

## **Public Policy: Concept, Objective and Importance**

Robert Eye Stone opines public policy as "the relationship of government unit to its environment.

Thomas R. Dye says that "public policy is whatever government chooses to do or not to do"

Richard Rose says that "public policy is not a decision, it is a course or pattern of activity."

Carl J. Friedrich's opinion is that public policy is a proposed course of action of a person, group or government within a given environment providing opportunities and obstacles which the policy was proposed to utilize and overcome in an effort to reach a goal or realize an objective or purpose.

Thus, public policies are governmental decisions and are actually the result of activities which the government undertakes in pursuance of certain goals and objectives.

Public policy formulation and implementation involves a well-planned pattern or course of activity. It undergoes with certain stages. It requires close relation and interaction between the important governmental agencies like political, executive, legislature, bureaucracy and judiciary.

Public policy consists of various plans, program and schemes. It originates from the Constitution and is very relevant to governance. Public policy is one of the most prominent means through which government maintains order and addresses the needs of its citizens according to the constitution and subjective laws.

### **Objectives of Public Policy:**

- To promote the welfare of the citizens of the nation and implement government programs to achieve their goals.
- To solve problems that impacts on the society and the general public.
- To assess whether the policies are meeting their goals or not.
- To stabilize markets, promote economic prosperity, ensure business development and promote employment.
- To achieve desired outcome that policy-makers wish to achieve.
- To promote happiness and prosperity in citizen.
- To promote social, cultural, political, economic and scientific development of the nation.

### **Importance of Public Policy:**

- To make the society lead a better life and maintain the delivery of the goods and services.
- To stimulate and develop economy.
- To increase GDP growth and give the economy the support systems and infrastructure necessary to perform at maximum output.
- To reduce poverty and unemployment and promote sustainable economic development.
- To implement political manifesto and reform agendas of political parties.
- To enhance prosperity and happiness in citizen.
- To manage administrative tasks and maintain law and order.
- To promote overall development of the nation.



### **Nature of Public Policy**

- Public Policy covers the activities of the government that are made for the betterment of citizen and the country
- Each level of government may have its specific as well as general policies. Although every policy contains definite goals or objectives, they might result in outcomes that are either anticipated or not.
- Policymaking is closely related to decision-making but is not the same as the latter. Generally, decisions are made by administrators within the existing framework of policy.
- Policies carry certain vision, goal, objectives, strategies and activities.
- Public policies are formulated on the basis of certain constitutional and legal bases.
- Public policy is guideline to lead development activities and generate outcomes.
- According to Anderson, "Policy decisions are made by public officials that authorize or give direction and content to public policy actions".

### **Public Policy Making**

Public Policies are crafted by Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and are evaluated by policy analysts, experts, media and political leaders. It involves various processes, and can be summarized into the following:

- **Problem identification** – the first step is to identify the problem regarding which the government has to intervene in the form of a public policy. This might be identified through the government via various means, such as general identification, public protests, through the media etc.
- **Agenda Setting** – This step helps policymakers decide the agenda of problems to be addressed. Types of agendas include:
  - Systematic agendas – comprise of all issues that policy makers find worthy of attention.
  - Institutional agendas – analyze problems and their solutions within a time boundary
  - Discretionary agendas – address problems that are chosen by legislators and haven't been included in the former ones
  - Decision agendas – contain the finalized list of issues to be moved to the next phase of the policy-making cycle.
- **Policy formulation**– It involves the proposal of solutions to issues raised in the agenda. The process of policy formulation involves policy makers discussing and suggesting various methods to correct the issues raised by the

agenda. The policy must be an effective, reliable and implementable way to solve issues. It even must be politically feasible

- **Policy adoption** – This is the process through which the finalized policy is adopted by government bodies for implementation. It must be adopted by relevant institutions of the government to be put into effect.
- **Policy implementation** – This step involves the practical implementation of the theoretical proposal of the policy. The success of the implementation of a policy is evaluated according to:
  - Whether it is communicated accurately from the policy makers to the bureaucratic structures or not
  - Whether the policy is clear, concise and easy to interpret for the public or not
  - Whether the resources used in the implementation are sufficient and mobilized effectively or not.
- **Policy Evaluation** – Policies may be evaluated and analyzed critically at various levels. Research and extensive studies are also conducted to analyze the success of the implemented policies. Policy analysts, politicians and the media play significant roles in evaluating the policies that are implemented. On evaluation, policies may be found to be either successful or failures.



### Approaches to Public Policy

- **Political system theory** – says that policy is the output of the political system.
- **Group theory** – says that interest groups pressure and interact with the makers on preferences and self-interest
- **Elite theory** – says that the policy reflects the values and preferences of governing Elites.
- **Rational choice theory** – says that the government should choose policies resulting in maximum gains to the society
- **Institutional theory** – says that public policy is determined by government institutions
- **Incremental model** – evaluates public policy as small changes or adjustments in past policies
- **Game theory** – the study of rational decisions in situations where two or more participants have choices to make and the outcome depends on the choices made by each.

### Characteristics of Public Policy Making:

- Public policy is a process that takes into play multiple components.
- Public Policy Making demands co-ordination between different individuals and institutions.
- A successful public policy is yielded out of the procedures when each of them co-ordinate and perform well with their duties and responsibilities.
- Public policy a very complex dynamic process and changes from time-to-time.
- The primary aim of formulating public policy is to lay guidelines for the public with regard to a certain problem of general concern.
- Every public policy aims at laying out feasible and agreeable guidelines and bringing them into action.
- Public policy is a result-oriented process.
- Any public policy is crafted, directing to the future.
- Every public policy takes into account the interests of the public.

### Types of Public Policy:

- **Substantive** – policies that are concerned with the general welfare and development of the society
- **Regulatory** – deals with the regulation of trade, business, safety measures etc.
- **Distributive** – focuses on specific sectors of the society
- **Redistributive** – concerned with the rearrangement of policies aimed at making socio-economic changes
- **Capitalization** – Under this type of policy, the government provides subsidies to different lower levels of government and other business undertakings.

### Sources of Public Policy:

- Constitution
- Periodic Plans
- Political Parties' Manifesto
- Political system
- Court Orders
- International Conventions and Declarations
- Political, economic and Socio-cultural context
- Geographical context
- Human and technical resources
- People's Demand
- Interest groups
- Reform agendas
- Foreign policy and diplomatic relation

### Qualities of Good Policy:

- Legitimate
- Rational
- Politically and socially acceptable
- Time, cost and capacity based
- Effective, economical and efficient
- Technically acceptable
- Environment friendly
- Participative
- Need and result based
- Equality and equity based

# 100 MCQ on Public Policy with answer

1. Organizations that pursue the common interests of groups of people by attempting to influence the making and implementation of government policy are known as:

- a. Political parties
- b. Interest groups
- c. Lobbyists
- d. Social movements
- e. Policy communities

Answer: b

2. This theory assumes that governments will be influenced by various interest groups and will not be biased for or against any of those groups:

- a. Rational choice theory
- b. Institutional theory
- c. Pluralist theory
- d. Marxist theory
- e. State centered theory

Answer: c

3. A public interest group pursues policies that they believe will provide what to society:

- a. Lower taxes
- b. Selective benefits
- c. Purposive incentives
- d. Collective benefits
- e. Solidary incentives

Answer: d

4. In order to be effective in influencing government policy, interest groups require:

- a. Money and expertise
- b. A large number of members
- c. A permanent headquarters
- d. Lawyers
- e. Access to media outlets



Answer: a

5. State-centered theory assumes that:

a. Interest groups are ineffective because they generally do not have enough popular support

- b. Interest groups are effective only when they have a large number of members
- c. Interest groups are effective only when they rely on the courts
- d. The demands of interest groups are too much of a burden on government
- e. Interest groups are ineffective because the state is independent of social forces

Answer: a

6. An interest group with a formal structure, established membership base, and paid staff is commonly known as a(n):

- a. Effective interest group
- b. Self-interest group

- c. Special interest group
- d. Public interest group
- e. Institutionalized interest group

Answer: e

7. Which means of influencing public policy is generally seen as ineffective by interest groups and those who analyze them:

- a. Lobbying a cabinet minister
- b. Using the legal system
- c. Lobbying Members of Parliament
- d. Taking their case to the public
- e. Lobbying central agencies

Answer: c

8. A network of groups and individuals that seek major social and political change who act outside of established political institutions is commonly referred to as:

- a. Old social movement
- b. Policy community
- c. Social movement
- d. Public interest group
- e. New social movement

Answer: c



9. New social movements have increasingly relied on the following tactic to pressure governments:

- a. Legal challenges under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- b. Affiliations with the New Democratic Party
- c. Circulating petitions in their community
- d. Civil disobedience
- e. Creating interactive websites to appeal to younger people

Answer: d

10. The Lobbyist Act, 2008 ensures that lobbyists:

- a. Are able to lobby as soon as they leave their political careers
- b. Can collect contingency fees from their clients
- c. File reports outlining who they are acting on behalf of
- d. Register with the government if they spend more than 50% of their time lobbying on behalf of corporations
- e. Are prevented from taking leading roles in election campaigns of political parties

Answer: c

11. Which of the following characteristics is NOT part of Weber's model of a functioning government?

- a. There are rules within civil society.
- b. Government must employ skilled experts.
- c. Skilled experts do not necessarily have to operate within an organized hierarchy.
- d. People must be treated equally.

Answer: c

12. During which part of the public policy cycle does the government explore potential policy responses?

- a. Agenda Setting
- b. Policy Formulation
- c. Policy Implementation
- d. Decision-Making

Answer: b

13. When a relevant minister holds a news conference to announce the government's intent to introduce a new policy, what is it known as?

- a. Decision-making
- b. Policy Evaluation
- c. Policy Implementation
- d. Policy Change

Answer: c

14. Which theory stipulates that citizens are self-interested actors whose decisions fulfill their own needs and wants?

- a. Economic Theory of Democracy
- b. Managerial Theory
- c. Rational Choice Theory
- d. Pluralism Theory

Answer: c

15. Which concepts best describes Medicare governing over health services to prevent private services from responding to public needs?

- a. Natural Monopoly
- b. Elite Theory
- c. Rational Choice
- d. Derived Externalities

Answer: d

16. Which of the following is considered to be the "Red Zone"?

- a. The final 6 months of the election cycle, when the government announces popular government initiatives
- b. The time period when the government takes steps to fix remaining policy problems before the next elections
- c. The time period that begins with the government's second budget, when the government addresses many of its election promises and initiates any tough or potentially unpopular policies
- d. When ministers receive direction from PM or premier; public servants brief ministers on the top issues in their portfolios

Answer: a

17. What or who governs over the federal government's finances and financial decisions?

- a. Public Service Act
- b. Constitution Act 1867
- c. Financial Administration Act
- d. Department of Finance

Answer: c

18. In times of a budget deficit, which of the following is more indicative of a right-wing

- approach to budgeting?
- a. Increasing spending
  - b. Increasing borrowing
  - c. Maintaining taxes
  - d. Increasing taxes

Answer: c

19. Which of the following is a principle of the provincial health services?

- a. Universal
- b. Comprehensive
- c. Accessible
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

20. The Employment Insurance Act was at one point known as the Unemployment Insurance Act. True or False?

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: a

21. India's golden triangle is a tourist circuit which doesn't connect which of the following city?

- a. Jaipur
- b. Delhi
- c. Lucknow
- d. Agra



Answer: c

22. On which date Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched?

- a. 2nd October
- b. 15th August
- c. 26th January
- d. 14th April

Answer: a

23. National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) is set to be implemented in how many cities?

- a. 8
- b. 10
- c. 11
- d. 12

Answer: d

24. Integrated Child Protection Scheme was launched in the year?

- a. 2009-2010
- b. 2011-2012
- c. 2013-2014
- d. 2015-2016

Answer: a

25. Janbhagidari Scheme is provided by which of the following State?

- a. Uttar Pradesh
- b. Kerala
- c. **Madhya Pradesh**
- d. Bihar

Answer: c

26. Pahal scheme is related with?

- a. Agriculture Loan
- b. **Direct Transfer of LPG Subsidy**
- c. Women Education
- d. Child Education

Answer: b

27. Mission Indradhanush is related with?

- a. Children Safety
- b. E-Commerce
- c. **Child Vaccination**
- d. None of the above

Answer: c

28. Swachch Bharat Mission (Rural) programme comes under which ministry?

- a. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- b. **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**
- c. Ministry of Woman and Child Development
- d. Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: b

29. Sagar Mala project is related to?

- a. **Modernization of ports**
- b. Oil extraction
- c. Sea route development
- d. None of the above

Answer: a

30. What is the main objective of "Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana"?

- a. To increase Forest Cover
- b. **Welfare of Tribals**
- c. Protection of Wildlife
- d. Protection of Rivers

Answer: b

31. True or false: The federal government allows doctors to prescribe marijuana for medicinal purposes.

- a. True
- b. **False**

Answer: b



32. True or false: The No Child Left Behind Act dropped standardized testing requirements for schools receiving federal money.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: b

33. Which of the following policies provides a tax refund on all or part of a poor family's social security tax?

- a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- b. Earned Income Tax Credit
- c. Food stamps
- d. Supplemental Security Income

Answer: b

34. The National Environmental Policy Act required all federal agencies to conduct a(n) prior to taking any major action.

- a. Means-testing
- b. Cost-benefit analysis
- c. Environmental impact statement
- d. Tax assessment

Answer: c

35. Which of the following is not a solution to the social security crisis?

- a. Increasing federal contributions
- b. Raising taxes
- c. Reducing benefits
- d. Privatizing

Answer: a

36. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, what will happen to a school that continues to fail to meet federal standards?

- a. It will be taken over by the federal government.
- b. It will be forced to allow students to transfer elsewhere.
- c. It will be turned into a private school.
- d. It will be given tax credits.

Answer: b

37. How does means-testing reduce benefits?

- a. By privatizing the distribution of benefits
- b. By tapering off benefits over time
- c. By giving everyone an average benefit
- d. By giving smaller benefits to wealthy people

Answer: d

38. Administrative accountability is established in government organizations by

- a. Executive
- b. Legislature
- c. Judiciary
- d. All the these

Answer: d

39. The first book on Public Administration was written by

- a. Pfiffner and Presthus

- b. L. D. White
- c. Simon, Smithburg and Thompson
- d. E.N. Gladden

Answer: b

40. Public Administration is the study of
- a. Maintenance of Law and Order
  - b. Control of trade and commerce
  - c. **Public Policy implementation**
  - d. Politico-administrative dynamics of the state.

Answer: c

41. Planning machinery in Pakistan is
- a. **Centralized**
  - b. Decentralized
  - c. Departmentalized
  - d. Compartmentalized

Answer: a

42. Financially the performance of public corporations in Pakistan during the last decade has been
- a. Excellent
  - b. Good
  - c. Satisfactory
  - d. **Poor**

Answer: D

43. Public administration refers to
- a. A process
  - b. A discipline
  - c. A field of study
  - d. **All of these**

Answer: d

44. Communication runs faster in
- a. **Centralized structure**
  - b. Decentralized structure
  - c. Matrix structure
  - d. Line structure

Answer: a

45. Performance budgeting is based on
- a. items of expenditure
  - b. items of investment
  - c. **objectives of expenditure**
  - d. plan of implementation

Answer: c

46. The concept of Politics-Administration dichotomy was given by:
- a. James W. Fesler
  - b. **Frank Henry Goodnow**
  - c. W Paul Appleby
  - d. Ordway Tead



Answer: b

47. Which of the following reports deals with the relations between the specialists and generalists

- a. **Fulton Committee Report**
- b. Kothari Committee Report
- c. Haldane Committee Report
- d. Sarkaria Commission Report

Answer: a

48. The President of U. S. who laid the foundation of the study of public administration was

- a. **President Wilson**
- b. President Hoover
- c. President Kennedy
- d. President Roosevelt

Answer: a

49. Formal relationship in an organization is based on

- a. **Rules and Regulations**
- b. Authority on subordinates
- c. Peer groups
- d. Friendship

Answer: a

50. The office of the Ombudsman like institution in the form of Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration in the United Kingdom was set up on the recommendations of which one of the following Reports?

- a. Northcote-Trevelyan Report
- b. Fulton Report
- c. **Sir John Whyatt Report**
- d. Aitchison Report



Answer: c

51. By which one of the following Acts, are the political activities of civil servants in the USA regulated

- a. The Civil Service Act of 1883
- b. **The Hatch Act of 1939**
- c. The Ramspeck Act of 1940
- d. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947

Answer: b

52. Which of the following was not identified by the Santhanam Committee as a major cause of corruption in India

- a. Administrative delays
- b. Scope for personnel discretion in the exercise of powers
- c. Cumbersome procedures
- d. **Absence of regulatory functions of the government**

Answer: d

53. Which of the following scholars has/have not laid any marked emphasis on administrative ethics

- a. **David Osborne and Ted Gaebler**
- b. Chanakya

- c. Frederick Mosher
- d. Paul Appleby

Answer: a

54. According to W. F. Willoughby, which of the following are correct about the essentials of a sound promotion system

- a. Adoption of standard specifications setting forth the duties and qualifications required for all positions in a government service
- b. Classification of all positions into distinct classes, grades and services based on duty classification
- c. The inclusion within this classification of all administrative positions except those having a political character
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

55. Which one of the following shows the correct sequence of the four basic steps in the position classification plan

- a. Job analysis-Grouping of positions- Standardization- Position allocation
- b. Standardization-Job analysis-Grouping of positions-Position allocation
- c. Grouping of positions-Job analysis-Position allocation- Standardization
- d. Job analysis-Grouping of positions-Position allocation- Standardization

Answer: a

56. Which of the above are correct

- a. 4 and 5 only
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Answer: c

57. Who among the following has observed that instead of hierarchy of needs, motivation should be understood in terms of series of needs

- a. David McClelland
- b. Chester Barnard
- c. Abraham Maslow
- d. Warren Bennis

Answer: a

58. Which one of the following leadership styles was identified by the Michigan University Leadership Studies as the most effective leadership style

- a. Democratic style leadership
- b. Employee-centered leadership
- c. Participative group leadership
- d. Team leadership

Answer: b

59. The study of government decision making, the analysis of the policies themselves, the various inputs that have produced them, and the inputs necessary to produce alternative policies is called

- a. Public administration
- b. Administration of Authority
- c. Property administration



d. Administrative Capacity

Answer: A

60. The concept of separation between politics and public administration was first propounded by

- a. Aristotle
- b. Woodrow Wilson
- c. Karl Marx
- d. Machiavelli

Answer: b

61. The concept of bounded rationality was given by

- a. Max Weber
- b. F. W. Riggs
- c. Herbert Simon
- d. Abraham Maslow

Answer: c

62. What is not an advantage of a hierarchical structure

- a. Clear chain of command
- b. Discipline and stability
- c. Small span of control
- d. All of these

Answer: d

63. In which year civil services started in India

- a. 1901
- b. 1861
- c. 1851
- d. 1832

Answer: b

64. Which country started civil service competition first

- a. USA
- b. British India
- c. China
- d. Germany

Answer: c

65. Which of the following is one of the features of bureaucracy conceived by Max Weber

- a. Administrative Authority
- b. Hierarchy
- c. Public Policy
- d. Civil society

Answer: b

66. Indian Civil Service was introduced during the Governor General-ship of: (CSS 2019)

- a. William Bentinck
- b. Lord Curzon
- c. Lord Dalhousie
- d. Lord Cornwallis

Answer: d

67. Who was the first Indian to be directly recruited to the Indian Civil Service



- a. Satyendra Nath Tagore
- b. Surendranath Bannerjea
- c. Womesh Chandra Bannerjea
- d. Dadabhai Naoroji

Answer: a

68. Legal-rational authority is a core concept of

- a. Public Choice Theory
- b. Theory of Emergency
- c. Maslow Theory of Motivation
- d. Theory of Bureaucracy

Answer: d

69. The spoils system in the USA began during the period of

- a. Jefferson
- b. Jackson
- c. Washington
- d. Adams

Answer: B

70. System Theory is associated with the work of following

- a. Leonard White
- b. Mary Parker Follet
- c. Talcott Parsons
- d. F.W. Taylor

Answer: C

71. Which one of the following is the foundation of modern Human Resource

- a. Specialization
- b. Compensation
- c. Job Analysis
- d. Job Evaluation

Answer: A

72. Who is described as the father of Public Administration

- a. Woodrow Wilson
- b. Frederick Taylor
- c. Henry L Gant
- d. Max Weber

Answer: A

73. Who is famous as the mother of modern management

- a. Marya Kate
- b. Lillian Gilbreth
- c. Katherine Smith
- d. None of these

Answer: b

74. Who is claimed to be the real father of modern management

- a. Woodrow Wilson
- b. Frederick Taylor
- c. Henri Fayol
- d. Max Weber

Answer: c

75. Which of the following is a feature of good governance

- a. Accountability
- b. Transparency
- c. Rule of law
- d. All of these



Answer: d

76. An organization using its resources wisely and in a cost effectively way is considered

- a. Conservative
- b. Efficient
- c. Effective
- d. Modern

Answer: b

77. Grouping activities and resources in an organization is a function of

- a. Leading
- b. Organizing
- c. Coordination
- d. Monitoring

Answer: b

78. The dominant role in developing Scientific Management was played by

- a. Henri Fayol
- b. F. W. Taylor *← father of scientific management*
- c. Harrington Emerson
- d. Frank Gilbreth

Answer: b

79. The most articulate spokesperson of Administrative Management was:

- a. Chester Barnard
- b. Lyndall Urwick
- c. Max Weber
- d. Henri Fayol

Answer: d

80. Hawthorne studies were mainly conducted by

- a. Elton Mayo *→ father of human relation theory*
- b. Mary Parker
- c. Hugo Munsterberg
- d. Henry Gantt

Answer: a

81. Two or more sub systems working together to produce more than the total of what they might produce working alone is

- a. Open System
- b. Synergy
- c. Closed System
- d. Sub System

Answer: b

82. An attempt to integrate common business practices from the United States and Japan into one middle ground framework has been termed as

- a. Theory X
- b. Theory Y
- c. Type Z Model
- d. Universal Model

Answer: d

83. The owners, Employees, Board or Directors and Culture will form the organizations

- a. External Environment
- b. Internal Environment
- c. Task Environment
- d. General Environment

Answer: a

84. The appropriate managerial behavior in a given situation depends on a wide variety elements is

- a. Behavioral Approach
- b. Contingency Approach
- c. Quantitative Approach
- d. Classical Approach

Answer: b

85. The founder of Scientific Management School of thought was

- a. F.W. Taylor
- b. Herber Simon
- c. Pfiffner John
- d. Mary Parker Follet

Answer: a

86. The father of Human Relations theory was

- a. Douglas M.
- b. Elton Mayo
- c. E.N.Gladden
- d. L. Urwick

Answer: b

87. What is the personnel department in an organization concerned with

- a. Staff development
- b. Staff attraction
- c. Staff administration
- d. Staff rewards

Answer: c

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  - Discretionary agendas – address problems that are chosen by legislators and haven't been included in the former ones
  - Decision agendas – contain the finalized list of issues to be moved to the next phase of the policy-making cycle.
- **Policy formulation**– It involves the proposal of solutions to issues raised in the agenda. The process of policy formulation involves policy makers discussing and suggesting various methods to correct the issues raised by the

agenda. The policy must be an effective, reliable and implementable way to solve issues. It even must be politically feasible

- **Policy adoption** – This is the process through which the finalized policy is adopted by government bodies for implementation. It must be adopted by relevant institutions of the government to be put into effect.
- **Policy implementation** – This step involves the practical implementation of the theoretical proposal of the policy. The success of the implementation of a policy is evaluated according to:
  - Whether it is communicated accurately from the policy makers to the bureaucratic structures or not
  - Whether the policy is clear, concise and easy to interpret for the public or not
  - Whether the resources used in the implementation are sufficient and mobilized effectively or not.
- **Policy Evaluation** – Policies may be evaluated and analyzed critically at various levels. Research and extensive studies are also conducted to analyze the success of the implemented policies. Policy analysts, politicians and the media play significant roles in evaluating the policies that are implemented. On evaluation, policies may be found to be either successful or failures.



### Approaches to Public Policy

- **Political system theory** – says that policy is the output of the political system.
- **Group theory** – says that interest groups pressure and interact with the makers on preferences and self-interest
- **Elite theory** – says that the policy reflects the values and preferences of governing Elites.
- **Rational choice theory** – says that the government should choose policies resulting in maximum gains to the society
- **Institutional theory** – says that public policy is determined by government institutions
- **Incremental model** – evaluates public policy as small changes or adjustments in past policies
- **Game theory** – the study of rational decisions in situations where two or more participants have choices to make and the outcome depends on the choices made by each.

### Characteristics of Public Policy Making:

- Public policy is a process that takes into play multiple components.
- Public Policy Making demands co-ordination between different individuals and institutions.
- A successful public policy is yielded out of the procedures when each of them co-ordinate and perform well with their duties and responsibilities.
- Public policy a very complex dynamic process and changes from time-to-time.
- The primary aim of formulating public policy is to lay guidelines for the public with regard to a certain problem of general concern.
- Every public policy aims at laying out feasible and agreeable guidelines and bringing them into action.
- Public policy is a result-oriented process.
- Any public policy is crafted, directing to the future.
- Every public policy takes into account the interests of the public.

### Types of Public Policy:

- **Substantive** – policies that are concerned with the general welfare and development of the society
- **Regulatory** – deals with the regulation of trade, business, safety measures etc.
- **Distributive** – focuses on specific sectors of the society
- **Redistributive** – concerned with the rearrangement of policies aimed at making socio-economic changes
- **Capitalization** – Under this type of policy, the government provides subsidies to different lower levels of government and other business undertakings.

### Sources of Public Policy:

- Constitution
- Periodic Plans
- Political Parties' Manifesto
- Political system
- Court Orders
- International Conventions and Declarations
- Political, economic and Socio-cultural context
- Geographical context
- Human and technical resources
- People's Demand
- Interest groups
- Reform agendas
- Foreign policy and diplomatic relation

### Qualities of Good Policy:

- Legitimate
- Rational
- Politically and socially acceptable
- Time, cost and capacity based
- Effective, economical and efficient
- Technically acceptable
- Environment friendly
- Participative
- Need and result based
- Equality and equity based