

PUB1601 SUMMARY NOTES ETUTOR

Dear Students

Please read, understand and know the following terms and concepts:

Monarch, forms of democracy - popular sovereignty, popular consultation, majority government, presidential democracy, and parliamentary democracy.

You must be able to identify the **difference between presidential and parliamentary democracy** and recognize what type of democracy South Africa is.

South Africa has **3 levels or spheres of government** = National, Provincial and Local .

It also has **3 categories of government authority** = Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Please read through this section in the study guide and understand what the above terms mean. Should you require clarity, please ask me and I will explain. It is important for you to know this information.

Also please try to identify examples from what is taking place in our country. Pay attention to the media, radio, TV and conversations at the work place, among family members and friends.

In South Africa we have a **3 tier government** : **3 Spheres / Levels** : **National, Provincial and Local** . We also have **3 forms of government authority** : **Legislative, Executive and Judiciary**.

The **national and provincial** have their own Legislative and Executive. At **Local** level the legislative and executive is combined (in municipalities). The **Judiciary is vested in our Courts**.

For this activity please discuss the **Legislature (i.e. the composition and powers / functions)** at **National, Provincial** levels. Due date for this activity is **Wednesday, 19h July 2017**.

LEGISLATURE AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Parliament is the legislative authority of South Africa and has the power to make laws for the country in accordance with the Constitution;

Parliament consists of the **National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces** (NCOP). Parliamentary sittings are open to the public. Since 1994, a

number of steps have been taken to make it more accessible and to motivate and facilitate public participation in the legislative process.

National Assembly

The National Assembly is elected to represent the people and to ensure democratic governance as required by the Constitution. It does this by electing the President, providing a national forum for public consideration of issues, passing legislation and scrutinising and overseeing executive action.

The National Assembly consists of no fewer than 350 and no more than 400 members elected through a system of proportional representation.

The National Assembly, which is elected for a term of five years, is presided over by the speaker, assisted by the deputy speaker.

Functions of the National Assembly : is to amend the constitution; pass legislation and to assign legislative power to a legislative body in a different sphere of government.

National Council of Provinces (NCOP)

The NCOP consists of 54 permanent members and 36 special delegates, and represents provincial interests in the national sphere of government.

Delegations consist of 10 representatives from each province. The NCOP must have a mandate from the provinces before it can make certain decisions.

These 10 representatives include six permanent members, and four special delegates. Special calculations of the popular vote in elections make sure that minority interests are represented in each province's delegation to the NCOP.

Local government representatives are allowed to debate in the NCOP but not vote - 10 part-time members represent the three different types of municipality. The South African Local Government Association also takes part in the NCOP.

It cannot, however, initiate a Bill concerning money, which is the prerogative of the Minister of Finance.

It also provides information on draft legislation and allows the public to make electronic submissions.

Functions of the National Council of Provinces : to amend the constitution; pass legislation and to consider legislation passed by the National Assembly.

The National Legislature can force the President to step down by passing a motion of NO CONFIDENCE on the President. Then the President and his cabinet is dissolved. If the motion is passed on the Cabinet, then the President remains and the Cabinet is reconstituted.

LEGISLATURE AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL

A Provincial Legislature is the Legislative branch of the government of a Province. South Africa has 9 Provinces : Eastern Cape; Free State; Gauteng; KwaZulu Natal; Limpopo; Mpumalanga; North West; Northern Cape and Western Cape and each of these provinces have their own Provincial Legislatures.

Provincial Legislatures vary in size from 30 to 80 members depending on the size of the province. Each Legislature is chaired by a Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The term of a provincial legislature is 5 years and members are elected by party list proportional representation.

Functions of Provincial Legislature

The legislature has the power to pass legislation; adopt / amend the constitution for a province; to devolve some legislative power to a municipal council and oversees the administration of the provincial government. In some fields the legislative power is shared with the national parliament, while in others it is reserved to the province. The fields include such matters as health, education (except universities), agriculture, housing, environmental protection, and development planning. In fields outside the power of a provincial legislature, it may recommend legislation to the National Assembly.

The Provincial Legislature chooses the Premier as the Head of the Provincial Executive. The Legislature can force the Premier to resign by passing a motion of NO CONFIDENCE or remove them for misconduct or inability. The Provincial Legislature appoints the province's delegates to the NCOP, allocating delegates to parties proportionately to the number of seats each party holds.

Please discuss Parliamentary and Presidential Democracy and state what type of democracy South Africa is. Provide a reason for your answer.

The two criteria that determines whether a state is a parliamentary or a presidential democracy is:

- a. Is there separation or overlapping of power?
- b. In which institution does formal sovereignty reside (supreme power)

Now let's look at characteristics of both democracies:

Presidential Democracy eg : (USA)	Parliamentary Democracy eg: (SA)
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President elected directly by citizens through voting process	Citizens vote for a party not a person. The winning party nominates the President (usually the president of the ruling party)
Not does not have to be a member of the Legislature	Members of the Executive are drawn from the Legislature or are members of the Legislature
The legislature, Executive & Judiciary have equal power s	Legislature has supremacy over executive ****
There is separation of functions	There is overlapping of functions ****

**** To explain these 2 points further - It is the Legislature that grants powers to the Ministers (President and his cabinet). Therefore by passing a vote of no confidence in the President , the President together with his cabinet can be disbanded. (example of President Thabo Mbeki). If a vote of no confidence is passed only in the cabinet, then the President remains and a new cabinet is appointed.

Due to the fact that in the South African government, the Legislature has supremacy over the executive and overlapping of functions (as explained above), SA is a Parliament Democracy.

For this Activity, Please discuss **the Executive at National and Provincial Levels**. Your discussion should include the **composition** and the **functions**. Use examples where possible. The due date for this activity is Saturday 22 July 2017

The Executive authority at National, Provincial and Local level

Government authority is divided into three (3) parts:

The Legislature, The Executive and **The Judiciary** is found in all 3 spheres of Government (i.e. National Level, Provincial Level and Local Level).

LOCAL SPHERE / LEVEL

The Legislature and the Executive at Local Level is vested in Municipal Councils. Municipalities are established for all territory within SA. Different categories of Municipalities (A, B, C) exist. You must know what each category stands for and find examples of each.

- provide any public service it is charged with under the constitution, the national or provincial legislation.
- make and administer bylaws for effective administration of matters it controls

NATIONAL SPHERE / LEVEL

The Executive Authority is vested in the President at National Level.

At National level the President and Deputy President is elected from National Assembly. Any number can be taken from the NA but only a maximum of 2 can be taken from outside the NA. Once president is elected, he ceases to be a member of the Legislature. The President as the Head of Cabinet appoints deputies and assigns powers. He also has the authority to dismiss a Minister / cabinet.

The Executive remains separate from the Legislature (separation of powers).

Functions of the Executive at National Level

- a. implement national legislation (provide public service prescribed by legislation)
- b. Development + implementation of national policy.
- c. Co-ordinate functions of state department and administrations (public services)
- d. Draft + introduce legislation
- e. Perform any other executive function provided for in the Constitution or national legislation.

EXECUTIVE AT PROVINCIAL SPHERE

The Executive Authority is vested in the Premier.

The Premier is the Head and appoints minimum of 5 maximum of 10 members from Provincial Legislature. The Premier however, can continue to be a member of the Provincial Legislature. The Premier appoints members of the Executive Council, assigns powers and functions and can dismiss them as well.

Functions of the Executive at Provincial Level

- a. implement provincial legislature.
- b. implement national statutes with which a province is charged.
- c. draft + introduce provincial legislature.
- d. co-ordinate state department + administration.
- e. perform any other function assigned to it by the constitution.

Please discuss the Judicial system within the SA Government, using examples where possible. The due date for this activity is Friday, 28th July

1.3.3 THE JUDICIARY – In terms of Section 165 (1) of the Constitution, judicial authority is vested in the Courts. In terms of Section 165(2), the Courts are independent and only subject to the Constitution and the Law.

Composition : Judicial authority is vested in the courts - 5 types:

The Constitutional court

The Supreme court of Appeal

The High court

The Magistrates court

Any other court established or recognized in terms of an Act of Parliament.

Powers : The courts are independent of any person/state institution that may impede on its function. It is only subject to the **Constitution and the law** (can restrict its powers). The Courts have the power to enforce the constitution and the law. Each different court has **distinct jurisdiction** set out in the constitution and Parliament. The Constitutional Court, The Supreme Court of appeal and the Supreme Court have inherent jurisdiction to protect + regulate own proceedings + develop common law. **Judiciary can test all actions of the executive against the Constitution and Law.**

Constitutional Court

Consists of Chief Justice of SA, the Deputy Chief Justice and 9 other Judges and is the highest court in constitutional matters. It makes the final decision on a constitutional matter. Any issue, involving the interpretation, protection enforcement of the Constitutional is a constitutional matter.

Has exclusive jurisdiction in respect of the following:

- Deciding on constitutional disputes between organs of the state in National, Provincial sphere regarding status, protection or enforcement of the Constitution.
- Decide on the constitutionality of any parliamentary / provincial Bill
- Deciding on the constitution / amendment of Constitution
- Decide whether Parliament / President has failed to fulfil a constitutional obligation
- Certify a Provincial Constitution.

Supreme Court of Appeal

Situated in Bloemfontein and has a President, Deputy President and a number of judges of Appeal. It is not a court of first instance (legal issue cannot be brought directly here). It makes final decisions on disputes.

Jurisdiction

- In civil cases, confirm or amend decision of the court or make new decision
- In criminal cases, confirm or amend the verdict and sentence of the court or deliver a new decision / verdict
- In civil and criminal cases can refer a case back to the court for further evidence

High Courts

Derive their authority from common law. Provincial and Local divisions have original or inherent jurisdiction. (courts of first instance).

Jurisdiction

- Reach and pass appropriate judgement in civil and criminal matters. In a criminal matter to pass appropriate sentence
- Pass declaratory orders in respect of an individual persons right
- To act as guardians of minors
- Review cases from magistrates courts

Magistrates Court

Their jurisdiction, powers and functions are limited by the statutes that create them. They are established in terms of Magistrates Courts Act and are found in every magisterial district. There are 2 types: district magistrates court and regional magistrates court.

District magistrates court have jurisdiction in both criminal and civil cases whereas regional magistrates only have jurisdiction on criminal cases.

Some of the matters they decide on are as follows:

- Transfer of movable / immovable property
- Actions relating to mortgage bonds, credit agreements; Matrimonial Property

Act

- Jurisdiction of civil court is limited by the amount of value of the dispute.

Magistrates Court DO NOT HAVE JURISDICTION over following matters:

- Dissolution of a marriage
- Determine validity / interpretation of Will
- Determine mental capacity of person

Please explain your understanding of the Rule of Subsidiary and give an example. The due date is 31 July.

AT WHICH LEVEL OF GOVT SHOULD A SERVICE BE PROVIDED

Rule of subsidiarity (Loxton) : implies that public service is to be provided by the lowest unit of society that can provide it adequately, effectively and for the benefit of the wellbeing of all.(government closest to the problem is responsible for its solution).

Summary - public services is provided by different levels of government, some levels have exclusive responsibility, while others have shared responsibility. For certain services each level has primary responsibility. Different levels assume responsibility to ensure public services is provided effectively, adequately and for benefit of a particular community/society.

The Rule of Subsidiarity refers to the sphere of government who is responsible for delivering a public service. According to the Rule of Subsidiarity, the ideal is for a service to be provided by the sphere of government (National, Provincial or Local) closest to the need. It will not make sense for example to expect National or Provincial to oversee the removal of waste out of a community. Local government (municipalities) is ideal for this service (removal of waste), because each municipality is familiar with the needs of the communities within its jurisdiction.

Similarly, one cannot expect municipalities to provide a service to protect society from threats from outside the borders of the country (terrorism). This will be a service provided by National government, as National government has the means and is responsible for the safety of the whole country.

To ensure an efficient an effective service, local government is also ideal for the rendering of the following services: provision of electricity, public transport, water and

sanitation, street lighting, libraries, building regulations, primary health care (clinics and immunisation), protection from crime (police) etc.

For this activity please discuss Municipalities (Categories; Objectives and functions). For Functions, look at the Municipality in your area and mention what services it provides for the people.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MUNICIPALITIES

Local government is vested in Municipalities. Municipalities have to be established for all territory within South Africa.

There are three types of municipalities:

Category A – a municipality that has exclusive municipal executive and legislative authority in its area. They represent densely urbanised areas that encompass multiple cities.

Category B – a municipality that shares municipal executive and legislative authority in its area with a category C municipality within whose area it falls.

Category C – a municipality that has municipal executive and legislative authority in an area that includes more than one municipality.

COMPOSITION

Members are elected in accordance with subsection 2,3,4, and 5 or if provided by National legislation.

Proportional representation based on segment of voters roll from election of members from party candidates drawn up in party's order of preference.

Electoral system includes ward representation and by prescribed national legislation.

Person can only vote if registered on Municipality's voters roll.

OBJECTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Provide democratic and accountable government for local communities

Ensure provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.

Promote social and economic development

Promote a safe and healthy environment for all citizens

Encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

For this activity, please list the characteristics of state departments (5 mark question)

The common characteristic / methods of operation of state departments

State/Provincial/Municipal departments / administrations:-

- Function within a **political milieu** (voters, legislative, executive authorities).
- Function under **direct supervision** of a political office bearer (Minister/Member of executive council).
- If the service is of **public interest**, state, provincial, municipal department is the appropriate department to deal/provide it.
- Are geared to be **effective, efficient, economical** and **accountable to the public** for its actions.

Please select any 4 parastatals, use examples and discuss. The due date for this activity is 4 August 2017.

I have listed the 9 Parastatals as given in the study guide below to assist you. From this list select any 4 and discuss, and then give an example of the ones you selected. For example **South African Bureau of Standards is a Regulatory institution** OR **Special Income Tax Court is a Judiciary institution.**

PARASTATALS

advisory institutions;
regulatory institutions or bodies;
judiciary institutions;
tertiary education institutions;
research and development institutions;
cultural and environmental management institutions;
commercial and industrial enterprises;
institutions for social services; and
constitutional support institutions

1.Tertiary Education Institution.

We have Universities and Universities for Technology which provide a high level corps of workers to the business world, industries, professions and government sectors. They provide promotion knowledge by teaching,training and evaluating

students in their academic and scientific professional and technical disciplines, undertaking scientific research and community development.

2. Judiciary Institution.

The Judiciary Institution takes care of the fund raising Appeals Committee. Fundraising in South Africa is administered under the fund raising Act 107 of 1978. This Act provides for control of collection of contributions from the public, the appointment of a Director of Fund-raising, the establishment of a Disaster Relief Fund and other matters connected therewith. Welfare Appeal Committee - It is also controlled by the National Welfare Act 100 of 1978.

3. Institution for Social Services.

These institution helps those community who are temporarily or permanently unable to look after themselves.

Advisory institutions.

Gauteng Provincial Housing Advisory Board- This board serves as a typical example of a social services institution that was instituted to provide for the promotion and facilitation of housing development within the Province of Gauteng. The housing Act 6 of 1998 requires housing advisory board to:

1. Advise the MEC on matters pertaining to housing.
2. Monitor the Implementation of national and provincial housing policy.
3. Promote policy adherence in the province by monitoring delivery in terms of agreed criteria.

National Council for Correctional Services

Its a statutory body with the primary aim of guiding the Minister of Correctional Services in developing policy relating to the correctional system and the sentence - management process.

4. Research and Development Institutions.

Research and development institutions are closely related to institutions for higher education.

We have the following research development institution.

- Human Science Research Council:

The Human Science Council (HSRC) of South Africa primarily conducts large - scale, policy - relevant, social - scientific projects for public sector users, non - governmental organisations and international development agencies in support of development nationally, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

and in Africa. The Human Sciences in order to improve understanding of social conditions and the process of social change.

-Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIRs) mandate is as stipulated in the Scientific Research Council Act 46 of 1988, as mandated by Act 71 of 1990. The objects are through directed and particularly multi - disciplinary research and technology innovation to foster, in the national interest and fields which in its opinion should receive preference, industrial and scientific development, either by itself or in co - operation with principals from the private or public sectors, and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the Republic of South Africa. The CSIRs shareholder is the South African Parliament held in proxy by the Minister of Science and Technology.

-Council for Geoscience.

The Council for Geoscience (CGS) is one of the National Science Councils of South Africa. It provides expert earth -science information and services to improve the management of natural resources and the environment. The main trust is the development of minerals, geo -science, mapping, water resources assessment and protection, physical geo -hazards, environmental geo -sciences, chemical geo - hazards and energy geo- science.

-South African Medical Research Council.

It has an obligation to advance the health of the countries population through research development and technology transfer. The scope of the institution research project includes tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular and non - communicable diseases, gender and health, and alcohol and other drug abuse.

-National Research Foundation.

Is the intermediary agency between the policies and strategies of the government of South Africa and South Africa,s research institutions, it provides for the promotion of research both basic and applied and the extension and transfer of knowledge in the various fields of science and technology.

Below is a list of key concepts / words that you need to know. In your own words write down what these concepts means to you or what you understand them to mean. The due date for this activity is Monday, 7th August.

economically active population
public sector
public service
parastatal institutions/public entities
local authorities

departments
national departments
provincial departments
provincial administration
public officials
public servants
municipal officials
parastatal personnel
population group
right sizing
affirmative action

economically active population – population that is working / employed. public sector

public service- - persons that are employed in government departments / administrations

parastatal institutions/public entities- government owned institutions BUT operate as private companies - e.g Eskom, SAA, Transnet..

local authorities -- the government at local level , which is our Municipalities.

departments - the various units at National, Provincial and Local level that provide services to society.

provincial administration - these are administrations within the respective Provinces that are involved in service provision.

public officials - any person who is appointed or elected to serve at state institutions

public servants - employees involved in the administration of public services.

municipal officials - employees of a municipality

parastatal personnel - employees of institutions that are government owned but operate as business entities.

population group- the citizens of a country.

right sizing – the process of making the public sector more efficient, effective, economical

affirmative action - the process implemented to make the public sector more representative of the population.

Please discuss your understanding of Affirmative Action and Right Sizing. Please give examples that you are aware of in your respective areas. The due date for this activity is Friday 12th August.

Compare Right Sizing with Affirmative Action

	Right sizing	Affirmative Action
1	Aim is to make the Public Sector more affordable and efficient	Aim is to make the Public Sector representative of the population of the country with employment and personnel management practices based on ability, fairness, and redress the imbalances of the past to achieve broad representative
2	Process involved the amalgamation of individual public services, departments and administrations.	Process involved publicly recognising previous social practices that were discriminatory.
3	Funded vacant posts were abolished	Reducing collective guilt by admitting past wrongs.
4	Redundant filled posts were abolished with personnel being redeployed or offered packages	Dismantling prior patterns of employment discrimination.
5	The size of the public sector reduced in accordance with the size required for service provision.	Rectify social + economic inequalities by applying fairness of consequence and not fairness of opportunity.

Please read the 3 articles on Pages 108; 109; 110 in Theme 3, Management of Public Service Provision. Identify the key points in these articles and give a brief summary of each article. Due date for this activity is Friday, 18 August .

3 Newspaper articles Key points

It is government's plan to make health care available to all South Africans within 10 years. In order to do this / to realise this mission, certain factors are necessary.

From the three articles on Health, the key points that you should have identified are listed below:

1st article – requires clear plan; decision makers; policies and programmes; management

2nd article – funding; national drive (leadership); health workers involved in programmes; trainers and project be evaluated (management)

3rd article – policy; finance; budgets (resources); hospitals

Now that we have identified the key points, the next questions are: Who is responsible and what skills are needed of a manager in public service? And what factors are necessary to provide public services?

After reading the 3 articles on Health, please explain in your own words what factors is necessary to provide public services. Due date for this activity is 25 August 2017.

Factors necessary to provide Public Service

With reference to your query above, firstly you need to read the three articles on pages 92;93 and 94 and identify the different factors that are mentioned. When you group the different factors you will have Political leadership; Management; Funding; Qualified Personnel and Facilities / Equipment. (Page 98 of the study guide).

Management is the public officials who implement the service. This is the practical part of the work. The department formulates the plan. In order to implement the plan, it is necessary to perform certain tasks. This is the management tasks that are directed externally and internally. (Page 103 /104 of study guide).

Now ask yourself how does the department/ management know what is required. This information is provided by the Minister. Remember the Minister submits the cabinet's policy on a particular service (in this case health care) to parliament in the

form of a White Paper for discussion and consideration. Therefore we can say that the Ministers are the decision makers and they provide Management with direction and **political leadership**.

Then in order to provide the service, you will need **Funding** (resources), people to actually do the work (**personnel**) and **facilities and equipment**. (place where the work is undertaken eg hospitals, clinics, laboratories etc for Health Care or schools, universities etc for education).

For this activity, please explain who you think is necessary to provide public services. Due date for this activity is 30 Aug.

For this activity please discuss what skills are necessary to provide public services? The due date for this activity is 30 August 2017

This response included Activities 14 and 15. This activity includes management tasks and management skills.

When answering this activity, keep in mind all the articles that you read in Study Unit 7. The key points of the 3 Newspaper articles.

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Now that we have identified the key points, the next question is what **tasks / skills** are needed of a manager in public service?

External Tasks

Managers need to liaise with **political** head (Ministers provide leadership and direction and ministers in the Legislature are involved in making and adopting policy – example White Paper. Ministers in the Executive are involved in implementing this policy). Government's vision and mission, the Constitution – rights and obligations of both government to society.

Managers need to liaise with **legislative** authority at national, provincial and local levels of government.

They need to liaise with **external** partners of the institution. This can be other government departments, non government organisations, consultants, councillors,

They need to negotiate **funds** and their allocation to appropriate projects. They need to ensure they obtain sufficient budget to complete the project efficiently, effectively and economically.

And they need to obtain **resources**, (qualified and expert staff, equipment and facilities).

Internal tasks

They need to provide **leadership** public officials that report to them.

Oversee the **Division of work** to be done by various specialised branches of the department.

Managers need to **Plan** and draw up work programmes for their staff and ensure all work undertaken is within budget and relevant policies are adhered to.

They need to provide **Guidance** for personnel (look at applying alternative methods, motivate staff, use discretion, help staff develop their potential).

They need to facilitate the **Co ordination**, direction, planning, implementing, and evaluating of the programmes.

They need to check that the **end result** agrees with the policy laid down by Ministers (ensure all work is carried effectively, efficiently, economically. Also ensure that staff are held accountable for their actions and are transparent. Remember government is not judged on the policies but on the results achieved.

Managers are responsible for promoting interest of institution externally and to provide leadership internally. Task of public manager is to provide a bridge between the vision and policy of minister as political head of department and the public service.

Management challenges identified are :

Forming external partnerships (report 1 + 2)

Planning (report 1)

Obtaining sufficient funding (reports 1 + 2)

Personnel shortages (report 2)

Expensive facilities (report 3)

Management Skills - this will include **Leadership** and **Interdependency Skills**

Leadership Skills

Managers must act proactively (in this way they can prevent undue risk)

They must take the initiative

They need to prioritise, determine priorities and act accordingly.

They must act purposefully - have a sense of purpose and act with a reason for the existence of that particular institution (vision and mission)

At all times Managers must have a clear Aim / purpose of the institution and an understanding of their destination – know where you are going, where you are now and where you want to be.

Interdependency Skills – Managers must be able to :

- Convince all that they have won, irrespective of their needs or the extent to which they have been satisfied. (win-win situation)
- understand all those (public) involved in receiving and providing public services and ensure that they themselves are understood by all involved.
- must establish synergy between the various role players (government departments, society, NGO's and all stakeholders).
- the success of the project depends on the co-operation of all involved. If one party does not win it will have negative impact on the benefits for other parties.

Please discuss, using examples the criteria to measure public service. Due date for this activity is 1 Sept 2017.

CRITERIA FOR MEASURING PUBLIC SERVICE

Effectiveness

To find out if the service provided was effective , ask the following questions:

Was the desired aim achieved?

Was the right task completed, irrespective of the methods used?

Was the task / type of service completed within the specified time frame?

What was the scope of the service?

Develop yardsticks in accordance with the activities that have to be measured as well as the demands of those requiring the measurements (nature of the activities; the period; and the scope)

Efficiency

To what extent did the institution achieve its aim?

Was the right techniques / methods used to achieve the aim / goal?

Was maximum service provided using minimum resources?

Economy

Was the service that was provided economical / affordable?

Is the amount of money that was spent on the service justifiable?

Public Accountability

Remember public services are provided using money generated from taxes, therefore public officials are accountable for the way in which they spend this money.

Representatives of the population must approve public services that are financed by tax monies

They need sufficient information in order to make informed decisions (transparency)

They will require progress reports on the manner in which services are provided

Now take an example and use it to explain all the above concepts.

Please go to the study guide from page 159 to 168

You must go through the subheadings, and then do a summary to show your understanding.

Read the and write down the important points from the sub headings, that is a summary, and if you practise by writing down the facts / points, you will easily remember when you write in the exams.

Effectiveness - Think of a government department that was delivering a service, then ask yourself if the task has been completed. For example, if the department of Human Settlement was supposed to build 1000 house during the financial year 2016-2017, after that period check and count how many houses were built? Did they build those 1000 houses, and if not, why/ what were the challenges?

Efficiency - it means was the right method used to complete tasks, for example, if the department of Human settlement when building those houses, did building free standing houses, check if this method is really working for them or they should they change to semi detached houses because there is not enough land and there are a lot of people in the waiting list who needs houses. You will notice in big cities like Durban, where I stay RDP houses are semi detached or the government builds flats.

Economy - think about money, was the money spent on those houses economical / was it feasible and practical? Think of a government department spending lot of money on cheap quality houses that is good? Cornubia ?? White City ???

Public Accountability – Think of who is accountable for anything in a government department. There must be somebody to answer, for example, if Ethekewini Municipality in Durban does not do their work properly, then the City Manager or the Mayor of that local government must be accountable and answer why?

Please discuss your understanding of abuse of power in government. Use relevant examples. The due date for this activity is 13 Sept 2017

ABUSE OF POWER

Government has legitimate power through the Constitution, the laws and statutes to perform its functions and to enforce laws and policies. When public officials use this power / authority improperly, it is abuse of power.

Abuse of power is an unlawful act done in an official capacity, which affects the performance of official duties. It is the improper use of authority by someone who has that authority because he or she holds a public office and especially when it is used for personal gain. Abuse of power can take place in many different ways. List the different ways.....

Can this power be abused by the government? Yes, it can be abused and it has been abused in SA. Use your own examples.....

Our Constitution helps to guard against abuse of power by:

- having rules about when elections should happen and what happens to parties that lose
- making it very difficult to change the Constitution
- making sure that no person or government body has too much power
- splitting power among different branches of government (the separation of powers)
- setting out the human rights that people have in a Bill of Rights

- creating independent courts and commissions that will protect people's rights, as well as monitor the government to make sure that it is doing its work properly
- making it compulsory for all government bodies to be accountable and transparent to the public

Governments must be strong enough to maintain law and order, yet sufficiently restricted to prevent tyranny. Abuse can lead to tyranny.

The NPA, Ombudsman, The Public Protector, IBA, Director General, Human Rights Commission are some of the bodies that have been established to prevent abuse of power.

We have come to the last activity for this semester. Please discuss what you understand about ethical guidelines and is it necessary for public officials to have these guidelines. The due date for this activity is 20 September 2017.

SELF ANSWERING

From the feedback from students, I am given to understand the following questions appeared in the May June 2017 exam.

Question 1 was about the structure and function of Government, Legislature, Executive on the three spheres National, Provincial and Local

Question 2 was on the 9 Parastatals and 2 examples

Question 3 was on Ethics, code of conduct, and so forth of public officials.

Question 4 was on how is the abuse of power prevented.