**COURSE TITLE: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**COURSE CODE: GST 118**

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE: 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**

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**ANSWERS**

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century the authority of the community or society has scaled from one course to another, first of the church had the entire jurisdiction to decide on the affairs of its citizens. After a while it lingered into the hands of natural science on social and intellectual life of the people of the middle aged Europe that they started believing and trusting words of the scientist, to the extent they even seek counselling of on matters not relating science in any sort, as politics and economics. This vast and positive response took place as a result of an unimaginable change in the social-cultural milieu of that time and that explains why belief in science or application of science to any issue was called positivism. This socio-cultural environmental condition in which positivism grew was known as the Renaissance or the enlightenment period. I strongly belief the reason why is it was called the renaissance period was because signified a period where people stared a revolution and diverted back to their Greek heritage.

Then came the aeon prior to renaissance, a period that was known as the dark ages, where religious and superstitious belief reigned supreme. At this era the word of the Pope was the final authority to any matter, be it political, social, intellectual or scientific. The dark ages were unfavourable to some, where they had to be decapitated or burnt a stake for testing guilty to witchcraft or sorcery and the diseases were seen as fair judgement for their sins the churches waged wars to exterminate the practising practitioners.

As time went on they employed Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle’s method of penetrating literature with the idea of using reason to arrive justified conclusion.

Arts and music were untold Greek world views too; this became known as the classical period of romanticism, where romanticism gave rise to humanism and humanism to naturalism and many works of arts and literature were commonly named classics’. But Bertrand Russell made this one more clear when he said that ‘‘the period which is called ‘modern’ has a mental outlooks which differs from the middle aged period in diverse ways’’. Of these two are very vital: the diminishing jurisdiction of the church, and the vast increasing authority of science. He went on to say emancipation from the authority of the church led to the growth of individualism to the point of anarchy. Suddenly scientific approach depreciated as science was restricted to the study of natural phenomena because it was only material that was believed to behave in a regular and predictable pattern. But a French philosopher came to prove otherwise, as he was of the opinion that society behaves in a regular and co-ordinate pattern much like material things and this behaviour unlike any other material thing can be studied. This made a huge contribution to what formed social sciences especially sociology and Comte is being regard till date as the father of sociology and social sciences in general. This was modelled on empirical science, which provides it with a methodology, positivism declares false, all prepositions that could not be solved or verified by experience such as meta physical statement due to a high degree of the abstract nature. But there were a lot of complications with this concept of ideal knowledge seeking enterprise.

Observations were made upon which the basic justification of positivism came in laden with error. These facts include that observations are, concept, hypothesis, theory, value, interest and culture specific ontologies laden. Let’s forget about the short comings of positivism and let’s elaborate on the idea of social science.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, manifestation and interactions either as an individual in a single society of collectively as a group.