



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

M.A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION Semester I - Discipline Core Continuous Internal Evaluation ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

Course Code: M23PA01DC

Course Title: Introduction to Public Administration

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. How has the scope and significance of Public Administration evolved from its origins to its current understanding in modern governance?
2. What were the major challenges faced by Public Administration during the 'Era of Challenges' (1938-1947), and how did they shape the field's identity crisis from 1948 to 1970?
3. In what ways has the relationship between Public Administration and other social sciences, such as Sociology and Political Science, influenced interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Public Administration?
4. How has the implementation of ICT transformed internal administration, planning, and decision-making processes within the context of modern governance?
5. What are the key benefits and challenges of e-governance initiatives like AKSHAYA in Kerala, and how have they contributed to local governance and citizen-centric service delivery?

General Instructions:

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

SET 2 - Analytical

1. How do the principles of administration established between 1927-1937 compare with the practices of New Public Management (1990-2008) in terms of efficiency and accountability in public service delivery?
2. How does the role of Public Administration differ in the context of liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG) compared to its traditional role before these economic reforms?
3. In what ways do the Public Choice and Rational Choice approaches to Public Administration provide different perspectives on decision-making within public institutions?
4. How does the transition from the 'Crisis of Identity' period (1948-1970) to the era of Public Management (1971-1990) reflect changing priorities in public administration?
5. How do the concepts of State vs. Market in the context of entrepreneurial government compare with traditional public administration approaches in balancing public and private interests?

General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*
- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
- *Ensure an overall clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

M.A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Semester I - Discipline Core

Continuous Internal Evaluation

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

Course Code: M23PA02DC

Course Title: Polity and Governance in India

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. Discuss the contributions of the Government of India Acts of 1909, 1919, and 1935 to the constitutional development in India
2. Describe the salient features of the Indian Constitution and the nature of Indian federalism
3. Outline the history and structure of the Indian Parliament, focusing on the composition, power, and functions of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
4. Discuss the role of the 73rd and 74th Amendments in promoting grassroots democracy in India.
5. Describe the powers and functions of the President of India, and evaluate the relevance of the office in contemporary Indian politics.

General Instructions:

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

SET 2 - Analytical

1. Discuss the relevance of the ideological backgrounds like Anti-colonialism and Nationalism that shaped the Indian Constitution, in light of the current political discourse in India.
2. Critically evaluate the relationship between the Fundamental Rights and the DPSP in the deepening of Indian democracy, considering recent judicial interpretations
3. Evaluate the impact of judicial activism and Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on governance in India, with a special focus on India's social and environmental issues
4. How do recent developments in Centre-State relations, such as the role of the Governor and the use of emergency provisions, reflect the ongoing tension between unitary and federal features in Indian governance?
5. Explain the ideological composition of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) and their significance in establishing social and economic democracy in India.

General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*
- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
- *Ensure an overall clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
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SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

**M.A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Semester I - Discipline Core
Continuous Internal Evaluation
ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

Course Code: M23PA03DC

Course Title: Introduction to Public Policy

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. Discuss the concept, meaning, and nature of public policy. How do these aspects define the scope and significance of public policy in contemporary governance?
2. Compare and contrast the Rationalism and Incrementalism models in public policy. How do these models approach decision-making differently?
3. Discuss the process of policy legitimization and adoption. What are the key factors that influence the success of this stage in the policy process?
4. Compare the role of official and unofficial policy actors in the policy formulation process. How do these actors contribute differently to policy outcomes?
5. Explain the relationship between socio-economic conditions and public policy formulation. How do changes in socio-economic factors impact policy priorities and implementation?

General Instructions:

- *Begin with an introduction*

- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

SET 2 - Analytical

1. Evaluate the relevance of Theodore Lowi's classification of public policies in the context of contemporary policy challenges in India, with a specific focus on how these classifications can be applied to recent policy decisions.
2. Analyze the impact of globalization on public policy in India, with an emphasis on Kerala. How have global trends influenced local policy decisions, and what challenges do policymakers face in balancing global pressures with local needs?
3. Evaluate the role of socio-economic conditions in shaping public policies. Use recent examples to illustrate how changes in socio-economic factors, such as income inequality, education, and health, have influenced policy priorities and outcomes in the state.
4. Critically examine the influence of official and unofficial policy actors in the policy-making process in India. How do these actors interact with each other, and what role do they play in shaping public policy in the context of the state's unique political and social environment?
5. Examine the significance of environmental policies in Kerala, particularly in the context of climate change and natural disasters. How has the state's approach to environmental sustainability evolved in recent years, and what challenges remain?

General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*
- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
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- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
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**M.A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Semester I - Discipline Core
Continuous Internal Evaluation
ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

Course Code: M23PA04DC

Course Title: Development Administration

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. Discuss the nature, scope and evolution of development administration, highlighting its significance in driving socio-economic progress in developing countries.
2. Explain how the focus and approach to development administration have shifted across different decades, emphasizing the changing role of bureaucracy, the rise of Human Development concepts, and the critical perspectives introduced by Post-Development theory.
3. Discuss the contributions of F.W. Riggs, Edward Weidner, Robert Chambers, Elinor Ostrom, and M. Gandhi to the theoretical perspectives in development administration.
4. Explain the roles and functions of major international agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, and UNDP in promoting global development. How do these agencies contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries?

5. Discuss the role of community and area development programs and their role in shaping India's approach to inclusive growth.

General Instructions:

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

SET 2 - Analytical

1. Critically evaluate the role of development administration in addressing the unique challenges faced by developing countries. How does its goal-oriented and interdisciplinary nature contribute to overcoming administrative obstacles and fostering innovation?
2. Analyze the interconnectedness between political development, social development, and economic development in shaping comprehensive development strategies.
3. Critically analyze the impact of liberalization, privatization, and globalization on developing countries' economies. How do these processes contribute to economic growth, and what are the potential risks and challenges associated with them?
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addressing global challenges. Consider the political, economic, and structural barriers that may hinder the achievement of these goals.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of India's transition from Five-Year Plans to the NITI Aayog by analysing the successes and limitations of both approaches in achieving sustainable and equitable growth, considering the challenges of bureaucratic inefficiencies, regional imbalances, and environmental concerns.

General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*

- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
- *Ensure an overall clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*



SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY

M.A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Semester I – Ability Enhancement Course

Continuous Internal Evaluation

ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

Course Code: M23PA01AC

Course Title: Administrative Ethics

Two sets of assignments are given for each course, the first set is descriptive and the second set is analytical. Each set of Assignments will consist of 5 (five) questions and learners shall choose any one from each set. Each Assignment carries 15 marks.

SET 1 - Descriptive

1. Explain the meaning and significance of ethics in public administration, detailing how ethical conduct impacts governance and public trust.
2. Describe the fundamental ethical theories of utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics, and discuss their relevance in public administration.
3. Define corporate ethics and discuss its main aspects, including its significance in the context of public and private organizations.
4. Discuss the role of corporate social responsibility in shaping corporate ethics, giving examples of its impact on society and governance.
5. Define accountability in civil services, and explain how it contributes to the ethical conduct of public servants.

General Instructions:

- *Begin with an introduction*
- *Explain the theory or idea supported by historical evidence*
- *Maintain clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Provide a clear and concise conclusion*
- *Include a bibliography or references section at the end*

SET 2 - Analytical

Evaluate the role of ethical theories (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics) in shaping administrative practices and decision-making in public organizations.

1. Examine the significance of foundational civil service values, such as integrity, adaptability, and humility, in promoting ethical governance in India.
2. Analyze the impact of anti-corruption mechanisms in India, discussing the evolution, effectiveness, and limitations of institutions like the Lokpal and CBI
3. Critically assess the challenges of maintaining ethical standards in governance, especially during crises, with relevant case studies.
4. Discuss the role of ethics in governance, focusing on how ethical values can guide administrative practices during public crises and challenges.

General Instructions:

- *Provide an introduction to the topic*
- *Conduct a critical inquiry by formulating the ideas and structuring the analysis*
- *Ensure an overall clarity, style, structure and organization throughout the assignment*
- *Conclude with a critical analysis of the topic*
- *Include footnotes, bibliography or references section*