

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

This syllabus aims at assessing the candidates' ability to

- (a) define the concepts of Government and show their understanding of its principles, institutions and processes.
- (b) recognize their role as an informed citizens and their contributions towards the achievement of national development.
- (c) evaluate the successes, failures and problems of governments in West Africa.
- (d) analyse the constitutional developments and processes of colonial and post - independent government.
- (e) appreciate the role of their country as a member of the international community.

### **SCHEME OF THE EXAMINATIONS**

There will be two papers – Paper 1 and Paper 2, both of which must be taken. Papers 1 and 2 will be composite and will be taken at one sitting.

**PAPER 1:** This will consist of fifty multiple-choice objective questions drawn from the entire syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer all the questions in 1 hour for 40 marks.

**PAPER 2:** This will be a 2-hour essay type test consisting of two sections, Sections A and B as follows:

#### **Section A: Elements of Government**

Shall contain five questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any two.

#### **Section B: Political and Constitutional Developments in West Africa and International Relations**

Shall contain sets of five questions each; one set for one member country. Each candidate is to answer two questions chosen from the set on the country in which he/she is taking the examination.

The paper shall carry 60 marks.

## **DETAILED SYLLABUS**

### **SECTION A: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT**

#### **1. MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER – GOVERNMENT**

- (i) Government as an institution of the state  
Definition of state, features, structure and functions.
- (ii) Government as a process or art or governing.
- (iii) Government as an academic field of study – reasons for studying government.

#### **2. BASIC CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT**

- (i) Basic concepts – State, \*Society, \*Nation, Power, Authority, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, Democracy, Political Culture and Socialization, Communalism, Feudalism and oligarchy, \*Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Fascism, Aristocracy, Totalitarianism.  
Meaning and features.
- (ii) Basic principles – Rule of Law, Fundamental Human Rights, Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances, Constitutionalism, Political participation, Representative Government, Centralization and Decentralization – (Delegated Legislation, Devolution and Decentralization).

#### **3. CONSTITUTIONS**

- (i) Definition and Sources
- (ii) Functions
- (iii) Types and Features, (Written and Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible).

#### **4. ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT**

The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary – Judicial Independence.  
(Types, Structure, Composition/membership; Functions; powers and limitations).

#### **5. STATE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT**

- (a) Types - Unitary, Federal, Confederal, Presidential or Non-parliamentary, Parliamentary or Cabinet, Monarchical and Republican.  
Meaning, types, features, merits and demerits.

**6. CITIZENSHIP**

Meaning, mode of acquisition, rights, duties and obligations of individuals in the state.  
Means of safeguarding rights of citizens.

**7. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS**

- (i) Political Parties – definition, organization/structure, and functions.
- (ii) Party Systems – definition, types, merits and demerits.

**8. PRESSURE GROUPS, PUBLIC OPINION AND MASS MEDIA**

- (i) Pressure Groups – definition, types, mode of operation and functions;
- (ii) Public opinion – definition, formation, Measurement and importance;
- (iii) Mass Media – definition, roles and impact.

**9. THE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, PROCESSES AND ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODY**

- (a) Electoral Systems and Processes
  - (i) Election- Meaning and purpose of elections.
  - (ii) Franchise – meaning, and limitations.
  - (iii) Types, advantages and disadvantages of Electoral Systems.
- (b) Electoral Management Body – definition, function, problems/constraints.

**10. PUBLIC/CIVIL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION**

- (i) Public/Civil Service – Meaning, Structure, Characteristics and Functions.
- (ii) Public/Civil Service Commission –meaning and Functions.
- (iii) Public Corporations – definition, purposes, functions, control, challenges, need for commercialization and privatization.
- (iv) Local Governments – Meaning, structure, Purposes, Functions, Sources of revenue, control and problems.

**SECTION B: POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**11. PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

The Structural Organization of the following:

- (a) Nigeria - Hausa/Fulani, the Yoruba and the Igbo.
- (b) Ghana - The Akan and the Talensi.
- (c) Sierra Leone - The Mende and Temme.
- (d) The Gambia - The Wolof, Mandingo and Jola.
- (e) Liberia - The Vai and the Kru.

**12. COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- (i) The Policy and Structure of the British Colonial Administration – Crown Colony, Protectorate and Indirect Rule.
- (ii) The Policy of French Colonial Administration – Assimilation and Association (Loi Cadre).
- (iii) Impact, Advantages and disadvantages of Colonial Rule.

**13. NATIONALISM IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- (i) Nationalism: Meaning, factors and effects.
- (ii) Key Nationalist leaders/movements and their contributions.

**14. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- (i) Pre-Independence Constitutions -
  - (a) Nigeria - Clifford 1922  
(features) Richards 1946  
Macpherson 1951  
Littleton 1954

- (b) Ghana (features, merits and demerits) - Clifford 1916  
Guggisberg 1925  
Burns 1946  
Arden Clarke 1951  
Nkrumah 1954
- (c) Sierra Leone (features, merits and demerits) - Slatter 1924  
Stevenson 1947  
Beresford Stooke  
1951 The 1956 and  
1958 Constitutions.
- (d) The Gambia (features, merits and demerits) - The 1947, 1951,  
1954, 1960, 1962 and 1963  
Constitutions.

(ii) Post-Independence Constitutions – Features

- (a) Nigeria - Independence Constitution, 1960  
Republican Constitution 1963  
The 1979 and 1989 Constitutions  
1999 Constitution - Origin, features, strength and  
Weaknesses.
- (b) Ghana - Independence Constitution, 1957  
Republican Constitution 1960  
2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1969  
3<sup>rd</sup> Republican Constitution 1979  
4<sup>th</sup> Republican Constitutions 1992.
- (c) Sierra Leone – Independence Constitution 1961  
Republican Constitution 1971  
The 1978 and 1991 Constitutions,
- (d) The Gambia -Independence Constitution 1965  
Republican Constitution 1970.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1997
- (e) Liberia - Independence/Republican Constitution  
1947 2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Constitution 1985

**15. DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Formation, Objectives, Sources of Finance, Achievements and Failures

**16. MILITARY RULE IN THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.**

- Nigeria
- Ghana;
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Causes, effects and various military regimes.

**17. FEDERAL/UNITARY SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT IN WEST AFRICA**

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Origin, Factors, Structure, Features and Problems

**18. FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES**

- Nigeria
- Ghana
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Definitions, Factors, objectives, advantages and disadvantages.

**19. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The United Nations Organizations (UNO),  
The Commonwealth of Nations,  
African Union (AU) - NEPAD,  
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).  
Origin, aims/objectives, achievements and problems.

**WASSCE GOVERNMENT**  
**SUGGESTED READING LIST**

| <b>S/N</b> | <b>AUTHOR</b>    | <b>TITLE</b>                                                                      |
|------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.         | ADU BOAHEN, A    | Ghana Evolution and Change in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
| 2.         | SHILLINGTON K.   | Ghana and the Rawlings Factor                                                     |
| 3.         | HODGKIN T.       | African Political Parties                                                         |
| 4.         | GARBRAH H. K.    | Foreign Policies of Major Countries, Subject Publications, New Delhi              |
| 5.         | ADDAE P. G.      | Senior Secondary School Government Bks. 1&2                                       |
| 6.         | NOFIU S. O. A.   | A – ONE in Government                                                             |
| 7.         | ECHIEFU S. M     | Modern Government                                                                 |
| 8.         | APPADORAI A.     | The Substance of Politics                                                         |
| 9.         | PRICE J. H.      | Political Institutions in West Africa                                             |
| 10.        | LEEDS C. A.      | Political Studies                                                                 |
| 11.        | AMOA G. Y.       | Groundwork of Government in West Africa                                           |
| 12.        | DARE AND OYEWOLE | A Textbook of Government for Senior Secondary School                              |
| 13.        | OYEDIRAN AND CO. | Government for Senior Secondary School.                                           |
| 14.        | FRANCIS ADIGWE   | Essentials of Government                                                          |
| 15.        | DENNIS AUSTIN    | Politics in Ghana 1946-1960                                                       |
| 16         | PRAH ISAAC       | Government for Senior Secondary School                                            |