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QUESTIONS: Write a report, of not more than two pages, on the Corona virus pandemic and the effects of the lockdown and restriction of movement on Nigerians.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

To prevent infection and to slow transmission of COVID-19, do the following:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain at least 1 metre distance between you and people coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Refrain from smoking and other activities that weaken the lungs.
- Practice physical distancing by avoiding unnecessary travel and staying away from large groups of people.

The COVID-19 virus affects different people in different ways. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and most infected people will develop mild to moderate symptoms and recover without requiring special treatment.

Common symptoms include:

- fever
- tiredness
- dry cough, difficulty in breathing and so on.

Nigeria which is the most populous country on the continent with an estimated population of 200 million (15% of Africa's 1.3billion people) has 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (2.5% of Africa's) and 10 deaths as of 12 April 2020. These numbers are, however, far from the true reflection of the situation in Nigeria, based on the fact that testing is not being carried out on a large scale. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) stated earlier in the month that the present testing volume is 500 tests per day and hoped to increase this capacity to 1000 or more tests per day in the coming weeks. Thus far, less than 5000 tests have been carried out in a population of 200million.

However, locking people down at home in the Nigerian context is like asking people to go hungry for the duration of the lockdown. More than 60 per cent of Nigerians survive on daily pay from menial jobs and petty trading. A lockdown means their means of daily livelihood have been locked down. The plight of private sector employees is no better. Many private employers have maintained a 'no salary during lockdown' stance, or at best a 50 per cent pay cut. Some have even completely laid the workers off. Labour must agitate for full pay for workers, whether private or government employed, for as long as the lockdown lasts. Government must also distribute foodstuff and domestic essentials to the poor masses to cushion the effect of the lockdown. About three quarters of Nigerians make a living in the informal economy. The construction site laborers, market stall traders, handymen and taxi drivers. For these people, life as they know it is about to become even harder than they have experienced in the past. How will Nigerians deal with the economic hardship and ripple effects that the pandemic and subsequent lockdown is causing? Unlike many countries in Europe and the United States, many of these individuals have no access to social grants to see them through this difficult period.

The corona virus pandemic has forced the country go into lockdown which is having a great effect and impact on the country in various ways: It has brought about some serious economic hardship in the country as people find it difficult to have a source of income due to the hindrance of going about their daily activities to make ends meet. As more than 25 million people are placed on a two-week lockdown in parts of Nigeria in a bid to curtail the spread of coronavirus, poor people in congested neighborhoods are worried about how they will cope

The psychological effects of being on a compulsory lockdown are real and evident. Screaming children, potential conflict between spouses, a house full of people who once spent a few hours in a day, are now together for 24 hours, 7 days a week for 14 days (assuming there is no extension). Nigerians have taken to social media, online forums and messaging platforms like WhatsApp to share their experience, staying at home and facing the lockdown. It is a mix of tales with people learning new skills in cohabitation, teaching children, cooking for families in the face of food shortages, understanding, and communication and giving space.

The physical effect of the lockdown has brought about some certain citizens who have no source of income and means to eat and fend for themselves now result to robbery, stealing, kidnapping and other social vices in order to find a means to survive the pandemic lockdown.