

UPSC Mains GS-IV — Previous Year Questions

149 Questions (2013–2025) • 42 Model Answers

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Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

2025 GS-IV 20M • 150W

Hard

Q1. 1. Given below are two questions to be answered in 150 words each:

1 (a) In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard.

1 (b) "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law." Examine the significance of constitutional morality for a public servant, highlighting its role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.

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2025 GS-IV 20M • 150W

Hard

Q2. 2. Answer the following in about 150 words each:

2 (a) Carl von Clausewitz once said, "War is a diplomacy by other means." Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict.

2 (b) Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.

- (a) Carl von Clausewitz once said, "War is a diplomacy by other means." Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict.
- (b) Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.

2025 GS-IV 30M • 150W

Hard

Q3. 3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context? (Answer each in 150 words)

3 (a) "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself." – Thiruvalluvar

3 (b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes." – William James

3 (c) "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda

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2025 GS-IV 20M • 150W

Hard

Q4. 4. Answer the following in about 150 words each:

4 (a) "For any kind of social re-engineering, by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.

4 (b) What are the major teachings of Mahavira? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.

(a) "For any kind of social re-engineering, by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.

(b) What are the major teachings of Mahavira? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.

2025 GS-IV 20M • 150W

Hard

Q5. 5. Answer the following in about 150 words each:

5 (a) "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement in reference to the sense of responsibility and personal virtues expected from a civil servant.

5 (b) To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?

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(b) To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?

2025 GS-IV 20M • 150W

Hard

Q6. 6. Answer the following in about 150 words each:

6 (a) It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place?

6 (b) India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future?

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2025 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q7. Vijay was Deputy Commissioner of a remote district of a Hilly Northern State of the country for the last two years. In the month of August, heavy rains lashed the complete state followed by cloudburst in the upper reaches of the said district. The damage was very heavy in the complete state, especially in the affected district. The complete road network and telecommunication were disrupted and the buildings were damaged extensively. People's houses have been destroyed and they were forced to stay in the open. More than 200 people have been killed and about 5000 were badly injured. The Civil Administration under Vijay got activated and started conducting rescue and relief operations. Temporary shelter camps and hospitals were established to provide shelter and medical facilities to the homeless and injured people. Helicopter services were pressed in for evacuating sick and old people from remote areas. Vijay got a message from his hometown in Kerala that his mother was seriously sick. After two days Vijay received the unfortunate message that his mother has expired. Vijay has no close relative except one elder sister who is a US citizen and staying there for the last several years. In the meantime, the situation in the affected district deteriorated further due to resumption of heavy rains after a gap of five days. At the same time, continuous messages were coming on his mobile from his hometown to reach at the earliest for performing the last rites of his mother.

- (a) What are the options available with Vijay?
- (b) What are the ethical dilemma being faced by Vijay?
- (c) Critically evaluate and examine each of the options identified by Vijay.
- (d) Which of the options, do you think, would be most appropriate for Vijay to adopt and why?

2025 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q8. In line with the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Indian Constitution, the government has a constitutional obligation to ensure basic needs – "Roti, Kapda aur Makan" (Food, Clothes and Shelter) for the under-privileged. Pursuing this mandate, the district administration proposed clearing a portion of forest land to develop housing for the homeless and economically weaker sections of the society. The proposed land, however, is an ecologically sensitive zone densely populated with age-old trees, medicinal plants and vital biodiversity. Besides, these forests help to regulate micro-climate and rainfalls, provide habitat for wildlife, support soil fertility and prevent land/soil erosion and sustain livelihoods of tribal and nomadic communities. In spite of the ecological and social costs, the administration argues in favour of the said proposal by highlighting that this very initiative addresses fundamental human rights as a critical welfare priority. Besides, it fulfils the government's duty to uplift and empower the poor through inclusive housing development. Further, these forest areas have become unsafe due to wild-animal threats and recurring human-wildlife conflicts. Lastly, clearing forest-zones may help to curb anti-social elements allegedly using these areas as hideouts, thereby enhancing law and order.

- (a) Can deforestation be ethically justified in the pursuit of social welfare objectives like, housing for the homeless?
- (b) What are the socio-economic, administrative and ethical challenges in balancing environmental conservation with human development?
- (c) What substantial alternatives or policy interventions can be proposed to ensure that both environmental integrity and human dignity are protected?

Q9. Subash is Secretary, PWD in the State Government. He is a senior officer, known for his competence, integrity and dedication to work. He enjoys the trust and confidence of Minister In-charge of PWD and Programme Implementation. As a part of his job profile, he is responsible for policy formulation and execution of projects relating to infrastructure initiatives in the State. Besides, he oversees the technical and administrative aspects relating to planning, designing and construction, etc.

The Minister of PWD is an important Minister in the State and significant growth in urban infrastructure development and road network has been registered during his tenure. He is very keen on launching an ambitious road-construction project in the near future.

Subash is in regular touch with the Minister and is working on various modalities of the road-construction project. Regular meetings, interactions and presentations are made by him to the Minister before a formal public announcement of the project is made. Subash's only son, Vikas, is in the real-estate business. From his own sources he is aware that a mega road project is on the anvil and that an announcement in this regard is expected anytime. He is very keen to know from his father the exact location of the upcoming project. He knows there would be a quantum jump in prices of land in the vicinity. Buying land at this stage at cheaper prices would pay him rich dividends. He pleads with his father day in and day out to share the location of the proposed project. He assures him that he would handle the matter discreetly, as in the normal course he keeps on buying land as part of his business. Subash feels pressurised because of his son's constant pleadings.

Another significant aspect is the extra/undue interest in the above project being shown by the Minister, PWD. His nephew also has a big infrastructure-project company. In fact, the Minister has introduced his nephew to Subash and hinted that his nephew's business interests in the forthcoming project should be taken care of. The Minister has encouraged him to act fast because early announcement and execution of the project would enhance his own status in public life and within the party.

In the above backdrop, Subash is in a fix as to the future course of action.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.**
 - (b) Critically examine the options available to Subash in the above situation.**
 - (c) Which of the above would be most appropriate and why?**
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 - (b) Critically examine the options available to Subash in the above situation.
 - (c) Which of the above would be most appropriate and why?

Q10. Rajesh is a Group-A officer with more than five years of service. He is posted as Administrative Officer in an Oil Public-Sector Undertaking. As an Administrative Officer he is responsible for managing and coordinating various administrative tasks to ensure smooth functioning of the office. He also manages office supplies and equipment.

Rajesh is now sufficiently senior and expects his next promotion to the JAG (Junior Administrative Grade) in the next one or two years. He knows that promotion is based on examination of ACRs/Performance Appraisals of the last five years or so by a DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) and that an officer lacking requisite grading of ACRs may not be found fit for promotion. Losing promotion may entail financial and reputational loss and a set-back for career progression. Though he always puts his best effort into his duties, he is unsure of the assessment by his superior and is therefore putting in extra effort so that he gets a thumping report at the end of the financial year.

One day his reporting officer (who writes his ACR) calls Rajesh and wants him to buy computer-related stationery on priority from a particular vendor. Rajesh instructs his office to initiate action for procuring these items. During the day, the dealing assistant brings an estimate of ₹35 lakh covering all stationery items from the same vendor. As per the organisation's GFR-based delegated financial powers, expenditure on office items exceeding ₹30 lakh requires sanction of the next higher authority (his boss in the present case). Rajesh knows his immediate superior would expect all these purchases to be done at his level and may not appreciate such 'lack of initiative'. During discussions with colleagues he also learns of the common (but illegal) practice of splitting expenditure (dividing a large order into several small ones) to avoid obtaining sanction from higher authority. This practice is against the rules and may invite adverse audit comments.

Rajesh is perturbed; he is unsure about what decision to take.

- (a) What are the options available to Rajesh in the above situation?**
 - (b) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?**
 - (c) Which would be the most appropriate option for Rajesh and why?**
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Q11. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNREGA) was earlier known as National Rural Employment Scheme (NREGA). It is an Indian social-welfare programme aimed at fulfilling the 'Right to Work' provisions of the Constitution. MGNREGA was launched in 2006 under the Rural Employment sector by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The main objective of the programme is to give a legal guarantee of wage employment to the adult members of rural households who are willing to do unskilled manual labour for a maximum of 100 days per household per year. Every rural household has the right to register under the scheme and, on registration, a Job Card is issued. A Job-Card holder can seek employment. The State Government shall pay 25 % of the minimum wage for the first 30 days as compensatory daily unemployment allowance to the families and wage for the remaining period of the year. MGNREGA works are undertaken by various Gram Panchayats.

You have been appointed Administrator-in-Charge of the District. You have been given the responsibility of monitoring MGNREGA works undertaken by various Gram Panchayats and the authority to give technical sanctions to all such works.

In one Panchayat in your jurisdiction you notice that your predecessor has mismanaged the programme:

- (i) Money not disbursed to actual job-seekers.**
- (ii) Muster rolls of labourers not properly maintained.**
- (iii) Mismatch between work done and payments made.**
- (iv) Payments made to fictitious persons.**
- (v) Job Cards issued without assessing genuine need.**
- (vi) Mismanagement and siphoning of funds.**
- (vii) Approved works that never existed.**

(a) What is your reaction to the above situation and how would you restore proper functioning of the MGNREGA programme?

(b) What actions would you initiate to solve the various issues listed above?

(c) How would you deal with the above situation?

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2025 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. Ashok is Divisional Commissioner of one of the border districts in a North-East State. A few years back, the military took over the neighbouring country after overthrowing the elected civil government. A civil-war situation has prevailed there, especially in the last two years, and the internal situation has further deteriorated due to rebel groups taking control of populated areas near our border. Intense fighting between the military and rebel groups has sharply increased civilian casualties in recent months.

One night Ashok receives information from the local police guarding the border check-post that about 200–250 people—mainly women and children—are trying to cross over to our side. About ten soldiers in military uniform, carrying weapons, are also among them. Women and children are crying and begging for help; a few are injured, bleeding profusely and need immediate medical care. Ashok tries to contact the State Home Secretary but fails, mainly because inclement weather has disrupted connectivity.

- (a) What are the options available with Ashok to cope with the situation?**
- (b) What are the ethical and legal dilemmas being faced by Ashok?**
- (c) Which of the options would be more appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?**
- (d) In the present situation, what extra precautionary measures should the Border-Guarding Police take while dealing with soldiers in uniform?**

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- (d) In the present situation, what extra precautionary measures should the Border-Guarding Police take while dealing with soldiers in uniform?

2024 GS-IV 30M • 150W

Hard

Q3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

- (a) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it; do not become others." – Swami Vivekananda
- (b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." – Sardar Patel
- (c) "In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." – Immanuel Kant

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q7. There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast technological improvements have raised worries among environmental activists, regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario. You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48 % in greenhouse-gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019, mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data-centres, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities. Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both business objectives and ethical obligations.

- (a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?
- (b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?
- (d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q8. Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern. Unemployment was relatively high in the state, especially among graduates and those with higher education, making them vulnerable and soft targets. Intelligence inputs suggested that a new global terrorist group had launched a drive to recruit such youth through social-media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, spreading secessionist ideology and extremist propaganda. The need of the hour is to act swiftly before the situation assumes serious proportions.

- (a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?
- (b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?
- (c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence-gathering mechanism of the police force?

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. In the last few years, the coordinated strategy of the Central and State governments has substantially reduced the menace of Naxalism in many affected regions. However, in several remote districts the Naxal problem continues to pose the main internal-security threat. Recently, in one such district, a spate of violent incidents involving explosives and killings has taken place and reliable intelligence points to renewed activities of over-ground workers and foreign extremists in the area.

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big (reputed) hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super speciality center that the hospital is building with state-of-the-art equipment and world-class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment. She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favouritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

(a) What should be Sneha's course of action?

(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

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(b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?

(c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry. The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

(a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.

(b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?

(c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector?

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2024 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first-mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcuts for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the requisite approvals. These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results, foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival company, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.

(a) What would you do in such a situation?

(b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.

(c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

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(b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.

(c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1(a). What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1(b). 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(a). Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in society. In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in society?

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 30M • 150W

Hard

Q3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

(a) "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." — Mahatma Gandhi

(b) "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." — Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." — Swami Vivekananda

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(b). Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(a). "What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills — your EQ — not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5(a). Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance? (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6(b). Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q7. You are working as an executive in a nationalised bank. A colleague secretly uses ₹10 lakh from a dormant account, facilitated by the bank manager, for her father's heart surgery and is repaying it.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved?
- (b) Evaluate the behaviour of the bank manager from an ethical point of view.
- (c) How would you react to the situation?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q8. As District Magistrate, you face a dilemma over immediate blood transfusion for a pregnant landslide victim, where only unbanked blood is available.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) Evaluate the options available to you, being District Magistrate of the area.

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. Rashika, a Joint Secretary, struggles to balance demanding office work with her family responsibilities and personal well-being.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) Briefly describe at least four laws enacted by the Government for providing a healthy, safe and equitable working environment for women.
- (c) Imagine you are in a similar situation. What suggestions would you make to mitigate such working conditions?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. Vinod, Managing Director of a State Road Transport Corporation, receives evidence of the Chairman's alleged bribery and must decide how to act amid political pressures.

- (a) As a conscientious civil servant, evaluate the options available to Vinod.
- (b) In the light of the above case, comment upon the ethical issues that may arise due to the politicization of bureaucracy.

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. Seema, a talented new architect, faces continuous harassment from the soon-to-retire Chief Architect who fears loss of credit for an important project.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- (b) What are the options available to you in order to complete the project as well as to retain Seema in the organization?
- (c) What would be your response to Seema's predicament? What measures would you institute to prevent such occurrences from happening in your organization?

2023 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. You are a medical officer in a Government hospital. You receive reports of your 11-year-old son's behavioural issues at school, including purchasing chocolates from a vendor against rules and being mocked by classmates.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) What steps would you take to ensure justice for your son while maintaining fairness to the school?
- (c) How will you counsel your son to cope with the bullying he faces?

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is not rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(a). The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(a). What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(a). Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6(b). In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)

2022 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q6(a). Whistle-blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle-blower? (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(b). Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants. (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2(b). Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(a). Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(a). Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human being. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(b). In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(a). "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society. (Answer in 150 words)

2021 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6(a). An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony. (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1(b). "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2(b). What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss. (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3(b). 'The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(a). Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person? (150 words)

2020 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). 'The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2(a). Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3(a). What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q3(b). What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(a). Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(a). What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. (150 words)

2019 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1(a). State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1(b). Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2(a). What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q2(b). "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability." Discuss. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3(a). What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q4(b). With regard to morality of actions, one view is that means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5(a). Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bound by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies? (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5(b). Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. (150 words)

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q6(a). "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost every thing, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." — Abraham Lincoln (150 words)

- (a) "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good; especially of governmental policy, it is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." — Abraham Lincoln
- (b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." — Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." — Tirukkural

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q6(c). What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context? "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." — Tirukkural (150 words)

- (a) "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good; especially of governmental policy, it is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." — Abraham Lincoln
- (b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." — Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." — Tirukkural

2018 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q6(b). What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context? "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." — Mahatma Gandhi (150 words)

- (a) "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good; especially of governmental policy, it is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgment of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." — Abraham Lincoln
- (b) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." — Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good." — Tirukkural

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q7. Rakesh is a responsible district level officer, who enjoys the trust of his higher officials. Knowing his honesty, the government entrusted him with the responsibility of identifying the beneficiaries under a healthcare scheme meant for senior citizens.

The criteria to be a beneficiary are the following :

- (a) 60 years of age or above.
- (b) Belonging to a reserved community.
- (c) Family income of less than ₹ 1 lakh per annum.
- (d) Post-treatment prognosis is likely to be high to make a positive difference to the quality of life of the beneficiary.

One day, an old couple visited Rakesh's office with their application. They have been the residents of a village in his district since their birth. The old man is diagnosed with a rare condition that causes obstruction in the large intestine. As a consequence, he has severe abdominal pain frequently that prevents him from doing any physical labour. The couple have no children to support them. The expert surgeon whom they contacted is willing to do the surgery without charging any fee. However, the couple will have to bear the cost of incidental charges, such as medicines, hospitalization, etc., to the tune of ₹ 1 lakh. The couple fulfils all the criteria except criterion 'b'. However, any financial aid would certainly make a significant difference in their quality of life.

How should Rakesh respond to the situation?

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q8. As a senior officer in the Ministry, you have access to important policy decisions and upcoming big announcements such as road construction projects before they reach the public domain. The Ministry is going to announce a major road construction project for which land acquisition has already been identified and compensation rates for the land owners have been fixed according to government norms. The compensation is expected to be on the lower side. It is anticipated that once the project is announced, land prices in and around that area will rise sharply.

In the meantime, the concerned Minister has asked you to realign the road in such a way that it passes near his 20-acre farm-house. He has also suggested that he will help to purchase land in your wife's name around the proposed highway at the current nominal rates. The Minister assures you that there is no harm in doing so as the land is being purchased at the prevailing market price. He also wants you to keep him informed about the date when the project will be announced.

If you report the alleged malpractices in the land procurement for the project to your higher authorities, it will cause a long delay in your department's work, resulting in hardship to the farmers as well. Besides, the project is very essential; it will also lead to cutting down of a large number of trees, thereby destroying the green landscape of the area.

How would you deal with this situation? Evaluate the options available to you, indicating their merits and demerits, and explain what your responsibilities are as a public servant.

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many deaths, reported and unreported, and causes a major problem for the district authorities.

The approach till now had been to view it as a law and order problem and tackle it accordingly. Raids, arrests, police cases, criminal trials – all these had only limited impact. The problem remains as serious as ever.

Your inspections show that the parts of the district where the distillation flourishes are economically, industrially and educationally backward. Agriculture is badly affected by poor irrigation facilities. Frequent clashes among communities gave boost to illicit distillation. No major initiatives had taken place in the past either from the government's side or from social organizations to improve the lot of the people.

Which new approach will you adopt to bring the problem under control? (250 words)

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. A big corporate house is engaged in manufacturing industrial chemicals on a large scale. It proposes to set up an additional unit. Many States rejected its proposal due to detrimental effect on the environment. But one State government acceded to the request and permitted the unit close to a city, brushing aside all opposition.

The unit was set up 10 years ago and was in full swing till recently. The pollution caused by the industrial effluents was affecting the land, water and crops in the area. It was also causing serious health problems to human beings and animals. This gave rise to a series of agitations demanding the closure of the plant. In a recent agitation thousands of people took part, creating a law and order problem necessitating stern police action. Following the public outcry, the State government ordered the closure of the factory.

The closure of the factory resulted in the unemployment of not only those workers who were engaged in the factory but also those who were working in the ancillary units. It also very badly affected those industries which depended on the chemicals manufactured by it.

As a senior officer entrusted with the responsibility of handling this issue, how are you going to address it? (250 words)

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. Dr. X is a leading medical practitioner in a city. He has set up a charitable trust through which he plans to establish a super-speciality hospital in the city to cater to the medical needs of all sections of the society. Incidentally, that part of the State had been neglected over the years. The proposed hospital would be a boon for the region.

You are heading the tax investigation agency of that region. During an inspection of the doctor's clinic, your officers have found out some major irregularities. A few of them are substantial which had resulted in considerable withholding of tax that should be paid by him. Now the doctor is cooperative. He undertakes to pay the tax immediately.

However, there are certain other deficiencies in his tax compliance which are purely technical in nature. If these technical defaults are pursued by the agency, considerable time and energy of the doctor will be diverted to issues which are not so serious, urgent or even helpful to the tax collection process. Further, in all probability, it will hamper the prospects of the hospital coming up.

There are two options before you:

- (i) Taking a broader view, ensure substantial tax compliance and ignore defaults that are merely technical in nature.
- (ii) Pursue the matter strictly and proceed on all fronts, whether substantial or merely technical.

As the head of the tax agency, which course of action will you opt for and why? (250 words)

2018 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. Edward Snowden, a computer expert and former CIA systems administrator, released confidential Government documents to the press about the existence of Government surveillance programmes. According to many legal experts and the US Government, his actions violated the Espionage Act of 1917, which identified the leak of State secrets as an act of treason. Yet, despite the fact that he broke the law, Snowden argued that he had a moral obligation to act. He gave a justification for his "whistle blowing" by stating that he had a duty "to inform the public as to that which is done in their name and that which is done against them."

According to Snowden, the Government's violation of privacy had to be exposed regardless of legality since more substantive issues of social action and public morality were involved here. Many agreed with Snowden. Few argued that he broke the law and compromised national security, for which he should be held accountable.

Do you agree that Snowden's actions were ethically justified even if legally prohibited? Why or why not? Make an argument by weighing the competing values in this case. (250 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q1. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q2. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4(b). Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Medium

Q5(b). "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher." — A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6(b). Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (150 words)

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q6(a). How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (150 words)

Easy

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q7(b). Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify. (150 words)

Easy

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q7(a). The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (150 words)

Easy

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q8(b). Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (150 words)

Easy

2017 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q8(a). Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 words)

Easy

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q1(a). Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (150 words)

Easy

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q2(a). What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (150 words)

Medium

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q3(b). Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. (150 words)

Easy

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Q4(b). How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? (150 words)

Easy

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q5. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches. (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians. (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? (150 words)

2016 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? (150 words)

2015 GS-IV 10M • 200W

Hard

Q1(b). Differentiate between the following (200 words): (i) Law and Ethics (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics

(a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.

(b) Differentiate between the following: (i) Law and Ethics (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q1(a). What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (150 words)

(a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.

(b) Differentiate between the following: (i) Law and Ethics (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics

2015 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q2. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." (b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

(a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

(b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q3(a). "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (150 words)

(a) "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically.

(b) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q4(a). "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (150 words)

(a) "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.

(b) Analyze the dichotomy arising from mechanisms like RTI, media and judicial activism which, while increasing transparency, sometimes lead to misuse and decision-paralysis. Suggest measures to resolve the situation and minimize negative impacts.

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q4(b). Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized. (150 words)

(a) "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.

(b) Analyze the dichotomy arising from mechanisms like RTI, media and judicial activism which, while increasing transparency, sometimes lead to misuse and decision-paralysis. Suggest measures to resolve the situation and minimize negative impacts.

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q5. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. (a) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits. (b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country? (150 words)

(a) Distinguish between bureaucratic attitude and democratic attitude and write their merits and demerits.

(b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q6. Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. (b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace. (150 words)

(a) Evaluate the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption measures with justifications.

(b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle the menace of corruption.

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (150 words)

2015 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples.

2015 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. A private company is known for its efficiency, transparency and employee welfare. The company employs nearly 700 personnel and they have voluntarily decided not to form a union. One day, about 40 men belonging to a political party gate-crashed into the factory demanding jobs in the factory. They threatened the management and employees. The employees feel demoralized. It was clear that those who gate-crashed wanted to be on the payroll of the company as well as continue as active members of the party. The company maintains high standards in integrity and does not extend favours to civil administration that also includes law enforcement agency. Such incidents occur in public sector also. (a) Assume you are the CEO of the company. What would you do to diffuse the volatile situation on the date of gate-crashing with the violent mob sitting inside the company premises? (b) What could be the long-term solution to the issue discussed in the case? (c) Every solution/action that you suggest will have a positive and a negative impact on you (as CEO), the employees and the performance of the employees. Analyse the consequences of each of your suggested actions.

(a) Assume you are the CEO of the company. What would you do to diffuse the volatile situation on the date of gate-crashing with the violent mob sitting inside the company premises?

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(c) Every solution/action that you suggest will have a positive and a negative impact on you (as CEO), the employees and the performance of the employees. Analyse the consequences of each of your suggested actions.

2015 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. You are the Sarpanch of a Panchayat. There is a primary school run by the government in your area. Mid-day meals are provided to the children attending the school. The Headmaster has now appointed a new cook in the school to prepare the meals. However, when it is found that the cook is from Dalit community, almost half of the children belonging to higher castes are not allowed to take meals by their parents. Consequently the attendance in the school falls sharply. This could result in the possibility of discontinuation of mid-day meal scheme, thereafter of teaching staff and subsequent closing down the school. (a) Discuss some feasible strategies to overcome the conflict and to create right ambience. (b) What should be the responsibilities of different social segments and agencies to create positive social ambience for accepting such changes?

(a) Discuss some feasible strategies to overcome the conflict and to create right ambience.

(b) What should be the responsibilities of different social segments and agencies to create positive social ambience for accepting such changes?

2015 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. One of the scientists working in the R & D laboratory of a major pharmaceutical company discovers that one of the company's best-selling veterinary drugs, B, has the potential to cure a currently incurable liver disease that is prevalent in tribal areas. However, developing a variant of the drug suitable for human beings will entail a lot of research and development, having a huge expenditure to the extent of ₹50 crores. It is unlikely that the company would recover the costs as the disease is rampant only in poverty-stricken areas having very little market otherwise. If you were the CEO, then – (a) identify the various actions that you could take; (b) evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.

- (a) Identify the various actions that you could take.
- (b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.

2015 GS-IV 20M • 200W

Hard

Q12. There is a disaster-prone State having frequent landslides, forest fires, cloudbursts, flash floods and earthquakes, etc. Some of these are seasonal and often unpredictable. The magnitude of the disaster is always unanticipated. During one of the seasons, a cloudburst caused devastating floods and landslides leading to high casualties. There was major damage to infrastructure like roads, bridges and power-generating units. This led to more than 100,000 pilgrims, tourists and other locals trapped across different routes and locations. The people trapped in your area of responsibility included senior citizens, patients in hospitals, women and children, hikers, tourists, ruling party's regional president along with his family, additional chief secretary of the neighbouring State and prisoners in jail. As a civil services officer of the State, what would be the order in which you would rescue these people and why? Give justifications.

2015 GS-IV 25M • 250W

Hard

Q13. You are heading a district administration in a particular department. Your senior officer calls you from the State Headquarters and tells you that a plot in Rampur village is to have a building constructed on it for a school. A visit is scheduled during which he will visit the site along with the chief engineer and the senior architect. He wants you to check out all the papers relating to it and to ensure that the visit is properly arranged. You examine the file which relates to the period before you joined the department. The land was acquired from the local Panchayat at a nominal cost and the papers show that clearance certificates are available from the three authorities who have to certify the site's suitability. There is no certification by the architect available on file. You decide to visit Rampur to ensure that all is in order as stated on file. When you visit Rampur, you find that the plot under reference is part of Thakurgarh Fort and that the walls, ramparts, etc., are running across it. The fort is well away from the main village; therefore a school here will be a serious inconvenience for the children. However, the area near the village has potential to expand into a larger residential area. The development charges on the existing plot, at the fort, will be very high and the question of heritage site has not been addressed. Moreover, the Sarpanch, at the time of acquisition of the land, was a relative of your predecessor. The whole transaction appears to have been done with some vested interest. (a) List the likely vested interests of the concerned parties. (b) Some of the options for action available to you are listed below. Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the options: (i) You can await the visit of the superior officer and let him take a decision. (ii) You can seek his advice in writing or on phone. (iii) You can consult your predecessor / colleagues, etc., and then decide what to do. (iv) You can find out if any alternate plot can be got in exchange and then send a comprehensive written report. Can you suggest any other option with proper justification?

- (a) List the likely vested interests of the concerned parties.
- (b) Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the given options and suggest any other option with proper justification.

2015 GS-IV 25M • 250W

Hard

Q14. You are recently posted as district development officer of a district. Shortly thereafter you found that there is considerable tension in the rural areas of your district on the issue of sending girls to schools. The elders of the village feel that many problems have come up because girls are being educated and they are stepping out of the safe environment of the household. They are of the view that the girls should be quickly married off with minimum education. The girls are also competing for jobs after education, which have traditionally remained in boys' exclusive domain, adding to unemployment amongst the male population. The younger generation feels that in the present era, girls should have equal opportunities for education and employment, and other means of livelihood. The entire locality is divided between the elders and the younger lot and further sub-divided between sexes in both generations. You come to know that in Panchayat or in other local bodies or even in busy crossroads, the issue is being acrimoniously debated. One day you are informed that an unpleasant incident has taken place. Some girls were molested when they were en route to schools. The incident led to clashes between several groups and a law and order problem has arisen. The elders after heated discussion have taken a joint decision not to allow girls to go to school and to socially boycott all such families which do not follow their dictate. (a) What steps would you take to ensure girls' safety without disrupting their education? (b) How would you manage and mould patriarchic attitude of the village elders to ensure harmony in the inter-generational relations?

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2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q1(b). What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (150 words)

(a) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.

(b) What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

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2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q2(b). What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? (150 words)

(a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.

(b) What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practising it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

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2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q3(b). "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (150 words)

(a) "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.

(b) "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q4(b). There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility? (150 words)

(a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.

(b) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q5(a). The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (150 words)

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(b) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

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2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q6. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? (150 words)

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? (150 words)

2014 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (150 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. Now-a-days, there is an increasing thrust on economic development all around the globe. At the same time, there is also an increasing concern about environmental degradation caused by development. Many a time, we face a direct conflict between developmental activity and environmental quality. It is neither feasible to stop or curtail the developmental process, nor is it advisable to keep degrading the environment, as it threatens our very survival. Discuss some feasible strategies which could be adopted to eliminate this conflict and which could lead to sustainable development. (250 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. Suppose one of your close friends, who is also aspiring for civil services, comes to you for discussing some of the issues related to ethical conduct in public service. He raises the following points:

(i) In the present times, when unethical environment is quite prevalent, individual attempts to stick to ethical principles may cause a lot of problems in one's career. It may also cause hardship to the family members as well as risk to one's life. Why should we not be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance, and be happy with doing whatever good we can?

(ii) When so many people are adopting wrong means and are grossly harming the system, what difference would it make if only a small minority tries to be ethical? They are going to be rather ineffective and are bound to get frustrated.

(iii) If we become fussy about ethical considerations, will it not hamper the economic progress of our country? After all, in the present age of high competition, we cannot afford to be left behind in the race of development.

(iv) It is understandable that we should not get involved in grossly unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gratifications and doing small favours increases everybody's motivation. It also makes the system more efficient. What is wrong in adopting such practices? Critically analyse the above viewpoints. On the basis of this analysis, what will be your advice to your friend? (250 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q11. You are a no-nonsense, honest officer. You have been transferred to a remote district to head a department that is notorious for its inefficiency and callousness. You find that the main cause of the poor state of affairs is the indiscipline of a section of employees. They do not work themselves and also disrupt the working of others. You first warned the troublemakers to mend their ways or else face disciplinary action. When the warning had little effect, you issued a show-cause notice to the ringleaders. As a retaliatory measure, these troublemakers instigated a woman employee amongst them to file a complaint of sexual harassment against you with the Women's Commission. The Commission promptly seeks your explanation. The matter is also publicised in the media to embarrass you further.

Some of the options to handle this situation could be as follows:

(i) Give your explanation to the Commission and go soft on the disciplinary action.

(ii) Ignore the Commission and proceed firmly with the disciplinary action.

(iii) Brief your higher-ups, seek directions from them and act accordingly.

Suggest any other possible option(s). Evaluate all of them and suggest the best course of action, giving your reasons for it. (250 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. Suppose you are the CEO of a company that manufactures specialised electronic equipment used by a government department. You have submitted your bid for supplying this equipment to the department. Both the quality and the cost of your offer are better than those of the competitors. Yet the concerned officer is demanding an undue favour from you in the form of a bribe to process the order in your favour. The order is very important for your company as well as for your own career. Refusal to pay the bribe may result in the order going to your competitor and could also lead to blacklisting of your firm.

What are the options available to you? Which option would you adopt and why? Evaluate each option on merits and demerits and justify the course of action you propose to take. (250 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q13. Rameshwar successfully cleared the prestigious civil services examination and was excited about the opportunity that he would get through the civil services to serve the country. However, soon after joining the services, he realized that things are not as rosy as he had imagined.

He found a number of malpractices prevailing in the department assigned to him. For example, funds under various schemes and grants were being misappropriated. The official facilities were frequently being used for personal needs by the officers and staff. After some time, he noticed that the process of recruiting the staff was also not up to the mark. Prospective candidates were required to write an examination in which a lot of cheating was going on. Some candidates were provided external help in the examination. Rameshwar brought these incidents to the notice of his seniors. However, he was advised to keep his eyes, ears and mouth shut and ignore all these things which were taking place with the connivance of the higher-ups. Rameshwar felt highly disillusioned and uncomfortable. He comes to you seeking your advice.

Indicate various options that you think are available in this situation. How would you help him to evaluate these options and choose the most appropriate path to be adopted? (250 words)

2014 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q14. In our country, the migration of rural people to towns and cities is increasing drastically. This is causing serious problems both in the rural as well as in the urban areas. In fact, things are becoming really unmanageable. Can you analyze this problem in detail and indicate not only the socio-economic but also the emotional and attitudinal factors responsible for this problem? Also, distinctly bring out why—

- (a) educated rural youth are trying to shift to urban areas;
- (b) landless poor people are migrating to urban slums;
- (c) even some farmers are selling off their land and trying to settle in urban areas taking up petty jobs.

What feasible steps can you suggest which will be effective in controlling this serious problem of our country? (250 words)

- (a) educated rural youth are trying to shift to urban areas
- (b) landless poor people are migrating to urban slums
- (c) even some farmers are selling off their land and trying to settle in urban areas taking up petty jobs

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 25M • 250W

Hard

Q2. (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (i) Integrity (ii) Perseverance (iii) Spirit of service (iv) Commitment (v) Courage of conviction (b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.

- (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (i) Integrity (ii) Perseverance (iii) Spirit of service (iv) Commitment (v) Courage of conviction (250 words)
- (b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (100 words)

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q3. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q4. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Hard

Q5(a). What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (150 words)

(a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (150 words)

(b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 30M • 150W

Hard

Q6. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each quotation, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." – Mahatma Gandhi (b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln (c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." – Aristotle

(a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." – Mahatma Gandhi. Explain what it means to you in the present context. (150 words)

(b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln. Explain what it means to you in the present context. (150 words)

(c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." – Aristotle. Explain what it means to you in the present context. (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q7. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 10M • 150W

Easy

Q8. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (150 words)

2013 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q9. A Public Information Officer (PIO) has received an application under the RTI Act. Having gathered the information, the PIO discovers that the information pertains to some of the decisions taken by him, which were not altogether right. Disclosure is likely to lead to disciplinary action against him as well as some colleagues. Non-disclosure or partial disclosure may result in lesser or no punishment. The PIO, otherwise honest and conscientious, seeks your advice. Evaluate the merits and demerits of the following options and indicate what you would advise, giving proper reasons: (i) Refer the matter to the superior officer and act strictly as advised. (ii) Proceed on leave/seek transfer of the application. (iii) Weigh consequences of truthful disclosure and reply with some compromise. (iv) Consult other colleagues who were party to the decision and act on their advice. Also, without restricting yourself to the above options, state your advice with reasons. (250 words)

2013 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q10. You are working as an Executive Engineer in the construction cell of a Municipal Corporation and are in-charge of constructing a flyover. During surprise inspections you notice serious deviations from design specifications which, if ignored, may affect public safety. The Chief Engineer advises you that it is not a serious lapse and to expedite completion. Evaluate the merits and demerits of the following options and suggest the course of action you would take, giving reasons: (i) Follow the advice of the Chief Engineer and go ahead. (ii) Prepare a detailed report of facts, analysis and your views and seek written orders from the Chief Engineer. (iii) Call for explanation from the Junior Engineers and order the contractor to make corrections within a targeted time. (iv) Highlight the issue so that it reaches officers above the Chief Engineer. (v) Considering the rigid attitude of the Chief Engineer, seek transfer from the project or report sick. (250 words)

2013 GS-IV 0M • 150W

Easy

Q11. Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu is known for its manufacturing clusters on firecrackers and matches. The local economy largely depends on this industry, leading to economic development and improved living standards. International Labour Organization (ILO) norms fix the minimum age for hazardous industry work at 18 years, whereas in India it is 14 years. Industrial units may be registered or non-registered; many claim to be household-based units to evade child-labour laws, employing children from outside to reduce costs and increase profits. (Further questions continue on next page.)

2013 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q12. You are heading a leading technical institute of the country. The institute is planning to convene an interview panel shortly under your chairmanship for selection of the post of professors. A few days before the interview, you get a call from the Personal Secretary (PS) of a senior government functionary seeking your intervention in favour of the selection of a close relative of the functionary for this post. The PS also informs you that he is aware of the long pending and urgent proposals of your institute for grant of funds for modernization, which are awaiting the functionary's approval. He assures you that he would get these proposals cleared.
(a) What are the options available to you?
(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words)

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2013 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q13. As a senior officer in the Finance Ministry, you have access to some confidential and crucial information about policy decisions that the Government is about to announce. These decisions are likely to have far-reaching impact on the housing and construction industry. If the builders have access to this information beforehand, they can make huge profits. One of the builders has done a lot of quality work for the Government and is known to be close to your immediate superior, who asks you to disclose this information to the said builder.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words)

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2013 GS-IV 20M • 250W

Hard

Q14. You are the Executive Director of an upcoming Infotech Company which is making a name for itself in the market.

Mr. A, who is a star performer, is heading the marketing team. In a short period of one year, he has helped in doubling the revenues as well as creating a high brand equity for the Company so much so that you are thinking of promoting him. However, you have been receiving information from many corners about his attitude towards the female colleagues; particularly his habit of making loose comments on women. In addition, he regularly sends indecent SMS's to all the team members including his female colleagues.

One day, late in the evening, Mrs. X, who is one of Mr. A's team members, comes to you visibly disturbed. She complains against the continued misconduct of Mr. A, who has been making undesirable advances towards her and has even tried to touch her inappropriately in his cabin. She tenders her resignation and leaves your office.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons. (250 words)

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