WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

GOVERNMENT

WAEC Syllabus 2027/2028

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This syllabus aims at assessing the candidates' ability to:

- define the concepts of Government and show their understanding of its principles, institutions and processes;
- recognize their role as informed citizens and their contributions towards the achievement of national development;
- evaluate the successes, failures and problems of governments in West Africa;
- analyse the constitutional developments and processes of colonial and post-independent government; and
- appreciate the role of their country as a member of the international community.

SCHEME OF THE EXAMINATION

There will be two papers - Paper 1 and Paper 2, both of which must be taken. Papers 1 and 2 will be composite and will be taken at one sitting.

Paper 1

This will consist of fifty multiple-choice objective questions drawn from the entire syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer all the questions in 1 hour for 40 marks.

Paper 2

This will be a 2-hour essay-type test consisting of two sections, Sections A and B, as follows:

Section A - Elements of Government

This shall contain five questions out of which candidates shall be required to attempt any two.

Section B - Political and Constitutional Developments in West Africa and International Relations

This shall contain sets of five questions each, one set for each member country. Each candidate is to answer two questions chosen from the set on the country in which he or she is taking the examination.

The paper shall carry 60 marks.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

SECTION A: ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

1. MEANING AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER - GOVERNMENT

- Government as an institution of the state - definition of state, features, structure and functions.
- Government as a process or art of governing.
- Government as an academic field of study - reasons for studying Government.

2. BASIC CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

- Basic concepts - State, *Society, *Nation, Power, Authority, Legitimacy, Sovereignty, Democracy, Political Culture and Socialization, Communalism, Feudalism and Oligarchy, *Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Fascism, Aristocracy and Totalitarianism. Meaning and features.
- Basic principles - Rule of Law, Fundamental Human Rights, Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances, Constitutionalism, Political Participation, Representative Government, Centralization and Decentralization (Delegated Legislation, Devolution and Decentralization).

3. CONSTITUTIONS

- Definition and sources.
- Functions.
- Types and features - Written and Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible.

4. ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT

- The Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary; Judicial Independence - types, structure, composition/membership, functions, powers and limitations.

5. STATE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOVERNMENT

- Types - Unitary, Federal, Confederal, Presidential or Non-Parliamentary, Parliamentary or Cabinet, Monarchical and Republican. Meaning, types, features, merits and demerits.

6. CITIZENSHIP

- Meaning, modes of acquisition, rights, duties and obligations of individuals in the state; means of safeguarding the rights of citizens.

7. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS

- Political Parties - definition, organization/structure and functions.
- Party Systems - definition, types, merits and demerits.

8. PRESSURE GROUPS, PUBLIC OPINION AND MASS MEDIA

- Pressure Groups - definition, types, modes of operation and functions.
- Public Opinion - definition, formation, measurement and importance.
- Mass Media - definition, roles and impact.

9. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, PROCESSES AND ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODY

- Electoral Systems and Processes: election - meaning and purpose of elections; franchise - meaning and limitations; types, advantages and disadvantages of electoral systems.
- Electoral Management Body - definition, functions, problems and constraints.

10. PUBLIC/CIVIL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

- Public/Civil Service - meaning, structure, characteristics and functions.
- Public/Civil Service Commission - meaning and functions.
- Public Corporations - definition, purposes, functions, control, challenges, and the need for commercialization and privatization.
- Local Governments - meaning, structure, purposes, functions, sources of revenue, control and problems.

* Peculiar to Ghana only.

SECTION B: POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

11. PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

The structural organization of the following:

- Nigeria - Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba and Igbo.
- Ghana - Akan and Talensi.
- Sierra Leone - Mende and Temne.
- The Gambia - Wolof, Mandingo and Jola.
- Liberia - Vai and Kru.

12. COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

- The policy and structure of British Colonial Administration - Crown Colony, Protectorate and Indirect Rule.
- The policy of French Colonial Administration - Assimilation and Association (Loi Cadre).
- Impact, advantages and disadvantages of Colonial Rule.

13. NATIONALISM IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

- Nationalism - meaning, factors and effects.
- Key nationalist leaders/movements and their contributions.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

Pre-Independence Constitutions

Nigeria - features: Clifford 1922; Richards 1946; Macpherson 1951; Lyttleton 1954.

Ghana - features, merits and demerits: Clifford 1916; Guggisberg 1925; Burns 1946; Arden Clarke 1951; Nkrumah 1954.
Sierra Leone - features, merits and demerits: Slatter 1924; Stevenson 1947; Beresford Stooke 1951; 1956 Constitution; 1958 Constitution.
The Gambia - features, merits and demerits: 1947 Constitution; 1951 Constitution; 1954 Constitution; 1960 Constitution; 1962 Constitution; 1963 Constitution.

Post-Independence Constitutions - Features

Nigeria: Independence Constitution, 1960; Republican Constitution, 1963; 1979 Constitution; 1989 Constitution; 1999 Constitution - origin, features, strengths and weaknesses.
Ghana: Independence Constitution, 1957; Republican Constitution, 1960; Second Republican Constitution, 1969; Third Republican Constitution, 1979; Fourth Republican Constitution, 1992.
Sierra Leone: Independence Constitution, 1961; Republican Constitution, 1971; 1978 Constitution; 1991 Constitution.
The Gambia: Independence Constitution, 1965; Republican Constitution, 1970; Second Republican Constitution, 1997.
Liberia: Independence/Republican Constitution, 1847; Second Republican Constitution, 1986.

15. DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Formation, objectives, sources of finance, achievements and failures.

16. MILITARY RULE IN CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

- Nigeria
- Ghana
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Causes, effects and various military regimes.

17. FEDERAL/UNITARY SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT IN WEST AFRICA

- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Origin, factors, structure, features and problems.

18. FOREIGN POLICIES OF CANDIDATES' RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

- Nigeria
- Ghana
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Liberia

Definition, factors, objectives, advantages and disadvantages.

19. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- United Nations Organization (UNO)
- Commonwealth of Nations
- African Union (AU) - NEPAD
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Origin, aims/objectives, achievements and problems.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

S/N	AUTHOR	TITLE
1	Adu Boahen, A.	Ghana Evolution and Change in the 19th and 20th Centuries
2	Shillington, K.	Ghana and the Rawlings Factor
3	Hodgkin, T.	African Political Parties
4	Garbrah, H. K.	Foreign Policies of Major Countries, Subject Publications, New Delhi
5	Addae, P. G.	Senior Secondary School Government, Books 1 & 2
6	Nofiu, S. O. A.	A-ONE in Government
7	Echiefu, S. M.	Modern Government
8	Appadorai, A.	The Substance of Politics
9	Price, J. H.	Political Institutions in West Africa
10	Leeds, C. A.	Political Studies
11	Amoa, G. Y.	Groundwork of Government in West Africa
12	Dare and Oyewole	A Textbook of Government for Senior Secondary School
13	Oyediran and Co.	Government for Senior Secondary School
14	Francis Adigwe	Essentials of Government
15	Dennis Austin	Politics in Ghana 1946-1960
16	Prah Isaac	Government for Senior Secondary School