

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES
(NILS)/UNIVERSITY OF BENIN (UNIBEN) POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMME
(ELECTIVE COURSE)
1st Semester 2015/2016 Examination.**

Time Allowed: 3 hours

COURSE TITLE: Parliament in the Modern World: Contemporary Issues

COURSE CODE: MPD 801

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Prof. C. P. Uwazurike

Note: Do all. Be brief and to the point as required in the question. All questions carry the same number of marks, so divide your time equally.

Q1: When we speak of democracy and of parliaments, a number of concepts come to mind. Explain the following with examples:

- A. Functions of parliaments
- B. DME, LLDC
- C. The 2 basic types of parliaments
- D. Types of parliamentary committees
- E. Names of the various senate presidents and speakers since 1999
- F. Social responsibility theory of media
- G. Agenda-setting function of media
- H. What is 'adversarial democracy'
- I. Significance of these years: 1215, 1776, 1789, 1884, 1989, 2002
- J. Africa's second liberation

Q2: From our lectures on democracy and development, summarize the two of the following:

A: Link between NASS and the development process – through what exact process and structure, does it influence development?

B: What is development – summarize the three models we discussed in class.

C: The contrasting position of Fukuyama's End of History vs. Huntington's Clash of Civilizations. Friedman model's of Globalization (The Earth is Flat) based on the rise of the information superhighway

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 7th and the 8th 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?"