

SHERLOCKING SIMULATOR · FULL-LENGTH TEST

# General Studies — Paper IV

## SET B

Time Allowed : Three Hours | Maximum Marks : 250

Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Medium of Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper has **two sections**. **Section A** (Questions 1–6) carries theory questions; **Section B** (Questions 7–12) carries case studies. **All questions are compulsory.**
2. The number of marks carried by a question or its part is indicated against it. Answer theory parts in about 150 words each and case studies in about 250 words each.
3. Answers must be written in the medium authorized, stated clearly in the space provided above. No marks will be given for answers written in an unauthorized medium.
4. Word limit, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
5. Any page or portion of the page left blank in this booklet must be clearly struck off.



SCAN TO ENROL

Sherlocking Mains Comprehensive Module

[unlockias.in/courses](https://unlockias.in/courses)

# General Studies – Paper IV – Set B

TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS | MAXIMUM MARKS : 250

**Note:** All questions are compulsory. Marks are indicated against each question or part. Section A theory parts: about 150 words each. Section B case studies: about 250 words each.

## SECTION A · THEORY (QUESTIONS 1–6)

- Q1. (a)** In the age of synthetic media, a fabricated video is conceived by one person who creates it, amplified by a platform whose algorithm rewards reach, and spread by thousands of citizens who forward it without a second thought. Describe the key ethical dilemmas of truth, trust and moral responsibility that confront the creator, the platform and the citizen, and the duty of disclosure that runs through them all. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** Examine the significance of privacy and informed consent as ethical values in a digital welfare state. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- Q2. (a)** Discuss the ethical considerations when the state shapes citizens' pro-social attitudes. Where does legitimate persuasion end and manipulation begin? (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** Differentiate constitutional morality from social or majoritarian morality, and state which should guide a public servant when they clash. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- Q3. (a)** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "Whatever a great person does, others follow; the standard he sets, the world pursues." (Bhagavad Gita) (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "Without knowledge, wisdom was lost; without wisdom, morality was lost; without morality, progress was lost." (Jyotirao Phule) (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (c)** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "To see what is right and not to do it is want of courage." (Confucius) (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- Q4. (a)** Suggest concrete measures by which a civil servant can hold the line on evidence-based advice against political or popular pressure. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** In a public-private partnership, the same officer must both partner with a private firm and police it in the public interest. Examine the ethical challenges this poses to protecting the public interest. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- Q5. (a)** "Moral courage in the civil service lies as much in restraint as in dissent." Discuss, distinguishing genuine moral courage from recklessness or grandstanding. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** "Financial rules are ethical instruments, not bureaucratic red tape." Critically analyse in the context of public expenditure. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- Q6. (a)** As the nation marks the 150th-birth-anniversary commemoration of the Iron Man of India, the salience of his life and message has rarely been higher. What were the major teachings of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Explain their relevance to administrative integrity and national unity today. (Answer in 150 words) **10**
- (b)** In the drive to meet delivery targets, a welfare administration can quietly reduce the poorest to numbers on a dashboard rather than persons at a counter. Efficiency, pursued for its own sake, risks stripping the beneficiary of dignity. Suggest measures to ensure efficiency does not erode the dignity of the poorest beneficiary. (Answer in 150 words) **10**

## SECTION B · CASE STUDIES (QUESTIONS 7–12)

- Q7.** Kavya is the ethics officer of a fast-growing health-tech firm racing two rivals to launch a diagnostic AI tool. Days before launch, validation shows the model is markedly accurate for one demographic group but quietly under-performs for another, and that much of the patient data it learned from was gathered under a broad, vaguely worded consent form. Leadership wants to ship now, capture the market, fix the bias in the next version, and treat the consent gap as a minor legal technicality. The hospitals waiting to deploy the tool will trust its verdict on real patients, and clinicians under time pressure are unlikely to second-guess a confident screen. The under-served group also has the least access to a second opinion, so a missed diagnosis there would go uncaught the longest. A launch could mean wrong diagnoses for the weaker-performing group and the use of data people did not knowingly give; a delay could let a rival take the market. The board trusts Kavya's call. (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case? (b) What are the options available with Kavya? (c) The board insists that shipping now is necessary to survive a funding crunch. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince them otherwise? (d) Which course of action would be most appropriate for Kavya to adopt and why? (Answer in 250 words) 20
- Q8.** Rohan is Collector of a drought-hit district and must decide how to ration the little water that is left. Three groups depend on it. Large industries holding legal borewell permits employ many local workers and warn that any cut will cost jobs and may shut units that took years to set up. Farmers, already facing a second season of crop failure, say a further cut will ruin them and push them into debt and distress migration. And a colony of migrant labourers on the town's edge, who have no piped supply at all and are not on the local rolls, depend entirely on a tanker the administration may or may not send; their children are already falling sick. The district hospital has warned that a single contaminated source could turn the shortage into an outbreak, and the groundwater table has fallen so far that even the permitted borewells are drawing less each week. A neighbouring district, no better off, has refused to share from its own dwindling reservoir, and the state capital has promised tankers that have not arrived. Powerful local interests, with influence over the district's politics, are pressing Rohan to protect industry first, and one industrialist has hinted that a transfer can be arranged for a Collector who proves difficult. A farmers' agitation is building, a section of the press has taken sides, and whatever Rohan decides will be attacked as unfair to someone. His own staff are divided, some urging caution and others reminding him of the families with no tap at all. He has days, not weeks, before the reserves run critically low. He cannot give everyone what they need, and the most powerless group is the one with no voice in the room. (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case? (b) What suitable actions can be taken by Rohan in view of the mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders? (c) What would be Rohan's course of action and on what ethical principles would he base it? (Answer in 250 words) 20
- Q9.** Nikhil holds documentary evidence, which he has independently checked and found genuine, that a powerful senior official has rigged a major procurement. There is a complication. The proof reached him from a colleague who clearly has a personal grudge and a political motive against that official, so the messenger's hands are not clean even if his documents are. The proper route, the vigilance channel, is known to be slow and is reportedly compromised at the top. If Nikhil pushes the matter, he risks a punishing transfer and a tainted record; if he sits on it, a corrupt act stands and public money is lost. He must decide what to do, and how. (a) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Nikhil? (b) What are the options available with Nikhil? (c) Critically evaluate and examine each of these options. (d) Which of the options would be most appropriate for Nikhil to adopt and why? (Answer in 250 words) 20

- Q10.** You head a regulatory body. A private firm that you regulate has a fresh application pending before you. On paper the application is technically sound, and a straightforward approval would be defensible. Two things trouble you. First, the firm's past compliance record is quietly poor, with several lapses that were settled softly. Second, you have just learned that the firm has offered your deputy, who retires in two months and has worked on this very file, a lucrative advisory role once he leaves. Nothing about the offer is on record. The deputy is widely respected, has a clean service record, and insists the offer changes nothing; yet he has not put it on file either. Your junior staff have noticed the closeness and are watching how you handle it, and an industry body has begun lobbying quietly for a quick clearance. A consumer group, meanwhile, has filed a representation pointing to the firm's past lapses and asking why it is being treated leniently. Approving the application is easy to justify in writing; rejecting it will be called arbitrary and may be challenged; and the revolving-door offer now shadows every discussion in the room. (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case? (b) What are the options available to you, and what are the merits and demerits of each? (c) What would be your course of action and why? (Answer in 250 words) 20
- Q11.** A talented junior officer, a young woman, is being steadily undermined by a respected senior man in your office who is months from retirement and feels threatened by her ideas. The harassment is now mostly digital: late-night messages, a hostile internal chat group, and screenshots of her work circulated to ridicule her. She has quietly stopped speaking up in meetings and, you learn from a peer, is preparing to resign. Formal proof is thin, much of it is deniable as banter, and the senior man has powerful friends. You are her reporting head. (a) What are the ethical issues involved, and what would be your response to the officer's predicament? (b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that arise from digital and remote forms of workplace harassment. (Answer in 250 words) 20
- Q12.** Devika is the Divisional Commissioner of a border district. Across the border, in a strictly neighbouring country, fighting has driven civilians from their homes. One night, the border post reports that a few hundred people, mostly women, children and injured civilians, are at the fence pleading to cross. Mixed among them are a handful of armed men in military uniform who also want to come over. Several of the injured need urgent medical care or they will not survive the night. The weather has knocked out connectivity, Devika's higher authorities are unreachable, and the decision cannot wait until morning. The small border-post garrison is thinly staffed for the night and has limited medical supplies, blankets and shelter; the nearest hospital is hours away on roads the storm has made treacherous. Some of the civilians are running a high fever and a few children are unconscious in their mothers' arms. The armed men say they fled the same fighting and mean no harm, but they will not hand over their weapons easily, and no one can verify who they are in the dark. There is a fear that hostile elements could be using the crowd as cover, yet there is equal fear that turning the column back could send wounded children to their deaths in the cold. The crowd is frightened and pressing forward, and a stampede at the fence is possible if panic spreads. Local villagers have gathered on Devika's side, some moved to help, others alarmed at strangers pouring in. Standing orders point to firm border control, but they were never written for a night like this, and any deviation will be scrutinised later by those who were not present. A wrong call either way could cost innocent lives or open a security hole that cannot be closed. She must act now, on her own judgement, balancing compassion for the helpless against the security risk of an unscreened armed group entering, and she alone will answer for whatever follows. (a) What are the ethical and legal issues involved in this case? (b) What are the options available with Devika? (c) Which option would be most appropriate for Devika to adopt and why? (d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the Border Guarding force in screening and dealing with the uniformed armed men mixed among the civilians? (Answer in 250 words) 20

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q1 (a).** In the age of synthetic media, a fabricated video is conceived by one person who creates it, amplified by a platform whose algorithm rewards reach, and spread by thousands of citizens who forward it without a second thought. Describe the key ethical dilemmas of truth, trust and moral responsibility that confront the creator, the platform and the citizen, and the duty of disclosure that runs through them all. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q1 (b).** Examine the significance of privacy and informed consent as ethical values in a digital welfare state. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q2 (a).** Discuss the ethical considerations when the state shapes citizens' pro-social attitudes. Where does legitimate persuasion end and manipulation begin? (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q2 (b).** Differentiate constitutional morality from social or majoritarian morality, and state which should guide a public servant when they clash. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q3 (a).** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "Whatever a great person does, others follow; the standard he sets, the world pursues." (Bhagavad Gita) (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q3 (b).** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "Without knowledge, wisdom was lost; without wisdom, morality was lost; without morality, progress was lost." (Jyotirao Phule) (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q3 (c).** Given below is a quotation of a great thinker. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? "To see what is right and not to do it is want of courage." (Confucius) (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q4 (a).** Suggest concrete measures by which a civil servant can hold the line on evidence-based advice against political or popular pressure. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q4 (b).** In a public-private partnership, the same officer must both partner with a private firm and police it in the public interest. Examine the ethical challenges this poses to protecting the public interest. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q5 (a).** "Moral courage in the civil service lies as much in restraint as in dissent." Discuss, distinguishing genuine moral courage from recklessness or grandstanding. (Answer in 150 words)  
**(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q5 (b).** "Financial rules are ethical instruments, not bureaucratic red tape." Critically analyse in the context of public expenditure. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q6 (a).** As the nation marks the 150th-birth-anniversary commemoration of the Iron Man of India, the salience of his life and message has rarely been higher. What were the major teachings of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel? Explain their relevance to administrative integrity and national unity today. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

**Q6 (b).** In the drive to meet delivery targets, a welfare administration can quietly reduce the poorest to numbers on a dashboard rather than persons at a counter. Efficiency, pursued for its own sake, risks stripping the beneficiary of dignity. Suggest measures to ensure efficiency does not erode the dignity of the poorest beneficiary. (Answer in 150 words) **(10 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q7.** Kavya is the ethics officer of a fast-growing health-tech firm racing two rivals to launch a diagnostic AI tool. Days before launch, validation shows the model is markedly accurate for one demographic group but quietly under-performs for another, and that much of the patient data it learned from was gathered under a broad, vaguely worded consent form. Leadership wants to ship now, capture the market, fix the bias in the next version, and treat the consent gap as a minor legal technicality. The hospitals waiting to deploy the tool will trust its verdict on real patients, and clinicians under time pressure are unlikely to second-guess a confident screen. The under-served group also has the least access to a second opinion, so a missed diagnosis there would go uncaught the longest. A launch could mean wrong diagnoses for the weaker-performing group and the use of data people did not knowingly give; a delay could let a rival take the market. The board trusts Kavya's call.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) What are the options available with Kavya?
- (c) The board insists that shipping now is necessary to survive a funding crunch. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince them otherwise?
- (d) Which course of action would be most appropriate for Kavya to adopt and why? (Answer in 250 words)

**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q8.** Rohan is Collector of a drought-hit district and must decide how to ration the little water that is left. Three groups depend on it. Large industries holding legal borewell permits employ many local workers and warn that any cut will cost jobs and may shut units that took years to set up. Farmers, already facing a second season of crop failure, say a further cut will ruin them and push them into debt and distress migration. And a colony of migrant labourers on the town's edge, who have no piped supply at all and are not on the local rolls, depend entirely on a tanker the administration may or may not send; their children are already falling sick. The district hospital has warned that a single contaminated source could turn the shortage into an outbreak, and the groundwater table has fallen so far that even the permitted borewells are drawing less each week. A neighbouring district, no better off, has refused to share from its own dwindling reservoir, and the state capital has promised tankers that have not arrived. Powerful local interests, with influence over the district's politics, are pressing Rohan to protect industry first, and one industrialist has hinted that a transfer can be arranged for a Collector who proves difficult. A farmers' agitation is building, a section of the press has taken sides, and whatever Rohan decides will be attacked as unfair to someone. His own staff are divided, some urging caution and others reminding him of the families with no tap at all. He has days, not weeks, before the reserves run critically low. He cannot give everyone what they need, and the most powerless group is the one with no voice in the room.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) What suitable actions can be taken by Rohan in view of the mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?
- (c) What would be Rohan's course of action and on what ethical principles would he base it? (Answer in 250 words)

**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q9.** Nikhil holds documentary evidence, which he has independently checked and found genuine, that a powerful senior official has rigged a major procurement. There is a complication. The proof reached him from a colleague who clearly has a personal grudge and a political motive against that official, so the messenger's hands are not clean even if his documents are. The proper route, the vigilance channel, is known to be slow and is reportedly compromised at the top. If Nikhil pushes the matter, he risks a punishing transfer and a tainted record; if he sits on it, a corrupt act stands and public money is lost. He must decide what to do, and how.

- (a) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Nikhil?
- (b) What are the options available with Nikhil?
- (c) Critically evaluate and examine each of these options.
- (d) Which of the options would be most appropriate for Nikhil to adopt and why? (Answer in 250 words)  
**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q10.** You head a regulatory body. A private firm that you regulate has a fresh application pending before you. On paper the application is technically sound, and a straightforward approval would be defensible. Two things trouble you. First, the firm's past compliance record is quietly poor, with several lapses that were settled softly. Second, you have just learned that the firm has offered your deputy, who retires in two months and has worked on this very file, a lucrative advisory role once he leaves. Nothing about the offer is on record. The deputy is widely respected, has a clean service record, and insists the offer changes nothing; yet he has not put it on file either. Your junior staff have noticed the closeness and are watching how you handle it, and an industry body has begun lobbying quietly for a quick clearance. A consumer group, meanwhile, has filed a representation pointing to the firm's past lapses and asking why it is being treated leniently. Approving the application is easy to justify in writing; rejecting it will be called arbitrary and may be challenged; and the revolving-door offer now shadows every discussion in the room.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) What are the options available to you, and what are the merits and demerits of each?
- (c) What would be your course of action and why? (Answer in 250 words)

**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q11.** A talented junior officer, a young woman, is being steadily undermined by a respected senior man in your office who is months from retirement and feels threatened by her ideas. The harassment is now mostly digital: late-night messages, a hostile internal chat group, and screenshots of her work circulated to ridicule her. She has quietly stopped speaking up in meetings and, you learn from a peer, is preparing to resign. Formal proof is thin, much of it is deniable as banter, and the senior man has powerful friends. You are her reporting head.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved, and what would be your response to the officer's predicament?
- (b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that arise from digital and remote forms of workplace harassment. (Answer in 250 words)

**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

**Q12.** Devika is the Divisional Commissioner of a border district. Across the border, in a strictly neighbouring country, fighting has driven civilians from their homes. One night, the border post reports that a few hundred people, mostly women, children and injured civilians, are at the fence pleading to cross. Mixed among them are a handful of armed men in military uniform who also want to come over. Several of the injured need urgent medical care or they will not survive the night. The weather has knocked out connectivity, Devika's higher authorities are unreachable, and the decision cannot wait until morning. The small border-post garrison is thinly staffed for the night and has limited medical supplies, blankets and shelter; the nearest hospital is hours away on roads the storm has made treacherous. Some of the civilians are running a high fever and a few children are unconscious in their mothers' arms. The armed men say they fled the same fighting and mean no harm, but they will not hand over their weapons easily, and no one can verify who they are in the dark. There is a fear that hostile elements could be using the crowd as cover, yet there is equal fear that turning the column back could send wounded children to their deaths in the cold. The crowd is frightened and pressing forward, and a stampede at the fence is possible if panic spreads. Local villagers have gathered on Devika's side, some moved to help, others alarmed at strangers pouring in. Standing orders point to firm border control, but they were never written for a night like this, and any deviation will be scrutinised later by those who were not present. A wrong call either way could cost innocent lives or open a security hole that cannot be closed. She must act now, on her own judgement, balancing compassion for the helpless against the security risk of an unscreened armed group entering, and she alone will answer for whatever follows.

- (a) What are the ethical and legal issues involved in this case?
- (b) What are the options available with Devika?
- (c) Which option would be most appropriate for Devika to adopt and why?
- (d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the Border Guarding force in screening and dealing with the uniformed armed men mixed among the civilians?

(Answer in 250 words)

**(20 marks)**

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*

*Candidates  
must not write  
on this margin*

*Space for question, comments, feedback, etc.*