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**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 first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America, and it was here that the first parties developed.

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 , “ 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.

Charismatic or Personality Party: This is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma.

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 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 won the presidential election and ruled the country for 4 years and 3 months.

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 gubernational elections in the north-west and the middle-belt zones during the 1999 elections.