

This JAMB Syllabus for Government aims to prepare the candidates for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

### **General Objectives | JAMB Syllabus for Government**

It is designed to test their knowledge in Government, with a view to determining their suitability for placement in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. These objectives are to:

- i. appreciate the meaning of government;
- ii. analyse the framework and specify the institutions of government;
- iii. appreciate the basic principles of democratic governance and their application in Nigeria;
- iv. explain the concept of citizenship and define the duties and obligations of a citizen;
- v. appreciate the process of political development in Nigeria;
- vi. evaluate the political development and problems of governance in Nigeria;
- vii. understand the determinants and dynamics of foreign policy as it relates to Nigeria;
- viii. assess the role of Nigeria as a member of the international community and the workings of international organizations.

### **Section 1: Elements of Government**

#### **Topic 1: Basic Concepts in Government**

- a. Power, Authority, Legitimacy, Sovereignty;
- b. Society, State, Nation, Nation-State;
- c. Political Processes; Political Socialization, Political Participation, Political Culture.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify the fundamental concepts in governance;
- ii. analyse various political processes.

#### **Topic 2: Forms of Government**

Monarchy, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, Autocracy, Republicanism, Democracy definitions, features, merits and demerits.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. distinguish between different forms of government.

#### **Topic 3: Arms of Government**

- a. The Legislature – types, structure, functions, powers;
- b. The Executive – types, functions, powers;

- c. The Judiciary – functions, powers, components.
- d. Their relationships

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify the duties and obligations of the various arms of government and their agencies;
- ii. relate each arm to its functions;
- iii. appreciate how these arms interrelates.

### **Topic 4: Structures of Governance**

- a. Unitary – features, reasons for adoption, merits and demerits
- b. Federal – features, reasons for adoption, merits and demerits
- c. Confederal – features, reasons for adoption, merits and demerits

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. compare the various political structures of governance.

### **Topic 5: Systems of Governance**

Presidential, Parliamentary and Monarchical.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. distinguish between the different systems of governance.

### **Topic 6: Political Ideologies**

Communalism, Feudalism, Capitalism, Socialism, Communism, Totalitarianism, Fascism, Nazism.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. differentiate between the major political ideologies;
- ii. contrast modes of production.

### **Topic 7: Constitution**

Meaning, Sources, Functions, Types – Written, Unwritten, Rigid and Flexible.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. Define and identify sources and functions of constitutions;
- ii. compare the nature of constitutions.

### **Topic 8: Principles of Democratic Government**

Ethics and Accountability in Public Office, Separation of Power, Checks and Balances, Individual and Collective Responsibility, Constitutionalism, Rule of Law, Representative Government.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify the principles of democratic government;
- ii. determine the application of these principles.

### **Topic 9: Processes of Legislation**

Legislative Enactments – acts, edicts, bye-laws, delegated legislation, decrees.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. analyse the processes involved in the making of laws.

### **Topic 10: Citizenship**

- a. Meaning, types;
- b. Citizenship rights;
- c. Dual citizenship, renunciation, deprivation;
- d. Duties and obligations of citizens;
- e. Duties and obligations of the state.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. differentiate between the various methods of acquiring citizenship;
- ii. specify the rights and responsibilities of a citizen;
- iii. assess the obligations of the state.

### **Topic 11: The Electoral Process**

- a. Suffrage – evolution, types;
- b. Election – types, ingredients of free and fair election;
- c. Electoral System – types, advantages and disadvantages of each;
- d. Electoral Commission – functions, problems.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. distinguish the different types of franchise
- ii. identify and explain the types of electoral systems
- iii. analyse the various electoral processes.

### **Topic 12: Political Parties and Party Systems**

- a. Political parties – Definition, Organization, functions.
- b. Party Systems – Definition, organization, functions.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. assess the role of political parties;
- ii. distinguish between types of party systems.

### **Topic 13: Pressure Groups**

- a. Definition, types, functions and modes of operation.
- b. Differences between Pressure Groups and Political Parties.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the functions and the modus operandi of pressure groups;
- ii. distinguish between pressure groups and political parties.

### **Topic 14: Public Opinion**

- a. Meaning, formation and measurement.
- b. Functions and limitations.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. compare methods of assessing public opinion;
- ii. assess the functions of public opinion;
- iii. analyse the limitations of public opinion.

### **Topic 15: The Civil Service**

Definition, characteristics, functions, structure, control and problems.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. analyse the significance of civil service in governance.

## **Section 2: Political Development in Nigeria**

### **Topic 1: Pre-Colonial Polities**

Pre-jihad Hausa, Emirate, Tiv, Igbo, Yoruba

- a. Their structural organization;
- b. The functions of their various political institutions.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. appreciate the effectiveness of the pre-colonial political systems;
- ii. compare pre-colonial systems of governance.

### **Topic 2: Imperialist Penetration**

- a. The British process of acquisition – trade, missionary activities, company rule, crown colony, protectorate;
- b. The British colonial administrative policy – direct and indirect rule;
- c. The French colonial administrative policy – assimilation and association;
- d. Impact of British colonial rule- economic, political, socio-cultural;
- e. Comparison of British and French colonial administration.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. trace the processes of imperialist penetration;
- ii. assess the impact of British and French policies;
- iii. distinguish between British and French colonial practices.

### **Topic 3: Process of Decolonization**

- a. Nationalism – Meaning, Types;
- b. Nationalist Movements – emergence, goals, strategies;
- c. Nationalist Leaders – Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Ahmadu Bello, Ladipo Solanke, Aminu Kano, J. S. Tarka, Tafawa Balewa and others;
- d. Emergence of nationalist parties;
- e. Influence of external factors.

#### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the process of decolonization;
- ii. assess the roles of nationalist leaders and parties;
- iii. assess the impact of external forces and ideas (Pan-Africanism, Back-to-Africa Movements, Second World War etc).

### **Topic 4: Constitutional Development in Nigeria**

- a. Hugh Clifford Constitution (1922)
- b. Arthur Richards Constitution (1946)
- c. John Macpherson Constitution (1951)
- d. Oliver Lyttleton Constitution (1954)
- e. Independence Constitution (1960)

Their features, merits and demerits.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. compare the various constitutional developments.

### **Topic 5: Post – Independence Constitutions**

1963, 1979, 1989 and 1999- characteristics and shortcomings.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. assess the workings of the various constitutions.

### **Topic 6: Institutions of Government in the Post-Independence Nigeria**

- a. The Legislative – structure, functions and working.
- b. The Executive – structure, functions and workings.
- c. The Judiciary – structure, functions and workings.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the operations of the arms of government and their agencies, e.g the civil service, armed forces, police, courts and others.

### **Topic 7: Public Commissions Established by the 1979 and Subsequent Constitutions**

The Civil Service Commission, the Public Complaints Commission, Electoral Commissions, National Boundary Commission and others – objectives functions and problems.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the operations of public commissions;
- ii. assess the problems of the Public Commissions and their constraints.

### **Topic 8: Political Parties and Party Politics in Post-Independence Nigeria**

- a. First Republic
  - b. Second Republic
  - c. Third Republic
  - d. Fourth Republic
- Evolution, membership spread, structure etc.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. contrast political processes in the republics;
- ii. evaluate the ideologies, structure and composition of the political parties.

### **Topic 9: The Structure and Workings of Nigerian Federalism**

- a. Rationale for a Federal System;
- b. Tiers of government and their relationship;
- c. Creation of States – 1963, 1967, 1976, 1987, 1991, 1996;
- d. Problems of Nigerian Federalism – census, revenue allocation, conflicts etc. solutions e.g. Federal character, etc.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. examine the workings of Nigerian federalism;
- ii. identify its problems;
- iii. evaluate the corrective measure adopted.

### **Topic 10: Public Corporations and Parastatals**

- a. Definition, types, purpose and functions;
- b. Finance, control and problems;
- c. Deregulation, privatization, commercialization – objectives, features, merits and demerits;
- d. Comparison between public corporations and parastatals.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. examine the operations of public corporations and parastatals;
- ii. identify the processes involved in privatization and commercialization;
- iii. assess the economic importance of privatization and commercialization.

### **Topic 11: Local Government**

- a. Local government administration prior to 1976;
- b. Features of local government reforms (1976, 1989) – structure, functions, finance and inter-governmental relations;

- c. Traditional rulers and local governments;
- d. Problems of local government administration in Nigeria.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. trace the evolution and structure of local government;
- ii. identify the major problems faced by local governments.

### **Topic 12: The Military in Nigerian Politics**

- a. Factors that led to military intervention;
- b. Structure of military regimes;
- c. Impact of military rule – political, e.g creation of states, introduction of unitary system (Unification Decree NO. 34) etc. economic, e.g SAP, etc.
- d. Processes of military disengagement.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the reasons given for military intervention;
- ii. assess the achievements of military rule;
- iii. determine the conditions that necessitated withdrawal from governance.

## **Section 3: Foreign Policy and Nigeria's Relations With the International Community**

### **Topic 1: Foreign Policy**

Definition, purpose, determining factors; formulation and implementation.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. Define foreign policy, identify and explain its determinants

### **Topic 2: Nigeria's Foreign Policy**

- a. Relations with major powers;
- b. Relations with developing countries, e.g the Technical Aid Corps (TAC), etc.
- c. Nigeria's Non-Alignment Policy.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify the major objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy.
- ii. analyse Nigeria's non-aligned posture.

### **Topic 3: Relations with African Countries**



- a. Africa as the “centre piece” of Nigeria’s foreign policy – guiding principles, implementation and implications;
- b. NEPAD – origin, objectives and implications.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the role of Nigeria in continental affairs;
- ii. assess the role of NEPAD in developing Africa.

### **Topic 4: Nigeria in International Organizations**

- a. The United Nations;
- b. The Commonwealth;
- c. The Organization of African Unity;
- d. The African Union;
- e. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- f. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. analyse the dynamics of Nigeria’s involvement in international organizations;
- ii. assess their contribution to the development of Nigeria.

### **Section 4: International Organizations**

#### **Topic 1: International Organizations**

- a. ECOWAS;
- b. OAU, AU;
- c. Commonwealth;
- d. OPEC;
- e. UNO;
- f. African Petroleum Producers Association;  
– Origin, objectives, structure, functions, achievements, problems and prospects of these organizations.

### **Objectives**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. evaluate the operations of these international organizations;
- ii. assess the role of these organizations in world affairs;
- iii. appreciate the challenges of these organizations and how they can be overcome.