as an Institution of the State)**

Government refers to the political system that is in charge of the administration and regulation of a country or community.

Government as an institution of the state could be defined as a group of persons and institution legally set up by the state to make, enforce and interpret laws.

### **Characteristics of Government**

- i. **Power:** This is the ability of the government to exercise authority over its citizens.
- ii. **Revenue:** it is the responsibility of the government to provide security, good roads, quality education and other necessary infrastructures for her citizens. To achieve this feat, the government must generate revenue through various means like: export of natural resources, taxation, royalties, import duties, levies etc.
- iii. **Legitimacy:** Every government must have public support. That means it must be recognized and accepted by the citizenry – the people. A good government must not be imposed on the people, like that of the military or dictatorship rule.
- iv. **Periodic Change:** Government is not expected to be permanent. Hence, no government can be on the seat of power forever.
- v. **Workforce:** every government requires a group of men and women who will assist in implementing and interpreting the policies of government.

### **Functions of Government**

- i. **Legislative Function:** the government, through the legislative arm, makes laws and regulations to govern the behaviour of individuals and institutions in the society. Hence, the government enacts new laws, amends existing laws repeals laws and makes provision for legal and regulatory systems within the state. It formulates policies to regulate aspects of the society, such as civil rights, public safety, economic relations, taxation, social welfare etc.
- ii. **Executive function:** The government, through the executive arm, is responsible for implementing and enforcing laws and policies in the state. It includes the execution of

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- administrative tasks, management of public services, and the enforcement of regulations through various government agencies and departments. Hence, it is in charge of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the state.
- iii. **Judicial Function:** The government, through the judicial arm of government provides access to justice through the maintenance of a fair and impartial judicial system. It includes interpreting laws, resolving disputes, administering justice through courts and other legal mechanisms.
  - iv. **Defense and Security Function:** The government has the responsibility of providing internal security within the state, protecting its borders, and defending it against external threats to its sovereignty. It also maintains the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies.
  - v. **Economic Function:** The government manages the economy by creating and implementing economic policies, regulation of financial institutions, promoting economic growth, managing public finances and providing public goods and services.
  - vi. **Social Welfare and Public Services:** The government is responsible for providing essential services like education, healthcare, infrastructure development, public transportation, social security and welfare programs.
  - vii. **Diplomacy and International Relations:** Governments engage in diplomatic efforts and manage international relations on behalf of the state. It negotiates treaties, represents the country's interest internationally and fosters diplomatic relations with other nations.
  - viii. **Public Communication and Information:** The government is responsible for disseminating information to the public. It also provides accurate and timely information to promote public awareness and encourage dialogue with the citizenry. This will help to foster transparency and accountability.

#### **Definition of a State and its relationship to Government**

A "state" refers to a defined and politically organised territory with a sovereign government. It is one of the fundamental units of the international system and represents a distinct political entity with the capacity to exercise control over its territory, maintain international relations, and make and enforce laws within its borders.

The relationship between a state and its government is essential for the functioning of the political entity. The government represents the institutional framework through which the state exercises its authority and carries out its functions. It is responsible for making and enforcing laws, maintaining order, providing public services, and representing the state's interests domestically and internationally.

Governments can take various forms, such as democracies, monarchies, dictatorships, and republics, depending on the political system and the distribution of power within the state. However, regardless of

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the form, the government acts as the central authority that exercises the state's power and makes decisions on behalf of its population.

Hence, a state is a defined territory with a population and a government, and the government is the entity that wields authority and carries out the functions of the state. Together, the state and its government form the basis of the political organisation and governance of a particular territorial entity.

State	Government
1. A state has a permanent status	- Government on the other hand is transient. It comes and goes
2. It is a territorial association of people with defined boundaries	- It is an administrative institution of the state
3. Membership of a state is compulsory	- Membership of a government is optional
4. A state is an abstract concept	- Government and its officials are tangible
5. A state is a larger entity	- Government is relatively a smaller institution within the state
6. A state depends on the government to carry out its activities	- Government is the machinery through which the functions of the state are performed
7. The state is sovereign	- Government is not sovereign
8. Every state possesses a legal status/constitution	- Whereas government in power enforces the constitution
9. States are identical in their features from state	- Governments differ to state
10. A state is a fixed entity	- Whereas government and its officials are not fixed
11. The emergence of the state has different theories	- While emergence of government has one central justification

#### Scope of Government

The scope of government refers to the range of activities and responsibilities that a government undertakes in its role as the governing authority of a state. The scope of government can vary significantly between different countries and political systems. It is generally shaped by the principles and goals outlined in a country's constitution or legal framework, the political ideology of the ruling party or leaders, historical traditions, and the prevailing socio-economic conditions.

The scope of government typically includes the following key areas:

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- 1. Maintaining Law and Order:** One of the primary responsibilities of any government is to maintain law and order within its territory. This involves enforcing laws, ensuring public safety, and providing a functioning legal system to resolve disputes
- 2. National Defence:** Governments are responsible for protecting the sovereignty of the state and its citizens from external threats. This involves maintaining armed forces, formulating defense policies, and safeguarding national security.
- 3. Public Services:** Governments provide essential public services to their citizens, such as education, healthcare, transportation, infrastructure development, and utilities (e.g., water supply, electricity).
- 4. Economic Management:** Governments play a significant role in regulating the economy through fiscal and monetary policies, trade regulations, industrial policies, and taxation. They aim to promote economic growth, stability, and employment opportunities.
- 5. Social Welfare:** Many governments have social welfare programs designed to support vulnerable populations, alleviate poverty, and address social inequalities. These programs may include unemployment benefits, social security, housing assistance, and food aid.
- 6. Environmental Protection:** Governments often implement policies and regulations to protect the environment, address climate change, and ensure sustainable development.
- 7. Foreign Affairs:** Governments engage in international relations, representing the state on the global stage, negotiating treaties, and maintaining diplomatic relations with other countries and international organisations.
- 8. Promoting and Protecting Rights:** Governments are responsible for upholding and protecting the rights and freedoms of their citizens as enshrined in the country's constitution and international human rights agreements.

#### ASSIGNMENT

Past Question papers

## 2. DEFINITION OF GOVERNMENT – CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONS

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Week 2

Topic: Definition of Government (Contd); Characteristics and Functions of Government

Learning Objective: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Discuss government as a process or art of governing;
- ii. Highlight the process of policy formulation and implementation by the government
- iii. Describe government as an academic field of study
- iv. Discuss the importance of the study of government.

### **Government as a Process or Art of Governing**

Government is referred to as an art of governing because it is a body vested with the supreme power for running the affairs of a state. A government is vested with the power of maintaining peace and security by putting in place machinery for that purpose.

Government as an art/process of governing relates to the practice of government. It is about how a government achieves its aims and objectives. The word '*process*' here means *activity or function*.

Thus, government as a process refers to the way public business is carried out. In carrying out public business, there is the need for the use of creative skills. Policies have to be adapted to the prevailing situation. This is precisely why governing is an art.

In this approach, there is a movement away from the study of political or governmental institutions to the discussion of those things that government does to realize its objectives.

Government as a process of carrying out public business may be illustrated by looking at the structure and processes of a business organisation. Each corporation has a *Board of Directors*. It is the duty of a company's Board to initiate, develop and enforce policy within the limits permitted by the shareholders.

The board has a free hand to perform its functions and the shareholders or those who have contributed money to keep the business going exercise power or influence in the appointment of the Board members. In a political community like the state, the Board of Directors is the government.

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#### The Process of Policy Formulation and Implementation by Government

Policy formulation and implementation are essential functions of the government that involve developing and executing plans and decisions to address societal issues, achieve specific goals, and respond to challenges. The process typically involves multiple stages and stakeholders. Here is an overview of the steps involved in policy formulation and implementation:

- 1. Agenda Setting:** The first stage involves identifying and prioritizing issues that require government attention. This can be influenced by public demands, expert opinions, political considerations, or crises. Policymakers may also set agendas based on their party's platform or long-term visions for the country.
- 2. Policy Proposal and Development:** Once an issue is identified, policymakers develop policy proposals to address it. This involves conducting research, gathering data, consulting experts, and analyzing potential options. Policy proposals can take the form of new laws, regulations, programs, or amendments to existing policies.
- 3. Policy Adoption:** After evaluating various policy options, the government selects the most feasible and appropriate proposal. The policy is then formally adopted, either through the legislative process (e.g., passing a new law) or through executive action (e.g., issuing an executive order).
- 4. Policy Implementation Planning:** Once a policy is adopted, detailed plans are created to guide its implementation. This includes setting specific objectives, determining resource allocations, defining roles and responsibilities, and establishing timelines.
- 5. Allocation of Resources:** Policies require resources, including financial allocations, personnel, and infrastructure. The government must allocate the necessary resources to effectively implement the policy.
- 6. Communication and Public Awareness:** Effective communication is crucial to ensure that stakeholders, including the public, understand the policy, its objectives, and how it will be implemented. Public awareness campaigns may be launched to inform citizens about the policy and its benefits.
- 7. Policy Implementation:** This stage involves putting the policy into action according to the plans and timelines set during the implementation planning phase. Different government agencies and departments may be involved in carrying out various aspects of the policy.
- 8. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Throughout the implementation process, the government monitors the policy's progress and assesses its effectiveness. This involves collecting data, measuring outcomes, and identifying any issues or challenges that may arise.
- 9. Policy Adjustment or Revision:** Based on the monitoring and evaluation results, policymakers may choose to adjust or revise the policy to improve its effectiveness or address unintended consequences.
- 10. Termination or Renewal:** Some policies have a fixed duration or sunset provisions, after which they are either terminated or renewed based on their performance and relevance.
- 11. Feedback and Stakeholder Engagement:** Throughout the entire process, policymakers engage with various stakeholders, including citizens, interest groups, businesses, and experts, to gather feedback, address concerns, and build support for the policy.

Policy formulation and implementation are iterative processes, meaning that they may involve ongoing adjustments and refinements as new information becomes available, and circumstances

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change. Effective policy-making requires collaboration, coordination, and responsiveness to evolving societal needs and challenges.

#### **Government as an Academic Field of Study**

This is focused on the study of the political institutions and theories which deal with acquisition and use of political power. Branches of government as an academic field of study are

1. public administration: this deals with human management in government establishments or public affairs.
2. International Relations: This area deals with diplomacy and external relations with other countries.
3. International Relations: This area deals with diplomacy and external relations with other countries.
4. Political Thought/Theories: The ideas of early political thinkers e.g. Locke, Hobbes etc.
5. Political Economy: It deals with fiscal and monetary policies of a country.
6. Comparative politics: It deals with comparative analysis of governments of other countries.

#### **Branches of Government as the machinery / Institution of the State:**

- (i) Legislature: The branch that makes law.
- (ii) Executive; the group that formulates and executes policies.
- (iii) Judiciary: The branch that interprets laws and adjudicates disputes

#### **Importance of the Study of Government.**

**Geopolitical Information:** The study of government gets people informed on international politics and regional or geographical effects in consideration for decision making, especially those decisions pertaining to the state.

Geopolitics involves international relations as influenced by geopolitical factors. It is the study and understanding of the effects of certain factors such as; demography, economics and geography in relation to politics. This aspect of information is very vital for any citizen intending to occupy any political position in the state. Since politics is all about decision making, most decisions cannot be safely made without considering these geopolitical factors.

This seems to be part of the hallmark of good governance. A good number of persons admire certain top seats at the government. It is unfortunate that some have no information or understanding of the geopolitical zones and how they should affect decision making. The study of government gives you an edge in this area.

**Political Participation:** The study of government unarguably stirs up people's interest in politics. People who got admitted into political science department, not being their choice of course are shown to develop the interest in the short run. The study of political science or any government related course such as government education is of course, such an interesting course of study.

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I doubt if anyone would think otherwise. People study political sciences and other government related courses in order to widen their horizon and understanding of government, its policies and modus operandi, as well as to sustain their passion and interest in the said field. The knowledge and understanding of government stirs up power and confidence in persons. This boosts their interest the more for the purpose of participating in politics.

Political participation here may be by way of participating in political discourse, involving in political rallies, contesting for certain political offices, seeing and understanding the need to participate in elections, employment of remedial tools in government when need be, such as; petitions, lobbying, pressure groups, campaigns, peaceful protest, etc.

People may also study government in order to register with a political party and then have a sense of substance, contribution and belonging. People who possess less knowledge of government may find themselves having little or nothing to add up to a political organisation, and may therefore appear less relevant in such an organisation or party because he understands nothing to offer. This may then cost him longer time that would have ordinarily be used to attain the height he desires.

**To Understand the Socio:** Political and Economic Structures and Factors in the State: Leadership and governance demands that the sociological factors operate in a given territory be put into smooth consideration while in the process of decision making. The study of government gets the intending leader or leaders informed as to such sociological factors and its possible effects on governance. Such factors may include; environmental circumstances, religion, culture, etc.

Governance is particularly about the management of the economy. The economy of the state is not something to be managed with common sense or natural economic instinct. The study of government lays foundation knowledge for understanding of the state economy.

People may study government for the purpose of understanding the structure of the government. It is not entirely a common knowledge that the division of the arms of government into three arms is for a purpose. The purpose which includes; the enforcement of rule of law, enforcement of checks and balances, and most importantly the doctrine of separation of power. Political structures of the various nations are certainly not the same. States may practice federalism, confederalism, unitary system, presidential system, as the case may be, etc. People may study government in order to appreciate these structures.

**Knowledge of the Citizens' Rights, Obligations and Remedies:** The study of government is basically about the structure of the state and governance, responsibilities of the government towards the citizens, and the citizens' rights and obligation in the state, including remedies which they could employ upon the breach of their rights and non-performance of the government's obligation.

This could be a better reason to study government. When citizens are oblivious of their rights, it paves an opportunity for the government of the day to be irresponsible. When citizens are informed on their obligations, it promotes the sanity and harmony of the state. The study of government informs citizens of

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certain remedial tools to employ upon the inconsistency of the government, such as media tool, public opinion, pressure group, court action, petitions to the legislature, petitions to the ombudsman, peaceful protest, recall, etc.

**Knowledge of History:** In study of politics, history is indispensable. In fact, government and history cannot be studied in isolation of any. The mastery of the past renders the future predictable, and it has been said to help avoid certain mistakes of the past. Understanding the mistakes of the past leaders aids to curb future occurrence of a similar failure.

The mastery of history is power. People may choose to study government in order to acquire the power that is inherent to the knowledge of history.

**Opportunities:** The study of government unarguably creates opportunities for job employment. Government is a social science related course, and the acquisition of the degree makes one employable into administrative positions of any field, political appointments, ambassadorship, education sector, etc. People may choose to study government for this reason.

**Personal Development:** People may choose to study government for the reason of personal development. The knowledge of government is considered social intelligence. People who desire to improve their social intellect may opt in for studying government for this reason.

The study of government is all encompassing. This could be correctly said because; all aspects of life are positioned to deal with certain structures and decision making. The study of government enhances skills in decision making, conflict resolution and many other positives necessary in building a harmonic society and peaceful coexistence amongst individuals.

Assignment

Past questions

### 3. BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT 2 – STATE, NATION AND SOCIETY

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Learning Objectives: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain the meaning of a state
- ii. Highlight the features of a state
- iii. Describe a nation/society and their features
- iv. Differentiate between a state, nation and society

#### **Meaning of the State**

A state is a politically independent, territorially defined group of people, possessing a government that is subordinate to none other and monopolizing the coercive instruments of compulsion in the enforcement of its decisions.

A state is a political society with four elements: population. Fixed (definite) territory, government and sovereignty.

It is a sovereign entity that has a defined territory, a population, a government, formal independence and identity.

#### **State and its Features**

A state has the following features:

1. **Territorial Boundary:** a state must have a clearly defined geographical boundary separating it from another state.
2. **Government:** A government is required for peaceful, orderly and harmonious co-existence. It is central in every modern state.
3. **Population:** it is the number of people found in a particular location. They are the citizens of a given state.
4. **Sovereignty:** this is an attribute of every modern state. Sovereignty supports the legitimate authority and interdependence which a state has over its citizens and its territory.
5. **Constitution:** a state needs a working constitution and it can be written or unwritten.

#### **The Society and its Features**

A society consists of complex networks of groups and institutions expressive of human associations. Some of the associations or groups within the society include family, churches, mosques, clubs etc. that influence social life. The society exists for educational, economic, religious and cultural purposes amongst others.

A society is made up of a group of people who share a self-sufficiency system of actions, culture, tradition and those lasting qualities of collective social existence that transcends several generations. Its members must have common attitude, goals, basic beliefs and must have effective methods of socialising new members and controlling deviants. It is different from associations of people with a common interest who come together in order to achieve their common interests, e.g. clubs, professional associations, political parties and other forms of pressure group groups.

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A society may be more complex than a state and a state can be found in a society but it is less powerful than the state. The state is the political aspect of the society because it gives the society a legal organisation by making it a single legal association.

#### The Nation and its Features

A nation refers to a group of people who form a distinct community by inhabiting a definite territory and recognize themselves as possessing a relatively homogenous set of cultural traits (e.g., common language, religion, historical tradition, customs and habits). Examples in Nigeria are the Yoruba nation, Igbo nation, Hausa-Fulani nation etc.

A historical constitutes stable community of people formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life and physiological make up, which can be seen in a common culture.

It's a union of masses of men bound together specially by language and customs into common civilization which gives them a sense of unity. (Bluntschilli)

It is a culturally homogenous social group.

#### Difference between a State, Nation and Society

S/N	STATE	SOCIETY
1.	Political organisation.	Politically organised
2.	Exists before the state as it was born the day the human life must have begun.	Exists before the state as it was born the day the human life must have begun.
3	Natural/instinctive	Artificial creation
4.	Has an indefinite territory. It is not permanent, as its place of operation can increase or decrease.	Has a definite territory
5.	Unwritten, indefinite and vague laws.	Written, definite and clear laws.
6.	Violation of laws is followed by punishment: physical or otherwise or both.	Violation of rule leads to social boycott or social exclusion.

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### Difference between a State and a Nation

S/N	STATE	NATION
1.	Heterogenous population	Homogenous population
2.	Sovereign	Not sovereign
3.	Political concept	Cultural concept
4.	The people are bound by laws. Hence, their unity is imposed and external.	The people are bound by sentiments and emotions.
5.	Laws are enforced through coercion.	Laws/rules are enforced through persuasion.
6.	The elements (population, fixed territory, government and sovereignty) are definite.	The elements (Common language, race, religion, heritage) are indefinite because their existence might define a nation in one location and may not in another location.

Assignment

Past questions

## 4. BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT – POWER AND AUTHORITY

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Learning Objectives: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Describe power as a key concept in politics and highlight forms of power.
- ii. Explain how political power is acquired and exercised
- iii. Analyze the term political authority and explain the sources and types of political authority
- iv. Differentiate between power and authority.

### Power as a Concept in Politics

Power is a special case of the exercise of influence. It is the process of affecting the policies of others with the help of (actual or threatened) severe deprivations for non-conformity with the policies intended. (Lasswell and Kaplan: Elements of Politics Anifowose and Enemu).

Power is the ability to get things done, to make others do what we want, even if they do not want to do it. A variety of means can be used to persuade people to do things, but power always has as its base the ability to reward or punish. Example – dictator, armed robber.

Power is the ability or potential of an individual to influence others and control their actions.

### Forms of Power

**Physical Power:** This is the application of force to ensure obedience. The result could bring discomfort and even disaster.

**Economic Power:** this refers to an individual's possession of economic resources which can make him command respect or exercise control over emotions and actions.

**Political power:** the elected president or prime minister of a state possess political power. It is derived from the people and is for the people.

**Military power:** the armed forces army, navy and air force control the instrument of violence in a country. This can be manipulated to overthrow a civilian government and to also defend the state's territory, sovereignty and internal aggression.

**Presidential power**

1. **Force:** The power-holder exercises force when he influences behaviour by physical manipulation of the subordinated individual (assault, confinement etc.)
2. **Domination:** this is when domination is influenced by behaviour making it explicit to others what he wants them to do (command, request, etc.)
3. **Manipulation:** This is the third form of power and it is when someone influences the behaviour of others without making explicit the behaviour which he wants to be performed. Propaganda is a major form of manipulation by symbols.

### How Political Power is Acquired and Exercised

Political power is the ability to influence, control, and make decisions that affect the governance and direction of a country or a community. The acquisition and exercise of political power can take various forms depending on the political system, cultural context, and historical circumstances. Here are some common ways political power is acquired and exercised:

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- 1. Democratic Elections:** In democratic systems, political power is acquired through free and fair elections. Candidates or political parties compete for public support, and citizens vote to elect their representatives. The winners gain political power and authority to make decisions on behalf of their constituents.
- 2. Authoritarian Rule:** In authoritarian systems, political power is often acquired through non-democratic means, such as military coups, hereditary succession, or one-party rule. The exercise of power in such systems is concentrated in the hands of a single leader or a small group, and there is limited political freedom and opposition.
- 3. Coalition Building:** In multi-party systems, political power may be acquired through coalition-building, where different political parties form alliances to gain a majority in the legislative body or government. In parliamentary systems, a coalition with a majority often forms the government.
- 4. Political Appointments:** In some cases, political power is acquired through appointments, where individuals are chosen by leaders or governing bodies to hold positions of authority, such as ministers, judges, or administrators.
- 5. Patronage and Clientelism:** In certain political systems, individuals in power use patronage and clientelism to maintain their influence. This involves providing favors, resources, or benefits to specific individuals or groups in exchange for loyalty and support.
- 6. Social Movements:** Social movements can exert political power by mobilizing public opinion, organizing protests, and advocating for specific policy changes or social issues. They may influence political agendas and force policymakers to address their concerns.
- 7. Media and Public Relations:** Political power can also be influenced and exercised through media and public relations. Politicians use media outlets to shape public opinion, promote their agendas, and control the narrative surrounding their actions.
- 8. Lobbying and Interest Groups:** Interest groups and lobbyists represent specific sectors or causes and seek to influence policymakers to make decisions that align with their interests. They can be influential in shaping policies and legislation.
- 9. Control of Institutions:** Political power is often exercised through control of key institutions, such as the executive branch, legislature, judiciary, military, or security forces. Those in power may use these institutions to enforce their policies and maintain control.
- 10. Public Opinion and Support:** Political power is strengthened and maintained through public opinion and support. Leaders often seek to gain popular support to legitimize their actions and maintain a mandate to govern.

It's important to note that the acquisition and exercise of political power can vary significantly between different countries and political systems. Additionally, ethical considerations and adherence to democratic principles play a critical role in how political power is acquired and exercised. Transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights are essential components of responsible governance and the proper exercise of political power.

#### Sources of Political Power

- 1. Constitution:** it spells out how power should be acquired and exercised.
- 2. Through Elections:** power held by the people is transferred to the government through their votes in a process called election.

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3. Through coercion: power may be acquired through the use of force. Countries which are located in Africa and Latin America have experienced this through several coups – military intervention in the government.
4. Through economic resources: an individual can acquire political power and respect through the possession of economic resources like money or property.
5. Through charisma: a person can acquire power through the possession of intelligence, experience, achievement or character that people find valuable.
6. Through inheritance: power can be acquired through inheritance i.e., based on heredity, which is mostly found in royal families.
7. Through the position of authority: authority and power are complementary and one's position can confer power on the person exercising it.

#### **Political Authority**

The recognition of the position of power of those in government must be recognized as legitimate by those over whom they are wielding such power.

Authority is the quality of being able to get people to do things because they think the individual has the right to tell them what to do. People submit to those in authority because they believe that they fulfill a need in the community – the need for leadership.

A government has authority when the citizens accept it as valid and when the citizens are confronted with authority, it is their duty to obey.

Authority is having the moral and constitutional right to exercise power. It is the legal right to make and enforce decision within a given political system.

Legitimate power or influence is generally called authority. Authority is clothed with legitimacy and is powered by the consent of the people. Example – policeman

Authority is the legal and formal right to give orders and commands, and take decisions.

#### **Sources of Political Authority**

Political authority can be derived from the following sources:

1. Primordial Source: This is when the authority given is traced to a long history of existence and is hereditary. For example, the Oba in the Yoruba and Edo societies.
2. Legal or Constitutional Source: This is an authority one is accorded on election into office or from the constitution.
3. Sacred Source: This is when the authority of the leader is believed to be a right given to him by God or a supreme being.
4. Personal Source: An individual derives this type of authority due to his personal qualities, which attracts followers to him.
5. Instrumental Power: This type of authority is derived from personal achievement of an individual or his technical knowledge. It will cause people to obey him.

#### **Types of Political Authority**

A German political sociologist named Max Weber describes the types of authority as:

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1. **Legal/Rational Authority:** this authority is what is welded by constitutional governments. The rulers of the land are appointed or elected by legally sanctioned procedures and they work within the law of the land. The laws of the land are binding on all. The people obey the law not those in power, as it were. The people obey because the government has the legitimate right to make and enforce laws. This type of authority is found in modern governments/societies.
2. **Traditional Authority:** The leaders in this context possess personal authority through inheritance. Their command is regarded as legitimate because they have the backing of the customs and traditions of the land. So, the people obey because the customs and traditions of a given society. The people obey the leaders because the customs and traditions of a given society have accorded the right to exercise authority. However, the leader may sometimes exhibit personal arbitrariness. The people are usually regarded as followers or subjects. This type of authority is typical of simpler pre-industrial societies.
3. **Charismatic Authority:** This authority is derived from the exceptional personal qualities of the leader which will inspire loyalty and obedience from followers. It is also believed that charismatic leaders possess some sort of divine power, skills or are exemplary in some way. The leaders are obeyed because they possess certain personal attributes that attract people to them. Some examples of charismatic leaders are Mahatma Gandhi, Charles de Gaulle and Mao Tse Tung etc.
4. **Delegated Authority:** this is given to someone to exercise functions and bear responsibility for specific areas. It is usually described as shared responsibility or division of powers.
5. **Political Authority:** it is conferred on a person who hold a political office.
6. **Technical Authority:** it is based on the level of one's expertise which is acquired on a job.
7. **Coercive Authority:** it is based on the use of force and has two types – De-jure and De-facto authority.
  - a. **De-jure Authority:** this is referred to as the right one has to issue an instruction and to have them obeyed. According to Thomas Hobbes, it is when someone "...acts on behalf of others who have commissioned him to do so."  
However, when an authority figure exceeds the limit of his commissioning in exercising authority it is referred to as "ultra vires."
  - b. **De-factor Authority:** This is a situation where one person acknowledges being entitled to command. He gets people to do and believe what he tells them.
  - c.

#### Difference between Power and Authority

S/N	POWER	AUTHORITY
1.	Control that is used to influence others through threat or coercion.	Control that is delegated to an individual or a group.
2.	Arbitrary	Legitimate and formal
3.	Use of force.	Use of dialogue

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4.	Could be legitimate or illegitimate.	Based on acceptance and mostly legitimate.
5.	Cannot be delegated.	Can be delegated with legitimized responsibility
6.	It has the capacity to affect another's behaviour.	It has a formal and legal right to make and enforce laws.

Assignment

Past questions

## 5. BASIC CONCEPTS OF GOVERNMENT – LEGITIMACY AND SOVEREIGNTY

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Learning Objectives: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain the concept of legitimacy and discuss the need for legitimacy and its impact in the stability of the government.
- ii. Highlight factors that determine the legitimacy of a government.
- iii. Describe sovereignty as a concept of government and the characteristics of sovereignty/types of sovereignty.
- iv. Identify the limitations of sovereignty in a state.

### Meaning of Legitimacy

Legitimacy is the acceptance and recognition by the people of the right of the ruler to govern. It also refers to the rightful and justified authority and power that a government or ruler possesses in the eyes of the people it governs. Legitimacy is crucial for the stability and effectiveness of a political system as it provides the basis for citizens' acceptance of the government's authority and decisions.

### The Need for Legitimacy and its Impact in the Stability of the Government.

The impact of legitimacy on the stability of the government is significant. A government's legitimacy, which is the perceived rightful authority to govern, plays a crucial role in determining its ability to maintain stability and control over its territory. The level of legitimacy a government enjoys can have profound effects on its durability and resilience. Here are some key ways in which legitimacy affects the stability of a government:

1. **Public Support and Compliance:** A legitimate government enjoys the support and trust of its citizens. When people believe that the government has the right to rule and make decisions on their behalf, they are more likely to comply with laws, policies, and regulations. This voluntary compliance enhances social order and stability.
2. **Legitimacy as a Buffer Against Challenges:** A government with high legitimacy is more resilient to internal and external challenges. Legitimate governments are better equipped to handle crises, opposition movements, and protests, as they have a broader base of support to draw upon during challenging times.
3. **Consolidation of Power:** Legitimate governments find it easier to consolidate power and authority. They can effectively implement policies and carry out their functions without facing constant resistance or opposition.
4. **Reduction of Political Violence:** Legitimate governments are less likely to face large-scale political violence or insurgency. When people perceive the government as legitimate, they are more inclined to use peaceful means to express grievances and seek changes.
5. **Effective Governance:** A legitimate government is more likely to be effective in delivering public services, addressing societal issues, and promoting development. This, in turn, contributes to stability and social cohesion.

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6. **Foreign Relations:** Governments with higher legitimacy are more likely to be recognized and respected by other countries in the international community. This enhances diplomatic relations and can positively impact trade, aid, and cooperation with other nations.
7. **Legitimacy and Security Forces:** Legitimate governments can better maintain control over security forces, reducing the risk of defection or rebellion among law enforcement and military personnel.

#### **Factors that determine the Legitimacy of a Government.**

- (i) Popular Support - A government is legitimate if it receives the popular support of the citizens.
- (ii) Popular Support Participation - For a government to be accorded legitimacy, the citizens must be allowed to participate in political activities.
- (iii) Good Governance-Any government that operates on the tenets of good governance may earn legitimacy.
- (iv) Good Leadership-Legitimacy will be accorded to a leader with sterling qualities.
- (v) Ideology-The ability of the government to uphold the state ideology will help attain legitimacy.
- (vi) Periodic free and fair elections.
- (vii) Respect for Fundamental Human Rights/Rule of Law.
- (viii) Appreciative level of socio-economic development in the state by the Government.
- (ix) International Recognition.
- (x) Respect for the customs and traditions of the people.
- (xi) Adherence to the provisions of the constitution of the state.

#### **Sovereignty as a Concept of Government.**

##### **Sovereignty**

Sovereignty, according to Jean Bodin, a French philosopher refers to the Supreme and legal authority above and beyond which no further legal power exists. Sovereignty is also used to incant the supreme and absolute power of the state over her subjects and territory.

Sovereignty was understood to mean the equivalent of supreme power. However, its application in practice often has departed from this traditional meaning.

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### Characteristics of Sovereignty

The characteristics of sovereignty include:

1. **Territorial Integrity:** Sovereignty is inherently linked to a defined and recognized territory. A sovereign state has exclusive control and authority over its territorial borders, both land and airspace, and can exercise its power within those boundaries.
2. **Independence:** Sovereign states are independent political entities, meaning they are not subject to the authority of other states or external powers. They have the right to make their own decisions on domestic and foreign matters without undue influence or coercion.
3. **Supreme Authority:** Sovereignty implies the highest and ultimate authority within a state. The government of a sovereign state is the highest authority within its borders and possesses the power to make and enforce laws and policies.
4. **Internal and External Sovereignty:** Internal sovereignty refers to a state's ability to govern its domestic affairs, enforce laws, and maintain order within its borders. External sovereignty pertains to a state's independence from external interference, recognizing that it is equal to other sovereign states in the international system.
5. **Recognition by Others:** While sovereignty is an inherent characteristic of states, international recognition by other states and the international community is often considered crucial for a state's full participation in the global arena.
6. **Equality of States:** Sovereign states are considered equal in international law, regardless of their size, population, or economic power. Each state is entitled to the same rights and protections under international law.
7. **Capacity for Diplomacy:** Sovereign states have the right to engage in diplomatic relations with other states, negotiate treaties, form alliances, and participate in international organisations.
8. **State Responsibility:** Sovereign states are responsible for their actions and policies within and beyond their borders. They are accountable for fulfilling their obligations under international law and treaties.
9. **Non-Interference:** Sovereignty includes the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. States are expected to respect each other's sovereignty and not interfere in the domestic affairs of other states without their consent or justification under international law.
10. **Potential for Statehood:** Sovereignty is a fundamental characteristic of statehood. To be recognized as a state, an entity must possess the elements of sovereignty, including a defined territory, a permanent population, a functioning government, and the capacity to conduct international relations.

Sovereignty can be challenged or limited in certain circumstances, such as when a state becomes a part of a larger political entity (e.g., federation or confederation) or voluntarily cedes certain powers to supranational organisations like the European Union. Additionally, international treaties and agreements may impose limitations on specific aspects of a state's sovereignty in the interest of promoting cooperation and global governance.

### Types of Sovereignty

1. **Legal Sovereignty:** Legal sovereignty refers to the power of the state to make rules and regulations that will be used to moderate the behaviour of people in the society.

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2. **Political Sovereignty:** This is the supreme power of the people of the state to form government that will control their affairs. It is the internal and external power to organize a stable government that controls the affairs of people.

This is exercised through organizing and conducting periodic free and fair elections.

3. **De facto Sovereignty:** This sovereignty is acquired through the use of force. In this type of sovereignty, the people that wield power may not be the rightful leaders, e.g. under military rule

4. **De Jure Sovereignty:** De jure sovereignty is acquired through constitutional provisions, like under democratic rule for instance.

5. **Internal Sovereignty:** This refers to the supreme power of the state to control the affairs of people and things within her territory.

6. **External Sovereignty:** This refers to freedom from domination, suppression and subservient by external or foreign powers.

#### **Limitations of Sovereignty in a State.**

**1. Membership of International Organisations:** The supreme power of a state is limited by the existence of international organisations such as AU, ECOWAS, UNO, OPEC which expect all their members to comply with their directives and policies which may limit the extent to which member states can exercise their sovereignty or autonomy.

**2. Inter-dependence of States:** The fact that no state is an island demands for co-operation in agriculture, commerce, technology and military to mention but a few. This interdependence limits the exercise of sovereignty of countries.

**3. International Law:** The enforcement of international law limits the exercise of sovereignty of independent states. For example, agreements, decisions and judicial declarations of International Court of Justice (ICJ) are meant to be binding on member states of the United Nations. This hinders the exercise of their sovereignty.

**4. Organized groups and associations:** These groups influence government decisions in many ways which limit the extent at which government can exercise their political power and authority. Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) are few examples of this numerous pressure groups.

**5. Public opinion:** Government gives recognition to the majority of views about issues and policies. The respect of popular view can limit the sovereignty of government.

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**6. Influence of powerful nations:** The world super powers like USA, Russia, Britain etc. can directly or indirectly limit sovereignty of a state.

**7. War:** Civil and military unrest either within or outside the state can limit the Sovereignty of a state. The rising of armed oppositions like rebels, Insurrectionists and Secessionists movements can also limit the sovereignty of a state.

Assignment

Past questions

## 6. DEMOCRACY

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Learning Objective: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain meaning of Democracy and discuss its main features
- ii. Identify the Features/Types of Democracy
- iii. Outline the Merits and Demerits of Democracy

### Meaning of Democracy

Democracy, literally, rule by the people. The term is derived from the Greek *dēmokratia*, which was coined from *dēmos* ("people") and *kratos* ("rule") in the middle of the 5th century BCE to denote the political systems then existing in some Greek city-states, notably Athens.

Democracy is derived from the Greek word *demokratia*, which means "rule by the people".

It consists of the two root words *demos*, meaning "the people," and *kratos*, meaning "power."

One belief that formed the very foundation for democracy as practiced mainly in the ancient Greek city state of Athens is the term *isonomia*, which means "equality before the law."

In other words, the rule of law was a key component of Greek democracy. And it still forms the bedrock of modern democracies around the world.

Democracy means government by the people. The term is derived from the Greek *demos*, 'people' and *kratos*, 'rule'. In a democracy, the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system. The general principle of democracy is that the majority rules. According to Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Useful contrasts can be made with oligarchies and autocracies where political authority is highly concentrated in a few person's and not subject to meaningful control by the people. While the term democracy is often used in the context of a political state, the principles are also applicable to other areas of governance, in business, in school and the home.

### Features

1. Majority Rule: The majority rules while the minority have their say. The minority forms the opposition.
2. Citizen Participation: The citizens of a country effectively participate in electing their leaders, and they make their views known.
3. Rule of Law: The law of the land, that is the constitution, is supreme or above every other law in the country and everybody is equal before the law, whether rich or poor.
4. Human Rights: The rights of the people are upheld. People's right to life, freedom of movement, association, speech and other rights are guaranteed by the constitution.
5. Free and Fair Elections: Election of the representatives of the people is free and fair. People

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are free to choose who they want as their leaders, and the process of electing leaders is fair. Elections are also regular. In Nigeria, elections are conducted every four years.

6. Separation of Powers: In a democracy, there is separation of powers between those who make laws, those who execute the laws and those who interpret and enforce the laws. Power is not concentrated in the hands of one group of people.

7. Multi-Party System: Political parties are more than one in a democracy so that people can join whatever party that suits them.

8. Press Freedom: In a democracy, the press, that is the newspapers, radio and television stations, are free to operate so that people can air their views without the fear of being molested or arrested.

#### Types of Democracy

Democracy is a form of government where the power to govern is vested in the hands of the people. There are different types of democracies, each with its unique characteristics and variations. The main types of democracy include:

1. **Direct Democracy:** In a direct democracy, citizens participate directly in decision-making and policy formulation. They have the opportunity to vote on laws and policies rather than electing representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Direct democracy is most practical in small communities or organisations.
2. **Representative Democracy:** Also known as an indirect democracy, in a representative democracy, citizens elect representatives who act on their behalf and make decisions for the country or region. These representatives may be part of legislative bodies, such as parliaments or congresses, and are accountable to the electorate. Most modern democracies are representative in nature.
3. **Parliamentary Democracy:** In a parliamentary democracy, the executive branch is composed of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, who are accountable to the legislature (parliament). The head of state may be a ceremonial figure, such as a monarch or president, while the head of government is usually the Prime Minister. The government remains in power as long as it retains the support of the majority in the parliament.
4. **Presidential Democracy:** In a presidential democracy, the executive branch is separate from the legislative branch. The President, who is the head of state and head of government, is directly elected by the people and serves a fixed term. The legislature, such as a congress or a parliament, is a separate body with its own powers.
5. **Semi-Presidential Democracy:** In this system, there are both a President and a Prime Minister. The President is the head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of

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government. The roles and powers of the President and Prime Minister may vary depending on the country, and this type of democracy combines elements of both presidential and parliamentary systems.

6. **Constitutional Democracy:** A constitutional democracy is characterized by a written or unwritten constitution that sets out the basic principles, rules, and limitations of government power. The constitution often includes protections of individual rights and liberties, and the government operates within the framework defined by the constitution.
7. **Liberal Democracy:** A liberal democracy is a form of representative democracy that emphasizes the protection of individual rights and liberties, the rule of law, and the limitation of government power. It typically includes constitutional protections for minority rights, freedom of speech, and an independent judiciary.
8. **Social Democracy:** Social democracy combines elements of a market economy with a welfare state. It aims to balance free-market capitalism with social policies to promote social equality, provide a safety net for citizens, and address social inequalities.

### Merits and Demerits of Democracy

#### **MERITS OF DEMOCRACY:**

1. The participation of the individual members in the government facilitates enlisting their sympathy and cooperation to the success of the government.
2. It is an effective form to educate the public about political, economic and social affairs.
3. It is helpful to promote patriotism among the people and prevents the occurrence of violent revolutions.
4. It helps to make progress and development and enables changes to take place in a peaceful manner.
5. It ensures the people freedom of speech, conscience, assembly and action.
6. It guarantees liberty and equality, which are necessary for human development.
7. In a democracy, the rights and interests of every section of the people in a democratic state are adequately safeguarded. It can command the resources of all because it stands for the benefit of all.
8. It broadens the vision of all, neutralizing the inherent selfish tendencies of the human mind.
9. It offers a huge personal privilege to every citizen of the land and stands against any suppression of thought, speech or association.
10. The greatest virtue of democracy is that it stands for the unfettered development of the human spirit and free expression of the human mind.

#### **DEMERITS OF DEMOCRACY:**

1. It sometimes leads to establish the majority view over the minority view.
2. Party leaders and political office holders in government control the citizens and the members of the party.

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3. It does not encourage individuals to give their opinions.
4. It is a very expensive form of government because elections have to be conducted periodically to the various office.
5. It is difficult to prevent corruption and malpractices.
6. It is also known as government by amateurs and lead to the domination of the masses.
7. The decision-making process is slow in democracy as it involves long debates and deliberations in Parliament.
8. Self-discipline, a good conscience, and intellect are pre-requisites for every citizen to have a successful democratic society.
9. Self-interest is the most common and a majority of the people is unwilling to subordinate it to the general will of the community.
10. Democracy has been characterized by these critics as mobocracy, it produces quantity rather than quality. This rule of the majority has at times proved to be the most incompetent and worthless.

The world has been experimenting with so many systems of government, but no other system could satisfy the basic needs of the people. So, democracy has been accepted as the best form of government where a man can really enjoy equality of opportunity, liberty, and freedom.

Assignment: Past questions

Week 7MID- TERM TEST/BREAK

## 8. POLITICAL CULTURE AND POLITICAL SOCIALISATION

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Learning Objective: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain political culture – outline the components of political culture.
- ii. Discuss political socialisation
- iii. Identify the agents of political socialisation.

### Meaning of Political Culture

Political culture refers to the attitudes, patterns, beliefs, values and skills that are current in an entire population. Therefore, the Nigerian political culture can be said to be the beliefs, values and attitudes that Nigerians share in common as regards their political views. It is the general orientation of people to their politics.

Political culture is the beliefs, attitudes, customs etc. of a particular society as reflected towards politics. It is an aspect of culture but with particular reference to the political aspects of life.

It is the set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments that give order and meaning to a political process and provides underlying assumptions and rules that govern the behaviour in a political system. It deals with the evolution of the political ideals and norms of the society.

Political culture encapsulates what people of a country perceive about power, its acquisition and uses; authority and its agents; the standard for legitimating political elites; system/process of conflict resolution with the systems etc.

### Components of Political Culture

1. Cognitive elements: this refers to knowledge about the political object/system, which could be accurate or otherwise. It includes knowledge about the roles of persons occupying official positions, the history of the country. Its size, location and constitutional arrangement.
2. Affective elements: this refers to the feelings of involvement, attachment, rejection etc. about the political object/system. Do people take pride in their nation? Are they loyal? Do they participate actively or are they alienated? It basically refers to the feeling of commitment or alienation from the political system.
3. Evaluative elements: this refers to judgement and opinions about political objects/systems which usually involve applying value standards to political objects and events. It involves the ability of the citizens to assess the performance of the political system, its institutions, leaders, policies and programs.

### Political Socialisation

Political Socialisation is the acquisition by an individual of behavioural dispositions relevant to political groups, political systems and political processes. Levine 1963

It is also a process mediated through the various agencies of society, by which an individual learns politically relevant attitudinal dispositions and behavioural patterns. Babawale 1999

It is the process of induction into political culture. Almond 1960

It involves all political learning formal and informal deliberate and unplanned at every stage of the life cycle including not only explicitly political learning but also nominally non-political learning that affects

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political behaviour, such as learning of politically relevant social attitudes, and the acquisition of politically relevant personality characteristics. Greenstein 1968

Political socialisation is the process through which a society transmits its political culture and the members of the society also acquire their political view. Hence, a child or adult acquire attitudes, beliefs and judgement through political socialisation. The beliefs may be negative or positive.

#### **Agents of Political Socialisation**

1. **The Family:** A child's first contact with an authority figure occurs in the home. They also tend to imitate their parents on many instances, including politics. Hence, children copy their political orientation from their parents before they start mixing with other groups like those in school and their peer groups. The differences that exist within the families that make up the society gives birth to the variance in the political values and perception within a political system.
2. **The School:** The school is able to play the role of political socialisation through the school curriculum. Subjects taught in school like civic, government, political science and history help students to know about the past, the structures and systems of government etc. All these help in making the students to become politically educated and relevant in their societies. The teacher also plays a crucial role in the school system, as his/her mannerisms, disposition and ideologies would go a long way in influencing the student's political orientation. The level of one's education influences one's perception and attitude towards the political system.
3. **The Peer Group:** One's peer group refers to people one has a cordial relationship with and with whom one exchanges information and views on various issues, which could be political or otherwise. Peer groups provide information about the political system and help youths to form their political attitude. The need to belong usually make people of the same peer group to adopt their political beliefs and perspectives. The peer group modifies and changes the perspectives of its members.
4. **The Mass Media:** The media plays an important role as an agent of political socialisation. They provide new viewpoints that may lead to changes in behaviour. For example, television broadcasts, newspaper reviews, publications on the internet etc., all create political awareness in the people. The government also use the mass media to disseminate information to the public. The norms and political beliefs of a particular society are also not just taught by the mass media but also reinforced by them.
5. **Political Parties:** political parties influence the political activities of the people, as they educate the people on their needs and how to achieve them. The process of articulating the needs of the people by the political parties heightens political awareness among them.
6. **Pressure Groups:** They provide information on the rights and privileges of its members and their duty to the state. This is achieved through conferences, workshops and seminars.

Assignment

Past questions

## 9. COMMUNISM; FEUDALISM; CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM

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Topic: Communism; Feudalism; Capitalism and Socialism.

Learning Objective: At the end of the lesson students should be able to:

- i. Explain communalism/its features.
- ii. Describe feudalism, its features and the merits and demerits.
- iii. Discuss capitalism, its essential features; and the merits and demerits.
- iv. Analyse the term socialism, its features, merits and demerits.

### **Communalism and Its Features, Merits and Demerits.**

Communalism is a political ideology or social phenomenon characterized by strong allegiance and loyalty to one's religious, ethnic, or cultural community, often at the expense of broader national or societal unity. It is prevalent in societies where deep-rooted religious or ethnic divisions exist, and it can have both positive and negative impacts on a country's social fabric and political landscape. Here are the features, merits, and demerits of communalism:

#### **Features of Communalism:**

1. **Group identity:** Communalism emphasizes the importance of religious or ethnic identity over other social or individual identities. People are encouraged to identify strongly with their religious or communal group, leading to a sense of "us" versus "them" mentality.
2. **Religious or ethnic polarization:** Communalism often results in the polarization of society along religious or ethnic lines. This can lead to heightened tensions and conflicts between different groups, as well as a breakdown in inter-community relationships.
3. **Political instrumentalization:** Communalism is sometimes used as a tool by politicians to advance their agendas. They exploit religious or ethnic differences to gain support from their respective communities, leading to the manipulation of communal sentiments for political gain.
4. **Communal violence:** In extreme cases, communalism can lead to violent clashes between different religious or ethnic groups. These conflicts can cause significant loss of life and property and have long-lasting impacts on society.
5. **Discrimination and marginalization:** Communalism can lead to discrimination against certain religious or ethnic groups. This can manifest in various forms, including economic marginalization, social exclusion, and unequal access to resources and opportunities.
6. **Communal organisations:** Communalism often involves the presence of communal organisations that advocate for the interests of specific religious or ethnic groups. These organisations may have varying degrees of influence on society and politics.
7. **Identity politics:** Communalism is closely related to the concept of identity politics, where political actions and decisions are driven by the interests and perspectives of specific identity groups rather than broader societal concerns.
8. **Cultural preservation and pride:** While communalism can have negative consequences, some proponents view it as a means of preserving their cultural heritage and maintaining a sense of community pride.

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9. **Impact on national unity:** Communalism can pose a threat to national unity and social cohesion in countries with diverse populations. It can lead to the fragmentation of society and hinder efforts to build a cohesive and inclusive nation.

#### Feudalism and its Features

Feudalism was a social, economic, and political system that emerged during the Middle Ages in Europe and other parts of the world. It was characterized by a hierarchical structure where power and land ownership were concentrated in the hands of a few powerful individuals, often the king or monarch at the top, who granted land to nobles in exchange for military and other services. Here are the key features, merits, and demerits of feudalism:

**Feudal Hierarchy:** Feudalism had a strict hierarchical structure with the king or monarch at the top, followed by nobles and vassals. At the bottom were the peasants or serfs, who worked the land and were bound to it.

**Land Ownership:** Land was the primary source of wealth and power in feudal societies. The king would grant parcels of land (fiefs) to nobles in exchange for their loyalty, military service, and other obligations. **Feudal Obligations:** Nobles (vassals) owed certain obligations to their lord (the king or another higher-ranking noble) in return for their fiefs. These obligations could include military service, monetary payments, and providing counsel to the lord.

**Manorial System:** Feudalism was closely associated with the manorial system, where the lord owned large estates and the peasants (serfs) worked the land in exchange for protection and a share of the produce.

**Decentralization of Power:** Feudalism was characterized by a decentralized political structure, where power was fragmented among various lords and nobles, each ruling over their own territory.

#### Merits of Feudalism:

**Social Order:** Feudalism provided a stable social structure during a time of political instability and invasions. It offered a clear hierarchy and roles for individuals, contributing to a sense of order.

**Military Protection:** The feudal system was built on mutual obligations, and one of the key benefits was the provision of military protection. Vassals were expected to defend their lord's territory in times of conflict.

**Economic Self-Sufficiency:** In a time when long-distance trade and communication were challenging, the manorial system within feudalism provided a self-sufficient economic model. Each manor was capable of producing its own food, goods, and services, reducing the dependency on external resources.

**Cultural and Artistic Patronage:** Feudal lords were often patrons of the arts, supporting the development of literature, architecture, and various forms of artistic expression. This patronage helped preserve and promote cultural heritage and intellectual pursuits.

**Land distribution and agricultural productivity:** Feudalism was built around the concept of land ownership, and the fief system allowed for the efficient distribution of land among vassals. This system encouraged agricultural productivity as vassals had the incentive to maximize the output of their land to generate wealth for themselves and their lords.

**Decentralization and local governance:** Feudalism was characterized by a hierarchical structure of power, with the king or monarch at the top and various vassals (nobles or lords) beneath them. This decentralized system allowed for local governance and administration, which could be more responsive to the needs of the people at the community level.

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#### Demerits of Feudalism

**Political instability:** While feudalism offered local governance and protection, it also led to political fragmentation. The decentralization of power and constant competition among feudal lords often resulted in conflicts and power struggles. This instability hindered broader cooperation and hindered the ability to address larger societal issues effectively.

**Limited economic growth:** The feudal system's focus on agriculture and land ownership limited economic growth and technological advancement. The lack of incentives for innovation and entrepreneurship hindered economic development and progress.

**Lack of centralized law and order:** The absence of a strong centralized authority meant that law enforcement and the administration of justice were often inconsistent and dependent on local lords. This situation could lead to varying interpretations of law and punishment, creating further inequality and uncertainty.

**Impediment to cultural and intellectual progress:** Feudal societies often prioritized military prowess and practical skills over cultural and intellectual pursuits. As a result, the advancement of arts, sciences, and education was stifled, hindering societal progress.

**Limited access to education and knowledge:** Education and knowledge were often restricted to the upper classes in feudal society. Serfs had little to no access to education, which perpetuated a lack of social mobility and kept the majority of the population in a state of ignorance and dependency.

#### Capitalism

Capitalism is an economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production, the pursuit of profit, and the role of the market in allocating resources.

Capitalism is an economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production, profit motive, and free market exchange. It has been the dominant economic system in many parts of the world, particularly in Western societies.

#### Features of Capitalism

**Private ownership of resources:** In a capitalist system, most of the resources, such as land, capital, and enterprises, are privately owned by individuals or corporations rather than being owned or controlled by the government.

**Market-driven economy:** Capitalism relies on market forces, such as supply and demand, to determine prices, production levels, and resource allocation. Prices are set by the interaction of buyers and sellers in a free market, and businesses respond to consumer demand to maximize profits.

**Profit motive:** One of the central tenets of capitalism is the pursuit of profit. Individuals and businesses seek to generate profits by producing goods and services that are in demand and selling them at a price higher than the cost of production.

**Competition:** Capitalism fosters competition among businesses. Multiple firms producing similar goods or services compete for market share, which leads to improved efficiency, innovation, and lower prices for consumers.

**Minimal government intervention:** Capitalism generally favors limited government interference in economic affairs. The role of the government is mainly to ensure a functioning legal framework, protect property rights, and enforce contracts. The idea is that minimal regulation allows markets to operate freely and efficiently.

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**Free enterprise and entrepreneurship:** Capitalism encourages individuals to start businesses and take risks to create wealth. Entrepreneurs play a vital role in driving economic growth, introducing new products and services, and creating job opportunities.

**Economic individualism:** Capitalism places a strong emphasis on individual rights and economic freedom. Individuals are free to make their economic decisions, including where to work, what to produce, and how to spend their income.

**Voluntary exchange:** Transactions in a capitalist system are based on voluntary exchange, where both parties agree to engage in trade because they believe it benefits them. This principle ensures that economic interactions are consensual and mutually beneficial.

**Profit and loss mechanism:** Capitalism uses the profit and loss mechanism as a feedback loop for the allocation of resources. Successful businesses that generate profits are encouraged to expand, while inefficient or unprofitable enterprises face losses and may exit the market.

**Division of labor and specialization:** Capitalism encourages the division of labor, where individuals and businesses focus on specific tasks or industries, leading to specialization. This specialization enhances productivity and efficiency in the economy.

#### Merits

**Economic efficiency:** Capitalism encourages competition among businesses, leading to greater efficiency in the allocation of resources. Firms are incentivized to produce goods and services at lower costs, which benefits consumers through lower prices and a wider variety of products.

**Innovation and technological advancement:** Capitalism fosters a climate of innovation and entrepreneurship. In pursuit of profits, businesses are driven to develop new technologies, products, and services, which can lead to advancements that improve overall living standards and drive economic progress.

**Individual freedom and choice:** Capitalism emphasizes economic individualism, allowing individuals the freedom to make their own economic decisions. People have the liberty to choose their occupations, invest in businesses, and engage in voluntary exchanges, giving them more control over their economic destinies.

**Job creation and employment opportunities:** As businesses grow and expand in a capitalist system, they create job opportunities, reducing unemployment and providing individuals with the means to support themselves and their families.

**Higher standard of living:** Capitalism has historically been associated with higher standards of living for many people. The pursuit of profit and economic growth can lead to increased prosperity, better infrastructure, and improved access to goods and services.

and demerits.

**Economic diversity:** Capitalism encourages a diverse range of industries and businesses to develop, catering to different needs and preferences. This diversity helps to ensure a more resilient and adaptable economy.

**Mobility and social progress:** Capitalism, when functioning properly, can provide opportunities for social mobility. Hard work, ingenuity, and entrepreneurial spirit can allow individuals to improve their socioeconomic status and break free from the constraints of their birth circumstances.

**Efficient resource allocation:** Capitalism relies on the price mechanism to allocate resources, making sure that goods and services are produced based on consumer demand. When prices fluctuate, businesses adjust their production and resource allocation accordingly.

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**Incentive for productivity:** The profit motive in capitalism incentivizes individuals and businesses to be productive and efficient. Success is rewarded with higher profits, encouraging continuous improvement and growth.

**Peaceful cooperation:** Capitalism fosters voluntary exchange and cooperation between individuals and businesses. By engaging in mutually beneficial transactions, people can achieve their desired outcomes without resorting to force or coercion.

#### Demerits of Capitalism

**Income inequality:** Capitalism can lead to significant income and wealth disparities. As wealth accumulates in the hands of a few successful individuals or corporations, others may struggle to meet their basic needs, resulting in a widening wealth gap.

**Exploitation of labour:** In pursuit of profits, some businesses may exploit their workers by offering low wages, poor working conditions, or limited benefits. This can lead to labor rights violations and a lack of job security for many workers.

**Boom and bust cycles:** Capitalist economies are prone to cycles of boom and bust, characterized by periods of economic growth and prosperity followed by recessions or financial crises. These fluctuations can result in economic instability and uncertainty for individuals and businesses.

**Short-term focus:** The profit motive in capitalism can encourage a short-term focus on maximizing immediate gains rather than long-term sustainability and social responsibility. This may lead to the neglect of environmental concerns and other societal issues.

**Consumerism and overconsumption:** Capitalism's emphasis on consumption and economic growth can lead to a culture of overconsumption, which may contribute to environmental degradation and resource depletion.

**Monopoly and market concentration:** In some cases, capitalism can lead to the formation of monopolies or oligopolies, where a few dominant firms control a significant portion of the market. This concentration of market power can stifle competition and limit consumer choices.

**Externalities and social costs:** Capitalism may not fully account for externalities, such as environmental pollution and social costs. Some activities that generate profits for businesses may impose negative effects on society, which are not always adequately addressed in market transactions.

**Lack of access to basic needs:** In a purely market-driven capitalist system, access to essential goods and services, such as healthcare, education, and housing, may be limited for those with lower incomes or financial vulnerabilities.

**Speculation and financialization:** Capitalism can lead to excessive speculation and financialization, where financial activities become disconnected from real economic productivity. This may contribute to financial bubbles and economic instability.

**Erosion of social bonds:** Critics argue that capitalism's focus on individual pursuit of self-interest can lead to a decline in social bonds and a sense of community. The emphasis on competition over cooperation may erode social cohesion and mutual support.

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## Government

### Socialism

Socialism is a political and economic theory advocating for collective or government ownership and control of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. The central idea behind socialism is to create a more equitable and just society by reducing economic inequality, providing social services to all citizens, and ensuring that essential resources are managed for the benefit of the entire population rather than for the profit of a few.

### Features

**Public Ownership:** In a socialist system, key industries, such as healthcare, education, transportation, and often major means of production like factories and utilities, are owned and operated by the state or the community, rather than by private individuals or corporations.

**Income Redistribution:** Socialism aims to reduce income and wealth disparities by implementing progressive taxation, which means higher earners pay a larger share of their income in taxes to fund public services and support those with lower incomes.

**Social Safety Nets:** Socialism places a strong emphasis on social welfare programs, providing a safety net for citizens in the form of healthcare, education, housing, and other essential services. This helps ensure that basic needs are met for everyone.

**Planned Economy:** Some forms of socialism advocate for central planning of the economy, where the government plays a significant role in setting production goals, allocating resources, and determining economic priorities.

**Worker's Rights:** Socialism often seeks to empower workers by giving them a say in decision-making within their workplaces and ensuring fair wages and working conditions.

### Merits

**Reduced Income Inequality:** Socialism aims to address income disparities by implementing progressive taxation and wealth redistribution, which can help create a more equitable distribution of resources and reduce extreme wealth concentration.

**Universal Access to Essential Services:** Socialism emphasizes providing essential services like healthcare, education, and social welfare as basic rights, ensuring that all citizens have access to these services regardless of their economic status.

**Social Safety Nets:** Socialist policies often create robust social safety nets that protect vulnerable members of society, such as the unemployed, elderly, and disabled, reducing poverty and ensuring a basic standard of living for everyone.

**Worker Empowerment:** Socialism promotes worker rights and may involve measures like workplace democracy, where employees have a say in decision-making and a share in the benefits of their labour.

**Reduced Exploitation:** Advocates of socialism argue that it can help prevent the exploitation of workers by curbing the power of capitalists or business owners and providing a more balanced relationship between labour and capital.

**Stability and Planning:** Central planning in socialist economies can, in theory, lead to more stable resource allocation, preventing boom-and-bust cycles and ensuring that key industries serve the needs of the population.

**Public Control Over Key Industries:** Socialism often involves public ownership of crucial industries like healthcare, utilities, and transportation, which can prevent private monopolies, ensure fair access, and prioritize public welfare over profit.

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**Fostering Cooperation:** Socialism promotes cooperation over competition, aiming to reduce the cutthroat nature of capitalism and encourage collaboration for the collective good.

**Addressing Market Failures:** Socialism can help mitigate some market failures, such as externalities (unintended consequences of economic activity), by enabling government intervention to correct these failures and protect the environment and public health.

#### Demerits

**Inefficiency:** Centralized planning in socialist economies can lead to inefficiencies in resource allocation, production, and distribution. Lack of market-driven competition can result in less responsive and innovative industries, leading to lower overall productivity.

**Lack of Incentives:** Socialist systems may struggle to provide sufficient incentives for individuals to innovate, take risks, and excel in their fields due to the absence of strong market-based rewards. This can hinder economic growth and technological progress.

**Bureaucracy:** Centralized planning and government ownership of industries can lead to bureaucratic hurdles and slow decision-making processes. This can stifle responsiveness to changing conditions and hinder the adaptability needed in a dynamic economy.

**Shortages:** In some cases, centrally planned economies under socialism have experienced shortages of essential goods and services, as planners may struggle to accurately forecast demand or efficiently allocate resources.

**Lack of Consumer Choice:** A planned economy might limit the variety and quality of consumer goods available since decisions about what to produce may be driven more by a central plan than by consumer demand and market competition.

**Individual Freedom:** Critics argue that socialism can limit individual freedom and personal choice by giving the government significant control over various aspects of life, including economic decisions and individual property rights.

**Brain Drain:** Countries with highly socialist policies may experience a "brain drain" as talented individuals seek opportunities in more market-oriented economies where they can potentially earn higher incomes and enjoy greater individual freedoms.

**Innovation Challenges:** Socialist systems might struggle to foster the same level of technological innovation and entrepreneurship that market-driven capitalist economies often encourage.

**Dependency:** Some critics contend that socialist policies, particularly extensive social safety nets, may create a culture of dependency on government support rather than encouraging self-sufficiency and individual initiative.

**Suppression of Entrepreneurship:** Heavy government regulation and control can discourage entrepreneurship and small business growth, limiting the ability of individuals to start and develop their own enterprises.

Assignment: Past questions

## 10. COMMUNISM; FASCISM AND OLIGARCHY

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Learning Objectives: At the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- i. Explain the term communism/its principles
- ii. Relate communism with socialism
- iii. Describe fascism and outline the characteristics of fascism.
- iv. Discuss the term Totalitarianism and identify its essential features.
- v. Describe oligarchy and outline its characteristics.

### Communism and its Principles

Communism is a socio-political and economic ideology that envisions a classless, stateless society in which the means of production and resources are collectively owned and controlled, and the distribution of goods and services is based on the principle of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs." Communism is often associated with the works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who outlined its principles in various writings, most notably "The Communist Manifesto" (1848).

### Key principles of communism include:

**Classless Society:** Communism aims to eliminate social classes, such as the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) and the proletariat (working class). The goal is to create a society where everyone is equal, without the hierarchical divisions that characterize class-based societies.

**Common Ownership:** Communism advocates for the common ownership of the means of production, including land, factories, and resources. This means that there is no private ownership of productive property, and the control over these resources is in the hands of the community or the state, representing the interests of the working class.

**Abolition of Private Property:** Communism seeks to abolish private property in the means of production, emphasizing the collective ownership of these resources for the benefit of all, rather than for the profit of individuals or a privileged class.

**Central Planning:** In many forms of communism, central planning is used to coordinate production, distribution, and resource allocation. This planning is intended to ensure that goods and services are produced based on the needs of the population, rather than being determined by market forces.

**Common Welfare:** Communism emphasizes the well-being of the entire community over individual gain. The principle of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs" reflects this focus on providing for everyone based on their needs, without regard for their individual contributions.

**Internationalism:** Communism often emphasizes the importance of international solidarity among the working class. It envisions a world where national borders and divisions are transcended, and the interests of the global working class take precedence over nationalistic or imperialistic agendas.

**Transition to Communism:** Communism acknowledges the need for a transitional phase, often referred to as the "dictatorship of the proletariat," during which the working class holds political power and works to establish the conditions necessary for the eventual realization of a fully communist society.

### Relationship between Communism and Socialism

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Communism and socialism are closely related ideologies, often discussed in the context of each other due to their shared roots and similar goals. While they share certain principles and aims, there are also important differences between the two. Here's an overview of the relationship between communism and socialism:

#### **Shared Principles:**

Both communism and socialism advocate for a more equitable and just society that addresses the inequalities and exploitative nature of capitalist systems. They emphasize the need to reduce wealth disparities, provide essential services to all citizens, and ensure that resources are distributed for the collective good.

#### **Ownership and Control:**

Both ideologies advocate for collective ownership and control of key industries, resources, and means of production. This involves transferring control from private individuals or corporations to the community, the state, or the working class.

#### **Transition Phase:**

Both communism and socialism recognize the need for a transitional phase between capitalism and their ideal societies. This phase is often referred to as the "dictatorship of the proletariat" or the "transitional state," during which the working class holds political power and works toward the establishment of a classless society. This phase is seen as necessary to overcome the resistance of the former capitalist class and to reshape the existing social and economic structures.

#### **Differences:**

The main differences between communism and socialism lie in their goals, strategies, and the extent of government control:

**End Goal:** The ultimate goal of communism is a stateless and classless society where resources are distributed based on needs and there is no private property. Socialism, on the other hand, can have varying degrees of state control over resources and production, and it may not necessarily aim for the complete elimination of the state or private property.

**Government Control:** Communism envisions a society without government, where the people collectively make decisions and govern themselves. In socialism, especially in its more authoritarian forms, the government plays a more active role in managing the economy and public services.

**Economic Approach:** Communism often involves complete central planning of the economy, where all economic decisions are made collectively. Socialism can encompass a range of economic models, from centralized planning to mixed economies that combine state control with market mechanisms.

**Individual Freedom:** Some forms of socialism, particularly democratic socialism, aim to preserve individual liberties and democratic institutions while advocating for a fairer distribution of wealth. Communism, especially in its more radical interpretations, may place a stronger emphasis on the collective good over individual freedoms.

#### **Fascism and its Characteristics**

Fascism is a far-right political ideology characterized by authoritarianism, extreme nationalism, and the suppression of dissenting viewpoints. Developed in the early 20th century, fascism gained prominence in several countries, most notably Italy under Benito Mussolini and Germany under Adolf Hitler. While there can be variations in its expression, fascism generally exhibits the following characteristics:

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1. **Authoritarianism:** Fascist regimes are highly centralized and led by a single charismatic leader who exercises significant authority and control over all aspects of government and society. Individual freedoms and democratic institutions are often suppressed in favor of centralized power.
2. **Ultra-Nationalism:** Fascism promotes an intense and often aggressive form of nationalism, emphasizing the superiority of the nation or ethnic group to which it is directed. This can lead to xenophobia, racism, and the belief in the superiority of one's own culture.
3. **Totalitarianism:** Fascist governments seek to control all aspects of public and private life, including the economy, education, media, and cultural expression. The goal is to create a tightly controlled society where dissent is marginalized and suppressed.
4. **Militarism:** Fascist ideologies often glorify military strength, advocating for a strong military as a means of demonstrating national power and expanding influence. Wars and conquests are sometimes pursued to achieve these goals.
5. **Anti-Communism and Anti-Socialism:** Fascism vehemently opposes left-wing ideologies such as communism and socialism, viewing them as threats to the existing social order. Fascist regimes have historically targeted and persecuted left-wing groups and labor unions.
6. **Hierarchy and Elitism:** Fascist societies tend to emphasize a strict hierarchy, where certain groups or classes are deemed superior to others. This can manifest as economic inequality and the concentration of power in the hands of a small elite.
7. **Racial Purity and Eugenics:** Some fascist ideologies emphasize the importance of racial purity and advocate for eugenics, promoting the idea of a "master race." This can lead to discriminatory policies against minority groups and even genocide, as seen in the Holocaust during Nazi rule.
8. **Cult of Personality:** Fascist leaders often cultivate a cult of personality, presenting themselves as strong and infallible leaders who embody the nation's greatness. Propaganda and symbols are used to reinforce their authority.
9. **Suppressive Propaganda:** Fascist regimes use propaganda to manipulate public opinion, promote their ideology, and create a sense of unity among the population. This can involve controlling media, disseminating misinformation, and demonizing perceived enemies.
10. **Aggressive Expansionism:** Historically, fascist regimes have pursued aggressive expansionist policies, seeking to increase their territory, influence, and power through conquest and militarism.

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### **Totalitarianism and its features.**

Totalitarianism is a form of political system or governance in which the state exercises complete control over virtually all aspects of public and private life, leaving little room for individual freedoms, dissent, or alternative political ideologies. Totalitarian regimes typically seek to shape and control the beliefs, behaviors, and institutions of society to conform to the ruling ideology or the vision of the ruling party or leader. Here are some key features of totalitarianism:

1. **Centralized Authority:** Totalitarian regimes concentrate power in the hands of a single leader, a small ruling elite, or a single political party. This concentration of authority allows the government to make decisions with minimal checks and balances.
2. **State Control of Economy:** Totalitarian governments often exert significant control over economic activities, including the means of production, distribution, and resource allocation. This control may manifest through state ownership of key industries, centralized planning, and strict regulations.
3. **Ideological Homogeneity:** Totalitarian states promote a single official ideology or worldview. Opposition or alternative ideologies are suppressed or eliminated. This ideological uniformity is enforced through propaganda, censorship, and indoctrination.
4. **Suppression of Individual Liberties:** Totalitarian regimes curtail individual freedoms such as freedom of speech, press, assembly, and association. Citizens are often limited in expressing dissenting opinions or engaging in political activities outside the scope of the ruling ideology.
5. **State-Controlled Media:** Totalitarian governments heavily control or manipulate media outlets to disseminate propaganda and promote the official narrative. Independent or critical media are usually suppressed.
6. **Secret Police and Surveillance:** Totalitarian regimes maintain extensive intelligence and security apparatuses to monitor and control citizens. Secret police and surveillance systems are used to detect and suppress dissent.

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7. **Restricted Mobility:** Totalitarian states may limit citizens' ability to travel freely within and outside the country. This restriction on movement helps prevent potential dissent and hinders the spread of information from outside sources.

8. **One-Party Rule:** Many totalitarian systems are characterized by a single dominant political party that effectively monopolizes political power. Opposition parties are either banned, marginalized, or controlled by the ruling party.

9. **Use of Propaganda:** Totalitarian governments employ propaganda extensively to shape public opinion, glorify the regime, and vilify perceived enemies. Propaganda is used to maintain loyalty and justify government actions.

10. **Cult of Personality:** In some cases, totalitarian leaders cultivate a cult of personality, portraying themselves as indispensable and infallible figures. This promotes loyalty to the leader and reinforces the perception of the regime's authority.

Totalitarianism can have severe negative consequences for human rights, democracy, and individual autonomy. It has been associated with some of the most oppressive regimes in history, and efforts to counteract it often focus on promoting democratic governance, protecting human rights, and ensuring the rule of law.

Oligarchy is a form of government where power is held by a small group of individuals, often wealthy elites, nobles, or military officers. This group makes decisions on behalf of the society, often prioritizing their own interests over the needs and welfare of the general population.

Characteristics of Oligarchy:

### I. Concentration of Power

- Power is held by a small, privileged group
- Decision-making authority is restricted to this group

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### II. Limited Representation

- The interests of the ruling group are prioritized over those of the general population
- Little to no representation for the common people

### III. Economic Inequality

- Wealth and resources are concentrated among the ruling group
- Economic opportunities are limited for the general population

### IV. Restricted Social Mobility

- Social mobility is limited, making it difficult for individuals to move up the social ladder
- The ruling group maintains its power and privilege

### V. Suppression of Opposition

- Opposition to the ruling group is often suppressed or discouraged
- Dissent may be met with punishment or repression

### VI. Lack of Accountability

- The ruling group is often unaccountable to the general population
- Little to no transparency in decision-making processes

### VII. Preservation of Privilege

- The ruling group works to maintain its power, privilege, and status quo
- Changes that threaten their power are often resisted or suppressed.

### Definitions of Oligarchy:

1. Aristotle's "Politics": "Oligarchy is a form of government in which power is held by a few individuals, who are wealthy and influential, and who rule in their own interests."

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2. John Locke's "Second Treatise of Government": "Oligarchy is a form of government where power is concentrated in the hands of a few, who are not accountable to the people."

3. Montesquieu's "The Spirit of the Laws": "Oligarchy is a government in which a small number of persons, who are united by their interests, hold the reins of power."

4. Robert Dahl's "Who Governs?": "Oligarchy is a system of government in which power is held by a small group of individuals who are not accountable to the broader population."

5. Gaetano Mosca's "The Ruling Class": "Oligarchy is a form of government in which power is held by a dominant class or group, which uses its power to maintain its own privileges and interests."

6. C. Wright Mills' "The Power Elite": "Oligarchy is a system of power in which a small group of individuals, who are drawn from the top of the social hierarchy, hold dominant power and influence over the broader population."

Assignment

Past questions.