IAS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (M) – PAPER I: Indian Administration
QUESTIONS TREND & PATTERN ANALYSIS

1. Evolution of Indian Administration

Kautilya

1. “Kautilya was not only the foremost politico administrative thinker of ancient India but he was an advocate preacher of moral values too” Comment. (20, 07)

2."In the happiness of his subjects lies the king's happiness; in their welfare his welfare." Comment on Kautilyan state administration. In what respects is modern democratic rulers' behaviour different from Kautilyan rulers? (20 / 2006)

3. "The Arthashastra is India's oldest complete text on public administration." (20 / 2003)

4. "The machinery of government designed in Kautilya's Arthashastra does not exactly resemble our modern-day polity, but it does contain some principles which could be said to be the part of today's science of public administration," (20/2001)

Mughal Period

5."The Mughal Administrative System was a military rule by nature and was centralized despotism." (20, 2005)

British Legacy

6."The main features of British governmental and administrative system continue to influence the present Administrative System," (20/2004)

7. "Though India emerged as a sovereign state after Independence, the administrative system remained the same as was during the British period." (20/2003)

8. "After independence, despite the change in socio-economic and political milieu, the basic features of colonial impact on administration continue to exist in our administrative system." Comment. (60, 2002)

9. "The period of British rule generated most of the structural and behavioural values of Indian Administration not by imitation but through interaction." (20, 2000)

2. Constitutional Framework

Value premises of the Constitution

1."The basic values of the Constitution of India enshrine social, political and economic philosophy symbolising sovereignty of the people, rule of law and basic characteristics of a socialist, secular, democratic, republic." Comment. (20, 2006)
2."The value premises of our Constitution in the era of global constitutionalism." (20, 2002)

Parliamentary democracy

3. It is said that the image and influence of Indian Parliament have suffered a serious decline in recent years. How far do you agree with this viewpoint? (60/2006)

Federalism

4. “Because of several judicial pronouncements, governors in states are no longer viewed as agents of the “Party in Power” at the central level”. Evaluate. (20, 2007)

5."Indian federalism is described as federal in form but unitary in spirit." (20, 2002)

Planning

6."From highly centralized planning system, India has moved towards indicative planning under which long-term strategic vision of the future is built and nation's priorities are decided." Elucidate. (60, 2005)

7. "Indian planning is highly centralized." (20, 2003)

Human Rights: National Human Rights Commission

8. "The role played by the National Human Rights Commission in maintaining and preserving dignity of India's citizens has been satisfactory and up to the expectations." Elucidate. (60, 2006)

9. "The National Human Rights Commission is unable to play its role effectively due to various hindrances." (20, 2004)

Socialism

10."The use of the word 'Socialist' in the Indian Constitution has become redundant in the context of the liberalization of economy." (20, 2001)

3. Union Government and Administration

President

1. The President of India acts like grand-parent in a family. If younger generation does not follow his/her advice, he /she is just unable to do anything” comment. (20, 2007)

2."Not the Potomac, but the Thames, fertilizes the flow of Yamuna". In the light of the statement comment on the symbolic institution of the President of India. (20/2006)

3."The veto-power of the Indian President is a combination of the absolute, suspensive and pocket veto." (20/ 2005)
4. "Presidents of India prior to the passage of 42nd and 44th amendment could afford to be more assertive." (20/2004)

5. "Looking back to our past experience, the fear that the emergency provisions can be misused have at times proved right and wrong at other times." Discuss with examples. (60/2003)


**Prime Minister**

7. Indian Prime Minister should not only be accountable to the Indian Parliament but should appear to be so. Comment on the accountability of the Prime Minister to the Indian Parliament in the context of extra constitutional power. (60, 2006)

8. "Despite all the powers that he has, the Indian Prime Minister cannot become a dictator." (20, 2003)

9. "The Prime Minister stands out as the most powerful authority even today." (20, 2001)

**Council of Ministers**

10. "By taking some offices out of the jurisdiction of the Office of Profit Act, the Government of India has doubly assured the public mind of its duplicity." (20, 2006)

11. "Though the dictatorship of the Cabinet is a stark reality in modern times, it does not mean that the Cabinet is omnipotent." (20, 2000)

**Cabinet Committees**

12. "The essential purpose of Cabinet Committee is to relieve the Cabinet of some burden of work." Discuss. (20/96)

**Cabinet Secretariat**

13. "The Cabinet Secretariat provides the eyes and ears for the Prime Minister to keep in touch with the process of official business in Central Government." Comment. (20, 2005)

14. "The leadership qualities of a civil servant are test most during his tenure as the Cabinet Secretary - a dream-post for every bureaucrat." Elucidate. (30, 2000)

**Prime Minister's Office**

15. There are separate Central Ministry or Department on each subject allocated to state list. Does it mean supremacy of the Union Government or an emphasis on development administration? Analyze. (07, 60)

16. "A strong PMO is a salvation for any Indian Prime Minister, but concentration of power is a danger to democracy." (20, 2000)
Central Secretariat

17. “The dispute between Secretariat and Directorate is the result of Generalist vs specialist controversy” Analyze. (60, 2007)

18. "The central secretariat is a policy formulating, co-coordinating and supervisory agency besides being the principal executive agency of the government." Explain. (30, 2002)

Ministries and Departments, Advisory Boards, Boards and Commissions, Field Organizations

19. Explain the role and structure of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. What are the challenges being faced by this Ministry? Give suggestions for enhancing the capacity of this organization to meet these challenges. (60, 1998)

4. State Government and Administration

1. "The Chief Minister symbolizes ruling power structure and is the real executive head of the State Government." Discuss the above statement in the light of his position in a Coalition Government. (60, 2005)


3. "The highly significant and elevated position of Chief Secretary is significantly undermined in practice to-day." (20, 2004)

4. "State Directorates are administrative and implementation units assisting the Departments functioning from the Secretariat." Explain. (20, 2001)

5. "In the Chief Secretary, the State Government has an officer whose counterpart does not obtain in the Union Government." Elucidate. (20, 2000)

5. District Administration

1. The District collector, the additional Deputy commissioner and sub divisional officers, have virtually become ‘officers in attendance ‘ and have lost initiative and independent of judgment” Comment. (60, 06)

2. “One of the most distinctive characteristics of Indian Administrative Service is its multipurpose character” (20, 05)

3. "The primary emphasis in District Administration has to be on implementation of development programmes in cooperation with active support of people." Elucidate. (20, 05)

4. "The District Collector is an overburdened officer due to the expansion and increasing developmental activities.” (20, 05)
5. "The district officer as a chief agent and representative of state serves as a channel of communication between the Government and the residents of the district." Explain. (20, 04)

6. “District collector has increasingly become multidimensional” (20, 03)

7. "It is at the district level that the common man comes into direct contact with the administration." Elucidate. (20, 03)

8. “Collector is the representative of the state government in the district and also represent public interest” Comment. (20, 02)

9. “The district collector admirably survived the historical change of role from an alien regime to a national one” (20, 01)

10. "It is a major challenge to balance the role of District Collector with the powers of democratic bodies." (20, 00)

**6. Local Government**

1. “73rd Constitutional Amendment has provided permanent structure framework to PRI’s resulting into silence social revolution” (60, 07)

2. "The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments are major landmarks in India's Constitutional History and Local Governance." Comment. (20, 06)

3. "Even after a decade of having adopted the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, the Panchayat Raj institution still faces a number of problems towards making it a strong and vibrant unit of Government." Comment. (60, 05)

4. The Special development programmer taken up for poverty alleviation with a hope that benefits of these programmes may reach to the people living below poverty line – have utterly failed to achieve its objectives.” Comment. (60, 04)

5. The role of local self-government in the state administration is of considerable importance. Evaluate the statement in the context of the 73rd and 74th amendments made. (60, 02)

6. “Rural and Urban Development programme have gained in importance but implementation has been a failure” (20, 02)

**7. Public Sector**

1. “The Blame for our poor public sector performance can be laid on the way our bureaucracy is structured” Comment. (20, 07)

2. “Memorandum of understanding Scheme” between government and public enterprise has forced public undertaking to improve the overall performance”. Comment. (20, 07)
3. "In the context of liberalization the role of Public Sector and its welfarist approach is being drastically changed." Elucidate.  

4. "The size of the leviathan goes on expanding, despite the country's recent commitment to downsizing or rightsizing."  

5."The steady expansion and the gradual decline of the public sector has been one of the most conspicuous development in post-Independence India." Discuss this statement and suggest measures to arrest the decline of the public sector in India.  

6."Public undertakings no longer occupy 'commanding heights'."  

7. "The role of public sector has been changing tremendously in the context of liberalization."  

8. "Despite liberalization, privatization and globalization of economy, the public sector has its own relevance for India.” Discuss the functions and role of public sector in the new economic scenario and the changes that they need to bring about in them.  

9. Discuss the major problems of management and working of public Sector Undertakings in India. Give Suggestions in the light of liberalization policy to improve their performance.  

8. Public Services  

1. “A Well-designed module based training for civil servants is the best way to achieve the goals of good governance.” Analyze.  

2. "In-service training of officers belonging to higher civil services has been perhaps the most conspicuous development in Indian administration." Discuss with reference to training designed for the Indian Administrative Service officers”. 

3. “All India Services is an institution – is the result of History” 

4. “ The Need and significance of All India Services has been well recognized in Political as well as recognized in Political as well as administrative Circles”.  

5. All India Service play a signify role in the whole administrative system of the country”. Explain  

9. Control of Public Expenditure  

1. “Parliamentary department Committee has played their role effectively in analyzing the demands for grants”. Evaluate.  

2."Audit like the judiciary, the executive and the legislature is one of the important ingredients of democracy." Comment.
3. "Audit provides a healthy safeguard against public money going down the drain." Comment. (05/20)

4. “Public Account committee conducts a post mortem examination of public Account.” (20, 05)

5. "Control over public expenditure is an essential feature of accountable and responsible financial administration." In the light of this statement discuss various methods of control over public expenditure which are exercised by the Indian Parliament. (01/60)

6. “The Estimate Committee is – “a continuous economy committee”.” (20, 04)

7. “Questions represent a powerful technique of parliamentary control over expenditure.” (03/20)

8. "The role of Comptroller and Auditor General is a limited one." (02/20)

9. "It is the audit of propriety that distinguishes the audit of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) from the audit made by any professional auditor." (01/20)

10. Administrative Reforms

1. National Commission to review the working of the constitution has suggested revolutionary changes in administrative culture. Analyze its major recommendations on Civil Services and Administration. (07,60)

2. "All efforts in the field of reforms in public administration by the political executive have resulted in no significant output." Comment. (06/20)

3. "Efforts made towards administrative reforms so far have been lacking in congruence between strategy, structure and substance." (05/20)

4. "In spite of valuable suggestions through Administrative Reforms, still we have not been able to come up to the expectations of the People" Discuss. (04, 30)

5. “The Problems of Administrative improvements in India are larger and more complex in any other country in the world”. Comment. (02, 20)

6. “Administrative reforms in India are not necessarily the result of the recommendations of any specific committees or commissions. (01, 20)

7. "Most administrative reforms have a political cost." (00/20)

11. Machinery for Planning

1. “In Spite of having constitutional status the District planning committee is not able to implement decentralized nature of economic planning”. Comment. (07, 20)

2. “Effective Implementation of plan projects has been the weakest link in the chain of the entire planning programme”. Elucidate. (04, 20)
2. "National Development Council is criticized as an usurping authority functioning as a virtual super-cabinet." Explain. (05/20)

3. "National Development Council was established to co-ordinate between Union government, the Planning Commission and the State governments." (04/20)

4. "National Development Council has virtually become a super-cabinet and tries to arrogate itself the functions of Parliament." (02/20)

5. "National Development Council, it seems, is like a super-Cabinet." (00/20)

6. “Although District Planning Committee and metro political Planning committees have been provided, those remain mostly on paper” (01, 20)

12. Administration of Law and Order

1. “The role played by Central and State governments in maintaining law and order is adequate and unmatched to growing criminalisation.” (05, 20)

2. “Maintaining of Law and Order is a state subject but the Union Government can deploy armed forces in any state.” (00, 20)

13. Welfare Administration

1. Critically analyze the function and role of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with regards to development of disabled persons in India. (07, 40)

2. “Social (welfare) Administration in India is witnessing specialization and faster expansion of its administrative agencies”. Evaluate. (07, 10)

3. Define Civil Society. Is it an effective organ to control administrative ministry? Comment. (07, 10)

4. What measures have been taken by the Union and the States for the welfare of women in the profession of Sex? (06, 20)

5. Critically Evaluate the policies of the Union Government with regards to the welfare of women and children in India. (06, 20)

6. What concrete steps have been taken by the Union and the State Governments to protect child labour and prevent abuse of children? (06/20)

7. “Welfare of the people has been a constitutional and legal obligation of state, where in – both the center and state governments are required to discharge the obligation within available resources”. Does this stand true in the context of globalization? (04, 60)
8. “Women development programmes of recent have shifted from welfarist approach to empowerment of women”. Elaborate. (02, 60)

9. “The Machinery for welfare administration at the national and state level tricking down to grassroots becomes meaning less in the context of global constitutionalism”. (02, 60)

10. “The Central Social Welfare Board has become an anomalous institution.” In Light of this statement, examine the functions and role of the central Social welfare Board and suggest measures for making it effective institution. (01, 60)

11. "Reservation policy and its implementation has had some positive impact in relation to terms on the socio-economic development of the SCs and STs but it is very meager in absolute terms." Comment. (00 / 20)

14. Major Issues in Indian Administrations

1. “If information is power, nothing can perhaps empower a citizen more than the secret and development informations held by various public Authorities”. Analyse the merits and demerits of RTI acts, 2005 in the light of this statement. (07, 60)

2. "The main problem of Centre-State relations in India is bottlenecks in fiscal federalism." Comment. (06/60)

3. "The generalist character of I.A.S. is its chief characteristic as well as its chief criticism." Comment. (06/20)

4. "A middle way should be worked out to utilize the services of both generalist and specialist for the national movement." (06, 20)

5. "Lok-Ayuktas are judicial institutions without adequate teeth". Comment. (06/ 60)

6. "The Lokayuktas in States have not succeeded in tackling maladministration, while the Bill on Lokpal still faces stiff opposition on the floor of the Parliament." Comment. (05/60)

7. "One of the greatest weakness inherent in a Federal polity is the possibility of conflict of loyalty and responsibility on the part of public servants as between Central and State Governments." - Elaborate and comment. (04/60)

8. "Values, more than techniques are the eventual determinants of the actions of the administrators."(04/20

9. "Information technology, if properly used, can bring about sweeping changes in the nature of governance in India." Discuss the current status and future possibilities about the use of information technology in the governance of India. (03/60)

10. “A distinctive features of the Indian Administration, Since Independence, has been the noticeable efforts undertaken to make the administration system effectively reach and respond to citizen’s grievance. (03 , 20)

11. "Culturally sanctioned values and symbols have acted as important influencing catalyst in
12. "It is axiomatic that a country's public administration system, including its bureaucracy, must fit into and respond to its overall political system." In the light of this statement discuss the mutual relations between the civil servants and the ministers since Independence. (01/60)

13. "Indian administration is yet to fully appreciate and adopt the benefits of the information technology." Elucidate. (01/30)

14. Do you agree that globalization, liberalization and privatization policies are going to change the very fabric of Indian Administration? What, according to you, are the major challenges before it in the 21st century? (00/60)

15. "Among several other problems, the problem of financial relationship is perhaps the most complex one." Explain in the context of recent developments in Union State relations in India. (00/60)