PUBLIC POLICY: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND MODELS

SEMESTER I

Course Code: DPPG 2

Max. Marks: 100

External: 70

Internal: 30

Pass: 40%

Credits: 6

Course Outcomes (COs):

CO1: Define public policy and explain its theoretical foundations.

Focus: Meaning, scope, significance of public policy; difference between public policy and general decision-making; major theoretical perspectives (pluralism, elitism, systems theory, public choice).

CO2: Discuss the policy cycle model. How does it help in understanding the policy process?

Focus: Stages of policy cycle (agenda-setting, formulation, adoption, implementation, evaluation); strengths and criticisms of the model; practical application.

CO3: Compare and contrast different models of public policy analysis.

Focus: Rational model, Incremental model, Institutional model, Systems model, Advocacy coalition framework; similarities, differences, advantages, limitations.

CO4: Critically examine the role of governance theories in shaping public policy.

Focus: Theories like pluralism, elitism, Marxist perspective, public choice; how these shape agenda-setting, decision-making, and implementation.

CO5: Explain the importance of policy evaluation and feedback mechanisms in public policy models.

Focus: Purpose of evaluation, models of evaluation (formative, summative, cost-benefit, evidence-based); how feedback contributes to policy improvement and accountability.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PAPER SETTER/ EXAMINER:

1) The syllabus prescribed should be strictly adhered to.
2) The Question Paper will have 70 Multiple Choice questions (MCQs) and four choices of answers will be there covering the entire syllabus. Each question will carry 1 mark. All questions will be compulsory; hence candidates will attempt all the questions.
3) Paper-setters/Examiners are requested to distribute the questions from section A and Section B of the syllabus equally i.e., 35 questions from section A and 35 questions from Section B.
4) The examiner shall give clear instructions to the candidates to attempt questions.
5) The duration of each paper will be two hours.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STUDENTS

The question paper shall consist of 70 Multiple Choice questions. All questions will be compulsory and each question will carry 1 mark. There will be no negative marking. Students are required to answer using OMR (Optimal Mark Recognition) sheets.

Section-A

Unit 1: Public Policy and Its Theoretical Foundations: Distinction between public policy and general decision-making, Theoretical perspectives: pluralism, elitism, systems theory, public choice

Unit 2: The Policy Cycle Model: Stages: agenda-setting, formulation, adoption, implementation, evaluation, Strengths and criticisms of the model, Practical applications in policymaking

Unit 3: Models of Public Policy Analysis: Rational model, Incremental model, Institutional model, Systems model, Advocacy coalition framework,

Unit 4: Comparative analysis: similarities, differences, advantages, limitations

Section-B

Unit 5: Governance Theories and Public Policy: Pluralism, elitism, Marxist perspective, and public choice, Influence on agenda-setting, decision-making, and implementation

Unit 6: Policy Evaluation Purpose and significance of evaluation, Models of evaluation: formative, summative, cost-benefit, evidence-based.

Unit 7: Feedback Mechanisms: Role of feedback in improving policies

Unit 8: Accountability and transparency: Means to ensure accountability and transparency

Suggested Readings

- R.K. Sapru, *Public Policy: Formulation, Implementation, and Evaluation* (Sterling Publishers, 2018)
- Michael Hill, *The Public Policy Process* (Routledge, 2021, 8th ed.)
- Wayne Parsons, *Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis* (Edward Elgar, 1995)
- Charles O. Jones, *An Introduction to the Study of Public Policy* (Cengage, 1984)
- B.L. Fadia & Kuldeep Fadia, Public *Administration* (Sahitya Bhawan, 2020)
- Carol H. Weiss, *Evaluation: Methods for Studying Programs and Policies* (Prentice Hall, 1998)
- Michael Howlett, *Designing Public Policies: Principles and Instruments* (Routledge, 2011)