COURSE TITLE; HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

COURSE CODE; GST 11

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ASSINGMENT QUESTION;

In not more than 2 pages, do a review of chapter of Temidayo D. Oladipo and Noah O. Balogun, history and Philosophy of Science. Ibadan: Hope Publications

**ANSWER;**

**SUMMARY ON CHAPTER EIGHT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

Chapter eight of Oladipo and Balogun’s book seeks to explain the development of social and applied sciences and their relation to that of philosophy and science. In the first paragraph w see that scientist were not trusted by the general public but after a major development in the area of science which affects the intellectual and social life of the people in the eighteenth and nineteenth century they began to be trusted. This resulted to a term called positivism. The milieu in which positivism grew is called the renaissance which marked the time when a revolution was started to go back to their Greek heritage and the enlightenment period. We see that Social science began as a result of studies carried out by the likes of Comte on the way and manner things are done in a society.

Social science is an area of study dedicated to the explanation of human behaviour, interaction and manifestations either as individuals or as a group. Disciplines here are sociology, psychology, economic, archaeology and political science. Although there were other philosophers in the likes of Thomas Hobbes, Karl Max and John Locke, that wanted to study how the society works, only Auguste Comte is regarded as the father of social science. We learn that social sciences seek to understand how humans think, what makes them do what they do, what inspires their actions and what makes us who we ar. However, the philosophy of social science arouse out of curiosity that the central focus and the propelling motive of the discipline may be unachievable due to methodological mismatch. This is to say that there is a presence of incongruity in using method of scientific enquiry to study human and his society. Every discipline has its problems and for social science is the problem of reason and causes. To understand this problem with social sciences better, one needs to understand that one of the essential features of science and scientific explanation connection between an event and its cause. The principle of cause and event means according to an exposition by Ernest Nagel states that for anything to be the cause of another the cause and effect must have or be any of these four; an invariable of constant relation; be spatially contagious; be temporally related; and have an asymmetrical relation.

Francis Offor explains that this principle states that for every event in the universe there is a set of conditions such that if the conditions are all fulfilled, then the event invariably occurs. He goes further to say that by employing the scientific method in social investigation, the social sciences seek to explain the cause of an action involving human agents. 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. Thus scholars like J. S. Mill, T. M. Newcomb and Auguste Comte have argued on whether it is not better to leave reason as motive, drive or intent and not cause. The problem of human person as object of study in social sciences according to Max Weber is that the methodology of science becomes inapplicable due to the fact that object of study in social science is man, a rational being with freewill, desires, emotions and other sentient features that come into play in his action or reaction. All these factors determine the notion of predictability of behaviour with which natural sciences is known to deduce their principles. For instance the law of demand and supply is based on this social scientist noticing the reaction of humans over time to the availability of goods.

However, it has been observed that these laws do not hold all the time that there are exceptions to them due to the fact that man does not behave rationally all the time and that humans change on a daily basis.