**CLASS: SS3**

**SUBJECT: GOVIC**

**TOPIC: COLONIAL CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH COLONY**

**WEEK: 2**

**TERM: FIRST**

British colonial rule in West Africa could be traced toward the end of 1898. Lagos was annexed and made a colony in 1861, Gold coast in 1821, Freetown because a colony in 1808 etc. During this period, the British government sought to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria. To achieve this therefore, a number of measure were to betaken. These measures were: removal of all opposition to the imposition of colonial rule; expansion and consolidation of British authority over the territory that was later known as Nigeria; establishment of local authorities; etc.

The British also amalgamated the three different administrative units.

1. The colony of Lagos
2. The protectorate of southern Nigeria
3. The protectorate of Northern Nigeria

**FEATURES OF THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE CROWN COLONIES OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA**

**THE GOVERNOR**

1. The system of administration in the crown colonies of British West Africa was a direct administration headed by a Governor
2. The Governor was appointed from London and was responsible only to the secretary of states for the colonies,who was based in London and also serve as a British minister.
3. The governor was the chairman of the executives and legislative councils.
4. **THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
5. The executive council was responsible to the crown colony, and each crown was made up ofofficials who were mostly whites.
6. The executive council was to advise the governor on administration butthe Governor had the power to accept or reject such advice.

(iii) All the official members of the executive council e.g.chief secretary, financial secretary etc, were departmental heads

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The legislative council had official majority e.g the governors, members of the executive council who were all European officials
2. The council had no legislative power, but played purely advisory role.
3. The unofficial and the non-official members e.g European merchants, African chiefs,educated Africans etc; were appointed by the governor

**FUNCTIONS OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNOR IN BRITISH WEST AFRICA**

1. **Appointment**: the governor had the power to appoint, promote discipline and dismiss any public servant in the colony.
2. **Policy formulation**: He formulated economic and social policies for the colony.
3. The governor signed all **bills** passed by the legislative council.
4. **Meeting:** The governor presided over the meetings of both the executive and legislative council.
5. **Allocation of land:** Landacquired by the government was approved by him.

**ASSIGNMENT**

1. Explain the main features of the Clifford constitution of 1922