

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE STUDIES, SCHOOL OF  
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.  
MASTERS DEGREE IN LEGISLATIVE STUDIES (MLS)

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014 SESSION

COURSE CODE: MLS 802 (COMPARATIVE LEGISLATIVE PRACTICE  
AND PROCEDURE)

DATE: 22ND APRIL 2015 TIME: 2PM TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS AS EXHAUSTIVELY  
AS YOU CAN. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

1. According to the proponents of the Presidential system of government, the lack of checks and balances under a Parliamentary system where the Executive and the Legislature are fused means the Prime Minister has unfettered powers which are subject to abuses. Critically examine the above proposition and in your answer, state the major differences between Presidential and Parliamentary systems of government.
2. "The National Assembly has powers to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to any matter included in the Exclusive Legislative list set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Constitution." Section 4(2) of the 1999 CFRN as amended.

Having the above quoted section in mind, discuss the legislative functions and powers of National Assembly in Nigeria.

3. "Generally, a bill passes through several stages in a Parliament, National Assembly, or a State House of Assembly before it becomes Law, Statute or Act of Parliament." NATIONAL ASSEMBLY V. PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA (2003) 9 NWLR pt. 824p.194 CA.

If you agree with the above dictum, state in detail the several stages a bill goes

Q3: The Nigerian parliamentary experience goes back to 100 years. From your reading of Ch. 3 in Hamalai and Suberu (Evolution of the Central Legislature in Nigeria) summarize the various types of colonial era consultative assemblies and parliaments, and those of the independence era. What were the characteristics from the point of view of the chapter?

Q4: In your readings from- Nigeria: Fourth Republic national Assembly by Uganwa; do any two

A: Critically discuss at least three major structural/constitutional issues that have defined the long-standing executive-NASS frictions in the 1999-2007 period and the media role

B: What five factors were responsible for the collapse of the tenure elongation plot in National Assembly in the 2003-2007 period and what was the media role.

C: Coming to the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> assemblies, do comparative analysis of issues that shaped emergence of Tambuwal in 2011 and Dogara in 2015 as Speaker – what were the striking similarities? Specifically, what did each of these presiding officers do in order to survive politically?

Q5: From your other readings in the assigned chapters in Hamalai and Suberu, analyze in detail. the issues raised in two of these topics, and the solutions proposed.

A: NASS appropriations and other aspects of the federal budget

B: NASS and constitutional reform

C: NASS and legislative oversight of the executive

D: NASS and civil society organizations

Q6: Chapter 13 in Hamalai and Suberu details 7 steps that need to be embarked upon for a more effective parliament. Summarize 4 of these and indicate your own stand.

Q7: Summarize Bolarinwa's "Emerging Legislatures" and any other one of these other readings, making five specific points for each (total of 10), that exemplify what you learnt from the two. "Do parliaments matter in Africa? By Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and Gumede's, is there an African Style Democracy?"