

General Studies
Full Length Test
Test - 4 (GS - 4)
Test Code - VR1054504

Evaluator Code:
Date of Assignment:
CQ:

NAME:

SANJEEV GUPTA

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

ADMIN. NO.:

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Email:

MOBILE NO.:

Submission
Date:

04/08/25

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 Only

Start Time - 5PM

End Time - 8PM

Mode of Examination

Online Offline

Receiving date -

Dispatch date -

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 complete refusal to be compromised in moral standards.

Impartiality means being fair

Non-partisanship means being political neutral.

Integrity ensures honesty

① through conduct - that is honest and speaking the truth

② Reporting misappropriation of funds

However, integrity with out impartiality & non-partisanship cannot be ethical

③ Admitting that one is involved in corruption is integrity (speaking truth) but since it is not impartial hence cannot be ethical.

Interdependence of these foundational values

① Impartiality — promotes objectivity & integrity in decision making
 ex) Integrity in awarding public contracts by being impartial

② Non-partisanship — ensures integrity to constitutional values & norms

ex) TN Seshan — had high integrity for electoral reforms

③ Integrity leads to impartiality — uses data, facts and figures to arrive at decision

ex) documents for allocation of work

④ Integrity — makes civil servants politically neutral ex) RBI governors serving under various governments.

"If integrity is there, nothing else matters.
 If integrity is not there, nothing else matters"

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 are the standards of human conduct that society has imposed upon itself for common good of all.

Ethics - balance between individual autonomy & social norms

① Individual action - promoting social interest ② Helping others in need promotes social capital

③ Societal action - promoting individual interest ④ freedom of speech & expression to drive innovation & creativity
— community helping people during disasters.

[Role of ethical frameworks]

i) Deontology - drives human actions to conduct in such a way that it becomes universal in itself.

- 1) Duty to promote both social norms and individual autonomy
 - 2) John Rawls Justice theory - it is right of individual autonomy and also for society to maintain checks & balance.
 - 3) Value based education - that promote individual autonomy without disrupting good social norms @ Respecting elderly.
 - 4) Discussion and openness - to balance in case of conflicts @ cultural practices
- "The good of individual is contained in good of all"

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Students should not write anything inside the box	
Introduction	Suggestions:
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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 the inner voice that often helps during ethical dilemma and fills the void created by laws.

Conscience — a universal moral compass

- ① Based on universal ethical values — like compassion and helping others in need (e) helping people in accidents
- ② Ethical absolutism — certain principles common to all society and hence inherently part of conscience (e) honesty in speaking and action
- ③ Religious teachings — that promote ethical values also form part of conscience (e) Being humane and showing kindness common to all religious teachings

Conscience — shaped by society & upbringing

- ① upbringing — forms core value of conscience — Kohlberg's moral stage of development

- ② Not hurting others → part of conscience if ingrained in upbringing
 - ② upbringing shapes conscience through reward and punishment
 - ① punishment for stealing
 - ③ society - external check for positive conscience development
 - ① Not disrespecting elders
 - ③ society - or socialization can also lead to wrongful development of conscience
 - ① Radicalisation to terrorism who justify killing in name of conscience
- "There is a higher court than court of law and that is conscience" - [Gandhiji]

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(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)

Indian philosophy speaks volume of India's rich history and is relevant even today to solve modern problems

Ethical principles to balance development with ecological

① Ecolocentrism vs anthrocentrism — worshipping environment (Peepal puja) showcase importance of ecological sustainability

② Nyaya philosophy — based on logic can be used to conduct environment impact assessment

③ Samakhyā — that talks about [PRAKRITI] should be used to conserve environment

④ vaśeṣṭīyā — says that atom is building block of nature and hence damage to nature is damage to us (a) global warming

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⑤ Inclusivity → principle by Indian philosophy should be used to involve tribals into development activity

④ Compassion towards nature and natives should be shown in tribal ecological project

③ District Mineral Foundation — funds for development of local.

"Earth was enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed" — [Gandhiji]

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar — father of Indian constitution was vocal for education and mind cultivation of mind brings enlightenment and empowerment to individual and society

Cultivation of mind — Aim of human existence

① Cognitive abilities — necessary to understand and analyze things

② Intelligent mind — higher thinking power ③ Albert Einstein

④ Problem solving — if mind is cultivated not only for oneself but for society

⑤ Dr. M.S. Swaminathan — high yield variety seeds for food security

⑥ Provides competitive advantage — to business organization

⑦ Google — cultivates brilliant tech minds to devise products & services

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④ Leads to economic growth - mind ultimate process to drive economic progress

⊗ Germany - owing to engineering mind and tech development

⑤ Inclusive growth - through mind that thinks for others ⊗ Lal Bahadur Shastri -

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan - thinking about richness & farms

⑥ Social Justice - as mind cultivation brings in rationalism & humanism

⊗ Raja Rammohan Roy - brought an end to sati through his mind

ways to inculcate } Education - to enlighten and assimilate knowledge
} Govt support - through availability of school, library

"I think therefore I am" - Descartes → signifies importance of cultivation of mind

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Body	
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Marks:	

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

Aristotle gave virtue ethics to promote ethical and moral action in society.

In this quote, he highlights divergence of perception that coward has on brave man and rash man has on coward.

Coward calls brave man rash

Coward fears brave man and hence calls him rash for his action that maybe against him.

Rash man calls brave a coward for not understanding his role and ignorant of the brave deeds and action.

Therefore, perception matters more than reality itself at times.

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What one says about himself/herself should not discourage that person from following his action

② Mahatma Gandhi - withdraw

Non-cooperation movement despite criticism as he felt it was moral thing to do.

Hence, one should do one's own action without fear of anyone.

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Students should not write anything inside the box

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)

Immanuel Kant → father of Deontology theory
was set importance of duty as chief driver of ethical action.

Beneficence is a duty

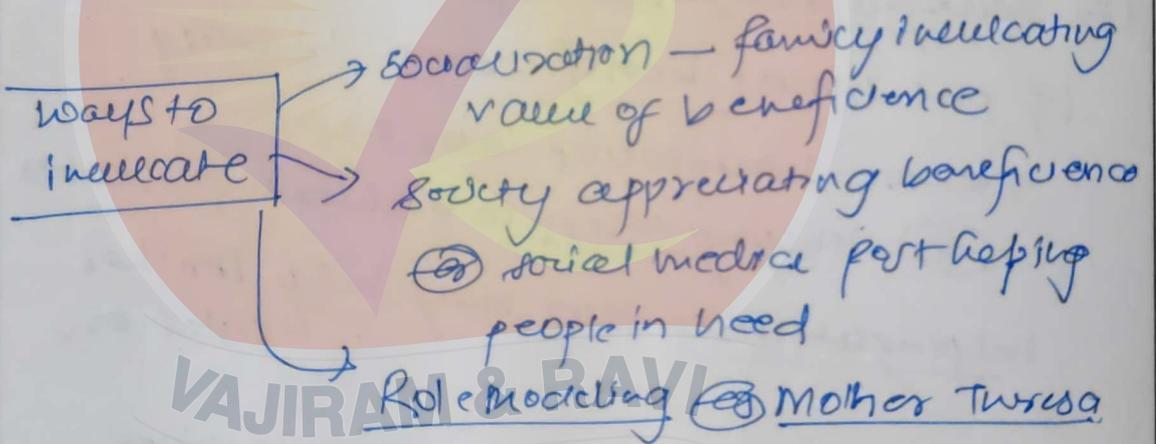
- ① Helping others → brings inherent satisfaction and helping realize "EUDOMENIA"
- ② Beneficence → develops social capital.
If one shows beneficence, he may receive beneficence later on:
② Helping others in accident promotes helping attitude that may help him/her later on
- ③ Drives compassion → towards weaker section of society and brings in inclusive growth ② Beneficence behind welfare schemes of government
- ④ Beneficence is right means for right end → as human is social animal.

Beneficences - boones back

- ① creates virtuous cycle - as recipient of benevolence gives back to society
 - ⊗ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam - through tech development in India

- ② Quid pro quo behavior - as benevolence someone is immediately repaid.

- ⊗ Civil servant benevolent towards weaker section - good appraisal report.



Benevolence - important for love and compassion.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
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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)

with Industry 4.0, technology has become the backbone to drive economic progress.

Technology is ethically neutral → written in codes that is devoid of human values
→ runs on software that has no real feeling.

Ethical challenges posed by AI

- ① Bias — human bias in form of input data that is used to train AI may make it not neutral
 - ⊕ AI in USA — higher probability to black for criminal activity
- ② Black Box Syndrome — the actual working of AI not known to humans
- ③ Issue of copyright — as some of data used to train AI is not legally obtained
 - ⊕ washington Journal case in USA
- ④ Lack of consent — of users that feeds data on AI for own use is being processed without consent.

⑤ Digital Divide - As AI has high economic cost, often in hands of wealthy

⑥ MAAA (Meta, Alphabet, Google, Apple) - leaders in AI.

⑦ Environmental harm - due to GHG emission from data centres of AI.

Ways to make tech ethically neutral

① Open free data - to train and handle AI.

② Access to wide variety of resources to enhance knowledge base

③ Digital inclusion - so that AI can provide solution for all.

"Technology is a good servant but a bad master".

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction
Body
Conclusion
Presentation
Marks:

Suggestions:

- (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)

Rules, regulation and procedures forms the cornerstone of Weber's Ideal Bureaucracy.

Essential for institutional functioning

- ① Brings objectivity in decision making
 - ⊕ Rules to award public contract
- ② makes institution accountable to public
 - ⊕ RTI rules to ask for information
- ③ Reduces discretion of institution for personal gain
 - ⊕ ED to function as PMLA rules and not to target political opposition
- ④ Provides courage to act against corruption
 - ⊕ whistleblower who exposed Vijayam scam.

Not substitute for ethical leadership

- ① Procedure orientation than outcome orientation due to rules & procedures
 - ⊕ Paperwork in government

- ② makes the officials involved in peripheral ignoring core issue
- ③ meetings & discussion but no real result on ground.

Role of ethical leadership

showcases use of rules for public good ② in search for electoral reforms

inspired others to protest against unjust rules & procedures ③ participate in civil disobedience movement.

Role of value based discretion

Brings in innovation and creativity ③ crowdfunding for 100 km road by Arunachal Pradesh

Benefits to vulnerable section ③ liberty movement in Jharkhand (pushing capital)

Rules and procedures are means to higher end of 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)

India is the largest democracy in the world that conducts one of the biggest elections every year

Reason for youth remaining apolitical

- ① Politics - a costly affair due to increasing money power in politics.
- ② criminalisation of politics - 43% MPs have criminal cases (ADR 2023)
- ③ lack of leadership development - in schools and colleges
- ④ high gestation period - often deters youth from joining politics
- ⑤ Dynasty politics in many of the parties
- ⑥ Lack of inner party democracy - top-down decision making with no inclusivity in electing party members and giving tickets

Ethical justification for youth to abstain

Yes	No
<p>① <u>Self interest</u> - as advocated by Bentham - requires youth to think for themselves</p>	<p>① <u>Perpetuates to be ruled</u> by inefficient (as said by Plato)</p> <p>② <u>Does not bring in change in society</u></p>
<p>② <u>Lack of resources</u> - hence justified to remain apolitical</p>	<p>③ <u>Non-performance of duty</u> (Kant) if one is not engaged into it.</p> <p>④ <u>Political opinion brings in social change</u></p> <p>⑤ <u># India Against Corruption</u></p>

"Humans are social animal" - hence politics essential to drive good governance

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 Dilemma occurs when there is conflict in values or in decisions where one decision leads to undermining values in other.

Common Dilemmas faced by civil servants

- ① Empathy vs objectivity - objectivity demands acting as per rule but at times leads to unemphatic behaviour
 - ⓐ Denying ration card to elderly women because she lacked documents
- ② Procedure vs extreme orientation - procedure is laid down in rules and one should follow but it often slows decision making ⓐ Awarding contracts - procedural delay → lateness in work
- ③ Environmental Justice vs Development - in projects nears ecologically sensitive zones ⓐ Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River

Ethical frameworks to review them

- ① Following virtue ethics - acting in ways that leads to desirable ethical tacit
 - ⓐ compassionate towards weak
- ② constitutional values - to guide and resolve ethical dilemma
 - ⓐ Justice - social, economic & political
- ③ Laws, regulations and code of conduct to act in ethical way
 - ⓐ Public hearing for environmental sensitive projects
- ④ Conscience - to act in ethical way
 - ⓐ Not using force on peaceful protest

"Ethics is knowing the difference between what is right to do and what you have right to do".

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)

Fairness means being impartial and neutral without any discrimination based on gender, caste, religion, region etc.

Gender inclusivity means promoting gender balance to ensure fair representation.

Both - on collision course

- ① gender inclusivity - against fairness as some gender (women, transgender) being given affirmative action
 - ⊗ Reservation to transgender in OBC
- ② undue favour - against fairness principle
 - ⊗ Height relaxation in police for female candidates.

Ethical dimension to allow transgenders

- ① Justice - to marginalised transgender community to participate in sports
- ② Representation - to transgender brings in inclusivity in sports.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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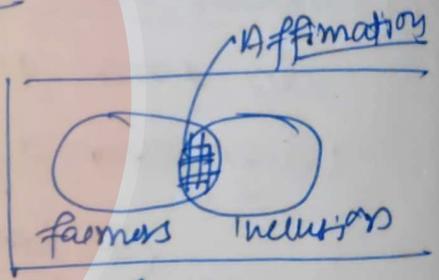
③ Role Model — to create awareness on issues of transgender and may open more doors

Issues in such inclusion

- 1) Not fair to women — as transgender may overpower them physically
- 2) No scientific evidence that transgender are at par with women and not men,

Farmers outgrowth inclusion

① Inclusion entails farmers as it shifts from equality to equity



② Affirmative action in India.

② Brings in representation of all section of several

Farmers and inclusion enhance social contract and hence must be maintained for representation to all.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
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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 — as propounded by Gautam Buddha — in 4 Noble truths and 8-fold path often forms basis to many problems faced by society.

Utility for public servants — to maintain balance between personal & professional life

- ① Middle path (Madhyam Marg) — act as guiding principle to not devote excess time to any — creates disturbance
- ② Karuna (compassion) — as key value in professional dealing and acting in home
③ compassionate towards public and towards wife & kid
- ③ Meditation and yoga — to relieve stress both of personal and professional lives
- ④ Abandoning from worldly desires for peaceful and happy life.

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④ corruption in profession often brings in bad name to family

⑤ Respect towards elders — maintains social harmony at home and good working relationship with managers

⑥ Humility — ~~in~~ brings in appraisal both at work and at home.

Buddhist principles if used effectively can bring in much needed work-life balance and helps deliver better results in both personal well being and professional responsibilities

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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 case study pertains to conflict of interest and propriety needed in awarding public contract.

- (a) Ethical Issues involved in case
- ① Perceived and actual conflict of interest —
perceived as even though Ravi may have acted on merit, it is perceived as biased towards daughter
 - ② Coercion — from second bidder through political connection.
 - ③ Quid-pro-quo behaviour — in the offer by second bidder — job for award showcase business — bureaucracy needs
 - ④ wrong use of discretion — by Mr Ravi to award contract to a company involving family members.
 - ⑤ Against All India conduct Rules — of not avoiding even the appearance of impropriety
 - ⑥ Tarnishing of public image of institution due to wrong means to award contract for right end

(b) Options available to Ravi

① Justify his action to chief secretary

Pros { may clear confusion — Accountability
 objectivity in decision making — no fear to backtrack

Cons { may not yield desired result
 (against All India conduct rules)
 may further aggravate the matter

② Come out in public to explain his stand

Pros { public image — in favour if explained merit of conduct and second offer
Accountability — intimidation towards public

Cons { Against Anonymity principles
 may further complicate the matter.

③ Resign himself from the position and let independent inquiry follow

Pros { following process of law shows integrity of Ravi

Cons { lengthy procedure
 public image gets worse

(a) Course of action for Mr. Ravi

- ① Justify his action to Chief Secretary explaining the whole situation and merit of contract
- ② Request Chief Secretary to conduct an inquiry and if any lacuna is found then ramification should be followed
- ③ Explain this stand to media

Justification

- 1) Courage of conviction to face any chasg. if launce is true
- 2) Following rule of law — reporting to senior and cooperating with procedure
- 3) Keeping public interest over private interest (Nolan public service value)

(d) How should Mr. Ravi manage all

- ① Open declaration of perceived and actual level of conflict

③ Recusal in cases of conflict to avoid any baddash

④ Following AIJADR conduct Rules for any appearance of impropriety

④ Merit and objectivity in awarding public contract

" Public servants are trustee of government treasury and hence must always act in public interest to promote good governance .

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Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

Suggestions:

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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

Corruption is a societal menace and
with India ranking 93 in corruption
perception index (Transparency
International), it has become a major
challenge

② Core ethical issues

① corruption at all levels — from officers to political representatives — collusive corruption

② inclusion and exclusion error — in systematic marginalisation of elders

③ funds siphoning and material being diverted — injustice to displaced community

④ caste based discrimination in compensation — against rehabilitation policy

(b) Immediate course of action

① Deterrence against official and political parties involved in corruption

② Review rehabilitation policy to avoid inclusion and exclusion error.

③ Awareness to displaced communities about their entitlements — and directly report issue to me in case of any problem.

④ Media involvement to showcase the reality and action being taken

⑤ Informing the superiors and administrative machinery to face any political action

(c) managing political interference with neutrality & impartiality

① Integrity - in dealing with work and open "no excuse" policy against corruption

② Non-partisanship - to avoid any political comments on neutrality

③ Evidence based decisions - to promote objectivity and inclusivity

④ Compassion towards weaker section (elderly, children, women)

⑤ Strong action against any interference caused by any political party

(d) Maintaining emotional balance

- ① Emotional intelligent behavior + not be driven by emotions and managing it for public good
- ② Open stand against corruption to create deterrence
- ③ Inspirational appeal - to involve subordinates in fight against corruption

Maintaining compassion

- 1) Direct involvement - by talking to weaker section of society
- 2) Being inclusive and readily available for marginalised section.

My vision for case - is based on objectivity & compassion to bring citizen centric governance.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)



Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

This case highlights the delicate balance that civil servant has to maintain for ecological sustainability of economic development.

(a) Ethical Dilemmas

① Economic development vs Tribal welfare

↳ as project to generate economic return but will compromise tribal land & livelihood.

② Environment Justice vs Development

↳ as infrastructure building will cause ecological harm

③ Government welfare measures vs

Tribal rights → being natives to

these forest tribal enjoy certain rights that will be taken away with the project

~~(a)~~ VAJIRAM & RAVI

(b) Options available

① Contrast with the project

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Demerits</u>
a) Development mandate	a) Ecological harm
b) National security	b) Against tribal rights
c) Blue economy	

② Immediate stop the project

Positive	Demerit
a) Upholding tribal rights	a) may compromise national national security
b) Ecological sustainability - maintaining <u>forest & fauna</u>	b) Home environmental interest

③ consultation with tribals, civil society to minimise ecological & tribal harm

merit	Demerit
① Collaborative approach	① lengthy & complicated process
② maintain sustainable governance	② may delay the project

(c) Steps that I would take

① consultation with tribals and civil society organisation to understand their concern

- ② Conduct Environment Impact Assessment to understand and mitigate the harm
- ③ Transparency and Accountability in official conduct — through public hearing and grievance redressal.

Justification

- 1) maintains faith in governance
- 2) participative decision making
- 3) compassionate governance towards tribals

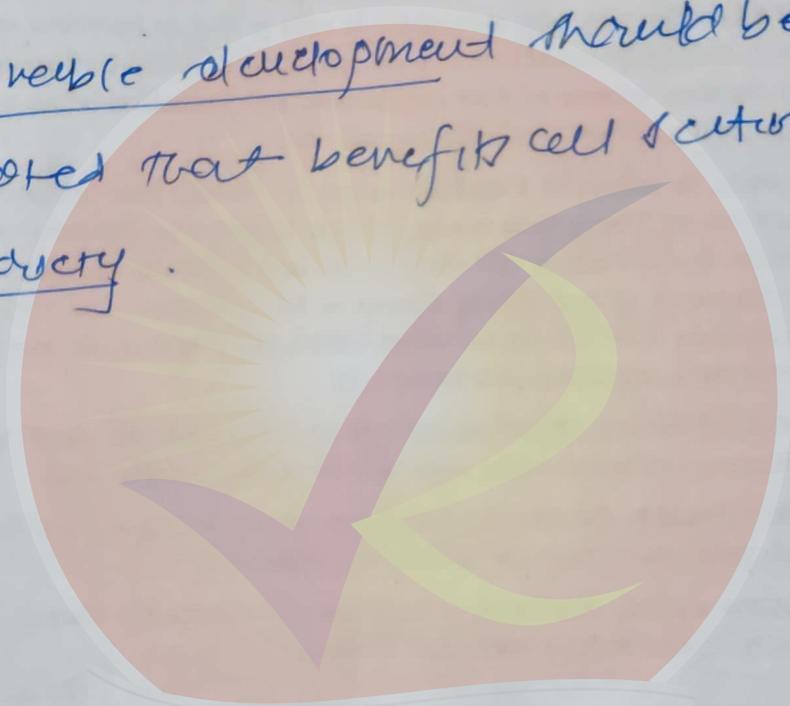
(d) Long term policy & institutional reforms

- ① cost benefit analysis of such project — economic gains to ecological harm.
- ② An expert body — to review such proposals with consultation to locals mandatory
- ③ transparency & openness — in making reports available to public.

④ Involvement of civil society organization
to balance economic and ecological
and vulnerable communities interest

Humans should not be treated as
means to an end - [Kant] and hence

Sustainable development should be
promoted that benefits all section
of society.



VAJIRAM & RAVI

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

(20 marks, 250 words)

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This case highlights the issue of how personal relationships can affect ethics in public relationship.

4a) Ethical issues involved

- ① Conflict of modern values with traditional values → anonymity is promoted leading
- ② 'Free thinking' → conflicting with social good (e) individualism over collectivism → weakens social control
- ③ values like haste culture, masculinity, personal transformation → leads to imbalance in societal behaviour
- ④ Anti-institutional narratives promoted by 'free thinkers' poses threat to government institutes
- ⑤ may lead to inequality → income, gender, caste

1b) Role of public figures

- ① Right guidance — especially for youth as they are easy to manipulate.

② social accountability — for their action and speech to promote social good

③ Maintaining personal freedom with social good — so that censorship does not prevail

④ Speak out against — misuses of influential platforms

⑤ Hold social media platforms — accountable in disposition of such content.

⑥ Advocating for guidelines — that should be adopted by these platforms for such "free expression content"

⑦ Take about possible ill effects of such free expression,

(c) Policy framework for content.

① Accountability of content creators

→ through legal ramifications for any provocative content

→ capacity building - for promoting good and quality content

→ Guidelines or documents to showcase what is good and what is bad.

② Accountability of platforms

→ self imposed guidelines for responsibility of content

→ Privacy and data of users and content creators should be maintained

→ Ethics officer to act on responsible conduct of such platforms

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

"The good of individual is concerned in good of all" — hence Intellectual freedom should be balanced with social good.



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Introduction
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Suggestions:

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.

(20 marks, 250 words)

This case highlights the conflict of organisational interest with public interest and how to balance both.

(a) Ethical Issues involved in case)

① Organisational interest vs public interest — as AI deployment essential for profit but poses ethical challenges

② Ethical bias in AI - as AI is not trained on local data → hence injustice to tribal and minority community

③ Facial recognition and predictive analytics - against Right to privacy (as held in K.S. Puttaswamy vs UOI)

④ Environmental harm - through GHG emission

⑤ Digital Divide and exclusion - as AI platform not in vernacular language

(b) Options available to Regulators

① Push ahead with deployment

merit	Demerit
a) organisational profit	a) violation of right to privacy
b) career growth for Regulators.	b) Ecological harm
	c) AI bias

2) Pause and resolve concerns

Merits	Demerits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Addressing ethical concerns ② <u>public interest</u> over organisational interest ③ may attract consumer approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) slow decision making 2) internal friction b/w <u>Raghu</u> and management 3) slow down organisational growth

10) Course of action

- ① Pause and resolve concerns — as ethics drive business in long run
- ② Order for house inquiry to address and bias in AI platform
- ③ seeking consent from individual to legally process their data
- ④ Obtain renewable sources of energy (solar, wind) to power AI engines.

⑤ Justify course of action to stakeholders - through board meetings.

Justification

1) public interest precedence organisational short term insurance - for long term sustainability of firm

2) Ethical business - drives customers and investors as well as talented employees

3) concern for planet - as CMAA already breaching Paris target

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Profit, Planet and People should be cornerstones to drive sustainable business selection.

Don't write anything in this part)

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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?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case highlights growing problem of air pollution in major cities of world

(a) Options available to officer

(i) Continue with the measures

merit	Demerit
a) Reduction in pollution b) Fulfilling his duty	a) Not inclusive approach b) Growing farmer, & economic interest

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② Halt the measures immediately

Merit	Demerit -
① may avoid public inconvenience due to protests / strikes	① Public health consequences
② livelihood is secured.	② <u>Environmental degradation</u>
③ <u>political appeasement</u>	

③ Reduce the degree of measures

Merit	Demerit
① provide alternatives to farmers	① slow down decision making
② Alternatives for livelihood due to real state jobless	② <u>short term solution</u>
③ may ask for investment events to raise funds for pollution	③ <u>Appeasement than real issue solution</u>
④ positive media right	

(b)

Values and principles to guide action

- ① utilitarian principle — maximum gain for maximum number of people → curbing pollution will benefit all especially vulnerable, elderly, children
- ② Ecocentrism over anthropocentrism should preserve environment and reduce pollution
- ③ John Rawls Justice — Right to safe environment is a fundamental right. (MC Mehta case) and hence should be protected
- ④ Balancing interest of all stakeholders — developing alternatives (PWC bio decomposers) and collaborative approach can help
- ⑤ Down to top than top down approach — using social influence and persuasion to drive positive change.

(c) Long term measures

- ① Institutional capacity building — to train and hire staff in environmental pollution and degradation
 - ② Infrastructure and resource availability to balance environment interest with development imperatives
 - ③ Environment Impact Assessment for any major infrastructure projects
 - ④ Consultative approach — having representative of farmers, business, civil society in decision making process
 - ⑤ Use of technology and scientific measures to mitigate and adapt
- Triple Bottom Line of economic, social and environmental interest should be maintained to promote sustainable development.

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