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**COURSE CODE: GST 203**

**COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

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**QUESTION:**

A two-page review ofchapter 8 **“**Citizens Role in a Democracy”, in Sailent issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics

**ANSWER:**

Sovereignty resides in the people in a democracy. The people have to right to vote during elections, that is, to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems. The governmental authorities, derive their powers from the people. Summarily, governments belong to the people, there is no democracy without the involvement of the people. Basically, there is no democracy without the involvement of the citizens. Now, the terms citizen means there is a certain type of relationship between the people and the government. These citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, citizenship of a state can be acquired either by birth or by naturalization. Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship and social citizenship. Citizenship just like many other concepts does not have a particular definition attached to it. However, citizenship is about being willing to contribute to social action as well as to political debate, to be willing to get involved. Glover, who argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship; ethical citizenship, integrative citizenship, and educative citizenship. Ethical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship. Integrative citizenship needs the engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions. Lastly, educative citizenship on its part, according to Dagger, refers to the process that develops a moral, practical, and intellectual sense of self in individuals when they practice their citizenship.

Rights and liberties of the citizens are the groundwork of the state, it’s available to enable men to fully live life to the fullest and to develop. It should be noted that these rights are not absolute since they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state. Democracy, is a concept that originates from the Greek. It has been etymologically established that the word democracy was gotten from the Greek words; “demos” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule by the people. To be able to define democracy, there are some basic features that should be there, they are; the fundamental rights of the citizens is guaranteed, independent and impartial judiciary, existence of rule of law, freedom of press, and periodic election that is free and fair. The fact that the state provides rights and liberties to the citizens doesn’t mean the citizens have no duties to the state, basically all the citizens have duties to the state. Democracy requires an investment of time and hard work; this is why citizens are expected to perform responsibilities in a democracy. Some of the responsibilities these citizens perform are; citizens have the duty to vote, citizens should be willing to pay taxes, since without taxes to fund a democratic government, there would be no democracy, a good citizen must refrain from interference with the rights of other members of the community, basically a good, optimistic and positive mind and attitude should be developed and maintained.