



Institute of Development Studies Kolkata
&
University of Calcutta



M Phil/PhD in Development Studies (2019)

Entrance Test

October 6, 2018

Maximum marks: 100

Time allowed: **2 hours** (12-2 pm)

1. Read the following excerpt and based on your understanding answer the questions below. [30 marks]

Corruption may be defined as the 'use of public office for private gains'. Obviously, this is not the only kind of corruption; when you think about the corporate scandals in the United States and Europe, they were often cases of abuse of private office for private gains, but the public sector was involved in the sense that it had been lax in the regulations that were supposed to restrain the activities of private actors. Even in the case of the use of public office for private gains, there are two general kinds of corruption: (i) bureaucratic corruption, and (ii) political corruption. This distinction is useful for some purposes but not for others, valid in some contexts but not in others. In communist countries, or one-party authoritarian regimes where there is not much of an effective boundary between the ruling party and the state, the distinction is almost completely blurred. Even in democratic countries where many top bureaucrats are political appointees, not career civil servants, corruption is sometimes hierarchically organized, so that political and bureaucratic corruptions are interlocked. Even in countries (like India) where career civil servants, recruited on the basis of service examinations, are technically independent of political parties, sometimes bureaucrats are beholden to the ruling politicians (because the latter can transfer the former to undesirable postings and locations) and even otherwise are voluntarily complicit in the latter's corrupt deals. Yet there are cases where bureaucratic or administrative corruption is quite different from political corruption in important ways. Particularly in democratic countries where there is an active opposition, politicians face more competition at periodic intervals, whereas civil

servants in charge of specialized agencies or administrative departments often face much less competition and public scrutiny. Of course, there are countries with a long history of pervasive corrupt politicians of all parties and factions, so that at election time the electorate chooses politicians on other criteria, assuming all of them to be more or less equally corrupt. Besides, corruption may only be one of the several issues on the basis of which the electorate decides on its choice. There are countries that have, more or less successfully, controlled bureaucratic corruption, but political corruption is still quite significant. For example, in the United States, bureaucratic corruption is minimal except for occasional cases in police, drug control, housing, and a few other departments, but there is a great deal of political corruption. A large number of laws in the United States are effectively for sale against large contributions to the campaign funds. In developing countries, on the other hand, there is both bureaucratic and political corruption. In India, for example, sometimes the most radical legislation sails through parliament without much opposition from the vested interests, but it is at the implementation stage that it is subverted by them. One should thus keep this distinction in mind between corruption in the process of enactment of laws and that in the process of enforcement of laws. Talking of laws, people sometimes use the concept of a corrupt activity and an illegal activity interchangeably. I think there is a distinction; there are many activities that are highly corrupt, but at least by the country's law they are not illegal. The example that I just gave for the United States, of lobbying and contributing the so-called soft money toward certain enactment of legislation by Congresspersons is often legal, and yet it is corrupt by the standards of most people. Just as corrupt things are not necessarily illegal, they are not necessarily immoral either, particularly for people for whom 'end justifies means'; so if you bribe a police officer for not torturing a suspect, that kind of corruption has been justified by some people as not immoral.

- a) Explain why the distinction between bureaucratic corruption and political corruption often gets blurred. (6)
- b) Explain why in democratic countries, where there is an active opposition, bureaucratic and political corruptions may differ in important ways. (6)
- c) Can all corruptions be seen as 'use of public office for private gains'? Give two examples of other kinds of corruption. (6)
- d) United States has been characterised by the author as a country of high 'political corruption'. What are the examples that he presents in support of his characterisation? (6)
- e) Clarify with examples the differences among 'corrupt activities', 'immoral activities' and 'illegal activities'. (6)

2. Write *any one* of the following topics (in 500 words) [30 marks]

- Sustainable Development
- NRC in Assam and the debate on Indian Citizenship
- Economics and Politics of Recent Farmers' Movement
- LGBTQ rights in India
- Relevance of Social Science today

3. Based on the information in the following table (excerpted from Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2017)), answer if the following statements are 'true' or 'false' or 'cannot be answered without additional information'. Explain your answers in one or two sentences. [20 marks]

Percentage of Youth (age 14-18) that can at least do the following tasks:

State	District	Basic ASER Level								
		Read a Std II level text			Do a Division Problem			Read English Sentences		
		All Youth	Male	Female	All Youth	Male	Female	All Youth	Male	Female
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	77.8	80.9	75.1	65.6	72.9	59.2	55.9	62.3	50.4
Kerala	Ernakulam	93.1	90.9	95.2	67.4	64.6	70.0	95.0	94.0	96.0
West Bengal	South 24 Parganas	71.7	69.5	73.6	30.9	33.4	28.8	50.9	53.8	48.4

- Male students in Muzaffarpur have performed better in reading English sentences compared to male students in South 24 Parganas.
- The number of male students who can read a Std II level text in Ernakulam exceeds the number of male students who can read a Std II level text in Muzaffarpur.
- The quality of schools in Kerala is better than that in West Bengal.
- Girls in Bihar are subject to greater discrimination than girls in Kerala.

4. Based on the information in the following table (excerpted from National Family Health Survey, Round 4 (2015-16) Report), answer if the following statements are 'true' or 'false' or 'cannot be answered without additional information'. Explain your answers in one or two sentences. [20 marks]

Percentage of women (15-49 years) exposed to a family planning message from different media sources in the past few months, India, 2015-16

Background Characteristics	Radio	Television	Newspaper /Magazine	Wall Painting/ Hoarding	None of these media sources
<i>Residence</i>					
Urban	22.6	74.7	53.1	64.7	16.7
Rural	15.5	50.1	27.9	47.3	34.6
<i>Schooling</i>					
No Schooling	10.9	36.4	6.8	30.4	49.1
< 5 years complete	13.3	48.7	14.6	40.4	37.7
5-7 years complete	15.8	57.2	27.4	51.0	29.0
8-9 years complete	18.1	62.6	39.9	58.5	23.3
10-11 years complete	22.3	70.9	55.8	66.1	16.8
12 or more years complete	26.9	79.6	71.6	75.3	10.2
Total	18.0	58.6	36.6	53.3	28.3

- The percentage of women who watch television is greater in urban areas compared to that in rural areas.
- The exposure to family planning messages from different media sources is greater for women with higher schooling.
- The level of schooling for women is higher in urban areas compared to that in rural areas.
- The exposure to family planning messages from a newspaper/magazine is greater among women who have completed 10-11 years of schooling, as compared to the overall rate for women (15-49 years) in India.