

General Studies Full Length Test Test - 4 (GS - 4) Test Code - VR1054504	Evaluator Code: Date of Assignment: CQ:
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NAME:

ADMIN. NO.:

MOBILE NO.:

Time allowed: 180 Minutes

Email:

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 Only	
Start Time - <input type="text" value="11:00 AM"/>	End Time - <input type="text" value="2:12 PM 06 AUG 2025"/>
Mode of Examination	Online <input type="checkbox"/> RECEIVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline
Receiving date - <input type="text"/>	Dispatch date - <input type="text"/>

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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RECEIVED

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 along with impartiality and non-partisanship are core values of ethical governance making interdependent co-relation in Public Service.

Interdependence of these foundational values

① Integrity refers to uprightness of character based on highest moral principles. Achieving these principles in public service require impartiality and non-partisanship.

eg) Kajri Seeki exposing JBT scam regardless of political pressure.

② Impartiality and non-partisanship helps in achievement of Integrity as they provide grounds for ethical actions.

eg) Rohini Sindhu arresting MCA for violation of Model Code of Conduct.

③ Focus on End value :- The interdependence of these values have final goal of ethical governance.
④ Narain Chandra resigning from ECI due to conflict consisting

④ Non partisanship and impartiality are the means while Integrity is the end thereby serving as core value in ethical governance.

⑤ Integrity helps in decision making in an impartial and non-partisan manner

⑥ Former speaker NS Reddy resigned from political party to sit as speaker.

- may focused
- ① Focus on moral and value education
 - ② Individual, Organisational and Societal value development
 - ③ Positive Role Model ④ K.R. Narayanan

Thus, Integrity, Impartiality and non-partisanship go hand in hand for ethical governance.

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)

Human is a social being and is affected by societal norms and values creating a challenge for balancing individual autonomy with societal norms.

- Need for Balancing
- ① Social norms are said to constraint in Individual autonomy
(eg) Glass ceiling for women
 - ② Clashes between Social norms and Individual autonomy (eg) Acceptance of rights of LGBTQ+
 - ③ Social norms are rigid while Individual autonomy requires fluidity
(eg) Changing ethos for marriage in Individualistic societies - hind in Relationship

These values can be reconciled with ethical frameworks. -

- ① Harm principle :- as argued by JS Mill, the individual action affecting the others should be restrained while those affecting

affecting only individual should be under-
-ered.

② Cultural Balancing :- balancing between individual freedom with respect to peculiar norms

② Constitutional morality as Golden Mean.

③ Emphasis on Respect and Harmony :- Ethics promotes harmony as the core social value and respect towards social value.

④ Kantian Deontology :- Human Dignity as Categorical imperative. ② SWEKURTI Approach in Odisha for Transgender

⑤ Fluidity in social values :- Ethics liquidity rigid social norms making harmony with Individual values ② 36 countries have same sex marriage legislation.

These Ethical framework act as balancing force for Individual dignity and social norm

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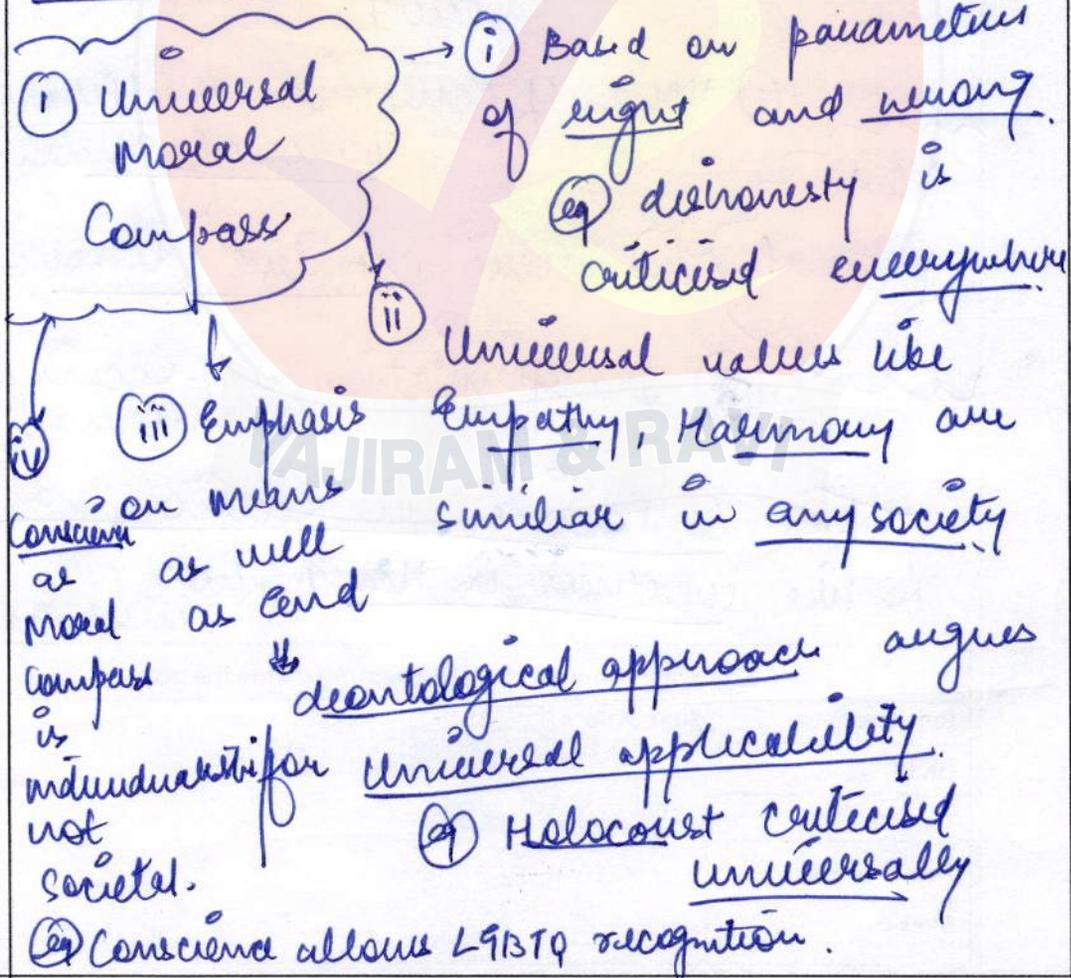
2. (a) Is conscience a universal moral compass, or is it shaped by society and upbringing? Illustrate with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

"The Human voice can never reach distance reached by small voice of Conscience" - Gandhi.

Conscience is the internal behavioural parameter guiding the judgement of morality of any action.

Conscience as Universal or Situational



(2) Defined by society and upbringing

(i) The Right and Wrong are guided by social norms

(ii) Family values becomes Individual values

(iii) Social norms affects Individual decisions

(iv) Instrumental Conditioning of Attitude Regulation

(v) Respect towards elderly in Indian Society.

(vi) Voice of conscience as ultimate source of action.

(vii) Resolve cognitive dissonance

(viii) Transformation in social norms.

Thus, conscience in decision making is like sweetness in Honey, both are inseparable

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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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 is based on integration of Nature and natural forces with Human action @ sacred Grooves in mythology.

Ethical Principles in Indian Philosophy and Balancing development with ecological sustainability.

- ① Every living being has a Soul (Jaina Philosophy) creating sensitivity towards environmental issues and ecocentricity.
- ② Adaptation and Nature based solution was provided in respect towards trees in Vedic philosophy.
- ③ Balancing Artha with Dharma
↳ Dharma is holding the order by doing the duty. Duty towards planet is one such part of Dharma.

④ Protection of wildlife and their conservation for wisdom guided by symbolism of now, ours as island:

⑤ Ethical principles like ecocentrism, inclusion of turtles and mangroves guides the administration ④ Inclusion approach of Buddhism

Thus, Indian philosophy provides ethical roadmap in balancing ecology and conservation.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

Cultivation of mind refers to promotion of education, inquisitive thinking, enhanced thought process and value development.

In present context, Cultivation of mind is ultimate aim of Human Existence as —

① Changing nature of society :- requires scientific temper and tolerance for new ideas

② Technological development in AI!

③ Cultivation of mind promotes rational thinking and rational thinking promotes rational decisions.

④ Decisions regarding environmental issues affects human existence.

iii) Impresses efficiency and effectiveness
 eg) Required in Government administration for Quality Service Delivery

iv) Promotes social Harmony and equality
 eg) providing sense of respect for every individual - Relevant in context of rising nations.

→ ① without values, mind becomes a clever evil (C.S. Lewis)

Cultivation of mind in complete without inculcation of values

→ ② Values permeates ethical decision making eg) Honesty in

→ ③ Values in cultivation of mind helps in moral Judgements eg) Orson Schindler

Thus Cultivation of mind is prerequisite of Human growth and existence

Students should not write anything inside the box

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

The difference in perspective towards life is indicated in the given quote. The coward who looks unwisely often protect self-image by calling brave as Rash.

while the rash man brave man a coward for balanced approach. Thus Brave Man is the Golden Mean of cowardice and Rashness.

In present context, we can witness the utility of such moderation as-

① A Brave action is better than inaction and neutrality (eg) Helping the poor rather than criticising them for not working.

② Opinion of others affects should not affect the personal moral principle (eg) Kantian deontology of

universal values.

③ Standing against Corruption as helikopter over invites criticism from both section "loyal servant" as well as "crisis of conscience".

④ Finding moderation between extreme materialism and austerity

⑨ Katan Tata emerges as "Braille man".

Values of Braille man

① Rational Decision making based on consistent values

② Calculated risk for achievement of goals

③ Openness for change (Widow of Thiruvallur)

Thus, "Braille" is a mean of Concordia and Rashness

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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(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)

Beneficence refers to value of helping other for causing good and making change through ethical action

In present context, Beneficence is really a duty as -

- ① Rising Insensitivity towards problems of others (eg) lack of accessibility to disabled persons due to lack of beneficence.
- ② Self-Centred Attitude :- Pareto Optimality leading to good of oneself at cost of others.
- ③ lack of inclusive growth :- duty of beneficence reflected for marginalised communities (eg) Tribals.

④ Promoting Healthy relationship
 ↳ ① High rates of divorce due to lack of beneficence.

⑤ Administrative Apathy ② Morlu Bridge Collapse. calling for duty of Beneficence.

Way to inculcate Beneficence as Duty

- ① Responsibility as Human :- Concept of 'Rno' in Indian Society
- ② Inspiration from Bodhi satra in Buddhism
- ③ Care and love as cardinal values to be inculcated by Parents -

Thus, for ethical and moral duty, Beneficence should be in value system.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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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)

"It has become appallingly obvious that the technology has taken over us" Einstein.

In present era, Artificial Intelligence is the new normal ~~has~~ having ethical considerations in its uses, lack of Data Privacy and neutrality.

Challenges posed by AI and Data Privacy

- (i) Algorithmic Bias against vulnerable sections.
eg Amazon's AI hiring tool against women.
- (ii) Data bias having inherent preferences and biases.
eg promotion of ads based on based consideration.
- (iii) New class of Haves and Haves not lack of inclusion approach eg in rural area only 24% people have data penetration.

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(ii) Data Privacy } → (i) Treating Human as a means for economic gain.

(iii) Commerce without morality or Sin (Gandhi) } (ii) Lack of Human Dignity (Data Privacy as part of Article 21)

(iv) Selling of big data to companies

Way forward → (i) Principles of Bletchley & Rome Declaration

(ii) Sustainable AI @ UNDP: AIA

(iii) Inclusion @ India AI mission.

(iv) Regulation and Value education (Internal compass) (Integrity Compass)

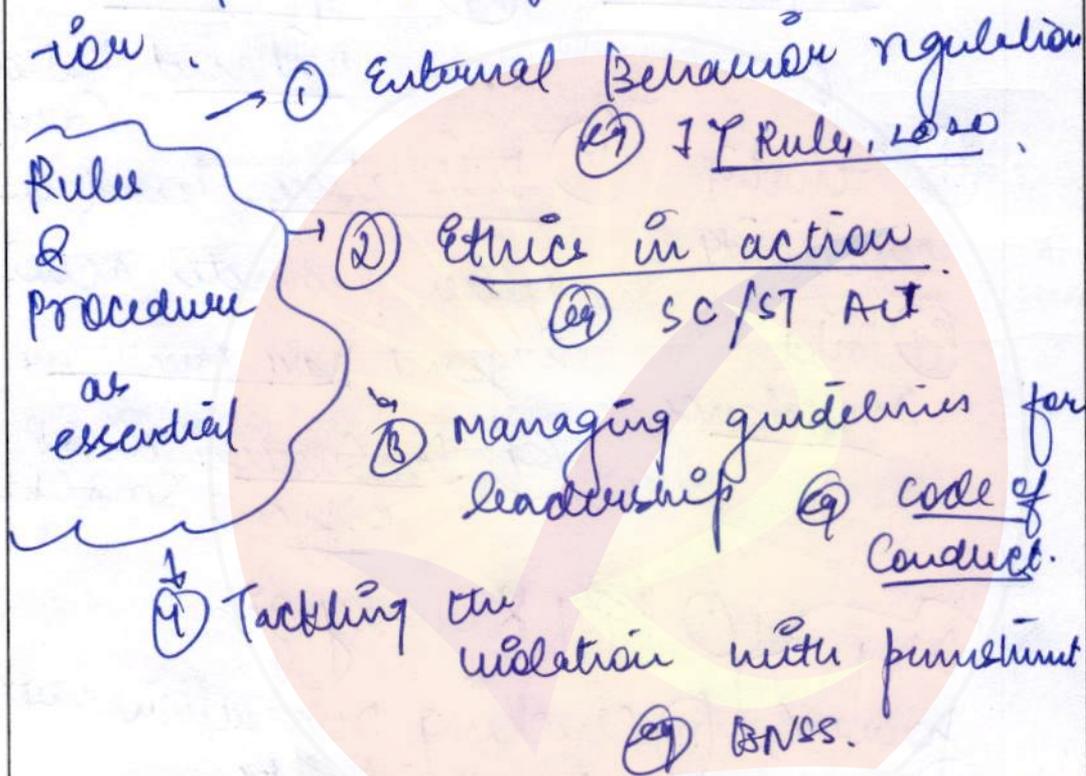
True, Ethical by Design AI should be the future of AI tech in India

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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(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 and procedures are necessary but not sufficient for ethical leadership & value based discretion as they only regulate external behaviour.



However, they must be complemented by ethical consideration -

- ① Ethical leadership
- ① Internal Guide as the force of action and decision making.
 - eg) Integrity

① Reflection of value system :-
moral values being enforced

② Value Based Discretion :-
 inefficiencies

③ Honesty and Transparency

④ Helping women
 without Ration Card.

⑤ Promoting reality

⑥ Bike Ambulance

⑦ Discretion based on values promotes action beyond raw minimum

⑧ Jan Sunwai in SP office; Sambhal

⑨ 1907 Ramayogi

⑩ Checking Discretion with Accountability

Thus, Ethical leadership and value based discretion are at core of ethical Governance

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

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)

Apolitical nature of youth creates serious complications for moral fabric of the society.

→ ① Individual decision and choice of views.

Ethical Justification for apolitical nature

→ ② Being apolitical is also a political blame.

③ Situational nature of ethics :- eg focus on studies no time for political activism.

~~However~~ They pose serious challenge

as →

① Apolitical nature → lack of knowledge about rights and interest

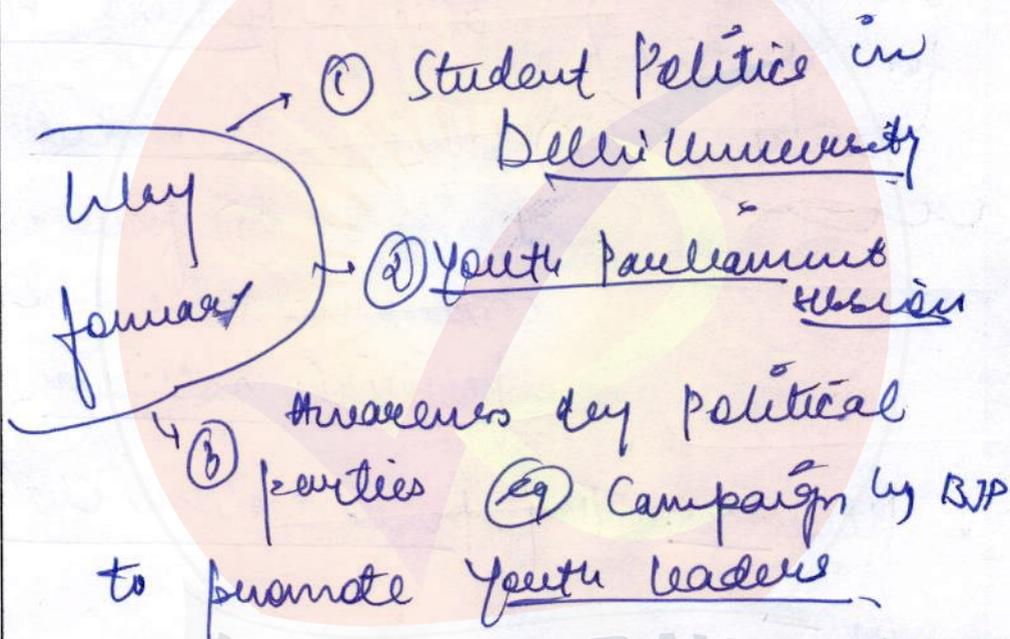
↳ leads to Authoritarianism

② Bound to accept rule of evil :-

inaction of good causes more damage than action itself.

③ A political nature reflects ignorance towards Fundamental Duties

④ Lack of Accountability of Government & lack of liberty and ethical decision



The philosophy of present classmate becomes ideology of next generation

Students should not write anything inside the box (Chinchen)

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 contrasting ethical values faced by individual while making decision.

Three moral Dilemmas faced by civil servants

① Professional Duty vs Private ^{Conscience} Interests
↳ Professional duty demanding adherence to core principles and procedural rigidity.

↳ Personal conscience not allowing to ignore the needs of vulnerable.

② Short term gains vs long term consequences

↳ Economic development and environmental sustainability

at logjams in hilly areas

and coastal ecosystem.

③ Conflict of Interest regarding personal involvement and fairness

eg) Navin Chandra, ECJ while wife fighting election.

Ethical frameworks to resolve them

① Constitutional Values at the core of decision making

② Human Dignity as categorical imperative (Kant)



③ Public Interest over Private Interest

eg) Collusion Corruption to be discarded

④ Commons Good Approach

↳ Good of every stakeholder.

Thus, civil servants are expected to uphold highest moral principles while settling moral dilemma

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)

Transgender participating in women sports involves issue of fairness and level playing field (undue advantage) as reflected in Olympics 2024 controversy.

Ethical Dimensions involved

- ① Lack of level playing field :- Transgender having physical advantage than women
- ② Challenge of identity and identification
↳ fluidity in identity in LGBTQ+
- ③ Lack of universal guidelines on parameters
(eg) World Boxing Federation as Olympics parameters at contrast
- ④ leading to exclusion of Transgender :- exclusionary and discrimination

① Fairness in the sports & equal opportunity and parameters for all.

Way forward

① Legal and institutional framework for proper parameters.

② Guidance & redressal for athletes feeling exclusion and lack of fairness.

③ Sports as an end not as a means - Integrity of game should be respected.

Thus, sports should be inclusive and fair for all

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Sugge stions:
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(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 guided an ethical framework of life based on principles of Noble Truths and Ashtang marg.

Utility of Buddhist principles in maintaining balance in high pressure

- ① Individual as end in itself :- focusing on individual dignity is one of Buddhist principle.
- ② Promotion of good of all over good of one as argued by Buddhist principles.
- ③ Devotion towards service :- service as the ultimate value for good life.
- ④ Moderation :- Madhyam marg is

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crucial for balancing professional duty and personal well-being

① Adherence to moral principles

② Non-stealing, ~~non~~-right conduct as provided in Ashtang Mang

→ ① Rising Hatred

Relevance - ① lack of inclusive growth
② Incidents among civil servants

Thus, Buddhist principles serve as prudent guide for decision making in high pressure situations

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

- Identify and discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.
- What are the options available to Ravi? Evaluate each with respect to ethical principles such as objectivity, integrity, accountability, and transparency.
- What course of action should Ravi take to uphold both procedural propriety and public trust? Justify your decision using ethical reasoning.
- 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 highlights competing values of Individual integrity, potential conflict of interest and attempts for violating procedural integrity in the contract allotment.

a) Ethical issues in the Case :-

(i) Risk of Favoritism :- high involvement of daughter of Ravi in bidder managing board causing potential threat for

impartiality

(ii) Attempts to favours by second Bidder :- leading to violation of procedural propriety and corruption.

(iii) Dilemma for Ravi regarding both the bidders posing challenge to his integrity leading to crisis of conscience and internal dissonance.

(iv) Maintaining Public Trust :- media highlight has raised the doubt in the public regarding fairness of the process and trust in the system.

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(a) Options available with Ravi

(i) Accept the first Bidding proposal

Merits

Demerits

(i) Quality standards and approved ratings.

(ii) Daughter's role just symbolic.

(i) Maintaining Public trust and Conflict of Interest

(ii) Potential pressure from second Bidder on procedural integrity.

(ii) Accept an second Bidder's Proposal

Merit

Demerit

(i) Personal best retirement Benefits.

(ii) No conflict of interest from Daughter's mission.

(i) Lack of fairness and Justice in process.

(ii) Personal values sidelined for material gain.

(iii) Recuse from the process

Merit

Demerit

(i) In accordance to the rules.

(ii) Maintaining public Trust.

(iii) No conflict of interest

(i) second Bidder may approach the next official for rigging process

(ii) Duty evasion and escapist mindset

(iv) Form the independent committee for transparent process.

Merit	Demerit
<p>(1) No conflict of interest</p> <p>(2) Streamlined process</p>	<p>(1) Upholding principles of procedural integrity is <u>challenging</u></p>

(c) Course of Action for Ravi

(i) mixture of option (iii) and (iv), will be suitable course of action.

(ii) In any process, trust on the process and its integrity is most crucial.

(iii) Ravi should uphold his "Karmayogic" principles to maintain both procedural integrity and public trust.

(iv) Forming the independent committee and heading that committee will serve the purpose for procedural fairness and justice based approach.

v) The committee can give recommendation in a transparent way with Ravi having just nominal power to approve based on consensus in the committee

d) Managing Competing Pressures

- i) Understanding value of Personal ^{relationship} and Professional Duty and their difference
- ii) Upholding moral values of highest order eg Objectivity, Honesty etc
- iii) Accountability and transparency in the action eg V. Jayaram can not disclose income.

Thus, for Civil Servant, The Integrity should be process as well as the end for ethical decision making.

Students should not write anything inside the box	
Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

- 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)

The case presents challenging times of cross-border issues further devasted by administrative and political corruption.

a) Ethical issues involved in the situation

(i) Rampant corruption and systematic disorder

↳ diversion of funds, involvement of officials and politicians etc.

(ii) Exclusion of marginalised section :- leading inward crisis for those section of society -

(iii) Discrimination :- Based on caste even in such stressing time where unity is required.

(iv) Lack of empathy among officials and local leaders :- focusing on personal gain on the cost of others (Pareto optimal)

(v) Media Responsibility :- Tempered.

(a) Immediate Course of Action

① Form an investigative team for checking involvement of officials and private players involved in corruption.

② Establishing a window for redressal of grievances of exclusion and vulnerable section.

③ Personal involvement in visiting the rehabilitation camps and giving assurance for proper inward opportunities.

④ Based on Investigation, taking strict action on those involved.

⑤ Use of media to highlight the need of unity in such distressing times, appealing to political enclaves to remember their pledge for National Service.

⑥ Tactfully managing political interference

i) Personal meetings with political leaders and demanding / requesting their support for rehabilitation process.

ii) Improve culture in institutions reminding officials their duty to act in Public interest not political interest.

iii) Use of media for highlighting the process to remain transparent and accountable to the people.

④ Help from Seniors regarding managing political pressure and their inputs in maintaining fairness and inclusivity.

④ Maintaining Emotional Balance and Compassion without compromising institutional discipline.

① Emotional Balance and Compassion

↳ (i) concerns of people like elderly, disabled seniors as force for acting in empathetic manner.

↳ (ii) Distress of masses leading to compassionate approach for helping them.

↳ (iii) State of Stitha Pragnya helps in maintaining the emotional balance in distressing times.

② Institutional Discipline

↳ (i) Discipline is necessary for maintaining fairness and Justice

for people and its interest.

(i) Necessary stringent actions are required for external behavioural regulation. (Fear Theory of Dilbert)

(ii) Public interest and concern demands disciplinary rigour to work selflessly.

Thus, for an administrator, distress of public should be like distress of own family. Gandhi's Taliman is guiding light for administrators.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction
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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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The present case highlights balancing ecological and livelihood sustainability with economic and national security interest.

(a) Core Ethical Dilemmas in the case

① Economic Development vs Ecological sustainability

↳ Economic benefits coming at the cost of ecological challenges to the ecosystem -

② Rights of Indigenous Community vs Infrastructure development

↳ Traditional way of life contrasting with modern way of development.

③ Political and corporate interests vs Personal values

↳ Personal values like Ecological balance, Environmental sustainability and Empathy towards marginalised.

④ National security Narratives vs Civil Society pressure.

↳ having contrasting interest of Nation and Individual centricism.

(e) Options available :-

(i) Accept and fast track the process

↓
Merit

↓
Demerit

(i) Utilitarian Approach
greater benefit of greater number.

(ii) Economic and National Security interest

(i) Environment sustainability

(ii) Uncertainty and bad-timer way of info.

(ii) Reject the proposed plan

↓
Merit

↓
Demerit

(i) Reduced pressure for Individual Rights -
(ii) Safeguard Environment and people.

(i) Economic development compromised

(ii) National security issue

(2.11) Proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

↓
Merit

(i) Justice based approach

(ii) Participation of public -

(iii) Personal values are aligned.

↓
Challenges

(i) maintaining transparency in process

(ii) pressure from political and corporate side.

② Course of Action -

(i) My guiding principles will be ecocentricism as we need the ecosystem ecosystem doesn't need Humans along with empathy towards indigenous communities.

(ii) Proper ~~an~~ EIA will take place as provided in approach III having Environmental Protection Act.

(iii) Process of Public Participation is most crucial should be done with inclusive approach taking concerns of all (Common Goods Approach)

(iv) Timely and internal audits and visits for the project implementation and securing interest of masses.

(v) Compensation and Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) to be used

for the rehabilitation if needed and providing equalised opportunities to the people.

(vi) Inclusion of civil society for transparency, social audits etc.

(d) long term policy and Institutional reforms

Policy Reforms

→ ① Priority to long term interest over short term gains

→ ② Case by case approach in dealing with crisis

③ Impact assessment and ecological restoration as end goal

Institutional

→ ① Dedicated state and district units for EIA

② Involvement of CEO

Thus as argued by Aldo Leopold. A Thing is right only when it protects stability beauty & integrity of Biotic Community

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Marks:	

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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case highlight situation of influence of famous personality and Blind imitation of their cultural beliefs.

(a) Ethical issues in promotion of "free thinking" by influencers.

- (i) Social unrest :- due to radical views in bringing "generational change" and "feeling up in mind".
- (ii) Lack of accountability as done by Kunal Khalee for its platform.
- (iii) Balancing free speech with social harmony and interests.
- (iv) Blind imitation of social media influencers regardless of individual identity.
- (v) Massification of ideas leading narrative of critical thinking being sold at the cost of risk to social harmony.
- (vi) Role of Public figures in responding to misuse or distortion of influential platforms —

(i) Adherence to legal restrictions and social morality (eg) section 69A of IT Act, 2008 posing reasonable restriction along with social stability.

(ii) Responsibility and accountability → over the use of language and delivery of radical ideas
(eg) Case of "India's got talent" show.

(iii) Truth and Motives as the higher end goals to be promoted ∴ Youth and audience should be aware about the motives of those ideas.

(eg) Political motives for pressur.

(iv) Harm Principle ∴ Free speech is unrestrained till it is not harming rights of other person as argued by JS Mill.

(c) Policy framework or Guidelines for responsible influencer content

(i) Setting accountability of platforms and content creators. (2) IT Rules, 2020.

(ii) Following Supreme Court Guidelines as given in Innu Postapgarhi case regarding free speech along with Ramdev Allahabadia case for responsible speech on public platform.

(iii) checking radical content having disproportionate impact on Youth in radicalising for fuelling up the society.

(iv) Institutional mechanism :- Dedicated IT units for social media regulation and tigger warnings

(v) Age sensitive warnings and guidelines for aged groups and their content distortion on social media.

(vi) Reasonable restrictions to be placed as per Article 19(2) (Constitutional Approach).

Thus, while Free Speech is the right available to every citizen, Right comes with Duty.
Duty of responsible behaviour and respecting reasonable constraints (social morality).

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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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.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case highlights the potential lack of Data set and environmental concerns.

- ② Ethical issues involved in case-
- ① Algorithmic Bias against tribal and minority backgrounds
 - ② lack of inclusivity hampering equal accessibility to all @ lack of support

for vernacular languages.

(iii) Potential risk for environmental Damage (eg) flagged by civil society

(iv) Competing values of performance pressure and ethical values

(eg) ~~Business and~~ Bryzman and Treviassan argued for performance pressure creating ethical blindspot

(e) Options available with Dignae

(i) move ahead for the contract without addressing the issues

Pros

(i) Contract important for company's growth
(Professional Duty)

(ii) valuable investment
(Utilitarian Approach)

Demerits

(i) ethical concerns of exclusion and discrimination

(ii) lack of environmental sustainability

(ii) Slowing down to accommodate the crisis

Merit	Demerit
(i) <u>Environmental</u> <u>sustainability</u>	(i) Company's <u>interest</u> (look of professional duty).
(ii) <u>Inclusion</u> of every <u>section</u>	
(iii) <u>Justice</u> <u>based</u> <u>approach</u>	

(iii) Innovative option balance the environmental damage with CSR of revenue / company

Merit	Demerit
(i) <u>Balance</u> <u>company</u> <u>interest</u> .	(i) <u>concerns</u> of <u>exclusion</u>
(ii) <u>Ethical</u> <u>Corporate</u> <u>Governance</u>	

(a) Cause of Action

(i) Mixed of Approach option
(ii) and (iv)

while following Inclusion based decision making, Raghu should address the concerns of discrimination

in the limited time period and address issues of renewable language.

↳ This will help in building trust of investors due to ethical responsibility.

↳ Moreover, Raghav should highlight that Company will spend ₹ 1000 crore fund under Companies Act in Carbon capture of 42% increase.

balancing Technology with environmental sustainability.

↳ Use of AI based parameters and monitoring system to check the progress of the Carbon capture for transparency.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

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This approach is based on ethics and professional responsibility as it balances the growth and investment opportunity with empathy towards marginalised and vulnerable along with environment.

This, as argued by Gandhi, Commerce without morality is a sin. Moral consideration should be part of decision making in corporate governance.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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VAJIRAM & RAVI

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Thus, it is imperative to balance the competing values of environmental protection with development imperative.



VAJIRAM & RAVI

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Introduction
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Suggestions:

Space for Rough Work



Space for Rough Work

