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**COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**QUESTION;**

Do a two page review of Chapter 8, Citizens Role in a Democracy, In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics

According to chapter 8 in salient issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics, the role of citizens in a democracy cannot be over emphasized due to the fact that sovereignty resides and flows from the people. 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.

The term citizen has an inherently political meaning that implies a certain type of relationship between the people and government. Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. In additions to the intrinsic democratic value, participation is an instrumental driver of democratic and socio- economic change, and a fundamental way to empower citizens.

Chapter 111, section 25: 1(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria defines citizenship as:

1. Every person born in Nigeria before the date of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to a community indigenous to Nigeria: provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of his grandparents was born in Nigeria.
2. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria; and
3. Every person born outside Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria.

To conclude, democracy is a system of government where the citizens directly elect the government by voting. It is also defined as the system of government by the people, of the people and for the people. It is considered as the best form of government in the modern era as it allows citizens to exercise and enjoy many rights and it gives them responsibilities at the same time. It is a plus for citizens if they are born in a democratic country and that is why citizens must do everything to save democracy at all cost.