Mock - 05 14-12-2025

Governance and Public Policies

Question No. 3 (b)

Good Governance	E-Governance
Good governance is a normative concept that refers to how power and authority are exercised in managing public affairs for the welfare of citizens.	E-Governance is the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by the government to deliver services, exchange information, and interact with stakeholders.
It is valued based and principle-oreinted.	It is technology-based and tool-oriented.
It focuses on outcomes and quality of governance.	It focuses on processes and mechanisms of governance.
Its core principles are transparency, accountability, participation, rule of law, responsiveness, equity, effectiveness, and efficiency.	Its core principles are digitization, automation, online service delivery, data management, and electronic interaction.

Objective of good-governance is to ensure inclusive, ethical, and effective administration.	Objective of e-governance is to improve efficiency, accessibility, speed, and transparency in governance.
It broad - covers political, administrative, economic, and social dimensions.	It relatively narrow - mainly administrative and service-delivery aspects.
It's an end in itself (desired state of governance).	It's a mean to achieve better governance, including good governance.
Its examples are independent judiciary, free and fair elections, citizen participation in policy-making.	Its examples are online tax filing, digital land records, e-procurement portals, online grievance redressal.

Good governance defines what good administration should achieve, while e-governance provides how technology can be used to help achieve these goals.

(C)

Intergovernmental Relations at Federal and Provincial Level in Pakistan

Intergovernmental relations in Pakistan refer to the coordination, cooperation, and division of powers between the federal government and the provincial governments, as defined mainly by the 1973 Constitution.

Constitutional Framework

Pakistan follows a federal system with powers divided between the federations and provinces.

The 18th amendment significantly strengthened provincial autonomy by abolishing Concurrent Legislative List and devolving many subjects to provinces.

Institutions of Intergovernmental Relations

Council of Common Interests (CCI)

- A constitutional body responsible for resolving disputes between the federation and provinces.
- Manages shared subjects such as electricity, natural resources, and major infrastructure.

National Finance Commission (NFC)

- Determines the distribution of financial resources between the federal and provincial governments through NFC Award
- Ensures fiscal coordination and equitable resource sharing.

National Economic Council (NEC) → Formulates economic policies and development plans involving both federal and provincial goverments.

Areas of Federal and Provincial Interaction

Fiscal transfers and budgetary coordination	Management of natural resources	Law and order coordination
Social sector policies (health, education after devolution).		

Challenges:

①Disputes over resources distribution and revenue sharing.
Capacity issues at the provincial level.
Delays in CCI meetings and implementation of policies.

Tensions between centralization and provincial autonomy.

Conclusion: Inter governmental relations in Pakistan are vital for national unity and effective governance. While constitutional mechanisms exists to pumote cooperation, their effectiveness depends on political will, institutional capacity, and segular dialogue between the federation and provinces.

Question No. 7

Public Policy

Public policy refers to the decisions, actions, and programs adapted by the government to address public problems and achieve societal goals. It includes laws, regulations, plans, and courses of action taken by state authorities for the welfare of citizens.

According to Thomas Dye:

"Public policy is whatever governments choose to do or not to do."

Thus, public policy involves both action and inaction by the state in response to public issues.

Policy-Making Process in Pakistan

Public policy in Pakistan is shaped through the interaction of political, administrative, institutional, and societal actors. The major actors and institutions involved are:

1. Legisture (Parliament)

Role:

It inacts laws and approves public policies, debates national issues and proposes policy alternatives, approves the federal budget, which is a major policy instument, and exercises oversight through standing committees.

Institutions:

↳ National Assembly

↳ Senate

Parliament represents public interests and legitimize policy decisions.

2. Executive

Role:

It plays a central role in policy formulation and implementation. It initiales policies, prepares bills, and enforces laws. It coordinates among ministries and departments.

Actors:

- Prime Minister
- Federal Cabinet
- Council of Common Interests (CCI)
- Prime Ministers office

The executive dominates policy making in Pakistan due to strong bureaucratic and political control.

3. Bureaucracy (Civil Service)

Role:

It provides expert advice and technical input, drafts policy proposals and legislation and implements and evaluates public policies.

Institutions:

Federal Ministries	Planning Commission	Establishment Division

Due to continuity and expertise, bureaucracy significantly influences policy outcomes.

4. Judiciary

Role:

It interprets the constitution and laws; ensures policies comply with constitutional provisions, and reviews government actions through judicial review.

Impact:

It can strike down unconstitutional policies and influences public policy through landmark judgements.

5. Military Establishment

Role:

Influences policy related to national security, foreign affairs, and internal ability.

6. Provincial Governments

Role:

Formulates and implement policies in devolved subjects under the 18th

Constitutional Amendment.
Provincial autonomy has increased their role in policy making.

7. Political Parties

Role:

Present policy agendas in election manifestos, shape policy debates and legislative priorities, and moblize public opinion.

Ruling parties play a decisive role in agenda setting.

8. Interests Groups and Pressure Groups

Role:

Influence policy through lobbying and advocacy.

Represent business, labor, farmers, and professional groups.

Examples: Trade unions, business chambers, bar councils.

9. Media

Role: Shapes public opinion, highlights policy issues and government performance, and acts as a watching dog over public institutions.
Both traditional and social media have increased policy accountability.

10. Civil Society and NGOs

Role: Advocate for human rights, education, health, and environment, provide research and policy recommendations, and act as partners in policy implementation.