BPAC-107: Comparative Public Administration
Tutor Marked Assignments

Course Code: BPAC-107
Assignment Code: BPAC-107/Asst/TMA/July 2026– January 2027
Marks: 100

This assignment consists of Sections A, B, and C. Answer all the questions; marks are indicated on the right-hand side.

Assignment A

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each.

1) Discuss the nature and scope of Comparative Public Administration (CPA). 20

2) Describe the political and administrative system in Russia. 20

Assignment B

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3) Examine the features of Behavioural approach. 10

4) Discuss the General Systems approach. 10

5) Write a note on the ecological approach. 10

Assignment C

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6) Write a short note on the merits of bureaucracy. 06

7) What do you mean by multi-functionality? 06

8) Briefly explain ideal-type models. 06

9) Comment on the concept of development management. 06

10) Define New Public Management. 06

1) Discuss the nature and scope of Comparative Public Administration (CPA). **20**

Answer

Comparative Public Administration (CPA) is the systematic study of the similarities and differences between administrative institutions, processes and behaviour in different countries or settings. Unlike a purely descriptive account of one government, it asks why administrative arrangements vary, how they respond to their surroundings and what lessons can reasonably be drawn from comparison. It is an important branch of public administration because governments face many common problems, although they operate in different political, economic and cultural conditions.

Nature of Comparative Public Administration

CPA is comparative and analytical. Its basic method is to examine two or more systems using common questions, such as how officials are recruited, who makes policy, how public money is controlled and how citizens can demand accountability. For example, a comparison of a highly centralised civil service with a decentralised one considers not merely the organisation charts but also the effects on coordination, local responsiveness and control.

CPA is empirical and concerned with explanations. It studies actual practices, administrative records, the working of organisations and behaviour of officials rather than accepting formal rules as the whole reality. Constitutional provisions may promise local autonomy, while informal financial or political relationships can greatly restrict it. Comparative research therefore distinguishes legal design from operational practice.

CPA is interdisciplinary. Political science helps explain the influence of parties and executive authority; sociology explains caste, class, ethnicity, professional identity and informal groups; economics examines budgets and incentives; and history highlights the legacy of colonial rule and state formation. Public administration cannot be understood in isolation from society.

It is also ecological and context-sensitive. Fred W. Riggs argued that administration interacts with its environment. A procedure effective in a wealthy, highly literate society cannot simply be transplanted into a society with different resources, social relations and administrative capacities. Technology, geography, public expectations and international pressures also shape performance.

Finally, CPA is both descriptive and reform-oriented. It describes institutions, identifies patterns, tests propositions and helps policymakers evaluate possible reforms. Yet it does not assume that one country's arrangement is automatically a