

* DEFINITION OF PLANNING

Exam

Planning
for?

1. Planning is the design of a desired future and of effective ways of bringing it about.
2. Planning is something we do in advance of taking action. A process of intervention into a system. It involves a set of interdependent decisions that is a system of decisions.
3. Planning is a continuous process that, is hoped to approach a solution but never quite gets there.
Reasons are: **Firstly**, There is no limit of reviewing of previous acts that is possible. So the review that is necessary has to be settled at some point in the time. **Secondly**, both the system being planned for and its environment changes during the planning process and it is never quite possible to take all such changes into account.
4. Planning is a process that involves making and evaluating a set of interrelated decisions before action is required, in a situation in which it is believed that unless action is taken a desired future state is not likely to occur, and that, if appropriate action is taken, the probability of desired outcome can be increased.
5. Planning is a conceptual path for a future course of action/intervention. It is a method and process of decision making which includes (a) setting of the goals and objectives needs to be achieved (b) identification of problems the beneficiaries faces (c) identification of the causes of these problems (d) formulation of policies, strategies, programs/projects to achieve the desired goals and objectives with maximum participation of the stakeholders with minimum social, political, environmental and financial negative impact.
6. Town planning is the allocation of resources, particularly land, in such a manner as to maximum efficiency, while paying due attention to the nature of the built environment and the welfare of the community. In this way planning is the art of anticipating change, and arbitrating between the economic, social, political and physical forces that determine the location, form and effect of urban development. In a sense it is an attempt to formulate the principles that should guide in creating a civilized physical background for human life.
7. Planning is establishing objectives, and designing and implementing the strategies necessary to achieve those objectives. (J.A. Pearce & R.B. Robinson, *Management*, 1989, p.12)
8. Planning involves making decisions about how to make the best use of the available resources. (D. Conyers & P. Hills, *An Introduction to development Planning in the Third World*, 1984, p.4)

9. Planning is decision-making and resource allocation activity concerned with making choices and future options, taking into account probabilities and the value of what may be achieved, and then securing the implementation of the chosen option (D. Kammerer, *Terms and Concepts in Planning*, 1983).

10. In Friedman's words: ***

"Planning is primarily a way of thinking about social and economic problems, planning is oriented predominantly toward the future, is deeply concerned with the relation of goals to collective decisions and strives for comprehensiveness in policy and program. Wherever these modes of thought are applied, there is a presumption that planning is being done."

* The very need for planning arose out of the inequality, deprivation and squalor caused by the interplay of free market forces and lack of social concern prevalent during the nineteenth century.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PLANNING

- Planning is not a purely individual activity; it is done by individuals in order to affect the actions of groups, organizations or government
- Planning is not present oriented; it is concerned with future actions involving a significant element of uncertainty;
- Planning cannot be routinized;
- Planning has little or nothing in common with trial and error approaches to problem solving; it can incorporate experiments in a limited way, but in the context of a deliberately conceived strategy;
- Planning depicts a desirable future and it specifies the means for achieving it.
- Planning is not just making plans; it must include the commitment and the power to execute the plan.

ELEMENTS OF A PLAN

The result of the planning project is a plan, which includes:

- A schedule of activities in support of decisions
- A schedule of resources in support of decisions (i.e. budget)
- Patterns of authority and responsibility
- Communication flow network