NAME: MARTIN SOMTOCHUKWU CHRISTABEL

DEPARTMENT: LAW

COURSE CODE: GST 118

MATRIC NO: 19/LAW01/141

**QUESTION**

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter 8 of Temidayos D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, History and Philosophy of Science: A Brief Survey.

**ANSWER**

The socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance and the enlightenment period. It is called renaissance period because it marked a period when people started a revolution of return to their Greek heritage of using of reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the age prior to this time. However, the intellectual community at the time saw as a big threat to human happiness and survival. This became known as the classical period of romanticism. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism, and works of art and literature produced at this time were also regarded as classic. Furthermore, Russell holds that “emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism even to the point of anarchy. Discipline, intellectual, moral, and political, was associated in the minds of the men of the Renaissance with the scholastic philosophy and ecclesiastical government.

Scientific approach to things grew out of philosophical approach to issues, but science was restricted to study of natural phenomena because it was only the material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable way. This is the beginning of social sciences, especially sociology and Comte is being regarded till date as father of sociology and social sciences in general. Modelled on empirical sciences which provides it with a methodology, positivism declares false, all prepositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as metaphysical statements due to a high degree of abstract nature. There are a lot of problems with this conception of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise. These problems are observation upon which the basic justification of positivism came is laden with error. These facts include: 1. Observation are concept-laden 2. Observation are hypothesis-laden 3. Observation are theory-laden 4. Observation are value-laden 5. Observation are interest-laden 6. Observations are laden with culture-specific ontologies.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in a society or a collectively as a group; including the institutions, norms and mores such interactions created. Social sciences seek to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as object of study. However, the philosophy of science arouses out of the curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of social science may be impossible or unachievable due to methodological mismatch. To understand this problem with social sciences better, we need to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation connection is to provide a casual or correlational connection between an event and its cause. To make it clearer let us imaging Mr A makes this statement upon seeing some of his friends who demanded to know why he punched one of them at a gym. The man says: I punched him because I was angry. Nearly every body will agree that the reason why the man punched his friend is because he was angry. When applied to human activities, the problem becomes deeper. But the notion of cause as explicated before does not allow for such multiplicity of casual factor for a single effect. Another problem is that, if reasons are causes, then getting the canned beef must of necessity come before going to the supermarket since causes always precede the effect they caused. All these factors undermine the notion of predictability of behaviour with natural science is known to deduce their principles and laws. However, it has been observed even by economists themselves that these laws do not hold all the since man does not behave rationally all the time.