CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: GOVIC

TOPIC: ELECTORAL SYSTEM

WEEK: 2

TERM: FIRST

THE MEANING OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Electoral system is a process or method through which the people of a given country elect their representative into different political offices or positions in government. It also includes the process for the nomination of candidates for elective posts including procedure and rules of election.

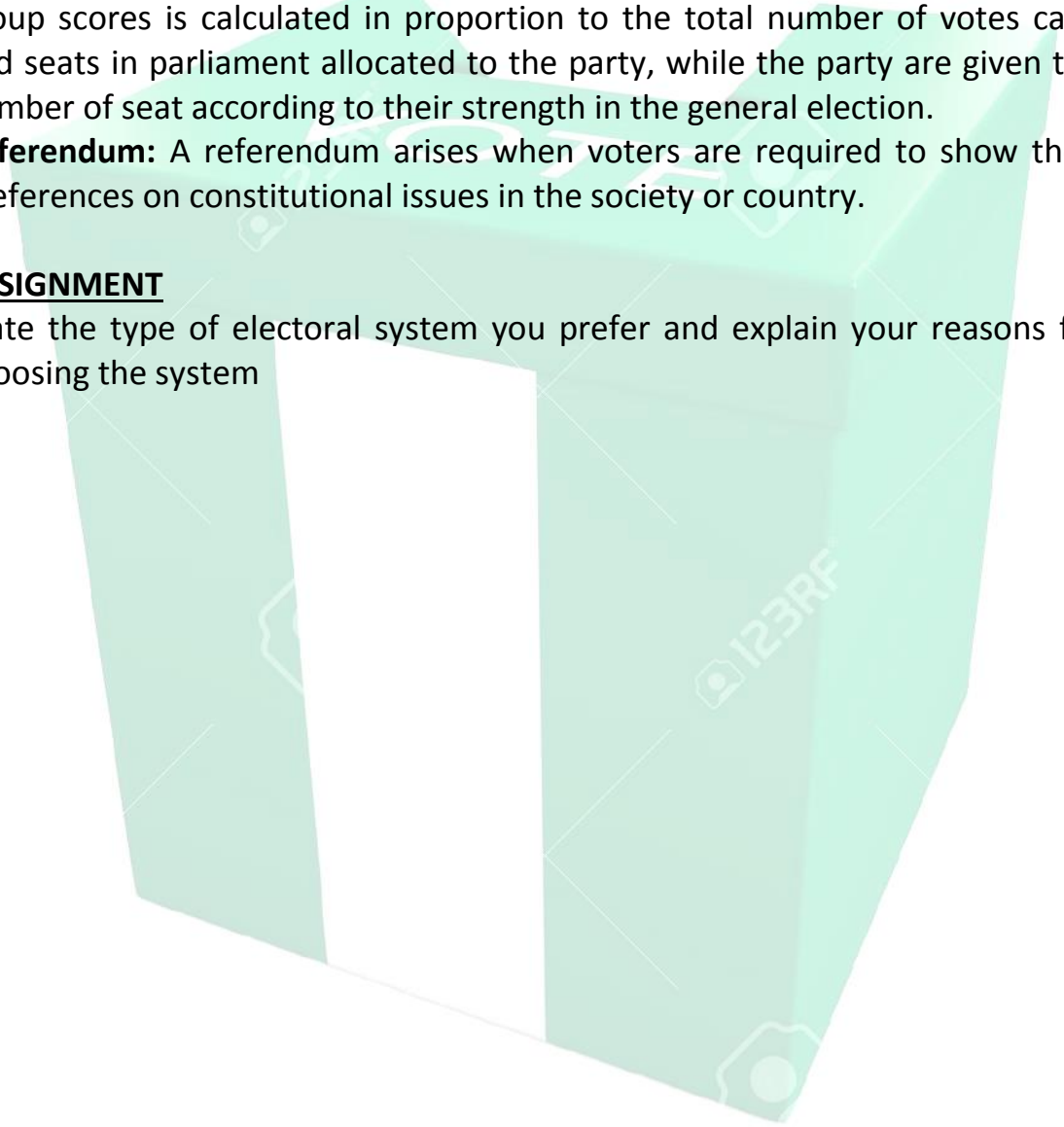
In Nigeria, an electoral commission is appointed to organize and conduct all elections in the country. For example, the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) conducted the 1979-83 second Republic election. National Electoral Commission (NEC) conducted the 1993 aborted third Republic Elections, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conductor the 1999 four Republic Elections.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

1. An impartial and independent electoral body should be put in place
2. A periodic elections should be done and tenure should be stipulated to avoid perpetuate stay in office or sit-tight syndrome
3. Qualified adult citizens should exercise their right of voting.
4. Voting should be conducted without fear, molestation, intimidation and victimization.
5. There should be periodic Public display of voter's lists and regular review of voters register.
6. The people should be properly educated about their political rights to elections and about the political system.
7. The counting of votes should be made public and with immediate release of results.
8. Materials for election should be provided example, Ballot boxes, ballot papers, ink pad, polling booth etc.

TYPES OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM

1. **Single-member constituency and single majority vote**: This system is usually referred to as simple majority system. A Candidate must have the highest number of vote cast to win the election.
2. **Single member and second ballot**: failure of any candidate to receive absolute majority at the first ballot a second one is held with the weaker candidates either loosing or retiring e.g. France.
3. **Single member with Preferential vote**: this system allows the electorate to place the candidate in order of preference.
4. **Proportional Representation:** The total number of votes which a party or group scores is calculated in proportion to the total number of votes cast; and seats in parliament allocated to the party, while the party are given the number of seat according to their strength in the general election.
5. **Referendum:** A referendum arises when voters are required to show their preferences on constitutional issues in the society or country.

ASSIGNMENT

State the type of electoral system you prefer and explain your reasons for choosing the system