

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
GOVERNMENT

PREAMBLE

This syllabus aims at assessing the candidate's ability to

- (a) define the concept of Government and show his understanding of its principles, institutions and processes;
- (b) recognise his role as an informed citizen and his contribution towards the achievement of national development;
- (c) evaluate the successes, failures and problems of governments in West Africa;
- (d) appreciate the role of his country as a member of the international community.

RUBRICS AND SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There will be **two** papers – Papers 1 and 2, **both** of which must be taken.

PAPER 1: This will be a one-hour multiple choice objective test consisting of fifty (50) questions drawn from the entire syllabus. The weighted contribution of this paper shall be 40%.

PAPER 2: This will be a 2½ hour essay type test consisting of two sections A and B.

SECTION A: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

This shall contain **five** (5) questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any **two** (2) only.

**SECTION B: POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN
WEST AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

This shall contain **seven** (7) questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any **three** (3) only. The weighted contribution of this paper shall be 60%.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

SECTION A: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

**1. MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER -
GOVERNMENT**

- (i) Government as an institution of the state.
- (ii) Government as a process or art of governing.
- (iii) Government as an academic field of study.

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2. BASIC CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

- (i) Basic Concepts - Power, Authority, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, Democracy, Political Culture, Political Socialization, Communalism, Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Feudalism, Fascism, Nazism, Totalitarianism, Society, State and Nation, Colonialism and Nationalism.
- (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 Deconcentration).

3. CONSTITUTIONS

- (i) Definition and sources.
- (ii) Scope.
- (iii) Types – Written and Unwritten; rigid and flexible.
- (iv) Functions.

4. TYPES/FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Unitary, Federal, Confederal, Presidential or non-parliamentary, Parliamentary or Cabinet, Monarchical and Republican.

5. ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT

The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. (Types/structure, composition/membership; functions; power and limitations).

6. CITIZENSHIP

Status, Rights, Duties and Obligations of individuals in the state.

7. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS

- (i) Political Parties - definition, organization, types and functions.
- (ii) Party Systems - definition, types and characteristics.

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8. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

- (i) Meaning, Types and Suffrage.
- (ii) Purposes of Elections.
- (iii) Organization of Elections – Features of free and fair elections; stages of elections.
- (iv) Types and characteristics of Electoral systems.
- (v) Electoral Commission – Roles or duties of electoral commissions. Problems, Organization and Characteristics.

9. PRESSURE GROUPS AND PUBLIC OPINION

- (i) Pressure Groups – definition, types, characteristics, mode of operation and functions.
- (ii) Public Opinion – definition, formation, measurement and functions.

10. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- (i) Definition of Public Administration.
- (ii) Civil Service – Meaning, Structure, Characteristics and Functions.
- (iii) The Public/Civil Service Commission – Composition and Functions.
- (iv) Public Corporations – definition, purposes, functions, organization, control and problems.
- (v) Local Governments – Meaning, Types, Purposes, Functions, Sources of Revenue, Control, Problems and Reforms.

**SECTION B: POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST AFRICA
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.**

**1. PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF CANDIDATES’
RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.**

The Structural Organization of the following:

- (a) Nigeria - Hausa/Fulani, the Yoruba and the Igbo.
- (b) Ghana - The Akan, the Ewe and the Mole Dagbani.
- (c) Sierra Leone - The Mende and Temne.

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- (d) The Gambia - The Wolof and Mandingo.
- (e) Liberia - The Vai and the Kru.

2. **COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- (i) Reasons for Colonialism.
- (ii) The policy and structure of the British Colonial Administration – Crown Colony, Protectorate and Indirect Rule.
- (iii) The policy of French Colonial Administration – Assimilation and Association.
- (iv) Chieftaincy during colonial period – status and functions.

3. **NATIONALISM IN WEST AFRICA**

- (i) Nationalism before the Second World War (Proto-nationalism) – Meaning, features and factors.
- (ii) Nationalism after the Second World War – factors, growth and effects.

4. **CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS OF CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- (i) Pre-independence Constitutions – (Background, main features, merits and demerits)
 - (a) Nigeria - Clifford 1922,
Richards 1946,
Macpherson 1951,
Lyttleton 1954.
 - (b) Ghana - Clifford 1916,
Guggisberg 1925,
Burns 1946,
Arden Clarke 1951,
Nkrumah 1954.
 - (c) Sierra Leone - Slater 1924,
Stevenson 1947,
Beresford Stooke 1951,
The 1956 and 1958 Constitutions.
 - (d) The Gambia - The 1947, 1951, 1954, 1960, 1962 and 1963
Constitutions.

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Post-independence Constitutions – (Background, main features, merits and demerits)

- (a) Nigeria - Independence Constitution 1960, Republican Constitution 1963, The 1979 and 1989 Constitutions.
- (b) Ghana - Independence Constitution 1957, Republican Constitution 1960, 2nd Republican Constitution 1969, The 1979 and 1992 Constitutions.
- (c) Sierra Leone - Independence Constitution 1961, Republican Constitution 1971, The 1978 and 1991 Constitutions.
- (d) The Gambia - Independence Constitution 1965, Republican Constitution 1970.
- (e) Liberia - Independence/Republican Constitution 1985.

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

Nigeria;

Ghana;

Sierra Leone;

The Gambia;

Liberia.

Formation, objectives, achievements and failures.

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

Nigeria;

Ghana;

Sierra Leone;

The Gambia;

Liberia.

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

Factors, Structures, Features and Problems.

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

Nigeria;

Ghana;

Sierra Leone;

The Gambia;

Liberia.

Definitions, Factors, Advantages and Disadvantages.

9. **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The United Nations Organization (UNO);

The Organization of African Unity (OAU);

The Commonwealth;

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Origin, aims/objectives, organizational structure, functions, achievements and problems.

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W.A.S.S.C.E GOVERNMENT

SUGGESTED READING LIST

| AUTHOR | TITLE |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. A. APPADORAI | The Substance of Politics |
| 2. J. H. PRICE | Political Institutions in West Africa |
| 3. C. A. LEEDS | Political Studies |
| 4. C. F. STRONG | Modern Political Institutions |
| 5. W. E. F. WARD | Government in West Africa |
| 6. G. Y. AMOAH | Groundwork of Government for West Africa |
| 7. ROBER S. JORDAN | Government and Power in West Africa |
| 8. DARE & OYEWOLE | A Textbook of Government for Senior Secondary Schools |
| 9. OYEDIRAN & OTHERS | Government for Senior Secondary Schools (Books 1 – 3) |
| 10. FRANCIS ADIGWE | Essentials of Government for West Africa |
| 11. DENNIS AUSTIN | Politics in Ghana 1946 – 1960 |
| 12. T. HODGKIN | African Political Parties |
| 13. E. A. KEAY & H. THOMAS | West African Government |