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**CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
KUMASI, GHANA**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CORPORATE PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE
END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS – 2021/22 ACADEMIC YEAR**

LEVEL 500

MGCP 509: DECENTRALISATION AND POLITICS IN GHANA

January, 2022

60 Marks

Time Allowed: 2 Hours 30minutes

GENERAL INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES:

- Answer **Three** Questions in all. **Question one** is compulsory
- Present all answers in essay form
- Marks will be awarded for clarity of expression of ideas and grammar
- Write your index number on top of the question paper

Question 1 (30 marks)

The following extract is taken from Agomor, Adams and Taabazuing. (2019). Rethinking Ghana’s Decentralization: Citizens’ Views on the Question of Electing or Appointing a District Political Head. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, Vol. 54(1) 104– 117. The extract deals with decentralization and politics in Ghana. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Decentralization and party politics

Many analysts have, in recent times, argued that the adopted multi-party democratic governance at the national level should transcend to the local-level governance (municipal, metropolitan, district assemblies). They contend that whilst the district assembly election is theoretically non-partisan, the reality is the opposite, as there are often strong political under-currents behind the various candidates. Such arguments notwithstanding, others also assert that any attempt to politicize the decentralization system will compromise the neutral and development-oriented posture expected of the district assembly. In the light of these contestations, this study sought to explore, in-depth, respondents’ views on the issue of politicization of district-level elections.

Item	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
As more experience is gained with decentralization MMDCEs could be elected	74.7	15.3
As the level of development goes up, MMDCEs could be elected	72.6	19.2
Ghana’s decentralization should be partisan	18.0	65.4
Ghana’s local-government system is already political	81.8	9.2
Strengthen political parties at the local level is the best way to promote democracy	61.1	27.7
Strengthen political parties at local level helps make parties stronger	68.5	20.6
Partisan politics be encouraged in district-level elections	20.7	70.7
Partisan politics at local level could enhance national cohesion	25.0	57.7

As shown in the Table above, an overwhelming 81.8% of the respondents alluded to the political nature of the current local-government structure; nevertheless, they did not support attempts to make it partisan. About 65% of the respondents disagree that ‘Ghana’s decentralization should be partisan’. They further indicate that even though strengthening political parties at the local-government level is a good indicator and a promoter of democracy, partisan politics must not be entertained in district-level elections since it can impact negatively on national cohesion. It is, however, worth emphasizing that the majority (over 74%) of the respondents anticipate a possible election of MMDCEs as democracy is consolidated generally and the challenges and impacts of decentralization are appreciated more specifically.

- a. Identify and explain the main arguments for and against the election of MMDCEs based on the passage above. [10 marks]
- b. If MMDCEs were elected in Ghana, what typology of administrative decentralization would we be practicing and why is that important? [10 marks]
- c. Based on the table provide in the extract above, what is your own assessment of whether or not MMDCEs should be elected? [10 marks]

Question 2

As someone who is becoming a governance and planning expert, explain governance and its relation to politics, and briefly outline the roles of the state, business and civil society [15 marks]

Question 3

Within the context of Ghana's governance architecture, explain the concepts of devolution, deconcentration and delegation [15 marks]

Question 4

Ghana's decentralised system is said to have achieved some successes as well as suffered some challenges. Explain, in detail, any three (3) of such successes and how those have contributed to development of communities. [15 marks]

Question 5

Participation is a major motivation for decentralised governance system. In Ghana, the idea of decentralization meant "power to the people". With reference to Arnsteins' ladder of participation, discuss the level at which the people obtain this "power" and how that can be achieved in Ghana's growing local governance system [15 marks].