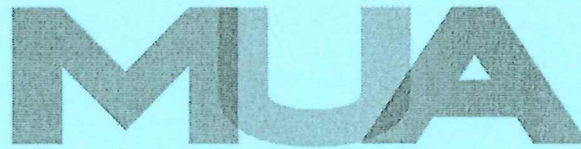


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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

BDS 301/ BDS 413: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

DATE: 21ST JULY 2022

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

PUBLIC POLICY REFORMS

Public policy is dynamic and requires that policy makers adjust policy to changing conditions and needs. When a change of policy direction or emphasis occurs, it usually requires increased resource expenditures. For example, if a public school's administrators determine that students' reading disabilities are impeding their general progress in school, it might be necessary to increase resources devoted to reading programs. The goal would be to increase benefit as a result of increased expenditure on a particular facet of a public policy. The increased benefit is called a marginal benefit, while the increased cost is known as a marginal cost. In cost-benefit analysis, important marginal increases in cost are justifiable in terms of increased benefits. If a benefit does not increase at a rate greater than cost increases, then the marginal policy changes are economically inefficient.

The dynamic quality of public policy is also considered in a procedure known as discounting. The value of a particular resource (e.g., money) does not remain the same over time. For example, money that is not spent may grow in value, simply by gaining interest or investment value. Once money is spent for a particular policy, that interest or investment value potential is lost. The longer the money remains invested, the greater the potential value that can be generated. Therefore, current resources frequently have greater potential value than resources collected or retained in future years; not all money is equal once time is factored into analysis. The discounting procedure allows policy makers to compare monetary values on an equal basis, thereby making the cost-benefit analyses more accurate in terms of both present and future costs associated with a policy.

The ability to conduct accurate and complete cost-benefit analyses is often hampered by a variety of other factors that play a role in public policy. When one chooses to move or not to move in a particular policy direction, there is the risk of policy failures. Those risks might mean that resources that were spent with good intentions never produced an expected benefit. Often times the risks of failure are so great that policy makers avoid potential political ire by simply not choosing to take on high-risk (yet potentially valuable) policy goals.

Existing public policy often carries with it a lower level of risk than newer public policies. Frequently, there are unforeseen indirect start-up costs associated with new policies. Additionally, public policies are often vague and require the establishment of rules and procedures for day-to-day operations. The costs of implementation cannot always be determined before a public policy is put into place. However, they must be factored into cursory cost-benefit analysis to determine the feasibility of a particular prospective public policy.

Whether government is considering a new direction for public policy or simply implementing existing policy, the changing nature of society's needs must be continually monitored. People migrate, economic and social conditions change, and the nature of public problems continually evolves. Demographic data helps policy analysts determine if social and economic change is occurring in an equitable manner. Demographic analysis played an important part in documenting the rise of economic and social inequality that arose in the post-World War II era. While the analyses were interpreted by political conservatives and liberals in different ways, the findings themselves played an important role in developing public policies intended to remedy the inequities, the impacts of which could be studied in future demographic analysis.

Some experts have argued that an aroused mass public opinion demanding action on a particular problem can compel policy makers to enact non incremental policies. This, however, is far from the norm. Where policy makers with a long-term interest and expertise in an issue disagree among themselves, non-incremental policy making is effectively precluded by conflict over objectives and the inadequacy of the knowledge base. Under such circumstances, policy makers may distract mass public opinion while negotiating an incremental solution to substantive issues out of public view.

Whatever the effects of public arousal on policy making, non-incremental policy departures are unlikely to be effective where the conditions for rational policy making are unmet. The Clean Air Act of 1970 has been cited as one such instance. In this case, mass public arousal did nothing to increase the knowledge base available to policy makers. The legislation assuaged public opinion by setting goals for businesses that no one knew how to meet at the time the law was passed. The conditions for rational decision making are most likely to be met (if at all) late in the policy-making process, after policy makers have accumulated a great deal of experience with policies and crystallized their objectives.

One's evaluation of incrementalism will hinge on underlying assumptions about human nature and what it is possible to achieve through politics. Utopians of both the right and the left reject its slow operation and apparent incoherence. More-pragmatic policy makers find incrementalism a realistic and practical way to pursue needed reforms gradually, through a pluralistic process of trial and error.

For incrementalism to work properly, at least two conditions have to be met. All or almost all affected interests must be represented in the policy, and there must be no major imbalances in power among the various participants.

Required:

- A. Whether government is considering a new direction for public policy or simply implementing existing policy, the changing nature of society's needs must be continually monitored. People migrate, economic and social conditions change, and the nature of public problems continually evolves. Some experts have also argued that an aroused mass public opinion demanding action on a particular problem can compel policy makers to enact non incremental policies. In light of the above, discuss any five causes of policy reforms in Kenya in the last ten years (10 marks)
- B. The goal of public policy reforms is normally to increase benefits as a result of the increased expenditure on that particular facet of a public policy. Enumerate the effect of policy reforms in developing countries (10 marks)
- C. Some experts have argued that an aroused mass public opinion demanding action on a particular problem can compel policy makers to enact non incremental policies. In light of this statement, define the term policy advocacy and enumerate the form policy advocacy can take (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- A. Define performance based contracting and suggest three areas of governance where performance based contracting is used (5 marks)
- B. Discuss any five critical dimensions of a public policy (10 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

With an aid of a well labelled diagram, discuss the stages-heuristic model, also called the Policy making cycle (15 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- A. Suggest how the media can be used to enhance policy making process in a developing country (10 marks)

- B. Discuss any five roles of civil society in organizational governance (5 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- A. Enumerate the role of ethics in public administration (5 marks)
- B. Define the term poverty and suggest any four poverty reduction measures in a developing economy (10 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- A. Argue against curbing of rural urban migration as a tool for economic development in Kenya (5 marks)
- B. Discuss any five types of economic policies in Kenya (10 marks)