

TOPIC: DEMOCRACY

WEEK: 5

Meaning of Democracy

Democracy is the system of government where by people exercise their voting power either directly or through representatives. It is a system of government where by people in the position of power and authorities are elected by the general public. Abraham Lincoln defines it as the government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Democracy has its origin in ancient Greece in the 5th century BC when the people in some Greek city-states participated in the decision-making personally, contrary to relying on intermediaries or representatives.

Features of Democracy

1. Periodic election.
2. Free and fair election.
3. Freedom of political expression.
4. Popular participation.
5. Electoral body.
6. Independent judiciary.
7. Political party system.

Democratic Institutions

1. Independent National Electoral Commission INEC.
2. Political parties.
3. Arms of government.
4. Pressure groups.

Importance of Democracy

1. It gives room for protection of Human Rights.
2. It allows the rule of law to take firm root in the country.
3. People possess power in a democratic setting.
4. It gives equal rights and opportunities to the people of all sections.
5. It ensures smooth transition of government through regular elections.
6. Democracy is about the majority with protection of the minority.

Pillars of Democracy

Pillars of democracy are institutions, structures, principles and policies that are fundamental to the success of a democratic process. It means those necessary things that support the existence of a true democratic society or nation. They include:

1. The people.
2. Democratic institutions.
3. Transparent electoral process.
4. Rule of law.
5. Majority rule and minority rights.

Evaluation-Students

1. Explain the meaning of democracy.
2. List five features of democracy.
3. Identify three democratic institutions in Nigeria.
4. Mention the importance of democracy in Nigeria.
5. Explain the pillars of democracy.

Assignment

Itemize five functions each of the three arms of government.