



## **ANALYSIS & APPROCH: IAS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MAINS PAPER 2010 - 2011** **-TEAM VISION IAS**

Public Administration, in recent times, has gained a reputation of being one of the most Successful and Popular optional amongst the entire gamut of subjects offered by the UPSC for Civil Services Main examination. But the buck does not stop here! As, at the same time, a process of remarkable change has also been enunciated in the quality as well as the quantity of the questions that are being asked now a days.

This should not be taken as a shock, surprising or something very unprecedented. UPSC has already shown its intention of change through various means- one of which being the new and drastically changed Preliminary Test. So, it should be clear that UPSC does not want conventional and in a way- Static, hence out-dated baboos (bureaucrats) anymore. As they do not fit-in in the changed state-of-affairs of modern India and most importantly, in the changed world scenario in which India has to engage in, as part of her day-today business.

Having an idea of why such change? It should not be very difficult for one to adopt well into these changes and prepare oneself as a dynamic personality who is eager to take up this challenge that India has undertaken by exposing herself into the new phenomena called globalization. Yes, our approach would have to include such elements of change that India is undergoing today and accordingly we should shape our preparation strategies that are based on understanding, innovating, inter-linking and introspecting rather than simply memorising the previously prepared notes.

So, it becomes clear that UPSC is not interested in the conventional knowledge of the subject matter instead, it is testing you in real and live situations and your ability to come out of it. Whether you are able to actually administer the public or simply reading the subject? Are you updated with the recent news & have ability to link it with your answers or simply cramming the notes? In short they are checking your suitability for the job by quality of your answers. And therefore, we should prepare in the same way.

Public Administration is now no more confined to the general texts available in the market but much beyond that. This is evident in this year's question paper which was more applied, practical & non-conventional in nature and shape. There is visual shift of focus. The paper can be called as lengthy that demanded the more innovative side of you. On the spot thinking, decision making & answer writing skills are the key tools to tackle such kind of paper. More relevance has to be given to the contemporary issues.

These are some of the guidelines that can be provided at this point in time and at this level of your preparation.

Here is an analysis of this year's main paper with challenges, strategies and preparatory measures underlined:

#### CHALLENGES:

- Applied nature
- Contemporary issues (Bhopal Gas tragedy, etc)
- Lengthy (more number of questions for same marks)
- General nature of questions (Increased convergence between GS and Pub Ad)
- 60 markers have taken a backseat- more 30+30 or 20+20+20 questions.
- Non- predictable nature of papers.

UPSC has increased number of questions in order to reward horizontal knowledge. They don't need subject specialists with vertical knowledge but a wide learner with better ability to correlate General Studies and Public Administration. That can be seen as more GS type questions in pub ad and vice versa.

#### PREPARATION according to changed pattern should be on the following lines:

- 1- Thorough reading of newspapers and linking ability with pertinent issues of Public Administration at hand.
- 2- By dividing the questions into 2 or 3 segments, UPSC wants to cover many topics in a single question. If we compare the present pattern with the old one, we will find that UPSC is touching more number of topics. So, selective study is not going to help anymore.
- 3- SPEED has to be increased looking at the lengthy nature of the Q paper
- 4- UPSC says "*no marks will be given for superficial knowledge*"- accordingly, you have to maintain quality of the answer and stick to the word limit. No matter how much you are tempted to write more. On-spot smartness is the key.
- 5- Conceptual grasp is important than extensive in-depth preparation.
- 6- Clarity of thought/analytical ability/good writing skills.

In real life situations there are no ready-made solutions, so you have to prepare for the worst. Be sure, the coming mains will again be full of surprises but better prepare yourself for all the uncertainties.

So, in order to help the aspirants correlate the dynamics of the subject and demands of UPSC better, an analysis of Public administration mains paper (2010) has been undertaken.

- You've to answer total 5 questions out of 8 questions (5x 60 marks =300 Marks)
- Q 1 and 5 are compulsory and generally break up into 4 sub questions.
- Paper is divided into two sections (A and B) and you've to at least attempt one question from each.

This year question paper was lengthier as along with Q 1 & 5, almost all other questions are also divided into 2-3 sub parts and no single question of straightaway 60 marks was asked.

### PAPER - 1

Topics	Marks
Administrative Thinkers	120
Organizations	60
Accountability and control	60
Development Administration	80
Comparative public administration	20
Personnel administration	100
Financial administration	20
Policy making	60

No question from Administrative law and single question from Techniques of Administrative improvement on e-governance.

You shouldn't be swayed by the aforementioned distribution of marks for topics in this year question paper. Trend can very much change that too drastically next year. But some topics are showing constant trends like Thinkers.

**Thinkers and theories** still take up the major portion of Paper 1 and are therefore very important for the next year too. This year **Herbert A. Simon** was asked, last year **Taylor** so next year it might be **Chester Barnard** or **M.P. Follet** or even **Mayo** so on and so forth.

But CHANGES of this year as compared to the previous year are UPSC asked 2 questions on small thinkers- **McGregor and Likert**.

**Q1 (b) - "In McGregor's view, the managerial cosmology meaningfully addresses the understanding of manager and his role perceptions". Explain.**

**Q1(c) - "The successful management leaders are found in Likert's system- 4 approach to organizational leadership "Examine.**

So, this year Motivation theorists **Maslow or Herzberg** might be expected for 20 marks compulsory question or UPSC can revert back to previous year's trend (i.e. 2009) and ask more questions from **NPM, NPA, PCA** etc.

So, the first two chapters hold almost 40% of the marks for paper 1.

If we look at the first question:

**1(a) - Not merely governance but good governance is the key factor in achieving UN millennium goals (2000).” Explain.**

This question had contemporary significance..... because there was a summit on UN MDG in Sep, 2010. So, it is better to look at each current occurrence, national or international through the prism of public administration.

Looking at the contemporary nature of the question paper, more emphasis is given to **development administration and personnel administration**, so more questions in future can be expected from these topics.

There were few conventional questions like- **Riggs model, T group training method, peter principle, PPBS & performance budgeting and Nolan committee report** which can be easily tackled if you have thorough knowledge of the subject.

So, you need to prepare the subject thoroughly, conceptual understanding is must and along with it an applied, innovative and contemporary touch to every topic is must. (Prepare for uncertainties.. you never know UPSC can ask you to invent new training or budgeting method or can correlate a current event like corruption with faulty training and ask you for solutions).

**Citizen charter** has been a favourite topic of UPSC from quite some time now so better be through with it. But no self-help group this year so you might get something on SHG's next or next to next year.

Most of the questions are of general nature so don't require in depth understanding of the topic rather conceptual clarity with wide knowledge of the related phenomenon. So, in 2011 expect more questions of the similar nature.

**FOCUS** for Mains, 2011- Going by the simple logic, the important areas for mains, 2011 should be

**Chapter 1 & 2- Introduction and Theories** - Prepare thoroughly

- **Motivation theorists**
- **Chester. I. Barnard and M.P. Follet.**
- **Development administration and personnel administration** – very important...try to link these chapters with current occurring
- **Citizen charter**
- **SHG's**
- **Civil society(this is important in the wake of hunger strikes by Anna Hazare and baba Ramdev against corruption).**
- **Techniques of administrative improvement (MIS, PERT, CPM)**
- **Administrative law**

## PAPER - 2

Topic	Marks (2010)
Evolution of Indian Administration	50
Union/State/Dist. Government and Administration.	100
Public Sector Undertaking	20
Plans and priorities	30
Civil services	50
Administration reforms since Independence	60
Financial management	70
Rural development	20
Urban local government	20
Significant issues in Indian Administration	60
No question from Law and Order Administration!!	

A **remarkable change** is noticed in 2010 public administration paper 2 as compared to 2009.

- 1- No choice in Q 1 & Q 5..both had 3 sub-parts and all to be answered while in 2009 there was choice of three out of given four.
- 2- A lot of committees and commissions were asked in 2009-2<sup>nd</sup> ARC, Paul Appleby, Santhanam, Hota, 6<sup>th</sup> pay Commission, NHRC, etc.

But except Nolan committee (that too in paper 1) and 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC (Paper 2) nothing asked from this section this year. That doesn't mean it won't be asked in 2011 main's... rather expect at least 1 or 2 important Committees or Commissions this year. And 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC anyways seems all time favourite for the UPSC.

**Another striking change is the contemporary nature of questions:**

**Q4(b)- "..... judges and courts have creatively re-interpreted their statutory authority and expanded their own power and enhanced their standard vis-à-vis legislature and executive." Critically examine this assessment.**

This statement is given by honourable P.M. Dr. Manmohan Singh on Judicial Activism last year.

**Q5(a)- " Public Interest Litigation(PIL) has undergone several changes since its inception in 1980s ". Comment.**

CJI Mr. S.H. Kapadia's approach over PIL. The vigorous manner in which the SC has pursued a range of PIL cases in recent months has marked a new phase and a sharp contrast to the earlier phase when KG Balakrishnan was the chief justice.

**Q6(a)(i)- The Planning Commission is an 'Arm- chair adviser'. Explain the context and perspective of this statement.**

On July 2010, Road, transport and highways minister Mr Kamal Nath during inauguration function of new terminal in IG International airport called Planning commission as arm-chair advisor!!

**Q7(c)- "The JNNURM is one of the biggest reforms linked development programmes taken up by the govt". Comment.**

JNNURM is the massive city modernisation programme implemented by the govt.

**Q8(a)- It is argued that Bhopal Gas disaster and the response pattern to it reflect multiple vulnerabilities relating to systems of corporate social responsibility, govt at local, state and central levels, and legal safeguards and liabilities. Comment on this assessment.**

Bhopal gas tragedy was in news because of completion of 25 years of the tragedy and In June 2010, seven ex-employees, including the former UCIL chairman, were convicted in Bhopal of causing death by negligence and sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine of about \$2,000 each, the maximum punishment allowed by law.

*So, Almost 45% of the weightage is given to the current statements issued in press, current events, disasters ,etc.*

Now coming to the rest of the questions.

There is always one or two questions (20 Marker) asked from Kautilya, Mughal or British administration so it is better to prepare it thoroughly. As last year (2009) this year also 2 questions were asked from this topic, so there is high probability of asking these in 2011 also.

Financial management alone had 70 marks question this time, so it might lose some weightage in coming mains.

All other questions were on expected lines and general in nature.

### **FOCUS for Mains, 2011**

- Evolution of Indian Administration, Centre/state/dist adm.- prepare thoroughly.
- Not even a single question is asked from **Law and Order adm.** this year, so high probability of asking from this topic in mains, 2011
- Important committees and commissions
- Planning/ civil services important.
- Significant Issues important.
- Newly added topics of rural and urban govt.

Paper 2 is easy and interesting and if you are able to link it with GS, then you have that extra edge which can fetch you decent marks.

## LAST WORDS

High sounding words, Technical jargons and trying to write different so that you become noticeable to examiner are some of the very tedious and out of box approaches that costs your marks. Be simple, write simple. They are not looking for scholars but people who understand the topic and can explain it well.

Answer writing is an art. You can't win the war if you don't have a sharp weapon, doesn't matter how much you know the subject... your presentation should be up to the mark. Public administration is indeed scoring only if you know what to write & how to write. Therefore, the best way to prepare for **main examination** is to actually write it in an examination like scenario and get evaluated by true experts with valuable comments and suggestions that is why it is also called as **written examination**. That is how you can grow, learn, be dynamic and come victorious.

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Rest wish you all the best !  
Team Vision IAS

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**Public Administration IAS Mains: Useful Resource** (Key Books, Study material, Answer Format – Synopsis Question Trend Analysis & Strategy , Topper Answer Sheet & Guidelines) Link at: <http://wp.me/p49IH-1dm>

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