NAME- EYIOWUAWI MOJISOLA ISLAMIYAT

MATRIC NUMBER- 19/LAW 01/098

COURSE CODE- GST 203

COURSE TITLE- GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

QUESTION- DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7, “POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA” IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.

**CHAPTER 7 (POLITICAL PARTIES**

Political Parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. In liberal democratic systems, they help to keep governments accountable to public opinion, even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold in power. Political parties are an important link between government and the people. The first modern democracy was in the United States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s, there was well organised parties and the democratic party which can trace its roots back then to that time, is the oldest in the world. In Britain 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist conciousness and sentiments and nationlists movement in 1920s. This chapter aims at discussing the evolution of political parties in Nigeria.

**CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY**

There are many definitions of political parties. R.G Gettel defined political parties as a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as political units and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies. Herman Finer defined political parties as an organised body with voluntary membership. Its conceited energy being employed in the pursuit of political powers. Joseph Lalalombara defined political parties as a “formal association whose self concious primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government. Dowse and Hughes are political parties as associations formally organised with explicit of aquiring and maintaining legal control, either singly or in coalition with other similar associations, over the personnel and the policy of the government of an actual or prospective states.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. The major features of political parties isto capture governmental powers through constitutional means.
2. Political parties have broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation which is referred to as party ideology
3. Every politcal party must be national minded
4. Political party should be organised body, because it can only derieve strength from an effective organsational structure
5. They are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Elitist parties- this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierachy in a country.
2. Mass parties- This is poltical party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership. Mass parties takes such name as; peoples party, labour party, workers party etc
3. Ideological party- This is a political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
4. Broker Party- This is political party formed with its member drawn from upper amd lower classes of the society
5. Charismatic or Personality Party- This is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. Political mobilisation and recruitment;
2. Political education;
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Conflict management and political integration
7. Organisation of government

POLTICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Early Political Parties- The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first poltical poltical party that was formed in Nigeria. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regraded as the father of nationalism. Two major parties emerged in between 1950 and 1951 and they were Action Group (AG) and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC). Political Parties under the second republic were National Party of Nigeria (NPN), The Nigerian People’s Party (NPP), The Great Nigeria Peoples Party (GNPP), the People Redemption Party (PRP) and the Unity Party of Nigeria.(UPN). The Nigerian Advance Party (NAP). Parties in the third republic include SDP Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention (NRC). The parties in the fourth republic are many but the two popular ones are the People Democractic Party (PDP) and All Progressive Congress (APC)