

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES/ UNIVERSITY OF BENIN POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

SEMESTER EXAMINATION

Programmes: **MLS, MPD**

Session: **2019/2020**

Semester: **1st Semester**

Course Code: **MLS 807**

Course Title: **Parliamentary Committees and Legislative Process**

Instructions:

- i. Answer Question **One (25marks)** and any other **Three Questions (15marks each)**.
- ii. Time allowed: **3hours**
- iii. Write your **Matriculation Number Only**
- iv. Credit will be given for orderly arrangement and good presentation of materials.

Question One

- i. Briefly discuss the main functions of the Legislature and the use of Legislative Committees to help perform these functions. **(5marks)**
- ii. Distinguish between the committee system in Nigeria and United States of America with respect to their functions and powers. **(5marks)**
- iii. Identify 3 tools of Legislative Oversight utilized by the National Assembly and describe the procedure for using any 2 of them. **(5marks)**
- iv. Identify 3 types of reports usually written by Legislative Committees in Nigeria and provide a format for writing any one of such reports. **(5marks)**
- v. Discuss the procedural and administrative support that are required for effective functioning of Legislative committees? **(5marks)**

(Total 25 marks)

Question Two

- a. Who is a Committee Clerk? **(2 marks)**
- b. Identify 2 functions of a Committee Clerk in the National Assembly of Nigeria. **(2 marks)**
- c. Briefly discuss any 3 characteristics of Chairperson of Legislative Committees in the National Assembly of Nigeria. **(6 marks)**
- d. Identify 3 problems that are militating against optimal effectiveness of Legislative Committees in the National Assembly of Nigeria? **(3 marks)**
- e. What solutions will you recommend to address and two of the problems identified in d above? **(2 marks)**

(Total 15 marks)

Question Three

- a. Distinguish between Calling to Account and Holding to Account with respect to Parliamentary Accountability. **(2marks)**
- b. Some scholars have argued that Parliamentary Accountability is relatively weak in the National Assembly of Nigeria. Identify any **4** challenges responsible for the relative weakness. **(4marks)**
- c. In your own opinion and as a student of Parliamentary Committees & Legislative Process course, how can Parliamentary Accountability be strengthened in the National Assembly of Nigeria?**(5marks)**
- d. Assuming that you have just been appointed as the Clerk to a Legislative Committee in the Nigeria National Assembly and the Chairperson of the Committee has requested for a brief on what role you can play to assist the Committee towards enhancing effective Accountability. Highlight 4 main issues you will discuss in your brief. **(4marks)**

(Total 15marks)

Question Four

- a. Why do you think that Committees are necessary to conduct legislative business? **(2marks)**
- b. Identify 3 functions of Legislative Committees. **(3marks)**
- c. Briefly explain how Legislative Committees carry out their duties. **(5marks)**
- d. Assuming you are the Clerk of one of the Legislative Committees in the Nigeria National Assembly, and you have been requested to make a presentation to newly recruited staff of the Assembly on the duties of Committee Clerk. Prepare a highlight of your presentation. **(5marks)**

(Total 15marks)

Question Five

- a. Discuss the importance of Legislative Research to a Legislative Committee. **(5 marks)**
- b. Identify any 3 general tools for effective research. **(3 marks)**
- c. Briefly explain any 2 of the tools. **(2marks)**
- d. Provide the outline of a legislative research report **(5marks)**

(Total 15marks)

Question Six

Write short notes on the following

- a. Consensus Building in Legislative Committee. **(3 marks)**
 - b. Public Perception of the National Assembly. **(3 marks)**
 - c. Treasury Single Account **(3 marks)**
 - d. Constituency Projects **(3 marks)**
 - e. Relationship among Policy, Programmes and Projects **(3 marks)**
- Total (15 marks)**