

Lesson Plan: Government

Class: SS1

Subject: Government

Topic: Separation of Powers

Sub-topic: Meaning, Importance, and Arms of Government

Date: (Insert actual teaching date)

Duration: 45 minutes

Period: (e.g., 2nd Period)

Term: First Term

Week: (e.g., Week 5)

Class teacher: Mr John

1. Lesson Objectives (By the end of the lesson, students should be able to):

- Define the term *Separation of Powers*.
 - Identify and describe the **three arms of government**.
 - State at least **three importance or advantages** of separation of powers.
 - Explain what happens when powers are not separated in a government.
-

2. Previous Knowledge

Students already know the **functions of government** and the **structure of a state** from earlier topics.

3. Set Induction (5 minutes)

Teacher's Action:

Writes these three words on the board: **Legislature, Executive, Judiciary**.

Then asks:

"Imagine if one person made the laws, enforced them, and judged people. What could go wrong?"

Expected Student Response:

- "It would be unfair."
- "There would be abuse of power."
- "Nobody would check the person."

Teacher's Link:

“Exactly. That’s why modern governments follow something called **Separation of Powers**, which we’ll learn about today.”

4. Instructional Materials

- Chart showing the arms of government
 - Diagram of the checks and balances system
 - Constitution excerpts (optional)
 - Whiteboard and marker
-

5. Instructional Techniques

- Explanation
 - Question and Answer
 - Class Discussion
 - Note Writing
 - Group Work (optional, if time allows)
-

6. Lesson Presentation Steps

Step 1: Introduction to Separation of Powers (10 minutes)

Teacher Explains:

- *Separation of Powers* is a system where the functions of government are divided among **three distinct arms**.
- These arms work independently and act as checks on one another to prevent **tyranny or dictatorship**.

Definition:

“Separation of powers means dividing government responsibilities into different branches to limit any one branch from exercising the core functions of another.”

Step 2: Description of the Arms of Government (10 minutes)

Arm	Function
Legislature	Makes laws
Executive	Implements laws

Judiciary

Interprets laws and settles disputes

Teacher's Action:

Draws a simple triangle on the board to show how each arm relates to the other.
Emphasizes their independence and interdependence.

Step 3: Importance of Separation of Powers (10 minutes)

Teacher Highlights:

- Prevents abuse of power
- Promotes fairness and accountability
- Encourages rule of law
- Each arm checks the other, creating balance
- Protects individual rights

Example:

"In Nigeria, the National Assembly cannot arrest citizens—that's the job of the police, under the Executive."

Step 4: Class Interaction and Guided Practice (5 minutes)

Ask:

- "Which arm of government signs a bill into law?" → Executive
 - "Who decides if a law is unconstitutional?" → Judiciary
 - "Who can impeach a president?" → Legislature
-

7. Evaluation (5 minutes)

Ask students the following questions:

1. What is separation of powers?
2. Mention the three arms of government.
3. State two functions of the legislature.
4. Why is separation of powers important?
5. What might happen if one person controls all three arms?

Assessment Type: Oral Questions + Brief written quiz

8. Summary/Conclusion (2 minutes)

Teacher Recap:

- “Today, we learned that a country’s government must divide power among the legislature, executive, and judiciary.”
 - “This system helps prevent misuse of power and promotes justice.”
-

9. Assignment

Instruction:

In your Government note, answer the following:

1. Define separation of powers in your own words.
2. Draw and label a diagram showing the three arms of government and their roles.
3. Give one real-life example of separation of powers in Nigeria.

Note:

The timing might not be necessary.

For personal use, a teacher can add it in order to manage their time well. That’s why I included it.

Most teachers tell stories in class and aren’t always mindful of the time. That’s why, at the end of the day, you often find that they don’t complete the subjects on the timetable.

Though storytelling, especially with stories pupils can relate to is quite good, proper time management is important.