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**Course: Government and Political institutions**

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**Question**

**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.**

 **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.**

 **The personal sacrifices that are made aid some public benefit and are hence ultimately also enjoyed by the person who sacrifices.**

 **Integrative citizenship needs engagement in a wide sphere of participation that can go beyond formal political practices and institutions.**

 **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.**

 **This is what Johnston classified as a direct democracy, a system that enables people exercise authority themselves.**

 **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.**

 **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.**