**NAME: MGBOH BIYELUM EMILIA**

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**MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA**

**INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria is bordered to the south by the bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the gulf of guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the West, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the north, by Niger and on the east by Cameroon.

**EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA**

Exact time man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000-9000BC.

The Stone Age is divided into several periods;

* Early Stone Age: 3,000,000-35,000 BC.
* Middle Stone Age: 35,000-15,000BC.
* Late Stone Age: 15,000-500BC.

The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the occupation of man. The skeleton was dated some 12,000 years ago and this suggests that the country has been long inhabited.

**THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARLY MAN**

1. Inventions of certain tools- stone, metal axes.
2. Coping with environments to get food.
3. Sculpture making-terracotta.

Excavation has also revealed where man first settled down in Nigeria e.g. Nok culture, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin amongst others.

**BENIN CIVILIZATION:** Benin was important for its artwork. They carved in wood and ivory and casted objects in bronze and brass.

**IFE CIVILIZATION:** Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Art historians believed that terracotta originated from Nok culture because of the similarities of the two.

**IGBO UKWU CIVILIZATION**: In Igbo Ukwu, three sites were excavated by an archaeologist known as Thurstan Shaw. The three sites were a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall. Many objects made of bronze were discovered.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE YORUBA LAND**

1. The Oba is the spiritual and political head. The Oba lives in a palace known as “ aafin”.
2. There are different versions of the tradition of origin.
3. His paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown (Ade), slippers (Bata), a horsetail (Irukere) and scepter (Ase).

The government of the Oyo empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in yoruba land. The different organs are; The Alaafin administration, the Ogboni cult’s administration and the army.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL IGBO LAND**

The Igbo are grouped into 5 groups; the Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of South-Eastern Nigeria, The Western Igbo and the Northern Igbo. The Igbo has no centralized state; there is diffusion of authority. There are two different versions of the origin of the Igbo; the Israel version and the Nri version.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE HAUSA LAND.**

Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria. The seven legitimate states of the Hausa is known as “Hausa Bakwai” while the remaining seven states are known as “Hausa Banza”.

**COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND THE INDIRECT RULE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini Kingdom.

**THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY**

The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. Britain governed Nigeria by a system known as “Indirect rule”. This is a system whereby British rule her colony through local traditional rulers.