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LEVEL: 200

COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

COURSE CODE: GST 203

QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 8

**Introduction**

Chapter 8 of the book *“Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics” edited* by Temidayo David Oladipo and Idowu Oluseyi Olaleye talks about the idea of the concept of citizens roles in a Democracy. The chapter eight of this book is written by Vincent Esan, a lecturer in the Department of Political Science, College of Social and Management Sciences, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State and Olayinka Olabimpe Ojo, a lecturer in the Department of General Studies, College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, and Ekiti State. The title of chapter 8*“Citizens Roles in a Democracy”* is a very important topic in relation to the course taught, it gives the readers an overview on the idea of citizens roles in a democracy, citizens’ rights, an idea on the term democracy and duties and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. Citizenship of a state may be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. A man becomes a citizen of a particular state if his parents are citizens of that state or if he is born within the territory of the state. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship.

Rights entails some duties and responsibilities on the part of every citizens. A right may therefore be defined as a privilege or prerogative conferred by law upon a person or a group. When a privilege is expressed within the framework of the constitution of the state, it becomes a civil right. Important civil rights accorded Nigerian citizens in its constitution include: the right to life, the right to work, right to freedom of religion, right to education, etc.

Since there is no single definition of democracy however, what we can deduce from the various definitions of democracy are the following features; The fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, periodic election that is free and fair.

Responsibilities of a citizen include; duty to vote, paying taxes, obeying the law, refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community

**Conclusion**

I would recommend this chapter eight of the book “Salient Issues in Government and Nigerian Politics” to anyone taking this course and wishes to have an in- depth knowledge of the idea of the concept of citizens role in a democracy. This chapter eight of the book written by Vincent Esan and Olayinka Olabimpe Ojo would be very helpful to students taking this course as it is very detailed and comprehensive.