

Public Administration — Optional Syllabus

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination

How government works — administrative theory, Indian administration and public policy.

Paper I	250 marks	3 hours
Paper II	250 marks	3 hours
Optional total	500 marks	Counts toward the Mains merit

Paper I syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

Administration Theory

- 1. Introduction :
 - Meaning, scope and significance of Public Administration, Wilson's vision of Public Administration, Evolution of the discipline and its present status. New Public Administration, Public Choice approach; Challenges of liberalization, Privatisation, Globalisation; Good Governance: concept and application; New Public Management.
- 2. Administrative Thought :
 - Scientific Management and Scientific Management movement; Classical Theory; Weber's bureaucratic model its critique and post-Weberian Developments; Dynamic Administration (Mary Parker Follett); Human Relations School (Elton Mayo and others); Functions of the Executive (C.I. Barnard); Simon's decision- making theory; Participative Management (R. Likert, C. Argyris, D. McGregor.)
- 3. Administrative Behaviour :
 - Process and techniques of decision-making; Communication; Morale; Motivation Theories content, process and contemporary; Theories of Leadership: Traditional and Modern:
- 4. Organisations :
 - Theories systems, contingency; Structure and forms: Ministries and Departments, Corporations, Companies; Boards and Commissions; Ad hoc, and advisory bodies; Headquarters and Field relationships; Regulatory Authorities; Public-Private Partnerships.
- 5. Accountability and Control :
 - Concepts of accountability and control; Legislative, Executive and judicial control over administration; Citizen and Administration; Role of media, interest groups, voluntary organizations; Civil society; Citizen's Charters; Right to Information; Social audit.
- 6. Administrative Law :
 - Meaning, scope and significance; Dicey on Administrative law; Delegated legislation; Administrative Tribunals.
- 7. Comparative Public Administration :

- Historical and sociological factors affecting administrative systems; Administration and politics in different countries; Current status of Comparative Public Administration; Ecology and administration; Riggsian models and their critique.
- 8. Development Dynamics :
 - Concept of development; Changing profile of development administration; 'Anti-development thesis'; Bureaucracy and development; Strong state versus the market debate; Impact of liberalisation on administration in developing countries; Women and development the self-help group movement.
- 9. Personnel Administration :
 - Importance of human resource development; Recruitment, training, career advancement, position
 - classification, discipline, performance appraisal, promotion, pay and service conditions; employer-employee relations, grievance redressal mechanism; Code of conduct; Administrative ethics.
- 10. Public Policy :
 - Models of policy-making and their critique; Processes of conceptualisation, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review and their limitations; State theories and public policy formulation.
- 11. Techniques of Administrative Improvement :
 - Organisation and methods, Work study and work management; e-governance and information technology; Management aid tools like network analysis, MIS, PERT, CPM.
- 12. Financial Administration :
 - Monetary and fiscal policies: Public borrowings and public debt Budgets types and forms; Budgetary process; Financial accountability; Accounts and audit.

Paper II syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

Indian Administration

- 1. Evolution of Indian Administration :
 - Kautilya Arthashastra; Mughal administration; Legacy of British rule in politics and administration Indianization of Public services, revenue administration, district Administration, local self Government. .
- 2. Philosophical and Constitutional framework of Government :
 - Salient features and value premises; Constitutionalism; Political culture; Bureaucracy and democracy; Bureaucracy and development.
- 3. Public Sector Undertakings :
 - Public sector in modern India; Forms of Public Sector Undertakings; Problems of autonomy, accountability and control; Impact of liberalization and privatization.
- 4. Union Government and Administration :
 - Executive, Parliament, Judiciary-structure, functions, work processes; Recent trends; Intra-governmental relations; Cabinet Secretariat; Prime Minister's Office; Central Secretariat; Ministries and Departments; Boards; Commissions; Attached offices; Field organizations.

- 5. Plans and Priorities :
 - Machinery of planning; Role, composition and functions of the Planning Commission and the National Development Council; 'Indicative' planning; Process of plan formulation at Union and State levels; Constitutional Amendments (1992) and decentralized planning for economic development and social justice.
- 6. State Government and Administration :
 - Union-State administrative, legislative and financial relations; Role of the Finance Commission; Governor; Chief Minister; Council of Ministers; Chief Secretary; State Secretariat; Directorates.
- 7. District Administration since Independence :
 - Changing role of the Collector; Union-State-local relations; Imperatives of development management and
 - law and order administration; District administration and democratic decentralization.
- 8. Civil Services :
 - Constitutional position; Structure, recruitment, training and capacity building; Good governance initiatives; Code of conduct and discipline; Staff associations; Political rights; Grievance redressal mechanism; Civil service neutrality; Civil service activism.
- 9. Financial Management :
 - Budget as a political instrument; Parliamentary control of public expenditure; Role of finance ministry in monetary and fiscal area; Accounting techniques; Audit; Role of Controller General of Accounts and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- 10. Administrative Reforms since Independence :
 - Major concerns; Important Committees and Commissions; Reforms in financial management and human resource development; Problems of implementation.
- 11. Rural Development :
 - Institutions and agencies since Independence; Rural development programmes: foci and strategies; Decentralization and Panchayati Raj; 73rd Constitutional amendment.
- 12. Urban Local Government :
 - Municipal governance: main features, structures, finance and problem areas; 74th Constitutional Amendment; Global-local debate; New localism; Development dynamics, politics and administration with special reference to city management.
- 13. Law and Order Administration:
 - British legacy; National Police Commission; Investigative agencies; Role of Central and State Agencies including para military forces in maintenance of law and order and countering insurgency and terrorism; Criminalisation of politics and administration; Police-public relations; Reforms in Police.
- 14. Significant issues in Indian Administration:
 - Values in public service; Regulatory Commissions; National Human Rights Commission; Problems of administration in coalition regimes; Citizen administration interface; Corruption and administration; Disaster management.

Syllabus as per the official UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination notification. Study notes for this optional are being added on RaahUPSC — raahupsc.com.