

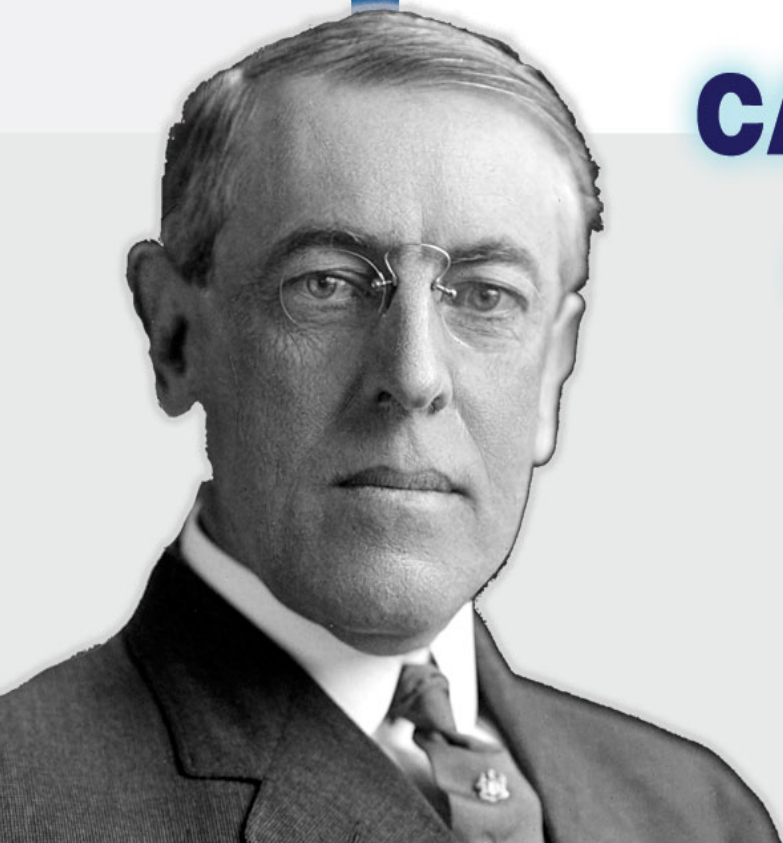


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Public Administration Optional

CATEGORISED QUESTION PAPERS





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UPSC MAINS

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(2003-2019)

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Public Administration Paper-1

Chapter – 1 : Introduction

- "The Study of Administration should start from the base of management rather than the foundation of law," Explain. (20 Marks, 2010)
- "Public and Private Administrations are two species of the same genus, but also have special values and techniques of their own." Comment (20 Marks, 2007)
- "If public administration is to play a major Legitimising role in governing our complex society, It needs to be more fully conceptualised." Discuss (20 Marks, 2006)
- "The field of Public Administration is a field of business." (Woodrow Wilson). (20 Marks, 2009). Q.5 "Calling Woodrow Wilson, the father of Public Administration is doing injustice to equally or even more eminent contributions made prior to him." Comment (20 Marks, 2008)
- "Administrative questions are not political questions." Discuss (20 Marks, 2005)
- How would you trace the development of Public Administration in terms of paradigms from the politics /administration dichotomy of 1900-1926 to the rise of Public Administration as Public Administration after the formation of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in the USA in 1970? (30 Marks, 2012)
- In the evolution of the discipline of Public Administration. Minnowbrook Conference 1,2 and 3 reflect the discipline's reconceptualisation and its changing values. Elucidate. (30 Marks, 2011)
- From Woodrow Wilson to Herbert Simon most writers on administration have taken the achievement of efficiency as the central objective. Justify the statement with references to the work of major writers. (60 Marks, 2009)
- Give an account of major landmarks in the growth of the discipline of Public Administration in the 20th Century. What are the possible trends in its growth in the first decade of the 21st century ? (60 Marks, 2003)
- "The advent of the concept of "roll back of the state" since the nineteen eighties has been altering the role of Public Administration but certainly not diminishing its central place in human society." Discuss. (60 Marks, 2003)
- "New Public Administration is a revolution or radicalism in words, and (at best) status-quo in skills or technologies." (20 Marks, 2009)
- It is said that "the perspective of public administration, developed over a century, with a tradition of management of public institutions and services has received a jolt from the novelty of New Public



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Management". Bring out the core values, approaches and assumptions of traditional public administration and show how the New Public Management has attempted to change or retain them, and to what extent. (60 Marks, 2009)

- In the last two decades, almost all countries of the world have experienced transformations in their administrative systems." Explain this phenomenon with examples from the developed and the developing nations in the context of New Public Management Movement . (60 Marks, 2008)
- Civil Servants must be social moralists in action, living up to Paul Appleby's dictum that 'responsible government is ethical government'. Examine this statement in the light of good governance. (30 Marks, 2011)
- "Not merely governance but good governance is the key factor in achieving the United Nations Millennium Goals." Explain. (20 Marks, 2010)
- Democracy and good governance are contradictions in terms. Discuss with examples (60 Marks, 2004)
- 'On a more sophisticated plane public choice is concerned with "Pareto optimality", or at least with "Pareto improvements".' Comment. (12 Marks, 2012)
- Whereas Downs' model is largely dependent on a theory of psychological motivation, Niskanen's model is framed by neoclassical thinking.
- In the light of the above, discuss the public choice approach to decision-making. (30 Marks, 2011)
- How did the traditional Public Administration resolve the fundamentally irresolvable problem-creating an administration strong enough to be effective but not strong enough to endanger accountability? (10 Marks, 2013)
- New Public Administration may have neither been the savior its enthusiasts promised, nor the devil its critics worried it would be. Discuss. (25 Marks, 2013)
- Public Administration in the neo-liberal era is government less by the instruments of accountability and more by those of external accountability Elaborate (10 Marks, 2013)
- A variety of different organizational arrangements can be used to provide different public goods and services. Example the theory underlying this proposition and its potential contribution. (15 Marks, 2013)
- Public interest is still inadequate as a ground concept to evaluate public policy. (25 Marks, 2013)
- What are the implications of the post-structuralism perspective on the discrete aspects of Public Administrations, coming from its epistemological positions? (10 Marks, 2014)



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- “New Public Management and post-New Public Management reforms initiatives have affected the balance between managerial, political, administrative, legal, professional and social accountability.” Analyze. (20 Marks, 2014)
- Waldo’s ‘The Administrative State’ provides a fundamental challenge to some of the orthodox premises. Explain. (10 Marks, 2015)



- Discuss how the Public Choice Theory promotes the concept of ‘Steering’ and undermines the concept of ‘Rowing’ in visualising efficient and effective administration. (10 Marks, 2015)
- “Globalisation has transformed the nature and character of State from traditional administrative Welfare State to a Corporate State.” Analyse the changes in the nature of public administration in this context. (20 Marks, 2015)
- “Public Administration is the translation of politics into the reality that citizens see every day.” (Donald F. Kettl and James W. Fesler) Explain. (10 Marks, 2016)
- “The New Public Administration has seriously jolted the traditional concepts and outlook of the discipline and enriched the subject by imparting wider perspective by linking it closely to the society.” (Felix A. Nigro and Lloyd G. Nigro) Elucidate. (15 Marks, 2016)
- “Good governance is ensuring respect for human rights and strengthening democracy, promoting transparency and capacity in Public Administration.” (Kofi Annan) In the light of the statement, critically examine the criteria of good governance as provided by the United Nations and Nayef Al-Rodhan. (15 Marks, 2016)
- Even after 130 years of its publication, Woodrow Wilson’s essay “The Study of Administration” continues to have great relevance even today.” Comment (10 Marks, 2017)



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- New Public Management has been branded by certain scholars as 'Neo-Taylorism'. Is it a justified comparison? What factors have led to the decline of NPM as soon after its birth (20 Marks, 2017)
- "With every major transformation in the applied world of Public Administration, the study of Public Administration has grown in scope and intensity." Discuss the relationship between the evolution of the discipline and profession of Public Administration. (15 Marks, 2017)
- "The scope of the discipline of Public Administration is determined by what an administrative system does." Does it mean that the scope of this discipline is boundaryless? Explain. (10 Marks, 2018)
- "New Public Service approach is an improvement over its predecessor, New Public Management." Discuss. (10 Marks, 2018)
- "The Phenomenological Approach advocated by the New Public Administration has obstructed the path of theory building in Public Administration." Comment. (15 Marks, 2018)
- "Political and administrative systems have reciprocal relationships." Discuss. (15 Marks, 2018)
- "Public Administration is constantly being reinvented because it is contextual." Elaborate. (10 Marks, 2019)
- With the entry of the concept of 'good governance' the discipline of Public Administration has shed its statist character. Explain. (15 Marks, 2019)
- Has New Public Management failed in promoting a democratic polity? Analyze in the contexts of individuals as a citizen and individuals as a customer. (15 Marks, 2019)
- "Globalization has constructed the administrative state to save and serve corporate power structure." Discuss how transnational corporations impact government and public administration in the contemporary era. (20 Marks, 2019)



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Chapter – 2 : Administrative Thought

- In what respects is Taylor's 'Scientific Management' or classical motivational theory different from the classical organizational theory expounded by Gulick, Urwick etc? (15 Marks, 2012)
- What light does Antonio Gramsci's critique of Taylorism throw on its socio - psychological underpinnings? (15 Marks, 2012)
- 'In the canonization of this abstract idea of 'StaatSraison' are inseparably woven the sure instincts of the bureaucracy for the conditions which preserve its own power in the State' [Weber]. Explain. (12 Marks, 2012)
- "Taylor's contribution was not a set of general principles for organising work efficiency, but a set of operating procedures that could be employed in each concrete situation to secure their application." (20 Marks, 2009)
- "Taylor's scientific management ignored social and psychological factors." Comment. (20 Marks, 2007)
- Weber's ideas of impersonal detachment and esprit de corps are incompatible. Explain. (60 marks 2004)
- "Weberian model of bureaucracy lacks empirical validity when applied to modern democratic administration." Examine. (20 Marks, 2003)
- Consider the statements below: (i) "Technically, the bureaucracy represents the purest type of legal-rational authority."; (ii) "Bureaucracy does not represent the only type of legal authority." Identify the theoretical context and analyse the above statements. (30 Marks, 2009)
- "Bureaucracy can exist only where the whole service of the state is removed. from the common political life of the people; its chiefs as well as rank and file. Its motives, its objectives, its. policy, its standards must be bureaucratic." - Discuss. (20 Marks, 2004)
- Explain the 'Peter Principle' in respect of promotion policy in a hierarchical organisation. (20 Marks, 2010)
- Discuss the main approaches to increase the efficiency of government and public administration. (60 Marks, 2006)
- Critically examine the Classical Science of Administration with special reference to its criticism by Dwight Waldo and Robert Dahl. (60 Marks, 2006)
- "The failure of classical science of administration lies in its capacity to confront theory with evidence." Discuss. (20 Marks, 2005)



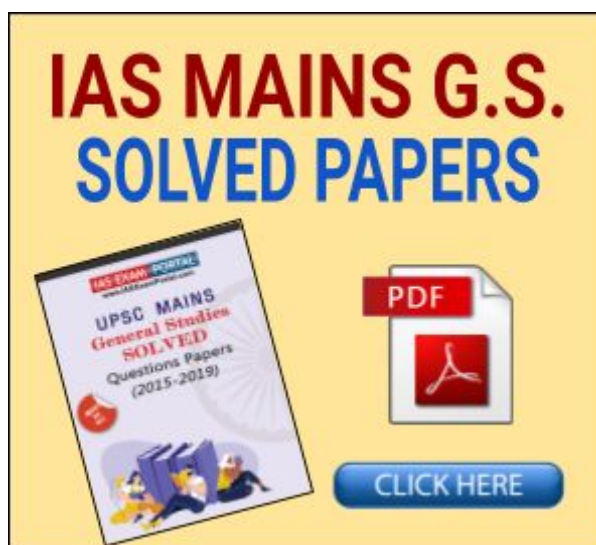
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- Critically examine conflict resolution according to M. P. Follett. Explain how McGregor took forward her ideas to the context of complex organizations. (30 Marks, 2011)
- "Mary Parker Follett was far ahead of her times." Discuss. (20 Marks, 2008)
- "The main problem with Mary Parker Follett's work is that her idealism is showing". Explain. (20 Marks, 2006)



- In Follett's view, "authority belongs to the job and stays with the job." Explain. (20 Marks, 2005)
- To what extent has the human relations movement contributed to the knowledge and. practice within the field of personnel administration? (60 Marks, 2006)
- "The Barnard - Simon Theory of Organisation is essentially a theory of motivation." Comment. (20 Marks, 2009)
- "Organisation is a system of consciously coordinated activities or forces of two or more persons." Comment. (20 Marks, 2005)
- 'Three features characterize Simon's original view of bounded rationality : search for alternatives, satisfying, and aspiration adaptation.' Elucidate. (20 Marks, 2012)
- "Simon's identifying decision - making as the core field of public administration appears logically acceptable but his positivist underpinning is problematic." Critically examine the statement. (40 Marks, 2010)
- "Simon's work has had major implications for the study of public administration and the practice of public administration professionalism." Comment. (20 Marks, 2006)



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- "In McGregor's view, the managerial cosmology meaningfully addresses the understanding of manager and his role perceptions." Explain. (20 Marks, 2010)
- 'The successful management leaders are found in Likert's 'System - 4' approach to organisational leadership." Examine. (20 Marks, 2010)
- Analyse McGregor's Theory X and Theory Y. Do you agree with the view that with every passing year, McGregor's message has become more relevant and more important ? Substantiate your answer. (60 Marks, 2007)
- The theory of organizational incompetence has two separate and distinct faces. Examine Chris Argyris' views on this. (10 Marks, 2013)
- In the globalized Public Administration, hierarchy creates more ethical problems than it solves. Comment (10 Marks, 2013)
- "The design of physical structures, the anatomy of the organization came first, and was indeed the principle consideration." "An organization is a system of interrelated social behaviors of participants" Analyses these statements and evaluate the contribution of the respective approach to Administrative theory. (25 Marks, 2013)
- Decisions are not made by organizations, but by human beings behaving as the members of organizations. How do Bernard and Herbert A. Simon conceptualize the relation between decision of the individual employee and the organizational authority? (20 Marks, 2013)
- What is the nature of psychological contract pursued by organizational management through authority and employees through exertion of upward influence? (15 Marks, 2013)
- Structure theory is by and large, grounded in classical principles of efficiency, effectiveness and productivity. (25 Marks, 2013)
- "Adaptive, problem-solving, temporary systems of diverse specialists, linked together by coordinating executives in an organic flux – this is the original form that will gradually replace bureaucracy." Discuss, in the light of this statement, the 'end of bureaucracy' thesis and its strengths and limitations. (10 Marks, 2014)
- "Taylor's ideas need modification in the context of post-industrial economies in contemporary era." Justify with reasons. (15 Marks, 2014)
- "The notion of informal organization is a residual of cafeteria concept of diverse and sprawling contents." How does Gouldner establish the need for understanding the inter digitations between the 'formal' and 'informal' organization? (15 Marks, 2014)



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