

# **Tutorial Letter 201/2/2018**

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

## **PUB3703**

## **Semester 2 module**

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

This tutorial letter contains important  
information about your module:

- **COMMENTS ON ASSIGNMENTS**
- **EXAMINATION : OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018**

Dear Student,

Congratulations on persevering with your studies. By this time you should have received your marked assignment(s). I trust that you have already started with your preparations for the examinations.

The purpose of this tutorial letter is to:

- provide feedback on the assignments that you submitted during the course of the semester; and
- give an indication of the format of the examination paper, the nature and extent of possible examination questions and advice on how to prepare for the examination.

## 1 ASSIGNMENTS

### ASSIGNMENT 1

Assignment 1 consisted of twenty multiple choice questions on which you had to mark the correct option. The correct options are indicated below.

QUESTION	ANSWER	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	2	11	2
2	3	12	3
3	2	13	2
4	1	14	2
5	4	15	1
6	1	16	3
7	4	17	3
8	2	18	2
9	2	19	1
10	3	20	3

## ASSIGNMENT 2

Assignment 2 consisted of an essay-type question. There were specific instructions to follow when preparing the answer. You were not required to include a title page, table of contents, introduction, headings, conclusion and a list of sources when answering the essay-type assignment question. The purpose of this essay was for you to prepare to answer an exam question where the answer does not require all the items mentioned.

You should have noted that there are different aspects, which had to be discussed. Therefore, instead of using headings, you could have commenced the discussion of each aspect with the relevant key word/s and underlined those key words.

### **An appropriate answer to this question is as follows:**

Question: write an essay on “Problem identification and deciding on the agenda”.

(Study Guide: Theme 2, study unit 5, pages 45 - 51)

In answering this question, you had to pay attention to and shortly describe the following:

- Describe the concept of “problem”
- Identifying problems
- Policy agenda – what this is and how decisions are made about issues for the agenda

There may be other aspects that you may have included in your discussion. You could also make use of your own examples and (motivated) opinions/insights where possible.

## 2. POSSIBLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Possible examination questions are given throughout the study guide at the “activities” and also at the end of the study guide at “Self-evaluation”. You must prepare these questions for the examination.

To assist you further in your preparation for the coming examination we are providing a number of questions with references to the relevant sections in the study material where answers to questions can be found. Please note that our intention is not to provide model answers here. The aim is simply to assist you with examples of typical examination questions. Please bear in mind that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of possible examination questions but only examples of possible examination questions.

Please keep in mind that the prescribed book is the 2015 edition but you have been given the references to the 2011 edition as well:

Prescribed book: Anderson, JE. 2011. *Public Policymaking*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston: Wadsworth. OR,

Prescribed book: Anderson, JE. 2015. *Public Policymaking*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage Learning USA.

## QUESTIONS

1. Various forms of public policy can be distinguished depending on the topic on which the focus falls. Write short notes on the following forms of public policy to explain what each one entails:

- (i) Domestic policy.
- (ii) Foreign policy.
- (iii) Education policy.
- (iv) Environmental policy. (16)

**Study guide, study unit 1, p 7-8**

2. Explain the connection between public policy and politics. (9)

**Study guide, Study unit 1, p 15-17**

3. Explain what a “policy objective” refers to and who is involved in the process. (25)

**Study guide, Study unit 6, p 47-51 / Anderson (2011: 144-152 / 2015: 153-161)**

4. Rationality is an activity in the public policy making process. Give a description of what “rationality” is and explain two (2) extreme forms of rationality, namely “true/ideal rationality” and “bounded rationality”. (25)

**Study guide, Study unit 2, p 22-24**

5. Policy making also involves policy evaluation as a systematic process. Discuss the problems underlying effective policy evaluation. (10)

**Anderson (2011: 276-280; 287-292) / Study guide p 65-66**

6. What is a policy agenda and how does it relate to policy problems? (25)

**Anderson (2011: 90-100) / Study guide p 43-45**

7. Problems, as situations or conditions, may give rise to public policy. Explain how such problems are identified and defined. (10)

**Study guide p 41-43**

8. Policy models focus on selected aspects of problems. Explain briefly why policy models focus on certain aspects and to what extent do they influence policy making. The aspects that should be included in your discussion are “organisational structures”, “environmental factors” and “value preferences”. (17)

**Study guide, Study unit 3, p 28**

9. Explain what the “implementation of policy” means and describe the complexity of the process. (25)

**Study guide, Study unit 7, p 54-56 / Anderson (2011: 193, 209-231 / 2015:225-249)**

10. Policy analysis is part of the process of public policy making. Briefly discuss any four (4) approaches to policy analysis. (8)

**Study guide, Study unit 3, p 32-33**

11. Discuss “policy models” as an approach to the process of public policy-making. (25)

**Study guide p 27-30**

12. What can be done to ensure effective implementation of public policy? (25)

**Anderson (2011: 209-222) / Study guide p 56-60**

### **3. EXAMINATION**

Please take note of the following:

#### **3.1 Previous examination papers**

The previous examination papers for this module are available on myUnisa for your information and will give you an idea of how an examination question is posed. Please do not assume that you will find all these questions in the next exam paper.

#### **3.2 The question paper**

The examination for this module takes place during October/November for the second semester. The duration of the examination is 2 hours. A number of questions are posed and each question is marked out of 25 marks. However, some questions may be broken down into sub-questions.

You will have to be careful with the use of time on the day: spend about 12 minutes on a 10-mark question, 18 minutes on a 15-mark question, et cetera. A number of even shorter questions with mark allocations of 5, 6 and 8 may also be included in the paper. The basic principle is that you must use the mark allocation for each question to determine the length of your answer and the time you can spend on each answer.

#### **3.3 Concluding remarks on the examination**

The Examination department of Unisa (telephone number (012 429-4122) will inform you shortly of the examination date and examination centre.

We trust that your preparation for the examination will go well.

Good luck!

**Prof M van Heerden**

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