BPAC-131: PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Tutor Marked Assignments

Course Code: BPAC-131
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

Introduction and meaning

Public administration is the organised activity through which the state formulates, implements and evaluates public decisions and delivers services to society. It includes the institutions, personnel, procedures and resources through which government translates laws and policies into action. The word “public” identifies its responsibility to the community, while “administration” refers to the cooperative work of planning, organising, directing, coordinating and controlling activities. For example, a law guaranteeing school education becomes meaningful only when departments recruit teachers, allocate funds, maintain schools, monitor attendance and respond to complaints.

Woodrow Wilson's 1887 essay, “The Study of Administration”, helped establish public administration as a distinct field of study. L. D. White understood it in terms of operations undertaken to fulfil or enforce public policy. Luther Gulick emphasised the work of the executive, particularly the management of public organisations. These views show that administration is not merely office routine. It combines political responsibility, professional management and everyday interaction between the state and citizens.

Nature of public administration

Public administration is simultaneously an activity, an institution and an academic discipline. As an activity, it concerns implementing collective decisions. As an institution, it consists of ministries, departments, regulatory bodies, local authorities and public agencies. As a discipline, it studies how those organisations function and how they should improve. Its interdisciplinary character draws on political science, law, economics, sociology, psychology and management.

A central feature is its public purpose. Unlike a private business, a public agency cannot judge success solely by profit or output. It must also consider fairness, legality, access, accountability and the rights of citizens. Distributing disaster relief, for instance, requires speed and economy but also nondiscrimination and priority for vulnerable households. Moreover, administrators often act within political controversy and conflicting values. Their work is constrained by constitutional rules, legislative oversight, audit and judicial review.

A longstanding debate concerns whether administration is a science or an art. Systematic observation, budgeting methods, work measurement and