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**MATRIC NUMBER; 19/LAW01/125**

**DEPARTMENT; LAW**

**COURSE; GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTION (GST 203)**

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**Assignment**

**Do a two page review of Chapter 7, Political Parties in Nigeria, In**

**Salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Introduction

Political parties is a very essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Political parties crops up in all aspects of politics. It was developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. This chapter aims at discussing the evolution of political parties in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification of the Idea of Political Party

Political parties have been defined by many political thinkers. One of which is Herman Finer who defined political party as an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of Political Power. However, Joseph LaPalombara defined political party as a formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government. Other political thinkers who have defined political party are; Agbaje, Edmund Burke, Dowse and Hughes, etc.

Characteristics of political party

1. To capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. It is national-minded \
3. It is an oragnised body
4. It has manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after elections
5. It is guided by party constitution

Types of political party

1. Elitist/cadre parties
2. Mass parties
3. Ideological parties
4. Broker party
5. Charismatic or personality party

Functions of political parties

1. Political education
2. Political representation
3. Political mobilization and recruitment

Some political parties we have are;

* APC – All Progressive Congress
* ID – Independent Democrats
* PDP –People’s Democratic Party
* PPP – People’s Progressive Party
* NNPP – New Nigeria Peoples Party
* LM – Liberation Movement, etc.

In conclusion, Nigeria’s political parties still face some challenge. There is a very high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Also, most party leaders see their political party activity as a means to further their business interests.