BPAC-101: PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Tutor Marked Assignments

Course Code: BPAC-101
Assignment Code: ASST/TMA/July-2026 and January-2027
Total Marks: 100

Assignment A

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1) Explain the meaning, nature and scope of public administration. 20

2) Bring out the views of the major contributors to the administrative management approach. 20

Assignment B

Answer the following in about 250 words each.

3) Examine the nature of Riggs' Prismatic model. 10

4) Describe the major Hawthorne experiments. 10

5) Discuss the views of Harold Lasswell's on Policy Sciences. 10

Assignment C

Answer the following in about 100 words each.

6) What do you understand by Systems approach? 06

7) Discuss the concept of public interest. 06

8) Explain the features of public choice approach. 06

9) Discuss the concept of New Public Management. 06

10) What do you understand by the term 'Gender of Governance'? 06

1) Explain the meaning, nature and scope of public administration. 20

Answer

Public administration refers to the organisation and execution of public policies and collective decisions through institutions entrusted with public responsibilities. In a narrow sense, it is the work of the executive branch and its departments. In a wider sense, it embraces the administrative dimensions of all branches of government and the interaction of government agencies with citizens, civil society and the private sector. Its central concern is how public purposes are translated into effective, lawful and accountable action.

Meaning and basic characteristics

The word administration signifies managing affairs through coordinated effort. Public administration is distinguished by its orientation towards public welfare, its foundation in constitutional and legal authority, and its obligation to serve a diverse population. Woodrow Wilson described administration as the detailed and systematic execution of public law, drawing attention to implementation. L. D. White viewed it as the operations undertaken to fulfil or enforce public policy. Later writers broadened the idea to include policy formulation, public value, citizenship and governance networks. Thus it is not merely office work or the mechanical application of rules.

Its main characteristics include a public purpose, continuity, accountability, legal authority and complex relations with the political environment. Government departments must ensure fairness and due process even when a faster shortcut may be convenient. Their actions affect many groups with competing claims and cannot ordinarily be judged by financial profit alone. Administration also operates on several levels: union, state, district and local institutions, as well as statutory agencies and partnerships.

Nature of public administration

Public administration is simultaneously a practical activity and an academic discipline. As an activity, it includes planning services, allocating money, recruiting personnel, implementing laws, regulating conduct and responding to emergencies. As a discipline, it studies administrative institutions, behaviour, techniques and their social consequences. There is a long-standing debate about whether it is an art or a science. It is scientific to the extent that researchers develop concepts, compare institutions, collect evidence and test explanations. It is an art because administrators use judgement, ethical sensitivity, communication and practical experience in situations that cannot be resolved by a fixed formula.