

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES 2025

General Studies Full Length Test Test - 4 (GS - 4) Test Code - A21054504	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.: Email: MOBILE NO.: Submission Date: QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

There are **TWELVE** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1 a)	/10	Q4 a)	/10	Q8	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Q9	/20
Q2 a)	/10	Q5 a)	/10	Q10	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Q11	/20
Q3 a)	/10	Q6 a)	/10	Q12	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Total :	/250
c)	/10	Q7	/20		

Instructions:-

- Legible Scanning:** Exercise due diligence in scanning your scripts for clear legibility
- Submissions** marred by poor scanning, notably those with illegible sections or blackened pages due to improper scanning, risk being excluded from the evaluation process.
- Non-Adherence Consequences:** Failure to comply with the aforementioned instructions may lead to the disqualification of your submission.

For Student OnlyStart Time - End Time -

Mode of Examination

Online Offline

Receiving date -

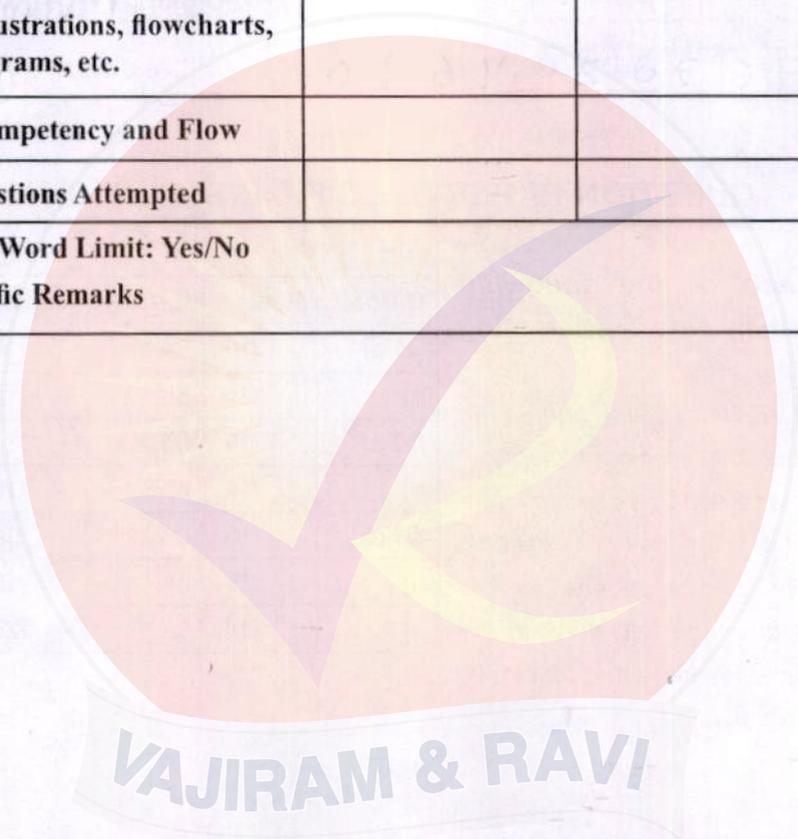
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Parameters		Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Conceptual Understanding				
Contextual Clarity				
Structure	Introduction			
	Body			
	Conclusion			
Meeting the Demand of the Questions				
Value Addition- Use of examples, case studies, Current Affairs Linkage, data etc.				
Presentation-Illustrations, flowcharts, diagrams, etc.				
Language Competency and Flow				
No. of Questions Attempted				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence to Word Limit: Yes/No Subject-Specific Remarks 				



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Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



(Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length.)

Section A

1. (a) "Integrity in isolation may ensure honesty, but without impartiality and non-partisanship, governance cannot be ethical." Evaluate the interdependence of these foundational values in the context of public service. (10 marks, 150 words)

Integrity means coherence of mind, speech and actions across time and space.

$$\text{Governance} = \text{Integrity} + \text{Impartiality} + \text{Non-partisanship}$$

Integrity is a greater set than honesty. It has often been defined as complete and confirmed honesty. So, it ensures honest conduct of a person.



But governance is a broader set that involves multiple other dimensions. Since it has to do with impartiality and non-partisanship

dealing with public in governance
 Ex. awarding contracts based on merit

dealing with political parties in governance
 Ex. fair advice to political executive

Interdependence of Integrity with impartiality and non-partisanship

① Integrity and impartiality :-
One without the other will not result in good governance. Combination of both ensures governance. IAS Anura Sundararajan work for e-governance

② Integrity + non-partisanship
political neutrality & following foundational Civil service values

③ Integrity + impartiality + non-partisanship
⇒ ensures well being of citizens & democratic excellence.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction

Suggestions:

Body

Conclusion

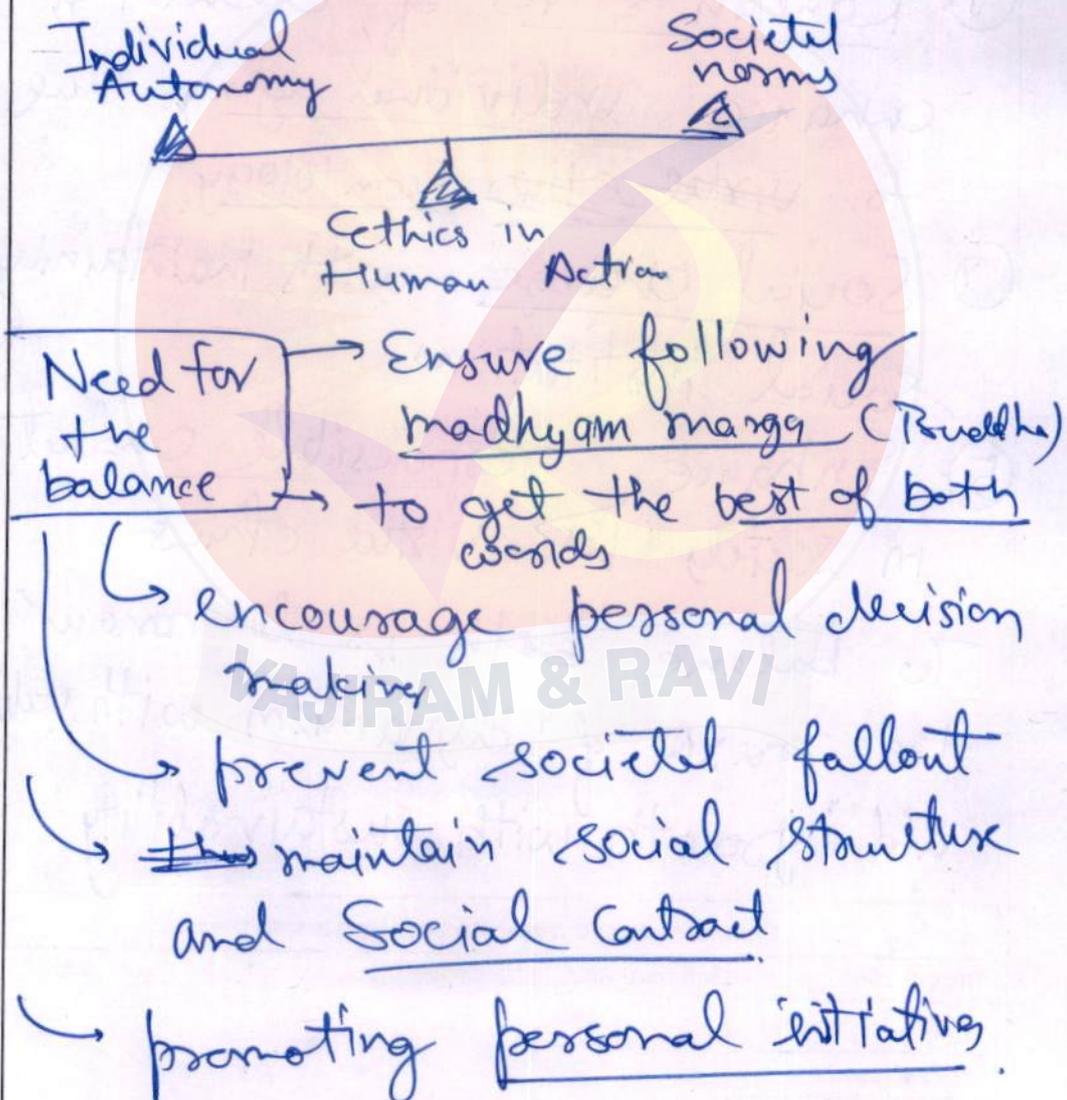
Presentation

Marks:

(b) "The essence of ethics in human actions involves a balance between individual autonomy and societal norms". Examine this statement by exploring how ethical frameworks reconcile personal freedom with social responsibility.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ethics in human actions is shaped by multiple factors including personal perceptions and societal values, thus necessitating a balance.



Ethical frameworks reconciling personal freedom with social responsibility

- ① Social Contract Theory mandates basic level of social engagement.
 - ② Utilitarianism promotes greatest good for greatest number of people.
 - ③ Kantian Ethics of deontology enhances individual agency due to ~~virtue~~ ethics deontology.
 - ④ Social change with maintaining social institutions.
 - ⑤ Enhance responsible conduct in society \Rightarrow Virtue ethics
- To balance both is to honour the maxim of "dynamism with stability" and "growth with sustainability"

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Introduction

Suggestions:

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

2. (a) Is conscience a universal moral compass, or is it shaped by society and upbringing? Illustrate with suitable examples.

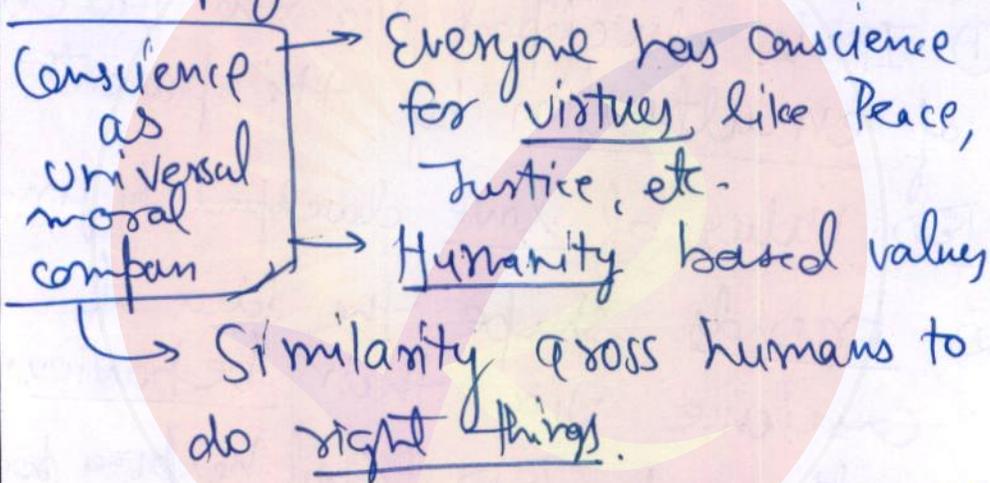
(10 marks, 150 words)

Conscience is an inner feeling and guide that helps us separate right from wrong. But just like any other value, it is shaped by society and upbringing.

Conscience getting shaped by Society & Upbringing

- ①. It is developed via the process of enculturation by the parents.
Ex. Values of love developed by parents.
- ②. Friends shape the idea of conscience via their behaviour, action, etc. Ex. friend helping poor helps develop conscience of altruism.
- ③. Societal norms shape conscience.
Ex. Norm of respecting elders in Indian Society.
- ④. Prevailing notions of the Time also shape it. Ex. notion towards live-in-relationship as moral or immoral.

- ⑤ - Institutions like marriage, religion, etc. also shape conscience
 Ex. Religious notion of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina" promoting tolerance.
- ⑥. Legal and political ideas of the time Ex. Murder being illegal shaping conscience.



Thus, while society shape basic values, still conscience can develop as against societal values like Raja Ram Mohan Roy against societal approval of Sati.

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Introduction

Suggestions:

Body

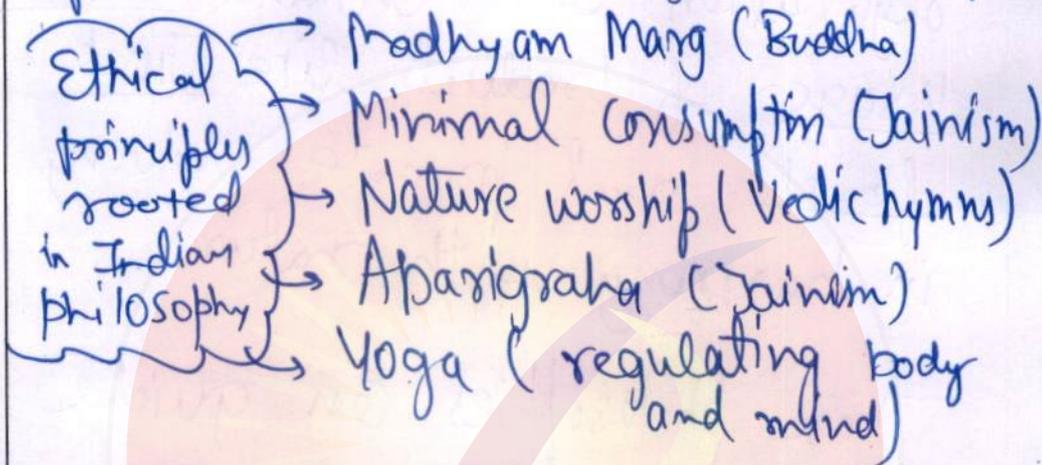
Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

(b) How can the ethical principles rooted in ancient Indian philosophy serve as a guide for policymakers and administrators in balancing development with ecological sustainability? (10 marks, 150 words)

The dichotomy of "development vs. environment" has found a new reinvigorated debate owing to application of tradition and indigenous philosophies.



Helping guide for policymakers & administrators in balancing development with ecological sustainability

- ① Idea of Aparigraha can minimise wasteful consumption and enhance recycling. ~~Exp.~~ 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- ② Idea of mother nature can help develop social nudges for supporting climate friendly action.

③- Buddha's Madhyam Marg can help guide from "development vs. environment" to "development and environment"

④- Yogic philosophy of body regulation can enhance minimal usage of products like Junk food and promote living in harmony with nature.

These philosophies can guide action, thought, process and ultimately patterns of living in line with India's goal of "LIFE", i.e. Lifestyle for Environment.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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

(a) Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.—Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
(10 marks, 150 words)

"An unexamined life is not worth living" said Socrates. This echoes what the above quote signifies, i.e., the need for "intellectual & moral development"

Need for cultivation of mind

"I think, therefore I am" said Rene Descartes. The importance of life/existence is all about growth of mind. It has two aspects to it :-

(A) Intellectual This means developing aptitude. exemplified by the likes of Albert Einstein, Sir Issac Newton etc.

This is also one of the fundamental value for Civil Services. As the

saying goes "Attitude without Aptitude is useless and Aptitude without attitude is dangerous"

— This brings us to second aspect

③ moral cultivation : without this, intellectual cultivation will not help. The likes of Adolf Hitler, modern day Cyber Criminals are all examples of it.

Moral cultivation is necessary to guide, develop temperament, inculcate wisdom and help in decision making.

Thus, Cultivation of mind is ultimate goal of human existence as it boosts attitude and aptitude and help us ~~achieve~~ contribute something to society.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) The coward calls the brave man rash, the rash man calls him a coward- Aristotle
(10 marks, 150 words)

The above lines by Aristotle depict how a change of perspective alters the overall evaluation of a person or situation.

The theme of the lines is about moral relativism, i.e.; looking at things from a different perspective. When Lord Krishna told Arjuna to shoot arrows at Karna, he said it is against "Dharma" or righteousness. But considering the change of perspective about how he was against an evil force and needed to do everything to end it, he ultimately changed his mind.

— This also means the "subjectivity" behind right or wrong and the opening of an

arena of "metaethics" to understand how right & wrong can be decided.

Need for looking at different perspectives

- ① Develops objectivity and scientific aptitude | Ex: following SOPs vs. Empathy in civil services
- ② Helps achieve a solution by understanding the opposing viewpoint.
- ③ Developing tolerance and moving away from ethnocentrism.
- ④ Promoting fair, equitable and rational decision making in civil services.

We can overcome the dichotomy of perspectives via "golden mean" of Aristotle

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(c) Beneficence is a duty. He who frequently practices it, and sees his benevolent intentions realized, at length comes really to love him to whom he has done good- Immanuel Kant
(10 marks, 150 words)

The given lines emphasize on the need to practice beneficence, considering it as duty under Deontological Ethics and this changes the attitude of the person towards the benefactor.

Need for beneficence as a duty

↳ Virtue ethics: it is a virtue to be loving to others

↳ mother Teresa's compassion

↳ Develops Social Capital leading to personal and professional growth

↳ promotes us from "human beings" to "being human"

↳ Addresses erosion of moral values in society.

↳ promotes tolerance and growth in the society.

How Beneficence develops love for the benefactor

- ① Action Shaping attitude: The act of beneficence promotes positive feelings.
- ② Purification of soul and mind.
- ③ learning by doing. ~~Ex~~ Anna Canteens in Tamil Nadu
- ④ Replication of received love as love given by benefactor due to his acts are replicated.
- ⑤ Chain of positivity and virtuous cycle which sustains itself.

"Do to others, as you would like them to do to you". This summarises need for beneficence as action.

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Introduction	Sugges tions:
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Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

4. (a) "Technology is ethically neutral until we apply it." Discuss this statement with reference to the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence and data privacy.
(10 marks, 150 words)

"We have guided missiles but unguided men", said Martin Luther King. This means that technology is just a medium/tool, it is the users of this tool who will decide whether the use is ethical or not!

Technology being neutral → Not an end, only means can be used in any way, "Double edged sword", does not have any inherent value of being useful or destructive

Ethical Challenges posed by AI and data privacy

- ① Informed Consent: Data can be used via loopholes in consent management
↳ Privacy concerns with Cohibeli images of ChatGPT
- ② Intellectual Property Rights: legal issue
↳ ANI vs. OpenAI case.

- ③. Biased data leading to amplification of biases.
- ④. Discrimination via Echo Chambering of the discriminated data.
- ⑤. Algorithmic opaqueness in processing of data
- ⑥. Data processing issues.
- ⑦. Cyber attacks, data theft, etc.
- ⑧. Prevention of Ethical degradation using AI

Need is to promote transparency, enhance cyber measures and reduce algorithmic opaqueness to enhance "AI for All" approach.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

- (b) Rules and procedures are essential for institutional functioning. However, they are not substitutes for ethical leadership and value-based discretion. Justify your answer with examples from public administration. (10 marks, 150 words)

Institution is characterised by processes or structures and decision makers. The former emphasizes need for rules and procedure and the latter for ethical leadership.

Need for Rules and Procedure

- ① Establish basic structure of the institutions.
- ② Delineate roles, domains and powers.
- ③ Establish formal procedures of conduct.
- ④ Give legal sanction to the institution.

Not substitutes for ethical leadership and value based discretion

- ① Discretion will always be there as contingencies often arise.
Ex. IAS officer discretion during Crisis management.

② Role of human agency is always there, thus values need to be inculcated.

③ Transparent conduct, can only be ensured by value inculcation. 2nd ARC says "Sunlight is the best disinfectant" for transparency value.

④ Empathetic decision making in public sphere \rightarrow giving ration to poor by not adhering to red tapism.

⑤ Reforming the structures: Only individual discretion can create these transformation.

While ensuring rules and procedure, values & ethical decision also to be ensured to propagate "good governance"

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

5. (a) Is it ethically justified for youth to remain apolitical in a democracy if politics determines the moral fabric of society? Critically examine.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Politics is the instrument through which democratic functioning is exercised and youth are the "fabric moulders" of the nation. This necessitates their participation.

Apolitical nature of youth in democracy

- ①. Promote tolerance between friends.
- ②. Enhance social capital by avoiding unnecessary conflict.
- ③. Reduce divisionary based on political frameworks.
- ④. Channelize their energies into more positive spaces like technology, innovation, etc.

Need for youth to not be apolitical

- ①. They can influence key policy decisions enhancing "good governance"

- ② "Active change makers" rather than passive recipients.
- ③ Be more pragmatic in policy discussions.
- ④ Enhance value for all by being Utilitarian.
- ⑤ follow it as a duty thus working according to Kantian Deontology.
- ⑥ Taking responsibility, rather than being oblivious.
- ⑦ Enhancing social well being of people
- ⑧ preventing disruption of Social Contract

Thus, youth need to be "political" but not "politically motivated". They should shape the politics of the day.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) Explain three moral dilemmas commonly faced by civil servants. Provide ethical frameworks to resolve them effectively. (10 marks, 150 words)

Moral dilemmas are those situations where both the options available have significant values attached to them and decision need to be taken.

Three moral dilemmas commonly faced by civil servants

- ①. Transparency vs Secrecy: often times need arises to disclose things to the public, but need to secure "law and order" may necessitate Secrecy too.
- ②. Following higher authority orders vs Conscience and SOPs as guide! following hierarchy becomes important but at times they contradict beliefs and core values.
- ③. Professional loss vs Personal loss?
Situations like these emerge in dealing with a influential person.

involved in some type of wrong
Ex Ashok Chandra's multiple transfers

Ethical frameworks to resolve these

- ①. Follow these guides in an order
Constitution > law > SOPs > hierarchy > others
- ②. Inculcate foundational (vii) services values as told by Nolan Committee : honesty, integrity, etc.
- ③. Adhere to deontological ethics to fulfill duty even if it comes at some personal cost
- ④. Learn Emotional Intelligence and art of persuading to tackle pressure from hierarchy.

Tackling these dilemmas helps develop "Effective Public administration" & good governance,

6. (a) "Sporting fairness and gender inclusivity are often on a collision course." Discuss the ethical dimensions involved in allowing transgender athletes to participate in women's sports. Should fairness outweigh inclusion? (10 marks, 150 words)

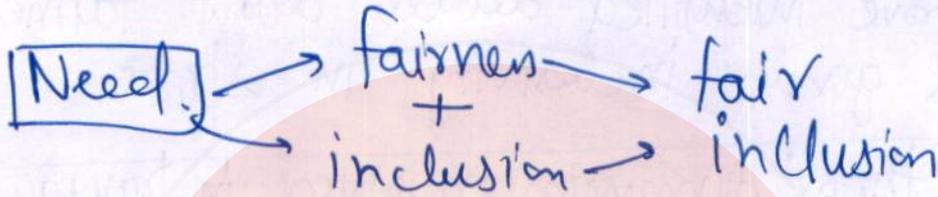
The issue of ~~Abney Ahmed~~ ^{Imene Khafif} from Egypt winning in boxing match & subsequent allegations of her being a "born male" have intensified debates about fairness & gender inclusivity in sports.

Ethical dimension involved in transgender athletes to participate in women sports

- ① Fairness and level playing field issues for women athletes.
- ② Accountability issue with respect to loss or victory.
- ③ Biological determinism vs- Social determinism of gender in sports.
- ④ Equality vs Equity debate in gender inclusivity.
- ⑤ Meritocracy compromised
- ⑥ Disadvantaged and unequal position of women.

Fairness outweighing inclusion?

Both are key aspects to Justice.
Compromising one by another will lead to decline in sports ethics.



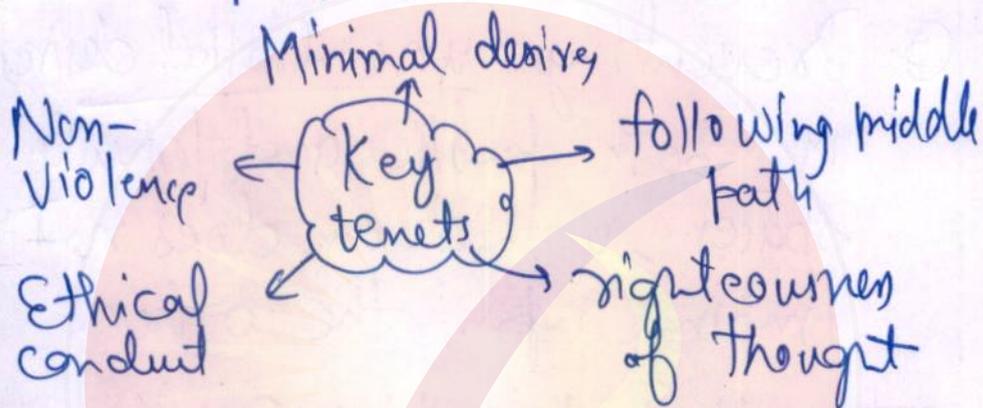
Ensuring scientific, objective and ~~the~~ universal standards of determining age and gender eligibility criteria can tackle the issue. Moving on from binaries of gender to a "special category" in sports can help in this inclusion.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(b) How can Buddhist principles guide public servants in maintaining a balance between personal well-being and professional responsibilities in high-pressure governance environments? (10 marks, 150 words)

Buddhist principles emphasize upon "Madhyam marg" thus can be useful in ensuring "balance between personal-professional life."



Buddhist principles guiding in balance

- ① Avoiding extreme position in both personal and public spheres.
- ② Inculcating mental well being by following ~~to~~ dhyana and practicing mudras.

- ③. Reducing hostilities and conflicts between personal and professional lives
- ④. Enhancing peace via following ashtangika path of right thought, conduct, etc
- ⑤. Preventing uncontrolled desires in both public and private spaces so that one does not impinge upon the other.

Buddhist principles can bring peace by balancing energies spent of professional and personal pursuit so that ultimate goal of peace or nirvana can be achieved.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

Section B

7. Ravi, a senior IAS officer, is currently serving as the head of the State Health Procurement Division. He is tasked with overseeing the final stages of awarding a high-value government contract for the supply of critical medical equipment to district hospitals. This initiative is part of a public health modernization scheme aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery in underserved areas.

Among the shortlisted bidders is a private firm that has submitted a technically sound and competitively priced proposal. However, it has come to light through a media report that Ravi's daughter is a non-executive board member of this firm. Though she holds no operational or financial responsibilities, her association with the company has raised concerns in the public domain about a potential conflict of interest.

At the same time, Ravi is facing covert pressure from a second bidder, a politically well-connected company with a track record of substandard deliveries and cost overruns in past government contracts. Representatives of this company have informally offered Ravi indirect favours, including the prospect of a lucrative post-retirement consultancy role, should he influence the contract award in their favour.

Ravi is aware that while there is no formal requirement under departmental rules for recusal in this situation, the All India Services Conduct Rules do emphasize the importance of avoiding not just actual impropriety but even the appearance of impropriety. One of Ravi's senior colleagues advises him to proceed with the technically strong bid, arguing that his daughter's role is merely symbolic and that the bid deserves to win on merit.

However, the situation escalates when an anonymous complaint is filed by a junior officer to the Chief Secretary, flagging the potential conflict of interest and the possibility of favoritism. The issue starts gaining media traction, casting doubts on the transparency and impartiality of the procurement process. Ravi now finds himself in a dilemma, torn between his professional duty, personal integrity, and public perception.

- (a) Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- (b) What are the options available to Ravi? Evaluate each with respect to ethical principles such as objectivity, integrity, accountability, and transparency.
- (c) What course of action should Ravi take to uphold both procedural propriety and public trust? Justify your decision using ethical reasoning.
- (d) How should Ravi manage the competing pressures of personal relationships, political influence, and institutional norms without compromising his role as a public servant?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The situation demands absolute moral courage, fair and objective decision making while ensuring political and professional pressures are navigated tacitly.

(a) Ethical issues involved in the case:-

①. Transparent contract award: Since the allegations of favoritism & offers by second bidding party tend to involve transparency issues.

②. Objectivity and fairness: The mere fact that first bidding company has Ravi's daughter as executive director does not deserve to be left out even when its project is stronger.

③. Courage and professional integrity with respect to awarding contract. Since other party has political connections & the issue has gone upto chief secretary.

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Ans (b) Options available to Ravi are :-

- ①. Reject the contract from first firm as his daughter is executive ~~cont~~ director and award to second firm.
- ②. Award the contract to first firm only as its bidding was strong and upto mark.
- ③. Recuse from the case as it involves conflict of interest.

Evaluation :-

	Objectivity	Integrity	Accountability
Option 1	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<u>Objectivity</u> →	Not Ensured	Ensured	not a concern
<u>Integrity</u> →	Compromised	Ensured	Compromised
<u>Accountability</u> →	Compromised	ensured	compromised
<u>Transparency</u> →	Compromised	Compromised ensured	ensured

Ans (c) Ravi should take an elaborate course of action by following Option 2, but at the same time

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ensuring he is ethical in conduct.
The course of action is as follows:-

- ① Involve other officers into deciding the merit of the contract.
- ② Come clear with the media about his daughter's role as director being only symbolic.
- ③ Invite public and expert comments by anonymising the two bids and allowing them to consider both and decide which one is better.
- ④ Take the Chief Secretary into confidence about his integrity and objective decision making.
- ⑤ finally use the Swiss challenge to award contract on the basis of objectivity.
- ⑥ Resist any coercion and follow the All India Civil Services Conduct rules

This will lead to Utilitarianism as it will be good for firm, government and other stakeholders. It also emphasises use of Deontological ethics by ~~the~~ Ravi.

Ans (d). Ravi should balance the ~~Constitutional~~ ~~press~~ competing pressures by

- ① Adhering to Civil Service Conduct Rules
- ② Being transparent about his decisions and possible conflict of interest.
- ③ Stand firm and display fortitude in his conduct of decision making.
- ④ Follow integrity as a sine qua non in his administrative endeavours
- ⑤ Ensure that all decisions are made accountable for based on objectivity.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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8. A border district along the Indo-Pak Line of Control has been devastated by continuous cross-border shelling. Villages lie abandoned, homes destroyed, schools shut indefinitely, and farmlands rendered unusable. The displaced population, children, elderly, and daily-wage families, suffers from deep psychological trauma, loss of livelihood, and absence of basic services.

To respond, the administration has established multiple rehabilitation camps under emergency relief protocols. As the newly appointed District Rehabilitation Commissioner, known for your integrity, you are tasked with leading this effort.

However, you soon discover a distressing reality: Relief distribution is marred by corruption, funds are being siphoned off, and material aid is being diverted to private godowns. Caste-based discrimination in compensation lists is rampant and marginalised communities are systematically excluded. Political interference is growing, local leaders demand selective allocation for their vote banks, threatening to stir unrest if their demands aren't met.

Adding to the challenge, vulnerable groups like landless labourers, orphans, the elderly, and differently-abled persons are invisible in the rehabilitation process. You also find that some field officers are indifferent or even complicit, out of fear or political alignment. Meanwhile, the media focuses only on high-profile narratives, ignoring those suffering silently.

- (a) What are the core ethical issues involved in this situation?
- (b) What should be your immediate course of action to ensure fair and transparent relief distribution?
- (c) How can you tactfully manage political interference while upholding neutrality and inclusivity?
- (d) How can an administrator maintain emotional balance and compassion without compromising institutional discipline?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The recent cross-border shelling during India-Pakistan border is reminiscent of such a given scenario. The given problems pertain to situation of moral bankruptcy, ethical apathy, misgovernance as well as "politics without values"

Ans (a) Core ethical issues involved in the situation are:-

- ① Lack of accountability leading to Corruption
- ② No Empathy, but apathy: since life saving medical aid is diverted for personal gains
- ③ Lack of objectivity and social justice as marginalised communities are getting excluded.
- ④ "Politics without Principles" as politicians are eyeing vote banks in such critical situations.
- ⑤ Violation of professional ethics: as field officers are being indifferent & media ethics compromised due to their focus only on high profile narratives

Ans (b) To ensure fair and transparent relief distribution, I would :-

- ① Examine and get an account of ~~pass~~ leakages and extent of it.

- ② Immediate legal action on anyone engaging in corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- ③. Ensure usage of ~~Aadhar based~~ Digital methods to procure, manage and distribute aids.
- ④ ~~Help~~ get help from Voluntary organisations to act as "bridging body" to distribute aid.
- ⑤ ~~Do~~ Social media campaigns for awareness generation about the aid.
- ⑥ Ensure accountability of field officers in aid distribution.
- ⑦ Jan sunvai in case of grievance redressal
- ⑧ Cooperate with like minded political leaders to stop sensationalising the issue.
- ⑨ Ensure of marginalised sections are given their due share in aid relief.

Ans (c) - Political interference need to tackled via multifaceted approach.

- ① I will ensure meetings with local leaders and transparency about aid delivery.
- ② Prevent and resist any unethical political pressure to impact my course of action.
- ③ Ensure integrity and objectivity in my conduct.
- ④ Utilise like minded political leaders and media houses to build unity instead of dividing along vote lines.
- ⑤ Use the constitutional mandate of Social Justice to include vulnerable like Children, Elders, etc.

Ans (d) - Emotional balance and compassion will be crucial in such a demanding situation necessitating need for a

advanced approach.

① Need to work using Emotional intelligence.

② Develop SOPs, especially for vulnerable section.

③ Following rules but using discretion wisely to ensure rigidity of rules does not become hurdle to inclusivity

These measures need to be aligned with India's efforts towards "Antyodaya" and "Corruption free India".

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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9. You have recently been appointed as the senior administrative officer overseeing coastal development planning in a remote and ecologically sensitive island region. The area is globally recognized for its marine biodiversity, dense mangrove forests, endangered wildlife, and the presence of indigenous communities that depend on traditional livelihoods closely linked to the land and sea. It is also a haven for rare species of birds and is surrounded by vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine biodiversity. Protected as a biodiversity hotspot, it has long been revered as a sanctuary for conservationists and eco-tourists alike.

A major infrastructure development project has been proposed by a consortium of investors, with support from state authorities. The plan includes a commercial port, luxury tourism infrastructure, and entertainment zones. It is projected to generate significant economic benefits, including employment and increased revenue, and is also being positioned as a strategic asset for maritime trade and national security.

However, environmental experts warn of irreversible ecological damage, including threats to nesting sites, coral reefs, and biodiversity corridors. They argue that the development will irreversibly damage the island's fragile ecosystem.

Furthermore, indigenous communities, including the local Adivasi tribes, express deep concern over the project's impact on their ancestral lands and traditional way of life. They fear that large-scale infrastructure development and an influx of tourists will lead to land grabbing, displacement, and the erosion of their cultural heritage.

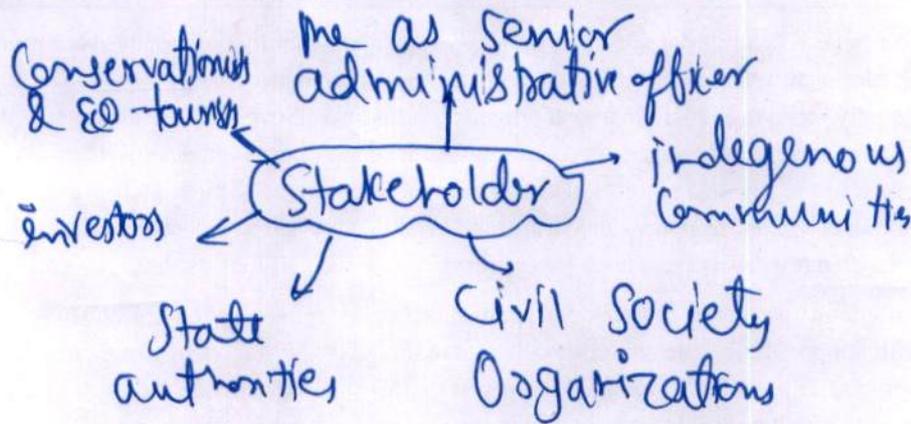
Civil society organizations have petitioned for a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and genuine stakeholder consultation. Whereas supporters of the project highlight its strategic importance for India's economic growth and national security. They argue that the project will enhance India's maritime infrastructure, strengthen coastal security, and stimulate trade and investment in the region.

As the officer responsible for coordinating the project's evaluation and recommendations, you are under pressure from political and corporate interests to fast-track approvals. At the same time, you are aware of your duty to uphold constitutional values, protect vulnerable communities, and ensure sustainable governance.

- (a) What are the core ethical dilemmas present in the case?
- (b) Discuss options available to you and give their merits and demerits.
- (c) As a senior public servant assigned to coordinate the project, outline the steps you would take to ensure ethical and evidence-based governance.
- (d) Suggest long-term policy and institutional reforms that could help resolve such conflicts.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The recent approval to Andaman and Nicobar development project is one such example of similar situation necessitating need to address competing interests.



Ans 6. Core Ethical dilemmas present

in the case :-

- ① "Development vs. Environment"
As infrastructure development can impair ecology of the region.
- ② "Anthropocentrism" vs. "Deep Ecology" leading to conflict of interests
- ③ Strategic interests vs. sustainability concerns.
- ④ Constitutional safeguards to communities vs. state responsibility for need of development.

Ans 6 Options available with merits & demerits :-

Option 1 :- Proceed with the project on a fast track mode as it has strategic importance

Merits

- ① Strategic Imperatives addressed.
- ② Economic benefits
- ③ Local employment
- ④ Addressed political pressure

Demerits

- ① Indigenous community rights compromised
- ② Ecological reparation
- ③ Integrity compromised
- ④ Accountability evaded

Option 2 :- Stop the project as it interferes with environment and indigenous communities

Merits

- ① Environmental safeguard
- ② Protecting vulnerable groups

Demerits

- ① Strategic Concerns unaddressed
- ② Poor economic decision
- ③ Integrity Compromised as it may not be best decision
- ④ Professional costs as state authorities interested in it.

Option 3: Take time to analyze the project and decide after EIA and comprehensive stakeholder consultation.

Merits

- ① Stakeholders addressed
- ② Standard operating procedure followed
- ③ Economic and strategic interests not compromised
- ④ Indigenous community not ignored

Demerits

- ① Time taking, they delays
- ② Political pressure in meantime
- ③ Need more resources for approval process

Ans ①. As a senior public servant assigned to coordinate the project, I will take following steps:

- ① Comprehensive analysis of submitted project analyzing potential benefits and harms
- ② Widespread stakeholder consultation including Civil society organisations to take their interests and concerns into account.

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- ③. Conduct extensive EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) of the project.
- ④. Ensure transparency in the approval process
- ⑤. Engage public for their inputs and expert opinions on the issue
- ⑥. Safeguarding traditional rights of indigenous communities

Ans ④ - long term policy & institutional reforms:

- ① Strengthen EIA
- ② institutional mechanism for stakeholder consultation
- ③ Empower NCT
- ④ Capacity building of indigenous communities

The steps will ensure balance between Environment & development.

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10. You are a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Your 17-year-old daughter, an intelligent and sensitive student of Class 12, has been an avid follower of popular influencers and motivational speakers. Recently, she became deeply interested in a popular podcast show hosted by a well-known social media figure, Kunal Bhalla. The show claims to champion "free thinking" and covers topics like hustle culture, masculinity, personal transformation, and anti-institutional narratives.

Over time, your daughter's behaviour begins to change. She withdraws from academic interests, begins idolising internet influencers, and adopts rigid opinions about success, failure, and mental health. She starts rejecting family advice, refuses to appear for her board preparatory exams, and argues that "school is irrelevant in the age of free minds." Concerned, you and your spouse try to reason with her, but she accuses you of being "closed-minded."

Matters come to head when you are alerted by your ministry's media monitoring cell about a viral video clip where your daughter is seen giving an interview on a fringe podcast platform, endorsing radical views on education, politics, and civil services. The clip drew public attention because of your designation, and journalists began speculating about a "generational rebellion" within the bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, the influencer, Kunal Bhalla, publicly praises your daughter as "the new voice of youth dissent," but refuses to take accountability for his platform's role in shaping her worldview. Social media is split, some defend her right to free thought, while others accuse such influencers of normalising disrespect for institutions and romanticizing shallow intellectualism. Your colleagues advice silence, but your daughter now wants to drop out of school and intern with a podcast network.

- (a) What are the key ethical issues involved in the way "free thinking" is promoted by influencers on social media, especially for impressionable youth?
- (b) What should be the role of public figures in responding to the misuse or distortion of influential platforms in the name of free expression?
- (c) Suggest a policy framework or guidelines for responsible influencer content aimed at youth without curbing intellectual freedom.

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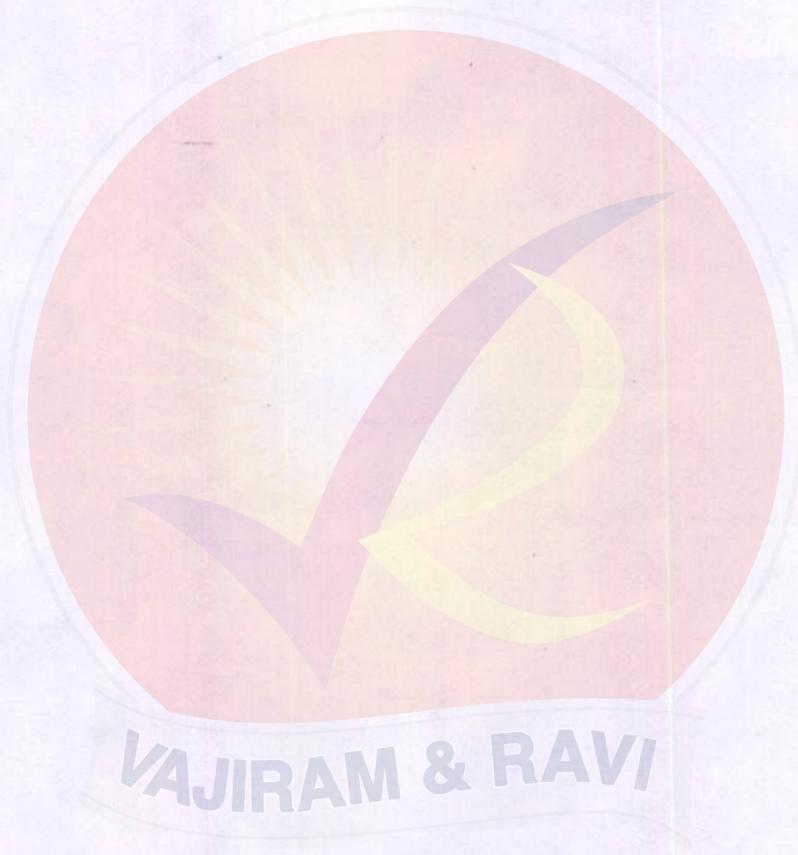
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11. Raghav is the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of a fast-growing tech company in South Asia that designs and deploys AI systems for public services like education and policing. Recently, the company secured a large government contract to implement facial recognition and predictive analytics systems in public schools and police departments.

The project is significant for the company's growth and is being closely monitored by international investors and government agencies. However, two major concerns have emerged.

First, internal audits show that the AI systems are not adequately trained on local data. They frequently misidentify individuals from tribal and minority backgrounds and unfairly flag behavioral issues among students from these communities. The software also lacks support for vernacular languages and neurodivergent users, raising concerns about exclusion and discrimination.

Second, environmental groups have raised objections to the company's rising carbon footprint due to the expansion of energy-intensive data centers. There has been a 42% increase in emissions over the last two years.

Raghav now faces a serious ethical dilemma: whether to push ahead with deployment to maintain momentum and company interests, or pause and resolve these concerns, knowing it may slow down progress and create internal friction.

- (a) Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
- (b) Critically examine the options available to Raghav in this situation.
- (c) Which of the above options should Raghav adopt and why? Justify your answer using principles of ethics and professional responsibility.

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12. A senior IAS officer, recently appointed as chairperson of the NCR Clean Air Mission, is tasked with addressing the escalating air pollution crisis in Delhi and neighboring regions, where the Air Quality Index has reached hazardous levels. Scientific assessments point to multiple contributors, i.e., stubble burning in nearby states, construction-related dust, industrial emissions, and diesel vehicle traffic.

The officer proposes strict, time-bound restrictions, including suspending construction activities, limiting vehicular movement, and enforcing crop-residue burning bans. However, these measures attract strong opposition from various stakeholders. Farmers cite a lack of alternatives, real estate bodies warn of large-scale job losses, transport unions threaten strikes, and political authorities express concerns over the potential impact on upcoming international investment events.

Meanwhile, health experts caution that delays will result in severe public health consequences, especially for children and the elderly. The media criticizes the measures as elitist and anti-poor. Caught between conflicting imperatives, i.e., environmental protection, economic livelihood, public health, and political viability, the officer must now make a decision.

- (a) What are the options available to the officer to tackle the situation effectively?
- (b) What core values and principles should guide decision-making in this scenario?
- (c) In such situations, what long-term institutional reforms would you suggest to reconcile environmental protection with developmental imperatives?

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Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

