



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

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION**

Programme: **PGD**  
Semester: **2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**

Session: **2019/2020**  
Course Code: **MEP 710**

Course Title: **Political Parties and Parliamentary Politics**

**Instructions:** i. Answer **any four (4) Questions.**

- ii Time allowed: **Three (3) hours**    iii Write your Matriculation Number **Only.**
- iv. Orderly arrangement and good presentation of materials will be considered.
- v. Cross out any unused sheet(s) in your answer booklet before you submit it.

**Question One**

Discuss the role and functions of political parties in recommending or imposing presiding officers of the Nigeria National Assembly, citing specific examples.

**(17.5 marks)**

**Question Two**

Nigeria is characterised as having one of the highest turnover rates for legislators at the National Assembly, sometimes reaching as high as 70%. Discuss roles, if any, that political parties may play in stemming this phenomenon.

**(17.5 marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

Committee system is the centre of activity of any legislature. However, there has been proliferation of standing committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Share your views on the legislative, legal or political reasons for sustained proliferation of standing committees

**(17.5 marks)**

**Question Four**

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended does not assign any specific role to political parties in determining who becomes President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Standing Orders of both legislative houses also discounts such role to political parties and instead places that responsibility squarely on legislators. Experience over the years has, however, shown that political parties exert considerable pressure in this regard, nonetheless. Discuss this variance between law and practice of emergence of leaders at the Nigeria National Assembly.

**(17.5 marks)**

**Question Five**

Citing constitutional provisions on the subject matter, analyse the current law and practice of defection or cross-carpeting among legislators in Nigeria.

**(17.5 marks)**

**Question Six**

Through providing constructive criticisms, opposition political parties are expected to provide alternative platform that responds to the disappointments and hardships of the electorate in order to earn their confidence. Discuss how an opposition political party at the federal or state level has been able to endear itself to the electorate at any given time since the beginning of the Fourth Republic in 1999.

**(17.5 marks)**