

Governance and Public Policies

Mock Exam

Attempt any four questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1: How are problems in society addressed through public policy? How do they get on the policy agenda? Discuss the primary stakeholders and their interest in the process. Provide real life examples as a part of your answer. (20)

Q. 2: (a) Describe various indicators of good governance such as Participation, Rule of law, Transparency, Accountability, Responsiveness and Efficiency. (10)

(b) Explain how new Institutionalism theorists see self-interest, social values, and power structures as determinants of social behaviour. (10)

Q.3: Elaborate the role of Planning Commission for national economic growth and development of social infrastructure through the Public Sector Development Programs (PSDP). (20)

Q. 4: What governance theories are more applicable to developing countries like Pakistan and how those could be applied? (20)

Q. 5: (a) Local government reforms have been designed and implemented across Pakistan during three military regimes in 1959, 1979 and 2001. Present an overview of causes of failure and success (if any) of the aforementioned reforms. (10)

(b) Highlight the key features of Kerala's Decentralization model that was initiated in 1996 by Left Democratic Front (LDF)? (10)

Q. 6: Corruption is a menace to the society and destroys the socio-political framework of society. Is corruption inevitable in public sector? If yes, why so? If no, give measures for crackdown on corrupt practices and ensuring accountability in Pakistan. (20)

Q. 7: Keeping in view the rational choice theory, critically analyse the impediments to free and fair elections in Pakistan. How bounded rationality impacts the electoral outcomes. (20)

Q. 8: Continued rapid growth in population has ranked Pakistan sixth in the world and the third biggest contributor to world population growth. Suggest a policy for population control in Pakistan and its implementation. What can be the unintended consequences?

Day: _____

Answer to Q#6

Date: _____

- (i): Is corruption inevitable in public sector?
- (ii) Measures for crack down on corruption
- (iii) Measures to ensure accountability

⇒ Introduction:

Corruption is not an inevitable process but it is widely spreading in the public and private sector as well. There are many institutions in Pakistan which play a vital role in the eradication of corruption e.g National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

There are also some acts present in Pakistan that are for the eradication of corruption: Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010.

Explain the statement part as

a. Is corruption inevitable in public sector:

Corruption is widely spreading in public and other sectors as well, but it is not inevitable. Certain measures and steps can be taken to eradicate corruption: practices from Pakistan to ensure a better socio-political framework.

b. Measures for Crackdown on Corruption:

→ Anti-Corruption Efforts in Past:

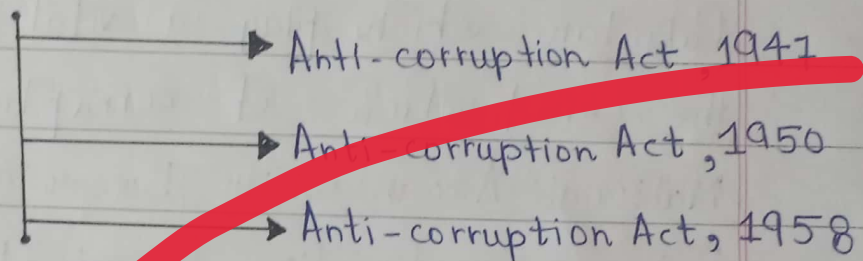
Anti-Corruption efforts in:

Pakistan have been made in the past years.

Some are given as follows:

(i) Anti-Corruption Acts:

Anti-corruption acts have been made to eradicate corruption from Pakistan, since its creation:



(ii) NAB Ordinance:

Under the National Accountability Ordinance 1999, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was established as the successor of Ehtasaab Cell and given the additional responsibility of preventing and raising awareness of corruption. It is also responsible for money-laundering investigations under the Anti-money laundering Act, 2010.

(iii) FIA:

FIA stands for Federal Investigation Agency. It is also an anti-corruption wing.

⇒ Success Ratio of Measures taken

Before :

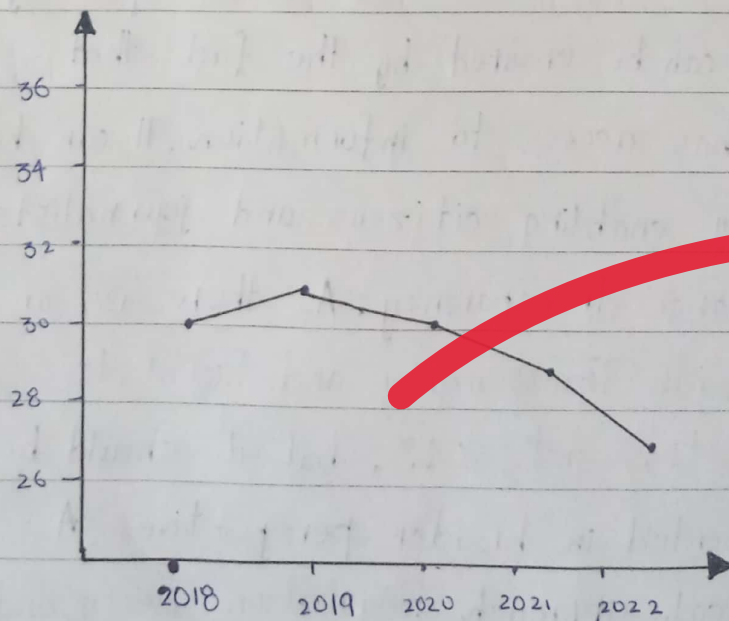
→ Since the establishment of NAB, it has recovered Rs. 891 billion out of which Rs. 543 billion indirectly recovered in the form of government's or public usurped land.

→ Limitation of institutions:

Despite of the two major institutes of Pakistan, Pakistan is making ~~no~~ less improvement in corruption.

Rank : 140 / 180

Score : 27 / 100



Ref: Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

→ Measures to crackdown on corruption practices in the present : ←

a. Strengthening Anti-Corruption institutions: ←

The institutions like National Accountability Bureau (NAB) should be independent, adequately funded and have legal authority to investigate the cases of corruption. This can be done by the implementation of institutionalism which ensures the independent and fair working of institutes. ←

b. Transparency and Access to Information:

There should be transparency and it can be ensured by the fact that public has access to information. It can be done by enabling citizens and journalists to enhance transparency. As there is an act Punjab Transparency and Right to Information act, 2013, but it should be implemented in broader perspectives. A theoretical approach Regulation Theory and Rational Choice theory can also be used so that people should be rational.

c. Judicial and Legal Reforms:

→ Fast Track Courts:

Specialized courts should be established to expedite corruption cases, it will ensure timely justice.

→ Judicial Independence:

Judiciary should be independent to prevent political interference in corruption cases.

→ Comparison with Rival Country:

In comparison to the neighbour and rival country India, they have made much betterment in Judicial reforms such as National Mission for Judicial Reforms and Legal Reforms was set up in 2011, with the objective of increasing access by reducing delays in justice.

d. Strategy for Anti-Corruption

Practices:

Following are the three main steps to prevent corruption:

(i) Prevention

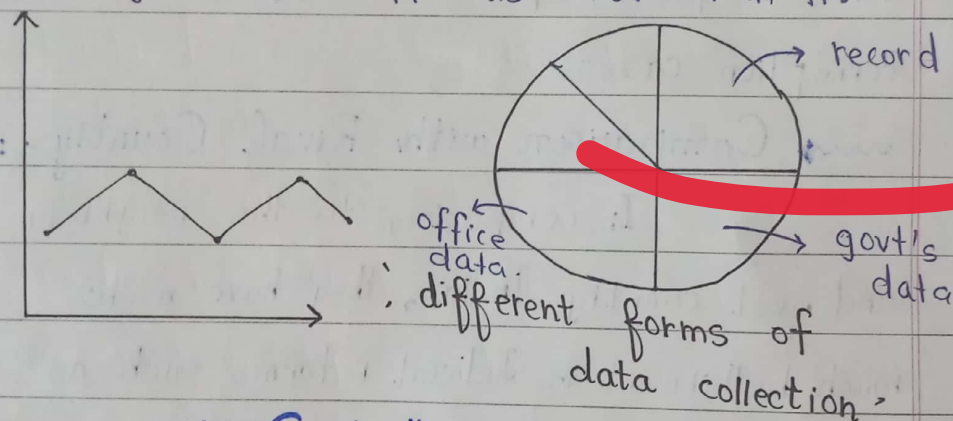
To prevent corruption, institutions should have been made in the country.

→ National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

→ Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

(ii) Monitoring

In the era of 2000s, a renowned business man of Pakistan was monitored due to his corrupt activities and exemption from tax. NAB monitored and collected data about government officials involved in it.



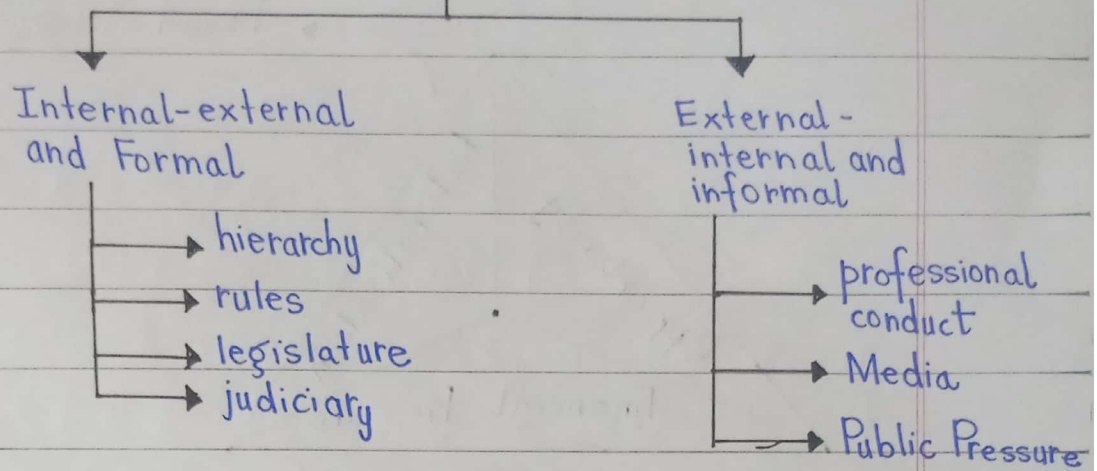
(iii) Combatting

After proper investigation, he was arrested on the charges of corruption and trialed in Accountability Court, Islamabad.

⇒ Measures to Ensure Accountability in Pakistan:

Accountability can be divided into two main categories. A flow chart given below illustrates the measures taken for accountability:

Accountability



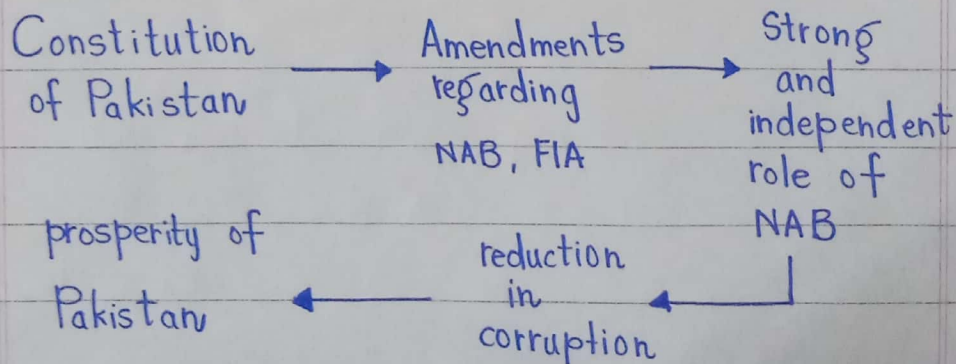
→ theoretical approach:

- Regulation Theory
- Institutionalism
- Rational Choice Theory

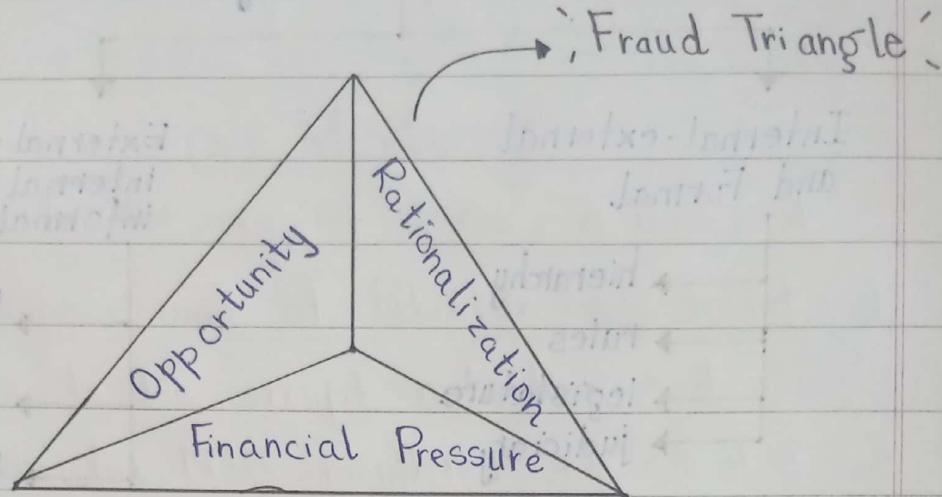
⇒ Critical Analysis:

To eradicate corrupt practices and ensure accountability, the government of Pakistan has introduced character building society in public universities which is under NAB. Despite of the awareness in the educational institutions there is no such reduction in corruption, this is because of the weekend role of NAB.

**Not required
As you have already analysed the asked part**



⇒ Conclusion :



To eradicate corruption completely from a country like Pakistan, there should be economic stability, more jobs, eradication of poverty and the last step trial of the culprits in the Accountability Courts should be ensured.

- (i) Impediments to free and fair elections in Pakistan as per Rational Choice Theory.
- (ii) Impacts of Bounded Rationality on electoral outcomes.

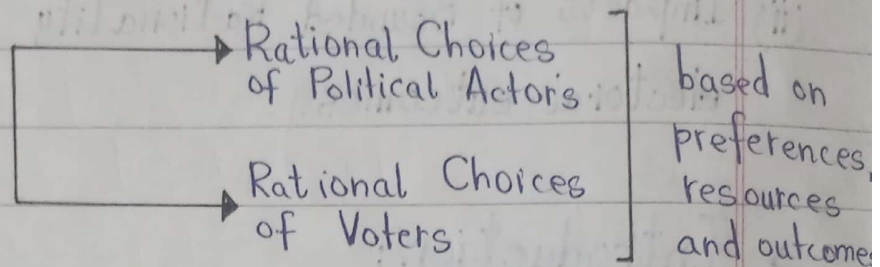
⇒ Introduction:

As per Rational Choice Theory, the individuals make rational choices which are based on the cost and benefit analysis. But these choices can greatly be affected by the Bounded Rationality which has certain constraints like cognitive constraints and time limit. Both of the above mentioned subjects greatly influence the electoral process in Pakistan. The impediments with critical analysis and recommendations are mentioned.

⇒ Rational Choice Theory and Elections in Pakistan:

As per Rational Choice Theory, the individuals make decisions by weighing the costs and benefits to maximize their utility. i.e. individuals are rationales.

When we apply this to the electoral behaviour, it has two outcomes:



⇒ Impediments to free and fair Elections in Pakistan:

a. Politics and Clientelism:

In Pakistan, political actors often engage in patronage and clientelism to secure votes. This means providing favours and material benefits in exchange of political support. Rational voters may agree to have these benefits but they do not see long term consequences.

⇒ Impediment:

This undermines the free and fair elections as voters are bought rather than earned through policy proposals.

b. Institutional Weakness

Do not give a heading on the last line

⇒ Rational Choice Perspective:

Weak institutions, such as Election Commission, judiciary ^{are} may be unable to enforce law due to corruption, inefficiency or lack of resources.

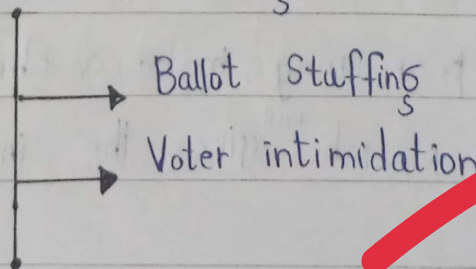
⇒ Impediment:

This allows powerful political actors to manipulate the electoral process without facing consequences.

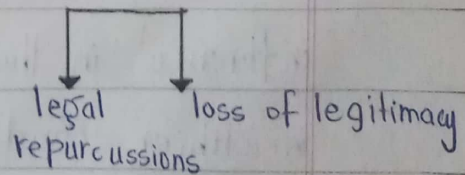
c. Electoral Manipulation

⇒ Rational Choice Perspective:

Political actors may engage in the electoral fraud, e.g



if they perceive the benefits, but they outweigh the potential costs i.e



⇒ Impediments:

Such promises compromise the integrity of elections, making them neither free nor fair.

d. Role of Media

⇒ Rational Choice Perspective:

Media houses may align with particular political party due to their fiscal incentives, ownership patterns or may be the ideological alignment.

⇒ Impediment:

Biased media coverage can skew over the perceptions and choices of the voters.

e. Socio-Economic Inequality

⇒ Rational Choice Perspective:

The lower middle class or the poor may make a choice to elect those who will give the immediate favours.

⇒ Impediment:

This can lead to unequal influence in the electoral process, favouring wealthier candidates or parties that can offer tangible short-term benefits.

• Case Study

Day: _____

Date: _____

→ Bounded Rationality in 1970 Elections

→ Limited Information

↳ communication barriers, and propaganda from both sides inculcated distrust and misunderstandings.

→ Time Constraints

↳ voters were influenced by the immediate concerns such as economic inequalities, political instability.

→ Cognitive Limitations

↳ voters of East and West Pakistan often relied on ethnic and regional identities.

All these things resulted in the separation of East Pakistan and West Pakistan in 1971.

⇒ Bounded Rationality and Electoral Outcomes:

• Bounded Rationality

Bounded rationality suggests that individuals make decisions within the limits of their:

- i) information
- ii) cognitive capabilities
- iii) Time Constraints

• In the Context of Pakistan

Factors of Bounded Rationality	Impacts on Electoral Outcomes
<p>(i) Limited Information</p> <p>Voters may lack information i.e accurate and comprehensive which leads to decisions based on biased information.</p>	<p>Voter Behaviour</p> <p>Voting is based on the short-term benefits.</p>
<p>(ii) Cognitive Limitations</p> <p>Voters may struggle to understand complex political issues, platforms and implications of their choices.</p>	<p>Candidate's Strategy</p> <p>Political candidate's may exploit bounded rationality by focusing on populist promises and emotional appeals.</p>
<p>(iii) Time Constraints</p> <p>Voters may not have the time to evaluate all candidates so they can be vote on the basis of ethnicity or community leader's recommendations.</p>	<p>Policy Consequences</p> <p>Electoral outcomes may favour candidates who prioritize immediate, visible benefits over long term policy solutions.</p>

⇒ Solutions for Bounded Rationality

Following are some of the solutions to address bounded rationality:

⇒ Recommendations

⇒ Practical Example

① Improving Political Education and literacy
 ↳ to increase the voter participation by educating them.

② Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)
 ↳ launched by Election Commission of India (ECI).

• ∴ Success •

↳ Increased voter turnout

→ The voter turnout in 2019 Lok Sabha Elections was the highest ever at 67.11%.

③ Enhancing Access to Reliable Information
 ↳ This may leads to accurate information.
 → voter's choice will be based on accurate information.

④ National Voters' Service Portal (NVSP)
 ↳ Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched NVSP to provide voters easy access to wide range of electoral information.

• ∴ Success •

↳ Empowered voters by readily available information.

⇒

Conclusion:

The interplay of Rational Choice Theory (RCT) and bounded rationality highlights significant impediments to free and fair elections in Pakistan. Addressing these challenges requires strengthening institutional integrity, ensuring media objectivity, promoting political literacy to foster a more informed and rational electorate.

Organizing free and fair elections is more important than result itself.

(- Fatos Naho)

~~Good analysis~~

This answer could be done in two ways

Either write impediments under a separate main heading or you can do it this way ad well
Good luck!