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**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITIC**

**QUESTIONS**

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

**ANSWER**

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. The political party crops up in all aspects of politics. The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed.

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

There are as many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. According to R.G Gettel, “political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies.” According to Agbaje (1999) , “ a political party is a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause, which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices. Edmund Burke defines political party as a body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavors the national interests upon some particular principle in which they are all agreed (Burke1975).

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

Ideological Party: This is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

Charismatic or Personality Party: This is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma. It revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

**FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY**

* Political mobilization and recruitment
* Political education
* Political stability
* Goal formation

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. The fulcrum for the emergence of parties’ formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The Macpherson’s constitutional established regional executive councils, and provided for a system of indirect elections to the much largely Nigerian Legislative houses.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA**

The NPN was officially launched in September, 1978 in Lagos after lifting of ban on party politics by the military government, NPN was comprised and held by a host of social clubs, tribal unions, and associations, committees of friends, former NPC leaders and ex-public officials. The party’s main goal was national unity, with the slogan “one nation, one destiny.” Their major programmers were those of provision of food, shelter and qualitative education. The party won the presidential election and ruled the country for 4 years and 3 months.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**

Alliance for Democracy sponsored and contested election throughout Nigeria during 1998 and 1999 general elections. It gained political power in six states of the south-west of the federation between 1999 and 2003 by winning the governorship elections. The All Peoples Party (APP) won nine (9) gubernational elections in the north-west and the middle-belt zones during the 1999 elections.