

IAS Mains Public Administration 2008

Paper- I

Section A

1. Answer any three of the following questions in not more than 200 words each: 20 × 3 = 60

- (a) "Calling Woodrow Wilson, the father of Public Administration is doing injustice to equally or even more eminent contributions made prior to him." Comment.
- (b) "Leaders do the right things; managers do them rightly." (Bennis) Comment.
- (c) "Mary Parker Follett was far ahead of her times." Discuss.
- (d) "Instruments of public accountability can be truly effective only if the people and their associations, backed by a responsible media, are assertively pro-active." Comment.

2. "In the last two decades, almost all countries of the world have experienced transformations in their administrative systems." Explain this phenomenon with examples from the developed and the developing nations in the context of New Public Management Movement. 60

3. Examine the respective roles of facts and values in the decision-making process. Is it possible to make value-free decisions in government system ? How can government decisions be made more rational ? 60

4. "To claim that a company or a corporation form is always more effective than a departmental form of organization is an outdated view. The real test of a sound structure is its capacity to balance decisional autonomy and operational flexibility with optimal accountability." Critically examine this statement. 60

Section B

5. Answer any three of the following questions in not more than 200 words each: 20 × 3 = 60

- (a) "Laxity in monitoring and evaluation can render even the best policies infructuous." Discuss.
- (b) "e-governance has the potentiality to emerge as the most effective instrument of efficiency, transparency and accountability." Comment.

(c) “Truly comparative administrative studies are empirical, nomothetic and ecological.” (Riggs) In this perspective, examine the current status of Comparative Public Administration.

(d) “Training has proved its incapacity to change the attitudes, behaviour and values of civil servants.” Do you agree with this statement?

6. “To talk of administrative modernization and still continue with the conventional practice of public personnel administration is a gross incongruity.” Offer suggestions to initiate radical reforms in Human Resource Management of public administrative systems. 60

7. “Good economics and bad politics cannot coexist in a sound budgetary process.” Discuss this statement in the context of the developmental challenges in countries experiencing competitive politics. 60

8. “In certain discourses, there is a reflected basic distrust against bureaucracy as an instrument of development.” Do you think bureaucracy is more appropriate for regulatory administration than for development administration? In the changing profile of development administration in a liberalizing environment, what role of bureaucracy can be envisaged? 60