

NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

National consciousness is usually defined as the feeling of awareness that the citizens of a country have about their country. We in the class of grade seven can also define it as the way the citizens of a country think about their country, how they feel about their country and the ways they act towards their country.

When the citizens of a country are very proud of their country, believe in their country, are always ready to serve their country, trust their country and even know a lot about their country we usually say that they have a high level of national consciousness. Meanwhile when the citizens of a country always say negative things about their country, are not ready to make sacrifices for their country, are not proud of their country and do not believe in the integrity of their country we usually say that such a country has a low level of national consciousness.

Class Exercise: Ask yourself and answer in not less than seventy words if you have a high level of consciousness or a low-level of consciousness .

OBJECTS OF NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

These are those material and immaterial things that give the citizens of a country a strong sense of awareness about their country. They include things like national anthems

, national Pledges, Coat of Arms, National Flags, National Monuments, National Holidays, National Heroes, etc . In Nigeria all of these objects of national consciousness are present and respected.

a. The National Anthem: This is a poetic song that is usually sung by all citizens of the country to remind themselves of the goals, aspirations and beliefs of their country. The Nigerian anthem is also like that it talks about the values of Nigeria and the hopes of Nigeria.

b. The National Pledge : this is usually a short oath that every citizen of Nigeria and other countries is expected to recite as a reminder of the duties they owe their country.

c. The Flag : the flag of a country is a symbol of the authority of the country it is usually made up of colours that have a lot of symbolic and historic meaning for the country. For example the national flag of Nigeria is green and white which stands for the green vegetation of the land and the quest for peace and unity by the country

d. The Coat of Arms: is the national symbol of the dreams, hopes and aspirations of a country. In Nigeria the coat of arms is made up of a black shield that represents the fertile soil of the country; two white horses that represent the dignity of the country and a red eagle which represents the strength of the nation. The Nigerian coat of arms also contains two white bands representing the Rivers Niger and Benue as well as a national plant known as cactus spectabilis which is red in colour and can be found all around Nigeria. It also contains the motto of the country which are the words, *unity and faith, Peace and Progress*

5. National Heroes refer to those who have put their lives

On the line for the country. For Nigeria we have the images of our national heroes as Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello and Tafawa Balewa.

6. National holidays are also immaterial objects of national consciousness. In Nigeria we have the 1st day of October which is our independence day and the 12 th of June which is our democracy day.