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**Matric no:** *19/sms14/002*

**Course title and code:** *History and Philosophy of Science (GST 118)*

**Assignment:** *In not more than two pages do a review of chapter eight of history and philosophy of science.*

**Chapter Eight: Philosophy of Social and Applied science**

The chapter begins by enlightening the history of natural science, it gives us details as to how people of the early eighteenth and ninetieth century began trusting the words of scientist especially in fields like law and forensic evidence. This positive change/response to science happened as a result of a change in socio-cultural milieu of that time, the socio-cultural milieu in which positivism grew the renaissance and enlightenment period. These ages were the dark ages and there was a lot of sickness in the land and control of the people by the church- particularly the pope whose words were seen as supreme and above all else, one who claimed that sicknesses and diseases are a direct consequence of sin and idolatry and the actions pf the church were seen as a big hindrance to human happiness and survival. So this intellectual set of people began using literature as a form of expression of justify their conclusions which then led to the classic period of romanticism, which paved way to a lot of naturalism and humanism and this is because a lot of art and literature were used during this period and were very effective as communication tools and mode/way of expression. From then on the world grew away from the authority of the church into invidualism as imposed by Russel Bertrand.

This events brought about the beginning of social science especially sociology, positivism rejects speculations that are based on facts of experiences as a source of

knowledge, however there are some errors about the theory of positivism some observations on the error are that they are concept laden, hypothesis laden, theory laden, value laden, interest laden, influenced by culture-specific ontologies.

The text goes on to enlighten us about the subject of social science by defining it as an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behavior, interaction and manifestation either as individuals or groups in the society. Some of the discipline in social science are sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology, anthropology, these disciplines arose as a result of wanting to know how the society works. Social science seeks to employ the method of science in the investigation of social phenomena taking the human person as an object of study. Some of the objects of social science include: understanding humans historically and culturally, being able to predict human behavior, Influencing human behavior, discovering and manipulating human behavior, advancing beyond armchair philosophy. However there are some problems with the social science is that there is a correlational connection between an event and its cause which means that event A is the cause of event B which is the effect and due to this problem for anything to be the cause of another, the cause and effect must have invariable or constant relation, be spatially contiguous, be temporally related to the cause, have an asymmetrical relation in occurrence of the alleged cause.

There is also the problem of treating the human person as an object of study in social science which as described by Max Weber is the fact that man who has free will, desires, emotions and other sentiment features is being treated as an object who possess as a problem because man can’t always be predicted. Unlike Economics in the subject of demand and supply where it examines the human behavior in relation to prices in the sense that human being would buy less due to high prices and buy more at a lower price, this is the assumption of rational behavior and works, however man isn’t rational all the time.