



# VISION IAS

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## GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1837)

Name of Candidate	Aaditya Sharma		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	814634
Center	Chandigarh	Date	11.8.22

### INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1(a)	10	
1(b)	10	
2(a)	10	
2(b)	10	
3(a)	10	
3(b)	10	
4(a)	10	
4(b)	10	
5(a)	10	
5(b)	10	
6(a)	10	
6(b)	10	
6(c)	10	
7	20	
8	20	
9	20	
10	20	
11	20	
12	20	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWELVE** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

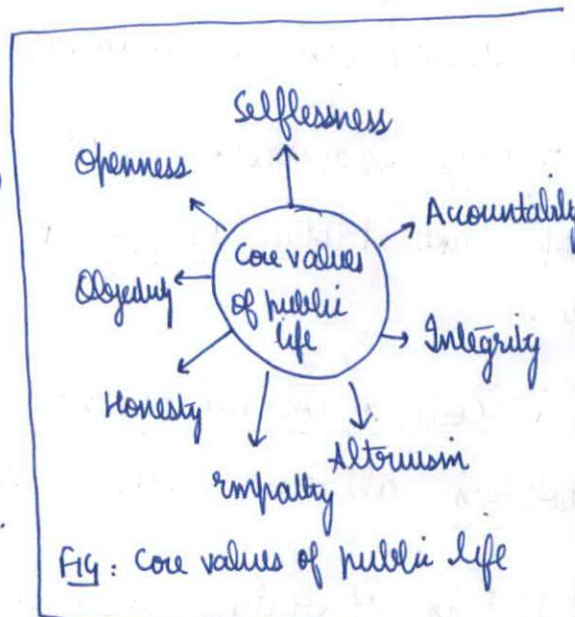
**SECTION - A**

1. (a) Explain why altruism constitutes one of the core values in public life. In this regard, suggest some measures to foster altruistic behaviour in public services. (150 words) 10

Altruism refers to the unbiased, unfettered concern for others. It involves elements of sympathy, empathy and compassion and is one of the requisite values for any civil servant.

Importance of ALTRUISM:-

- ① It signifies high Emotional Intelligence (EI) and leads to better decision making.



- ② Leads to holistic understanding of issues.
- ③ If one understands the better person and actively strives to mitigate their troubles, work does not feel like burden and the virtues of perseverance, patience and integrity are actively developed.



Eg. Dr. Ravi Kanna who helped make boats for treatment of cancer patients in flood-hit district of Silchar in Assam.

Measures to foster altruistic behaviour in public services ->

- ① More exposure to ground cases rather than mere theory during training.
- ② Giving examples from lives of various people like Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale etc.
- ③ A code of conduct of ethics for civil servants involving altruism as a key value.
- ④ Testing of virtues during the foundational course via real-time case studies.
- ⑤ Sensitisation programs, visit to hospitals and meet-ups with distinguished altruists.

The key to an effective and inclusive development rests on the shoulders of an altruistic bureaucracy and public service.



1. (b) Certain actions can be right even though they do not maximize good consequences, for the rightness of such actions consists in their representing certain norms. Discuss with examples. (150 words) 10

This signifies the deontological theory of ethics wherein the means are important vis-a-vis ends. In this case, the correct, ethical procedure is followed irrespective of the consequences.

- This also encompasses the 'virtue ethics theory of Socrates' wherein he was offered the option to escape from prison, but accepted death (a bad consequence) rather than compromise on his values and actions.

- Mahatma Gandhi always espoused non-violence as a means for attaining 'swaraj'. He never shied away from going to jail or never chose the easier

option of violence, no matter the cruelty he was subjected to. It was because he stood for the ideals of truth, ahimsa, justice and would never compromise on it.

- Similarly Subhash Bose, though had the right end, but chose the means of violence to attain the end.

- The thin line between Integrity and easy way out is what is ethics. Telling the truth might lead to backlash but helps to prevent the 'crisis of conscience'. A person is hence free to live an ethical life, shows high emotional intelligence and can accept the consequence with calmness.

"A person must have virtues, a principle worth dying for." — Socrates



2. (a) With the help of appropriate examples, discuss the ethical challenges involved in policing in India. Also, highlight the reasons behind corruption in the police force. (150 words) 10

The police is the most essential arm of government to tackle law and order issues, and since they involve an exceedingly high degree of public interaction, ethicality in police is must.

Ethical challenges in policing =>

- ① Corruption => The image of police has been marred by issues of corruption.

△ eg -> IPS Officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre caught for having assets to the tune of several crores.

- ② Political pressure => Excessive pressure on police to nab and leave certain criminals.

△ eg -> IPS officers have the highest suicide rate among all services.

- ③ Use of violence => The use of violence



is the last resort but certain times police take matters in their own hands.

△ eg Alleged encounter of Hyderabad rapists under dubious circumstances.

④ Issues of sexual misconduct, women safety △ As per a study, 58% females are afraid to approach police stations.

Reasons behind corruption →

- ① Abuse of power → Police personnel have a lot of autonomy in opening and shutting of cases.
  - ② Collusion with politicians
  - ③ Low pay at lower posts △ Sub-Inspector and Constables have a lower pay in several states.
  - ④ System issue → Bad precedents, 'everyone doing it' and pressure from seniors.
- "Effective police is the bulwark of a vibrant democracy"  
— Sardar Patel.

2. (b) A right combination of spirit and structure is integral to ethical corporate governance. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Corporate governance refers to managing the affairs of a company or corporation in a free, fair and transparent manner to the benefit of all the stakeholders.

Issues with corporate governance :-

- ① Board of Directors :- The Board may often be partisan, corrupt and autocratic rather than meritocratic.
- ② CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) :- CSR activities are done without heart and their impactfulness is limited.
- ③ Accountability :- Low accountability due to decreased overarching supervision.
- ④ Collusion with politics :- Most policies are



attuned to suit the corporate, which may give remuneration -

⑤ Independence of Director

Importance of right combination of spirit and structure for ethical governance :-

- ① A corporate 'Code of Ethics' must be installed to ensure ethical conduct
  - ② Civil society can be involved drawing on the experience of 'Tan Sunwayi' in Rajasthan  
'Report Card' in Hyderabad
  - ③ The Board of Directors must be elected timely rather than nominated.
  - ④ State and political interference must be minimized
  - ⑤ Installation of corporate ombudsman
- Corporate governance plays a key role in societal transformation as shown by the Data Group.



3. (a) It is not only public servants, but also the common citizens who play a key role in institutionalising high standards of ethical conduct and good governance. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

Good governance refers to the practice of fairness, openness and transparency in the process of development and governance for betterment of all stakeholders.

• At present, much of the focus is on public servants to provide good governance.

- ① Bringing out a 'Citizens Charter' by each department of public service.
- ② Effective implementation of RTI Act.
- ③ Ushering in e-governance and harnessing technology.
- ④ Laws like Prevention of Corruption Act, PMLA, IPC forcing transparency in public servants.

## Role of common citizens in institutionalising high standards of ethical conduct -

### ① Civil society groups -

△ ① 'Jan Sunwai' by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in Rajasthan

② Citizen Report Card in Hyderabad

③ Social Audits → ↑ accountability

② Pressure on public servants to do effective work by ensuring accountability via groups.

③ Gaining knowledge and disseminating △ Regarding citizen's charter

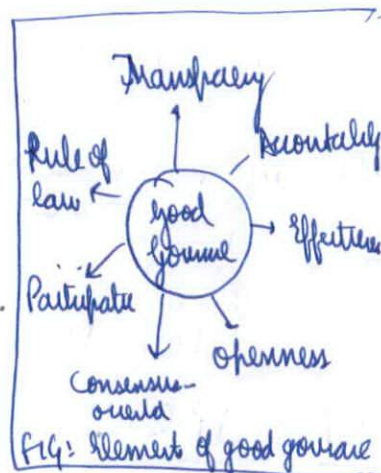
④ PILs and RTI

⑤ Leading by example.

⑥ Partnership in activities via

PPP model to ensure transparency

The public servants and citizens must walk hand-in-hand for effective societal development





3. (b) Public administration in India suffers from the 'working-in-silos' culture. In this context, discuss the importance of cooperation, coordination and collaboration for efficient governance. (150 words) 10


'Working in silos' means caring only for the department one is working in even if it means not taking a holistic view of the ~~angle~~ issue at hand.

• This has been a bottleneck wherein citizens suffer immensely on account of :-)

- ① Poor productivity of administration
- ② Blame-game and shifting work on others → Bureaucratic inertia.
- ③ Happy public servants for doing red-tapism because it shifts work to other departments.
- ④ Poor grievance redressal of citizens as no clear response by one department.



Important of cooperation, coordination and collaboration for efficient governance:-


- ① Better decision making and rapid work  PM - Yatishakti online dashboard for common involvement
  - ② Better grievance redressal
  - ③ Improved productivity as the various issues will be easily solved together rather than alone
  - ④ 'Bureaucratic inertia' to 'Bureaucratic dynamism'.
  - ⑤ Holistic view of decision from all angle → social, political, economic and environment.
  - ⑥ Better implementation of policies → inclusive development.
- "United we stand, divided we fall,"  
Break silo culture for development of all.


4. (a) While emotional intelligence is an essential tool for a public servant, it can also be misused to manipulate people to act against their own interests. Discuss with examples. (150 words) 10

Emotional Intelligence (EI) refers to the ability to perceive, facilitate and use the emotions of self as well as others -

Emotional intelligence is an essential tool for public servant as it encompasses -

① Compassion, empathy and sympathy

② Objectivity  Tendulkar committee defined poverty ~~line~~ by assessing various parameters.

③ Improved understanding  IAS Smita Sabharwal started 'Fund Your City' campaign in Warangal to fight Naxalism by development.

④ Selflessness  IAS Armstrong PAME of

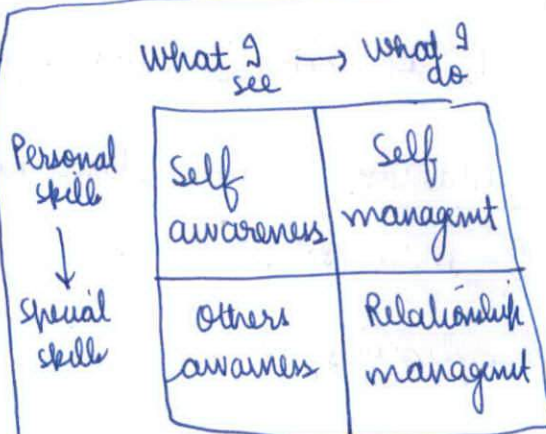


fig. David Salovey's model on Emotional Intelligence



Manipur built a 100km long road by his own funds and social media without government support.

Emotional Intelligence as a tool for manipulation

- ① A person with high EI can get into the minds of citizens and get his way.
  - ② Communalism → Radicalisation is often done by people with high EI and can lead to religious strife.
  - ③ Corruption → A corrupt person with high EI can easily pass the blame by manipulation and destroy taxpayer's money.
  - ④ Electioneering → Can selectively portray a particular party as responsible for development though the candidate may be a fraud.
  - ⑤ Growth without sustainability in name of development
- “Intermixing of spiritual intelligence with EI can lead to effective human development.” — Amit Ray



4. (b) Social influence is an ambivalent concept. It can be a source for good, bad and even for evil. Discuss with the help of relevant examples.

(150 words) 10

Social influence refers to the impact of a person, object or act that has the power to draw people to a particular idea, thought or ideology.

Social influence for good =)

- ① It can help influence people towards a good cause. eg (i) Success of Beti Bachao,

Beti Padhao campaign.

- (ii) Nawanshahr Model of Punjab which witnessed rise of sex ratio to  $> 1000$  in favour of females

- ② It can help spread information to fight misinformation and prevent riots.

- ③ It can help set precedents for criminals to deter such activities.

- ④ Social influence can be used to motivate youth about leaving drugs and serving the country △ Indian Army campaigns.

### Bad and evil effects of social influencers

- ① Increased drug abuse ⇒ Celebrities using drugs and tobacco products can stimulate youth to be addicted.
- ② Radicalisation ⇒ △ Groups like ISIS target naive audience, specially youth by radicalisation using social media.
- ③ Information asymmetry can lead to law and order issues.
- ④ Instigation for riots △ White House infiltration by Trump supporter started on a Facebook group.

Hence, social influence is neither all black nor white and needs pragmatism to know where to draw the line



5. (a) Effective public service delivery demands a people-centric approach, which is built upon coordination and leverages technology. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

Public service is service provided to the citizens and is not a reward to the people but their right.

People-centric approach involves participation of people and putting people first who are the biggest stakeholders in public service delivery.

Coordination in people-centric approach =)

- ① Linking of schemes and services with civil society and employ them for having vertical accountability.

△ Jan Sunwayi, Report Card etc.

- ② Scheme disbursement via NGOs and SHGs - △ SEWA, Kudumbashree, JayAmbe etc.

- ③ Participation and asking for viewpoints

of citizens for public service delivery

- ④ Social Audits
- ⑤ Social stock exchanges
- ⑥ PPP model

Technology in public-centric approach ⇒

① Use of Artificial Intelligence, big data to rapidly find out beneficiaries for effective service delivery.

② Use of e-governance ⇒ eg • My Gov

- e-Kranti
- e-Book programme
- Bhoomi project
- Digilocker
- e-SEVA in Andhra Pradesh

③ Digitalisation of schemes for faster delivery eg Nat-Digital Mission, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

④ Online grievance redressal and e-Lok Adalat.

The key is to follow the 'Sevottam Model' of governance and keep public at the forefront.



5. (b) Highlight the important teachings of Kautilya that are relevant to public services in 21st century India. (150 words) 10

Kautilya or Chanakya has been a man beyond his times and his pragmatic teachings are relevant to this date, specially in the public services.

- ① Gradual changes rather than radical overhaul ⇒

Kautilya advises to make incremental changes so that people become attuned to the idea, rather than involve massive protests.

- ② Loyalty and dedication ⇒ Towards both the king (holitrans) as well as the citizens.

- ③ Kautilya's views on tolerance and religion ⇒ Do not meddle in religious affairs and be tolerant to all.

- ④ 'Kosha Mulo Danda' → Revenue is the root of administration → put effective, fair and just taxation and collect it for effective administration.
- ⑤ Impartiality → Kautilya espouses anonymity and impartiality to better serve the people.
- ⑥ Corruption → Kautilya states that corruption is like a leak in the economy, a coal lump that burns the economic fabric and dissuades public servants from doing so.
- ⑦ Objectivity → Kautilya has stated the wholesome and holistic approach to a problem rather than jumping to conclusion.

Kautilya also enumerated various other virtues like honesty, integrity, openness and transparency which public servants would do well to remember.



6. What do each of the following quotations mean to you?

(a) "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." Nelson Mandela

(150 words) 10

\* Nelson Mandela aptly states that a selfish life is a life without satisfaction, where the conscience always pricks and no one will remember the person after such a life.

• He led by example ⇒ Spending almost half his life in prison for protesting against an inhumane law - apartheid, not for just himself, but his brethren and country.

That is why he is one of the most revered individuals globally.

• It is easy for bureaucrats to live an easy life maintaining 'status quo' but such a life would be a waste for humanity.

4. IAS Umakant Umrao went beyond expectations to organise poverty-stricken ~~groups~~ <sup>groups</sup> and tribals to help in manufacture of bamboo items and sanitary pads to help the local economy as well as women.

- Mother Teresa spent her entire life working for others and lit the flame of compassion in the hearts of millions.
- Mahatma Gandhi fought for the independence of millions after leaving personal harm for the wellbeing of others.
- The need is to adopt the virtue of selflessness and imbibe the spirit of empathy and compassion which is needed more than ever in an increasingly protectionist, selfish and war-stricken global world.



6. (b) "I care only for the Spirit - when that is right, everything will be righted by itself". Swami Vivekananda. (150 words) 10

Swami Vivekananda is known for his virtues like secularism, logic, ethnality, pragmatism and idealism.

The quote above represent the Spirit - which are the

Values that shape the life of a human.

- It is the spirit or the values that shape the individual; conduct, character and behaviour.

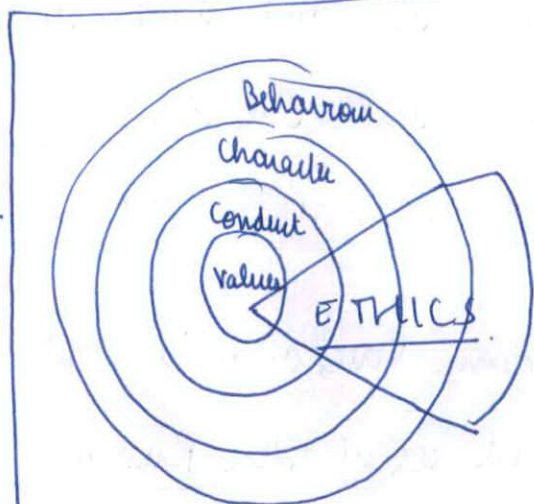
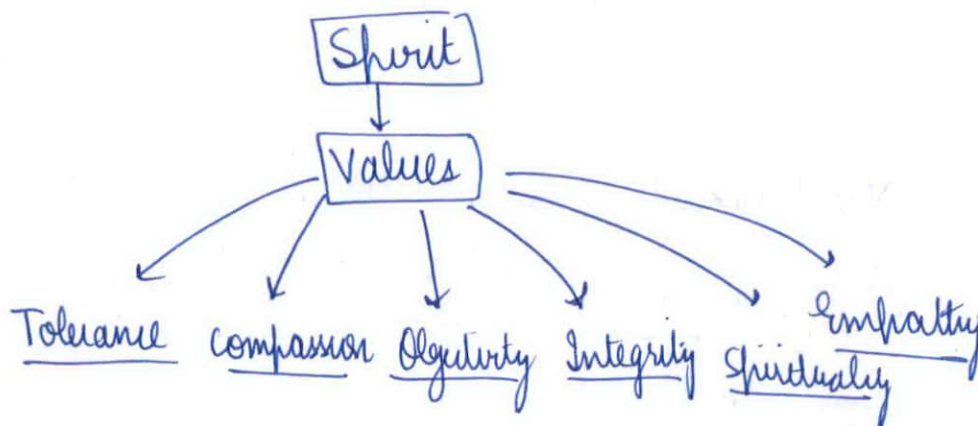


Fig - 1) Components of ethics and relation to values

- If the value system is intact, a person need not fear anything, the world will itself become a better place to live in.



- All these values shape a person as he really is and helps to take his decisions which will be definitely ethical if his value system is intact.
- Swami Vivekananda fostered secularism and helped set up the Ramakrishna Mission to work for the upliftment of the poverty-stricken sector of society.
- The Spirit is hence the integral part of a human and the values we imbibe will shape the lives of not just ourselves, but of the others around us as well as the society.



6. (c) "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." Martin Luther King Jr (150 words) 10

The quote signifies the axiom that peace does not simply encompass absence of violence, it also includes equitable development, justice, rights, livelihood and a holistic quality of life.

• Gandhiji says, "Poverty is the worst form of war" which signifies how peace transcends the violence and strife to be engrained in the life of every citizen.

• The recent Russia-Ukraine war is an apt example. It has wide ranging consequences =>

- ① War and violence
- ② Poverty
- ③ Safety of women and children

④ Education and Health

⑤ Malnutrition.

⑥ Poor quality of life, stress and terror.  
Hence, absence of tension is only a small part of the holistic picture of peace.

- Our Constitution strives to provide social, political, economic justice as signified in our fundamental rights and also makes a point for international and environmental peace in our Directive Principles.

Hence, the world must come together to not just end wars, but also to fulfill our sustainable Development Goals for a fair, equitable and bright tomorrow.



**SECTION – B**

In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow (in around 250 words):

7. You have recently graduated from college and are now preparing for the civil services examination. While reading the newspaper, you come across a news report of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), working for child rights, challenging a provision of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, in the Supreme Court of India. The said provision provides for the option of Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) to be tried as adults under certain circumstances. The NGO's plea is that children are not able to understand the gravity of crimes. It has also contended that the criminal acts committed by children are a reflection of failure of the society to take care of its children. In the context of this situation, as a young aspirant, answer the following questions:

(a) What are the possible factors that can drive a child towards committing heinous crimes?

(b) Is it ethical to punish children as adults rather than giving them a chance for reformation?

(20)

This is a case of whether the children are aware of the gravity of crimes they commit and their trial as adults.

It also questions the inability of society to enshrine values in them.

(a) No child is born a criminal.

There are various factors that can drive a child towards committing heinous crimes :-

① Poverty and hunger → For sustaining family and paying of debts, children might be forced to resort to violence and murder.

② Social media → Social media and 'radicalizers' often brainwash



children into doing their bidding.

△g Suicide bombers and terrorists  
by groups like ISIS, Lashkar-e-  
Toliba etc.

③ Unemployment → Unemployment  
and lack of opportunities can lead  
to such issues.

④ Family values → If family has  
history of child abuse and violence,  
it has been found that such children  
grow up to be criminals.

⑤ Drug abuse → For want of drugs  
due to addiction, such crimes may  
be committed by children.

⑥ Educational Lounance.

(b) Children might at some level, not understand the gravity of their crimes.

'An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind' and in this case it is certainly better to give children a chance for reformation rather than punishment.

- But this should be subject to certain conditions.

→ Children should be divided into categories for assessment.

→ A child above age of 15-16 committing crime like rape must be taken as a serious crime.



→ Children must be assessed by psychologists and their psychological status seen.

→ Reform schools must be revamped and steps taken to re-mould them into the society.

→ The overall health and development of society must be improved

↳ Families must be taught to restore value systems in their children

→ These children can later be an asset to society -

"Children are only 40% of our population but are 100% of our future."

8. You are a CEO-founder of an edTech company. You are under tremendous pressure from the investors in your company to increase the profitability of the company and undertake downsizing. After making a few bad acquisitions, the company's finances have taken a huge hit in the last couple of years. The downsizing is suggested with the hope that the company's profitability would rise, as it often does when mass layoff or downsizing decisions are carried out. Moreover, the investors have hinted that such measures would attract further investment from them, which has come as a ray of hope considering the ongoing volatile market conditions and slowdown in big-ticket fundings. Given the situation, rumors of unscrupulous firing have started doing the rounds among employees. It has increased apprehensiveness and reduced cohesiveness among them. You have informed the investors that the cost cutting exercise can affect the output as well as reputation of the company in the long-run. However, they are adamant to pursue the same.

(a) Identify the stakeholders and ethical issues involved in the case.

(b) You and the HR team have identified some options and are deliberating to put them across to the investors for consideration. Discuss the merits and demerits of each of these:

(i) Identifying key high performers and offering them suitable positions before implementing the layoff decision.

(ii) Putting the terminated employees on retainer to work part-time.

(iii) Executing the lay off order in the same spirit as it was asked by the investors and letting them deal with the long-term consequences.

(iv) Improving the perception of fairness among the existing and terminated employees and moving ahead with the layoffs.

(c) Without restricting yourself to the above options, discuss the course of action you will take, and provide adequate reasons for the same. (20)



~~(Q)~~ This case is an ethical issue involving corporate ethics and identifies the dilemma between social ethics and lives of employees Vs corporate profitability

(a) Stakeholders =>

- (1) Me, the CEO → faced with the ethical dilemma
- (2) The company employees → who may lose livelihood.
- (3) Investors → who want to make profit via downsizing and increased output.
- (4) Society → where such an issue may set a bad precedent.

Ethical issues involved =>

- (1) Social ethics Vs corporate profitability =>  
Whether the lives of people economically

must be preserved or the company profits be conserved.

(2) Socialism Vs Capitalism

(3) Personal Vs Professional ethics → I might personally want to help the employees but my professional instinct will have to support the investors and think about the company.

(b) Possible options ⇒

(i) Identifying key performers and offering them suitable position before implementing the lay-off decision ⇒

(A) Merits ⇒

(1) They might save the company and prevent the lay off.

(2) Profits restored and investment attained



(B) Demerits :-

- (1) Will lose valuable time
- (2) Enmity and apprehensions will remain
- (3) Will lead to increased economic burden.

ii) Pulling terminated employees on retainer to work part-time :-

(A) Merits :-

- (1) Lay-off prevented
- (2) Company will have to spend less money
- (3) Profitability may be achieved.

(B) Demerits :-

- (1) Investors unhappy
- (2) Still would involve cost
- (3) Productivity of temporary workers will decrease
- (4) No surety of profitability

iii) Exercising lay off in same spirit as asked by investors

(A) Merits :- (1) Profitability increased

- (2) Investor happy  $\rightarrow$  investment  
 (3) Clarity among retained employees  $\rightarrow$   
 more productivity

(B) Demerits  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Decreased output as  
 fear of retrenchment

(2) Reputation destroyed

(V) Improving perception of fairness among existing  
 employees and terminated ones & doing layoff

Merits  $\Rightarrow$

- (1) Decreased hard feelings  
 (2) Investment attained  
 (3) Profitably achieved

Demerits

- (1) Reputation still soiled  
 (2) Decreased productivity  
 by morale - of - fact attitude

(c) I would have followed the mix of  
 options (2) and (4), wherein the workers  
 with the worst performance will be adequately  
 explained the reason, and some workers  
 would be retained to work part-time.

They will be assured to be converted to  
permanent employees once the economy of the  
 company improves. This would lead to a  
 better environment and increased productivity,  
 increasing profits and ensure support from  
 investors.



9. There is an ongoing ethnic civil war in a neighbouring country. The conflict has caused massive displacement of people from the country. Ironically, the developed countries have closed off their borders to the refugees on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, resource competition, domestic politics etc. With countries sealing off their borders, the refugees are left in a vulnerable situation and many are taking illegal routes to enter your country. As a Senior Official of your country's Ministry of External Affairs, you have been involved in discussions with officials of other nations and are entrusted with the mandate to design a national policy to safely accommodate India bound refugees. In this context, answer the following questions:

(a) Discuss the moral issues related to the rights of international refugees, especially those from conflict-torn regions.

(b) What recommendations would you suggest given the large influx of refugees in India. (20)

This case pertains to the domain of International ethics and the issue of migrant workers who strive to attain human rights by migrating into other countries.

(a) Moral issues related to rights of international refugees

(1) Human Rights → As per the Geneva convention on human rights, every person has the right to attain a minimum set of rights of life.

(2) Peace from strife → Most refugees have witnessed strife all their life and want some peace.

(3) Women and children → Conflict torn regions have a history of women and child abuse and their rights must be ensured.

(4) Hunger and malnutrition → Right to food is a basic human right and all must be entitled to it.

(5) Issues in migrating country →

(i) Will lead to competition of resources in already impoverished regions.

(ii) Increasing crimes

(iii) Burden on country's economy



(6) Justice → As Gandhi says, "Injustice  
anywhere is threat to justice everywhere."

(b) The stakeholders in this case are:

- (1) The refugees who want quality of life and peace
- (2) The people in migrating country whose resources could be depleted
- (3) Me, senior officer of MEA
- (4) International community → who will bear witness to this

Recommendations →

- (1) India has always been a champion of Human Rights and first of all, cooperation and dialogue with the offending country (war-stricken) to ensure safe

## passage of refugees.

- (2) Setting up camps and settlements for the refugees on an emergency basis with adequate sanitation facilities.
- (3) Setting up mobile health camps and isolation wards for COVID-19 affected migrants
- (4) Appeal to the International community and organisations like WHO, FAO, UNHRC, UNICEF to provide aid and help.
- (5) Setting up paramilitary and police outposts to prevent violence between refugees and local groups.
- (6) Better mixing of cultures between people of both countries would



lead to better acceptability among people

(7) Vocation for refugees would be started wherein their energy is utilised, their livelihood is secure and they start contributing to society.

(8) Education via satellite learning may be imparted.

India must fulfill its obligation as the peace and spiritual capital of the world and present the international community with an effective lesson on human rights.

10. Social interactions where a person is addressed by their correct name and pronouns, consistent with their gender identity, are widely recognized as a basic and yet critical aspect of gender affirmation. A national university invited speakers for a discussion on rights of sexual minorities in India. The panel included speakers representing a wide variety of opinions and perspectives on the issue. The debates, though largely peaceful, witnessed a controversy. A college association representing sexual minorities took offence against a panellist who cautioned against self-identification by sexual minorities and the liberal use of pronouns. The association reached out to the media and the localised controversy soon turned into a national issue across news networks and social media. The association demanded that the panellist apologise for his views and issue a public statement in this context. The panellist, on the other hand, seemed unmoved by the issue. In the meantime, the University has come under huge pressure to resolve the issue. The Vice Chancellor set up a Committee to look into the matter and its peaceful resolution. You have been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee. In this regard, answer the following questions:

(a) Discuss the various moral issues involved in the case.

(b) Keeping the right to freedom of speech and expression in mind, highlight the steps you would take to resolve the issue and list arguments in support. (20)

The case involve hurting of sentiments by the panellist's insensitive comments and a dilemma between right to speak and right to gender determination.

Moral issue involved :-

① Right to gender identifier VS



Freedom of Speech and expression :-)

India has given the freedom of speech and expression, though there is a thin line that must not be exceeded.

India also has banned Art 377 and given the freedom to LGBTQ+ community to address people as consistent with their gender identity.

② Sensationalisation by media :-)

A small local issue has been catapulted into mainstream society, leading to repression like increased distance between

marginalised groups and society and polarisation of opinions.

### ③ Tolerance Vs Right to speak

(b) The issue is a delicate one involving rights of a marginalised community and a fundamental right -

Steps to resolve the issue and arguments in support :-

① Ask the stakeholders to discuss the issue together :-

• This wholesome approach will help come to a proper decision.

② Both sides should be counselled :-



• The Panellist must be asked to understand the plight of the group, promote empathy and must be requested to apologise if he hurt any sentiments while stating his stance.

• The group must be asked to be accomodate, explaining to them how he wasn't explicitly targeting the group but making his point.

③ The apology need not be a public one and the group must not be adamant on the demand → the freedom of speech does not give the right to hurt sentiments and a private apology must be garnered.

④ full investigation and the results should be presented to the Vie Chamella and his views gauged.

⑤ Both sides should present their case in private and put forward their case, and the issue could be easily resolved by cooperation and tolerance along with acceptance and ad accommodation.

The society can only be built on the foundation of tolerance, and people must be more aware of the impact of their words, whereas groups like this one must be unfettered by such words and must have confidence to succeed and take it in their stride such unimportant issues.



11. You are a young athlete representing India at an international-level competition. To your surprise, during the competition, you witness a few senior athletes injecting something using a syringe in private. When you approach them, they explain that it is a performance enhancing drug, which is very common in such competitions and you should take the same as well. You are aware that if these players get caught in a doping test, it may damage India's reputation. You are confused and afraid of the repercussions and decide to approach the coach to discuss the event you witnessed. However, you get to know that the athletes are taking the drug on the advice of the coach himself.

(a) What would you do in this scenario? Discuss the options available to you and chart your course of action.

(b) What are the reasons behind the use of performance enhancing drugs in competitive sporting events? How can this practice be minimized? (20)

This case involves using unethical means to win contests and involves ethics in sports.

Ethical issues involved =)

(1) Personal Vs Professional ethics =)

Using the contest for personal gain or preserve the professional sporting ethics.

(2) Integrity Vs comradeship =) Reporting might make me lose my comradeship with seniors and coach.

(a) Options available to me →

(i) Use the drugs and perform better →

(A) Merits →

- (1) Might win the contest
- (2) Comradeship with friends and coach  
improved

(B) Demerits →

- (1) If caught, will be banned
- (2) Conscience will prick

~~(3)~~

(ii) Outrightly report the matter to  
the organisers

(A) Merits →

- (1) Ethics and conscience preserved
- (2) Good precedent for sports
- (3) I will still be able to participate



(B) Demerits -)

- (1) Disrepute to country
- (2) Animosity with seniors and coach
- (3) Might not be able to participate

(iii) Discuss the matter with seniors and coach and ask them to report the matter privately and leave

(A) Merits →

- (1) International hue and cry minimised
- (2) Ethics in sports maintained
- (3) I might still participate
- (4) Clear conscience

(B) Demerits -)

- (1) Country will still be banned
- (2) Animosity with coach
- (3) International disrepute might still be present.

I would follow the option (iii) wherein I will ask the team to report the matter privately and leave. This will help clear sport of unethicality and still mitigate the impact on country's disrepute if caught using drugs.

It will also set a good precedent for unethicality in sports and the seniors would still be able to participate later after the drug flushes out of the system ethically.

(b) Reasons for performance enhancing drugs usage :-

- (1) Increased pressure on sportsmen to perform.
- (2) Funds are devolved only to winning sports in India  $\Delta$  but has more funds



than basketball

- (3) International glory → Winning at a global stage brings money and fame which is irresistible.
- (4) Soft hegemony → Country's having more medals have a soft hegemony over others.

Ways to minimize →

- ① Athletes must be sent to the international events after a national-level doping tests.
- ② Funds must be devolved to all participating sports irrespective of performance.
- ③ Examples of top athletes like Serena Williams, Rahul Dravid succeeding without drugs.
- ④ Sports must be used as a means to build friendships and development, not for winning and dominance.

12. You have been newly appointed as the District Magistrate of a district, which is known for its rich mineral deposits. Following the news being circulated in the media about the illegal mining in your district, you have initiated an enquiry into it. When the State's Minister of Mines and Minerals gets to know of the enquiry initiated by you, he directs you to name some junior government employees as being involved in the wrongdoing and make them scapegoats. He also points out that elections to the State Assembly are around the corner and the present government wishes to stay clear of any political corruption. This Minister is a very influential figure in the present regime and there are high chances of the present ruling party being voted back to power. In due course of the enquiry, it has come to your notice that the said Minister has also been involved in illegal mining through his cronies.

The findings of the enquiry can affect the outcome of the elections as well as completely derail your career, if the incumbent party wins the elections, which looks very likely as per the polls.

Answer the following with reference to this case:

- (a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues in the given case.
- (b) Critically evaluate the options in the given scenario and state your course of action, giving reasons. (20)

This case involves unethicality on the part of politician to shift the blame on others for his wrong doings and leaves it to me to do so, while wanting to win the elections. The consequences may be dire for me if I do not agree to it.

(a) Stakeholders :-

(1) Me, the DM of district → If I do not agree, the career would be derailed.



(2) The politician, who has personal gain in winning elections.

(3) The junior government employee → who will lose their livelihood for no fault of theirs.

(4) The society, who will benefit from absence of corruption.

(5) The environment, which will breathe a sigh of relief from ban on illegal mining.

Ethical issues →

① Loyalty Vs Integrity → Loyalty to political boss or uprightness of character.

② Personal Vs Professional ethics →

might retain my position and post  
but will be doing disservice to my  
post and the society.

③ Issue of environmental sustainability  
via illegal mining

④ Livelihood of employees Vs Loyalty  
to minister -

(b) Options available to me =)

(i) Agree to the minister and make  
junior employee scapegoats.

(A) Merits =)

(1) Loyalty to political boss

(2) Career preserved, maybe promotion

~~(A)~~ (B) Demerits =)



- (1) Unemployed junior employees lose livelihood
- (2) Integrity and reputation shattered
- (3) Minister and cronies will continue illegal mining and win election.

(ii) Continue the enquiry and hold the minister guilty →

(A) Merits →

- (1) Integrity preserved
- (2) Politician might not win election
- (3) Illegal mining stops
- (4) Junior officers remain in jobs

(B) Demerits .

- (1) I could be transferred or suspended
- (2) Threat to my life
- (3) No guaranteed conviction if party wins.

(iii) Ask the minister to give in writing to stop the enquiry and hold junior

officer accountable

(A) Merits =>

- (1) It would be a proof for future case
- (2) The minister may not do so and agree to wrongdoing
- (3) Integrity preserved and loyalty preserved
- (4) Junior officer can hold that evidence in court

(B) Demerits =>

- (1) I could be immediately transferred
- (2) Threat to life
- (3) Party may win election keep it direct

I would choose option (iii) because a bureaucrat has to listen to order from the democratically elected minister and if the order is in written. The junior officer can easily use the order to hold the minister accountable in court. I will preserve my job and the minister might lose the next election.