

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

This syllabus aims at assessing the candidates' ability to

- (a) define the concepts of Government and show their understanding of its principles, institutions and processes.
- (b) recognize their role as informed citizens and their contributions towards the achievement of national development.
- (c) evaluate the successes, failures and problems of governments in West Africa.
- (d) analyze the constitutional developments and processes of colonial and post - independent government.
- (e) appreciate the role of their country as a member of the international community.

### **SCHEME OF EXAMINATIONS**

There will be two papers – Paper 1 and 2, both of which will make a composite paper to be taken at one sitting..

PAPER 1: This will be a 1 hour multiple choice objective test consisting of fifty questions drawn from the entire syllabus. The paper shall carry 40 marks

PAPER 2: This will be a 2 hour essay type test consisting of two sections, Sections A and B. The paper shall carry 60 marks.

#### **Section A: Elements of Government**

This shall contain five questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any two.

#### **Section B: Political And Constitutional Developments in West Africa and International Relations**

This shall contain five questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any two.

## **DETAILED SYLLABUS**

### **SECTION A: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT**

#### **1. MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER – GOVERNMENT**

- (i) Government as an institution of the state  
Definition of state, features, structure and functions.
- (ii) Government as a process or art or governing.
- (iii) Government as an academic field of study – reasons for studying government.

#### **2. BASIC CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT**

- (i) Basic concepts – State, \*Society, \*Nation, Power, Authority, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, Democracy, Political Culture and Socialization, Communalism, Feudalism and oligarchy, \*Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Fascism, Aristocracy, Totalitarianism.  
Meaning and features.
- (ii) Basic principles – Rule of Law, Fundamental Human Rights, Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances, Constitutionalism, Political participation, Representative Government, Centralization and Decentralization – (Delegated Legislation, Devolution and Decentralization).

#### **3. CONSTITUTIONS**

- (i) Definition and Sources
- (ii) Functions
- (iii) Types and Features , (Written and Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible).

#### **4. ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT**

The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary – Judicial Independence. (Types, Structure, Composition/membership; Functions; powers and limitations).

#### **5. STATE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT**

- (a) Types - Unitary, Federal, Confederal, Presidential or Non-parliamentary, Parliamentary or Cabinet, Monarchical and Republican.  
Meaning, types, features, merits and demerits.

**6. CITIZENSHIP**

Meaning, mode of acquisition, rights, duties and obligations of individuals in the state.

Means of safeguarding rights of citizens.

**7. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS**

(i) Political Parties – definition, organization/structure, and functions.

(ii) Party Systems – definition, types, merits and demerits.

**8. PRESSURE GROUPS, PUBLIC OPINION AND MASS MEDIA**

(i) Pressure Groups – definition, types, mode of operation and functions;

(ii) Public opinion – definition, formation, Measurement and importance;

(iii) Mass Media – definition, roles and impact.

**9. THE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, PROCESSES AND ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODY**

(a) Electoral Systems and Processes

(i) Election- Meaning and purpose of elections.

(ii) Franchise – meaning, and limitations.

(iii) Types, advantages and disadvantages of Electoral Systems.

(b) Electoral Management Body – definition, functions, problems/constraints.

**10. PUBLIC/CIVIL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION**

(i) Public/Civil Service – Meaning, Structure, Characteristics and Functions.

(ii) Public/Civil Service Commission –meaning and Functions.

(iii) Public Corporations – definition, purposes, functions, control, challenges, need for commercialization and privatization.

(iv) Local Governments – Meaning, structure, Purposes, Functions, Sources of revenue, control and problems.

**11. PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- (a) Nigeria - Hausa/Fulani, the Yoruba and the Igbo.
- (b) Ghana - The Akan and the Talensi.
- (c) Sierra Leone - The Mende and Temme.
- (d) The Gambia - The Wolof, Mandingo and Jola.
- (e) Liberia - The Vai and the Kru.

- (i) The Policy and Structure of the British Colonial Administration – Crown Colony, Protectorate and Indirect Rule.
- (ii) The Policy of French Colonial Administration – Assimilation and Association (Loi Cadre).
- (iii) Impact, Advantages and disadvantages of Colonial Rule.

- (i) Nationalism: Meaning, factors and effects.
- (ii) Key Nationalist leaders/movements and their contributions.

(a) Nigeria (features) - Clifford 1922  
Richards 1946  
Macpherson 1951  
Lyttleton 1954

- (b) Ghana (features, merits and demerits) - Clifford 1916  
Guggisberg 1925  
Burns 1946  
Arden Clarke 1951  
Nkrumah 1954
- (c) Sierra Leone (features, merits and demerits) - Slatter 1924  
Stevenson 1947  
Beresford Stooke 1951  
The 1956 and 1958  
Constitutions.
- (d) The Gambia (features, merits and demerits) - The 1947, 1951,  
1954, 1960, 1962 and 1963  
Constitutions.

(ii) Post-Independence Constitutions – Features

- (a) Nigeria - Independence Constitution, 1960  
Republican Constitution 1963  
The 1979 and 1989 Constitutions  
1999 Constitution - Origin, features, strengths and  
Weaknesses.
- (b) Ghana - Independence Constitution, 1957  
Republican Constitution 1960  
2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1969  
3<sup>rd</sup> Republican Constitution 1979  
4<sup>th</sup> Republican Constitutions 1992.
- (c) Sierra Leone – Independence Constitution 1961  
Republican Constitution 1971  
The 1978 and 1991 Constitutions,
- (d) The Gambia - Independence Constitution 1965  
Republican Constitution 1970.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1997
- (e) Liberia - Independence/Republican Constitution 1947  
2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1985

**15. DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Formation, Objectives, Sources of Finance, Achievements and Failures

**16. MILITARY RULE IN THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.**

- Nigeria
- Ghana;
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Causes, effects and various military regimes.

**17. FEDERAL/UNITARY SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT IN WEST AFRICA**

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Origin, Factors, Structure, Features and Problems

**18. FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- Nigeria
- Ghana
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Definitions, Factors, objectives, advantages and disadvantages.

**19. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The United Nations Organizations (UNO),  
The Commonwealth of Nations,  
African Union (AU) - NEPAD,  
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).  
Origin, aims/objectives, achievements and problems.

## SUGGESTED READING LIST

| S/N | AUTHOR           | TITLE   |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1.  | ADU BOAHEN, A    | Ghana Evolution and Change in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
| 2.  | SHILLINGTON K.   | Ghana and the Rawlings Factor   |
| 3.  | HODGKIN T.       | African Political Parties   |
| 4.  | GARBRAH H. K.    | Foreign Policies of Major Countries, Subject Publications, New Delhi              |
| 5.  | ADDAE P. G.      | Senior Secondary School Government Bks. 1&2                                       |
| 6.  | NOFIU S. O. A.   | A – ONE in Government   |
| 7.  | ECHIEFU S. M     | Modern Government   |
| 8.  | APPADORAI A.     | The Substance of Politics   |
| 9.  | PRICE J. H.      | Political Institutions in West Africa   |
| 10. | LEEDS C. A.      | Political Studies   |
| 11. | AMOA G. Y.       | Groundwork of Government in West Africa   |
| 12. | DARE AND OYEWOLE | A Textbook of Government for Senior Secondary School                              |
| 13. | OYEDIRAN AND CO. | Government for Senior Secondary School.   |
| 14. | FRANCIS ADIGWE   | Essentials of Government  |
| 15. | DENNIS AUSTIN    | Politics in Ghana 1946-1960   |
| 16. | PRAH ISAAC       | Government for Senior Secondary School  |

\* Peculiar to Ghana only