NAME: OSUAGWU CHUKWUZITELUM ALMA

MATRICULATION NUMBER: 19/LAW01/229

COLLEGE: LAW

DEPARTMENT: LAW

COURSE CODE: GST 118

COURSE TITLE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

ASSIGNMENT QUESTION:

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of Chapter 8 of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, *History and Philosophy of Science: A Brief Survey.* Ibadan: Hope Publications. Pages 86 -95.

The success recorded responses between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in natural science resulted in positive from the then people of Europe. So much that they sought the opinions of scientists even on matters unrelated to science like Law and forensic evidence. From then on positive responses to science were known as positivism.

The socio-cultural background in which positivism was developed is called the renaissance period. It is known as the renaissance period because as the name implies, it marked a period of rebirth of the ancient Greek heritage. This heritage involved using reason in matters of public concern and not the dictate of religion as it was in the era before also referred to as the dark ages.

The Dark Age was the time in history when religion reigned supreme. The word of the Pope was final and undisputable in all aspects of life; political, social or intellectual. It was the time when men and women were burned at stake if the church found them guilty of witchcraft or sorcery. Diseases were assumed to be punishment for sin and idolatry. However this era came to an end when prominent figures like Plato, Aristotle and Socrates discovered the benefits of the use of reason to arrive at a justified conclusion. Romanticism gave rise to humanism and naturalism as well as a rise to a certain kind of art and music. The effect of this new discovery was overwhelming. There were however some setbacks of Positivism and these was that it was concept- laden, hypothesis- laden, theory- laden, value- laden, and interest- laden as well as laden with culture specific ontologies.

Now, the scientific approach was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only material that was believed to behave in a particular way. French philosopher August Compte thought otherwise. He believed that society behaved in a regular pattern much like material things. And that the behaviour could be studied. This was the beginning of Social science. August Compte is regarded as the father of sociology and social science till date.

Social Science refers to the area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations, either as an individual in society or collectively as a group. Disciplines under Social science include sociology, psychology, economics, political science, archaeology and anthropology.

Social science seeks to employ scientific methods of study in understanding humans in both historical and cultural development context. It also hopes to be able to predict human behaviour based on the pattern of interaction, belief system, social norms and other factors influencing human behaviour. It seeks to advance beyond the armchair philosophy, the knowledge about the characteristic temperament and associated behaviour of a person or group or that exhibited by those engaged in an activity.

However, there is a lack of harmony in using methods of scientific inquiry to study human and his society. This disharmony stems from the knowledge that humans do not behave in the exact same way objects of natural sciences behave.

There comes the problem of reason and cause. One essential features of science is that for every event in the universe, there is a cause. But then, humans are rational and so there can’t be a precise cause of our actions.