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**COURSE CODE : 203 GOVERNMENT**

**ASSIGNMENT QUESTION :**

1. **DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7, POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA ,” IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIAN POLITICS .**

**ANSWER:**

Political parties in Nigeria are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation . In liberal –democratic system , they help to keep government accountable to public opinion ;even in the autocratic system of government ,they help the government maintain its hold on power . in either case , political parties are an important link between government and the people [DICKERSON AND FLANAGAN ,2002 ].

**CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTIES .**

* The major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means .
* Political parties always have a broad principles of public policies adopted by its organizations ,which is reffered to as party ideology .
* Political party should be an organized body , because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure.
* Political parties has party manifestations which guide their conduct during and after winning elections .

**TYPES OF POLIICAL PARTIES**

* + - ELITIST /CADRE PARTIES
    - MASS PARTIES
    - IDEOLOGICAL PARTIES
    - BROKER PARTY
    - CHARISMATIC OR PERSONALITY PARTY

**FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

* Politcal education
* Political stability
* Intrest aggregation
* Organization of government
* Political representation
* Conflict management

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousnesness and sentiments , and nationalists movements [IKELEGBE 2010] . According to IKELEGBE , nationalists agitators formed groups and associations , to organize against colonial misrule , thus for this purpose , THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA territories was formed in 1920 , the west African student union in1925 and the lagos youth movement in 1934 . Herbert macaulay ,H.O DAVIES , ERNEST IKOLI ,NNAMDI AZIKIWE , OBAFEMI AWOLOWO AND OTHERS WERE PRECURSORS OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA , were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920s and thereafter [IKELEGBE 2010].