UPDATED

ANSWER WRITING WORKBOOK

GS PAPER - II

GOVERNANCE

130 QUESTIONS With **Model Hints**

GOVERNANCE

With the increasing unpredictability of the types of questions being asked in the UPSC IAS examination, it becomes very important for IAS aspirants to begin and continue to practice answer writing. This will prove to be very helpful and fruitful while preparing for the most coveted civil services. The workbooks are designed in a way that enables the students to understand their weak areas and improve upon them.

The workbook is a novel concept brought to you by **GS SCORE** for aiding your preparation and helping you achieve 'the IAS dream'. The workbooks contain sets of questions along with their model answers to help students practice at their convenience. Each question in the workbook covers a topic relevant to the UPSC examination. Thus, it will help aspirants to complete their syllabus holistically through questions and answers.

There are **13 booklets** available to all students for the preparation of the Mains examination.

- They will be **categorized subject-wise** for the benefit and convenience of the students.
- This categorization will also help the students practice the topics they are studying without having to search for them from a huge compilation of uncategorized notes.

➤ **What is the significance of the practicing answer writing for Mains Examination?**

The Workbooks will help students assess themselves and their preparation while aiding them by providing quality questions for practicing answer writing, which is a very important component of the UPSC Civil Services Examination. Answer writing practice will provide aspirants a clarity and coherency in their answers. Along with that, flow of thought and expressions is also important for writing answers in the UPSC Mains examination, which can only be developed with practice and persistence. With the **GS SCORE Workbook for Governance** aspirants will easily be able to cover the entire syllabus along with improving the quality of their answer writing skills.

➤ **How will the workbook help serious aspirants?**

The Workbooks have been designed in a way that follows the trends of the UPSC IAS Mains examination giving the aspirants only valuable and holistic practice of answer writing. Each set of the Workbook covers significant portions of the subject in 10-11 questions.

The GS SCORE Governance workbook consists of questions from the following topics:

Governance (5 sections comprising of 13 sets in total)

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency and accountability and institutional and other measures.
- Role of civil services in a democracy.

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GOVERNANCE
WORKBOOK

SET - 1

QUESTION & ANSWER

Governance (Set-1)
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1. Accountability of public institutions focuses on prevention of activities not specifically authorized by law and maintenance of financial propriety. Is this concept of accountability capable of bringing good governance? What other dimensions should be added to make it more holistic? (200 words)(L2)

Q2. Development, democracy and empowerment are obstructed, by a series of accountability failures. Analyse the statement with emphasis on social accountability and its utility. (200 words)(L2)

Q3. A robust mechanism for the protection of whistle-blowers in a time-bound manner is necessary to promote an environment which encourages people to blow the whistle against wrongdoings. In this context, examine the various features of the Whistle-blowers Protection Act.(200 Words)(L2)

Q4. The Preamble starts with word "We the People", which means people of India are Sovereign, however, on the contrary, none of the five pillars of state are directly accountable to the people, except for a five year electoral process. Comment (200 words)(L2)

Q5. Do you think corruption is more of a cultural problem, than an institutional one? Substantiate. (200 words)(L2)

Q6. Evaluate the role played by civil society in strengthening the delivery of governance. Analyse, how in the absence of accountability measures, the institution itself is in crisis of credibility. (200 words)(L2)

Q7. There is a view that the five Cs (institutions such as Courts, CVC, CBI, CAG and CIC) which are not representative of people have become too much active in upholding accountability of elected governments. Critically examine (200 words)(L2)

Q8. Triple talaq, which has been banned in more than 20 Islamic countries is still a practice followed in India. What is the reason behind it? How far the judicial pronouncements in India have been successful in opposing this practice? Critically Analyse (200 words)(L2)

Q9. Civil services during colonial era were dubbed as the steel frame of India. However, in post Independent democratic India, it has become a steel fetters on Democracy. Comment and also discuss what should be done to reverse this phenomenon?(200 words)(L2)

Q10. Civil service can play a key role in development albeit it has to be true to the dictum of "service" and not "servitude". Discuss (200 Words)(L2)

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1. **Accountability of public institutions focuses on prevention of activities not specifically authorized by law and maintenance of financial propriety. Is this concept of accountability capable of bringing good governance? What other dimensions should be added to make it more holistic?**

APPROACH

1. Discuss the values imbibed in the concept of accountability (30 words)
2. Explain how can this factor lead to establishment of good governance (80 words)
3. Analyse the attributes of accountability and challenges faced in its realization(70 words)
4. Conclusion (20 words)

HINTS

Public office is considered as an office of trust.

The concept of administrative accountability implies that administrators are obliged to give a satisfactory account of what they do and in what manner they exercise the powers conferred on them.

Its main aim is to check arbitrariness in administrative actions and improve administrative efficiency and effectiveness.

Thus accountability ensures that actions and decisions taken by public officials are subject to oversight so as to guarantee that government initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the community they are meant to be benefiting, thereby contributing to better governance and poverty reduction.

Accountability is one of the cornerstones of good governance.

- ◉ **It includes:**
  - ➤ Enhancing citizen information and voice to bring transparency in the system
  - ➤ Creating mechanisms for participatory monitoring and citizen-state dialogue and negotiation for effective monitoring of programs and policies.
  - ➤ Establishment of rule of law to avoid public officials to use their powers in improper manner.
  - ➤ Improving governance by exposing government failures and misdeeds.
  - ➤ Improve responsiveness in the system by pressurizing institutions to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable time frame.

Reciprocity of accountability and Good Governance Indicators:

- ◉ **Voice and accountability'** measures such features as whether the change of government is orderly or not; whether or not there is a transparent and fair legal system; whether or not citizens enjoy civil rights and political freedoms; whether the press and the media are free; whether governance is free from the military's influence or not; whether the business sector can express its concerns, etc. It broadly measures how democratic the governance is.
- ◉ **'Absence of political instability and violence'** measures the perceived absence of social unrest, coups, terrorism, civil war, armed conflict, ethnic or tribal tensions, coercive government, radicalism etc. **It broadly measures political stability**.
- ◉ **'Government effectiveness'** measures whether government policy is pro-enterprise or not; whether there are red tape and bureaucratic delays; the quality and turnover of government personnel; the

government's ability to continue its programs; political non-interference in public administration; the quality of public goods like roads, public health, mail services; government's efficiency in delivering public services; lack of waste in government expenditure; the honouring of commitments by an incoming new government; the effective implementation of government decisions, etc.

- **'Reasonableness of regulatory burden'** measures the burden of regulations on business; government intervention in the economy; wage/price controls; tariff barriers; regulations on capital flows; banking regulations; foreign trade regulations; restrictions on non-residents vis-à-vis ownership of business, shares, etc.; barriers to entry in banking and other sectors; freedom to compete in the market place; whether anti-monopoly legislation is effective or not; dominance of state-owned enterprises; state interference in private business; tax system that hinders competitiveness etc.

- **Rule of law'** measures whether crime is properly punished or not; enforceability of contracts; extent of black market; enforceable rights to property; extent of tax evasion; prevalence of rule of law; police effectiveness; protection of intellectual property; judiciary's independence; ability of businesses and people to challenge government action in courts etc.

- **'Absence of graft'** measures relative absence of corruption among government political and bureaucratic officials; of bribes related to securing of permits and licenses; of corruption in the judiciary; of corruption that scares off foreign investors, etc.

- A holistic approach consisting of the multiple aspects of Accountability is needed to ensure effective and efficient working of Public institutions for better service delivery.

2. Development, democracy and empowerment are obstructed, by a series of accountability failures. Analyse the statement with emphasis on social accountability and its utility. (12.5 marks)

APPROACH

1. **Define criticality of Social Accountability (30 words)**

2. **Discuss rationale governing how social accountability plays the role (80 words)**

3. **Analyze opportunity and benefits realized via improved accountability norms (70 words)**

4. **Conclusion (20 words)**

HINTS

Social Accountability is an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic engagement, specifically a situation whereby ordinary citizens and civil society organizations contribute directly or indirectly in exacting accountability. Such accountability is termed as society driven horizontal accountability.

How are development, democracy and empowerment obstructed by series of accountability failures:

- Political accountability mechanisms such as elections and bureaucratic accountability mechanisms such as intra-government controls are increasingly found to be limited in scope.

- Administrative bottlenecks, weak incentives or corruption in state-centred political and bureaucratic accountability mechanisms restrict their effectiveness, particularly from the perspective of the poor and marginalized people who need accountability most, but who lack the means to work round such obstacles.

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