

GOVERNMENT 2

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The overall standard of this year's examination paper was comparable to the previous year, aligning closely with the syllabus and appropriate cognitive levels. However, it is concerning that candidate performance has declined compared to the previous year. This trend highlights the need for targeted improvements in both preparation and a deeper understanding of core concepts in the subject matter.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

A number of candidates demonstrated commendable strengths, including:

Originality and Practical Examples: Some candidates exhibited creativity in their responses, effectively incorporating relevant and contemporary examples to substantiate their arguments. This ability to connect theory with real-world situations reflects a higher level of engagement with the material.

Coherent Thought Processes: Many candidates showcased a solid grasp of key topics, particularly in areas such as:

- i. **Obligation of Citizens to the Democratic Process and Governance:** Candidates articulated how citizens play a role in shaping governance through active participation.
- ii. **Electoral Management Bodies and the Electoral Process:** Responses indicated an understanding of the structure and function of electoral bodies in ensuring fair elections.
- iii. **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS):** Candidates demonstrated knowledge of ECOWAS's role in regional integration and cooperation.

These strengths indicate a foundational understanding of significant subject areas, which is encouraging for future assessments.

3. CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

Despite the strengths observed, several weaknesses were prevalent among candidates:

Challenges in Higher-Order Thinking: Many candidates struggled with questions that required analytical and application skills. They often missed the deeper implications of the queries, leading to incomplete or simplistic responses.

Poor Command of English: A significant number of candidates exhibited inadequate language proficiency, characterized by grammatical errors, misinformation, and misspellings. This lack of clarity hindered their ability to effectively communicate their knowledge and understanding, ultimately impacting their scores.

Misinterpretation of Questions: Some candidates deviated from the question requirements due to misunderstandings, resulting in irrelevant answers that failed to address the prompts. This highlights the need for better question comprehension.

Inadequate Responses: Many candidates provided superficial answers, lacking the depth and detail necessary to merit higher marks. Expanding on key points with relevant examples is crucial for demonstrating a comprehensive understanding.

Limited Knowledge in Key Areas: There was a noticeable deficiency in understanding topics such as:

- i. **Public Corporations:** Candidates struggled to articulate the role and significance of public corporations in national development.
- ii. **Political Socialization:** Many were unfamiliar with the processes through which citizens acquire political norms and values.
- iii. **The Role of Foreign Missions in National Development:** Candidates often failed to explain how diplomatic missions contribute to national interests.
- iv. **Constitutional Development in Pre-Independence Ghana:** A lack of familiarity with historical constitutional milestones was evident.

4. **SUGGESTED REMEDY**

To address these weaknesses, the following strategies are recommended:

Enhancement of English Language Skills: Candidates should engage in targeted language improvement programs to boost comprehension and expression. This focus will facilitate a better understanding of examination questions and help candidates communicate their ideas more effectively.

Engagement with Practical Questions: Educators should incorporate a variety of practical scenarios based on Bloom's Taxonomy into their teaching. This approach will better prepare students for diverse question formats, encouraging critical thinking and application.

Encouragement of Elaborate Responses: Candidates should be trained to expand on their answers, providing detailed explanations and relevant examples to fully articulate their understanding. Practice in this area can lead to improved performance in examinations.

5. **DETAILED COMMENTS**

Question 1

Explore five ways by which citizens can register their displeasure with a government in a democratic system.

This question was popular among candidates, with many performing well. However, a notable number misinterpreted the prompt by discussing citizenship acquisition rather than avenues for expressing dissent. It is crucial for candidates to focus on methods such as protests, petitions, voting in elections, utilizing social media, and engaging in civil discourse to articulate their grievances effectively.

Question 2

Discuss five ways by which a Public Corporation can be positioned to serve a meaningful purpose for which it was established in Ghana.

This question was less frequently attempted, with many candidates misunderstanding its requirements. Instead of focusing on effective positioning, candidates often discussed the functions of public corporations. A clearer understanding of strategic positioning, including market analysis, stakeholder engagement, and policy alignment, would enhance future responses.

Question 3

(a) What is an electoral process? (b) Explain four reasons why the electoral process is vital to a democratic system of government.

Candidates generally performed well on this question, achieving high marks. However, many struggled to provide a comprehensive definition for part (a), which limited their potential score. A thorough definition should encompass the steps of the electoral process, including voter registration, campaigning, voting, and counting. Understanding these steps is essential for appreciating the electoral system's importance.

Question 4

Highlight five reasons why the National Commission for Civic Education should prioritize political socialization.

This question was among the least popular, with many candidates avoiding it. Those who attempted it often misunderstood its demands, resulting in low scores. A better grasp of the significance of political socialization—such as fostering informed citizenship, promoting civic responsibility, and enhancing democratic participation—would help candidates articulate more relevant responses.

Question 5

Explain five ways democracy suffers when the judiciary fails in its constitutional mandate.

This was a popular question that candidates engaged with effectively, leading to strong performances. Many provided well-reasoned responses supported by pertinent examples, discussing issues like the erosion of rule of law, increased corruption, diminished public trust, and the undermining of individual rights. Such insights demonstrate a solid understanding of the judiciary's role in upholding democratic principles.

Question 6

Examine five ways diplomatic missions can attract investment and development for their home countries.

This question was not widely attempted, and those who did score poorly, reflecting a lack of familiarity with the functions and strategies of diplomatic missions. Candidates should focus on aspects such as fostering bilateral relations, promoting trade agreements, facilitating investment forums, providing information on investment opportunities, and supporting home country businesses abroad to address this topic more effectively.

Question 7

Explain five factors that make the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) a relevant sub-regional body.

Many candidates performed well, demonstrating an understanding of the topic. However, a minority failed to provide detailed explanations for their points, which limited their scores. Candidates should elaborate on ECOWAS's roles in regional security, economic integration, conflict resolution, promoting free movement of goods and persons, and fostering political stability to enhance their answers.

Question 8

Discuss five low points in Nkrumah's administration that empowered the military and police to collaborate in overthrowing his government.

This question was popular, with candidates generally displaying a solid grasp of the material and providing relevant examples. Many effectively analyzed factors such as political repression, the militarization of the police, economic challenges, and loss of public support, illustrating the complex dynamics that led to the coup.

Question 9

Explore five significant contributions of the Clifford Constitution of 1916 to the political development of Ghana.

This question proved challenging for many candidates, resulting in below-average performance. A significant number avoided it, indicating a lack of preparedness on this topic. Candidates should focus on aspects like the introduction of elected representatives, the establishment of a legislative council, and the foundation for future constitutional developments to provide more comprehensive responses.

Question 10

- (a) Highlight three objectives of the Aborigine's Rights Protection Society (ARPS).**
- (b) Identify three significant achievements of the ARPS that laid the foundation for Ghana's political development.**

This question was quite popular, and candidates performed well overall. However, some provided scanty points without adequate explanations, which limited their scores. Candidates should aim to detail objectives such as protecting land rights, advocating for constitutional reforms, and promoting political awareness, as well as achievements like influencing colonial policies and fostering nationalist sentiments. Expanding on these points will strengthen future responses.