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**DEPARTMENT: SMS**

**MATRIC NO: 19/SMS/**

**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**2. DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8, CITIZEN’S ROLE IN A DEMOCRACY, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.**

They have a collective right to choose their governmental, political and electoral systems as part of self-determination. The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems, and the people have a right to take part in their government, including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices. Barriers to citizen participation are multiple in every country. They are subtle and obvious, small and formidable, and based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age or another status. If not, universal and equal suffrage is essentially denied, and governmental credibility is undermined. They need knowledge to make decisions about policy choices and the proper use of authority, along with the skills to voice their concerns, act collectively and hold public officials accountable.

Citizenship can be perceived to be made up of, or be divided into civil citizenship, political citizenship, and social citizenship. Civil citizenship refers to the rights necessary to protect individual liberty e.g. freedom of speech, political citizenship is associated with participation in the democratic exercise of political community e.g. voter, or as an individual elected by the members of such a community; and social citizenship embodies the claim that citizens ought to have access to those resources that allow them to live a civilized existence in accordance with the standards prevailing in society. However, there are broader definitions and perceptions of citizenship as well, as shown by Glover 2004 who argues that there are three dimensions of active citizenship; ethnical citizenship, integrative citizenship, and educative citizenship. Ethnical citizenship understands active participation in a collective strive towards the public good as an essential feature of citizenship.

Individual’s rights and liberties are the groundwork of the state since it exits to enable men to live and develop fully. In order to let the citizen have a share in the running of his/her government, a group of rights is very essential. These rights are not absolute sine they are limited by the rights of other citizens in the state.

Democracy, like many other political concepts first originated from Ancient Greece where in the city states, citizens were free to meet frequently in assemblies which had the power laws. In these assemblies, citizens were free to discuss state affairs, take decisions and exercise their political rights. Every citizen was expected to participate in the running of government. This is what Johnston classified as a direct democracy, a system that enables people exercise authority themselves. These ideas and institutions spread from country to country in the western world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Today, indirect government is associated with the free discussion of political views, the right to differ concerning them and the settlement of differences by counting of votes. Moreover, it is a way of determining who shall govern and to what ends they shall rule.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IS A DEMOCRACY**

They recognize that democracy requires an investment of time and hard work. A government of the people demands constant vigilance and support by the people. Democratic citizens know that they must bear the burden of responsibility for their society if they are to benefit from its protection of their rights. Democracy is a system of governmental where the citizens directly elect the government by voting.