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.
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.


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.
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.


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.
(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)


(c) Sierra Leone - Slater 1924, Stevenson 1947, Beresford Stooke 1951, The 1956 and 1958 Constitutions.

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


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

## SUGGESTED READING LIST

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