***Nigeria Briefing Paper* Study Guide**

*Instructions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper OR type them into this document*

**Preface: Why Study Nigeria? (*The Importance of Comparison)***

1. Briefly summarize why Nigeria is important to study in this course.

2. Summarize how each of the following helps us understand Nigeria’s political system:

* Civil/Military Relations-
* Managing Ethnic/Religious Diversity (In your answer, address each of the following)…
	+ How has Nigeria attempted to address “fragmentation of national authority?”
	+ How is Russia similar to Nigeria in its multiethnic state?
* Consolidating Democracy (In your answer, address each of the following)…
	+ What has deprived the general public of benefiting from Nigeria’s vast oil reserves?
	+ Compare Great Britain’s path to democracy with Nigeria’s
* Benefiting from Natural Resources
* Islam and Democracy

**Historical Overview (p. 11)**

3. Describe the relationship between Europe and Nigeria after the sixteenth century

4. What did the British do to Nigeria in 1900 and for what reason?

5. Describe the differences between how the northern and southern portions of Nigeria were governed after 1914.

6. What changes took place in 1939 and who were the major ethnic groups in each region?

7. What happened to Nigeria at the end of WWII?

8. Describe, in detail, the government of the First Republic in 1960?

9. Using your Almond book, define “cross-cutting cleavages”-

10. What has made it difficult for national political movements to emerge?

11. What happened in 1966 to end Nigeria’s first experiment with parliamentary democracy?

12. Describe Major General Johnson Aguyi-Ironsi’s rule

13. Describe Colonel Yakubu Gowon’s rule-

14. What events led to the establishment of the independent Republic of Biafra and what was its impact?

15. Describe, in detail, the Second Republic of Nigeria. (NOTE: What significant change did Olusegun Obasanjo implement to prevent the “proliferation of ethnic-based political parties” and what were the new requirements to be President?)

16. What events led to the downfall of the Second Republic?

17. What steps to Major-General Muhammad Buhari take to eliminate the Second Republic?

18. Describe the events of the Third Republic-

19. Who is Ken Saro-Wiwa and why is he significant?

20. What are some challenges of the Fourth Republic ?

**Political Institutions**

21. Which institution is the most powerful in the country? Why is this the case?

22. Describe the powers and basic tasks of the President of Nigeria.

23. Whose powers are more significant: The President of Nigeria/The President of Russia/The President of Mexico? Give evidence to support your answer (NOTE: This is not found in the briefing paper. You will have to refer to your notes/textbook to answer this question)

24. Federal Executive Committee-

25. Describe the make-up of the National Assembly. (In your answer, explain their relationship to the President)

26. Duties of the Judiciary in Nigeria-

27. is Nigeria Federal or Unitary? Describe its structure.

*Military*

28. What is the perception of the Nigerian military among the people?

29. What makes the military distinct from the government regarding ethnic tensions?

30. Two major parties in Nigeria? Characteristics?

31. Common theme in most elections in Nigeria?

32. What has been established to ensure that there is some “national character” to presidential elections?

33. Describe the temptation to succumb to corruption in Nigeria-

34. Main source of information in Nigeria?

**Citizens and Society**

35. Major Ethnic cleavages and their religions?

36. Effect of ethnic and religious cleavages on Society? Examples?

37. National Labor congress-

38. Largest occupational group in Nigeria?

39. Dominant belief systems in Nigeria?

40. What professions typically have access to government resources (public and private)?

41. Why do political leaders feel it necessary to engage in patron-client relationships?

42. Describe the source of women’s power in Nigeria.

**Political Economy**

43. What resource does Nigeria depend upon for “sustenance”? Impacts of this dependence?

44. Because of its dependence on this resource, what often determines the state of Nigeria’s economy? Explain how this works.

**Major Public Policy Challenges**

45. Explain the “myriad of economic and political challenges” facing the Fourth Republic- (THINK: economic challenges, poverty, the environment, political stability, the military, public health)