

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT 2024

GENERAL STUDIES

Full Length Test

Test - 4 (Ethics)

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

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SUBMISSION DATE: 21 Aug 2024

Batch No.:

Sure Shot Mahu

**UPSC CSE 2024
AIR-06**

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

There are TWENTY 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.

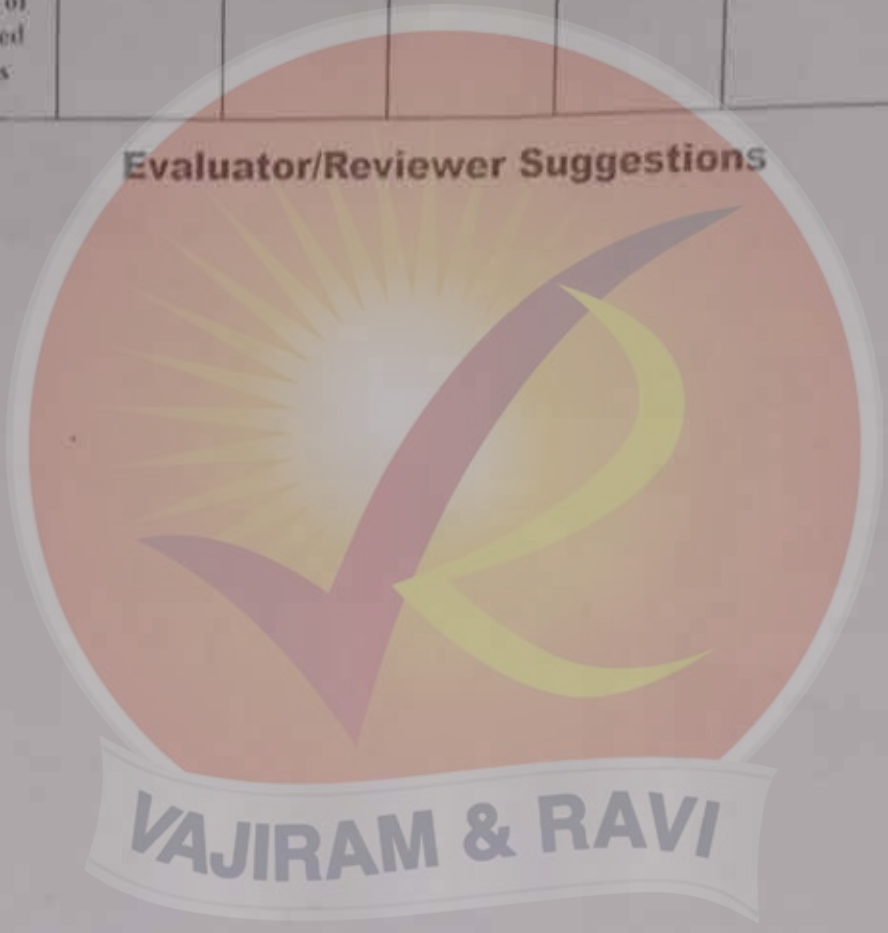
Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks	Q No.	Marks
Q1 a)	/10	b)	/10	Q8	/20
b)	/10	Q5 a)	/10	Q9	/20
Q2 a)	/10	b)	/10	Q10	/20
b)	/10	c)	/10	Q11	/20
Q3 a)	/10	Q6 a)	/10	Q12	/20
b)	/10	b)	/10	Total :	/250
Q4 a)	/10	Q7	/20		

Follow these steps to avail the facility of mentoring –

1. Go through the soft copy of your evaluated answer sheet and analyse all the comments and suggestions given.
2. Call 9717565805 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm to fix your mentoring slot.
3. Please follow the mentoring appointment timings properly.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language and Articulation						
Structure and Presentation						
Conceptual clarity and Content						
Number of Attempted questions						

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) 'An ideal educational institution should balance between values and contents.' In your opinion, what measures can move education beyond mere content learning.

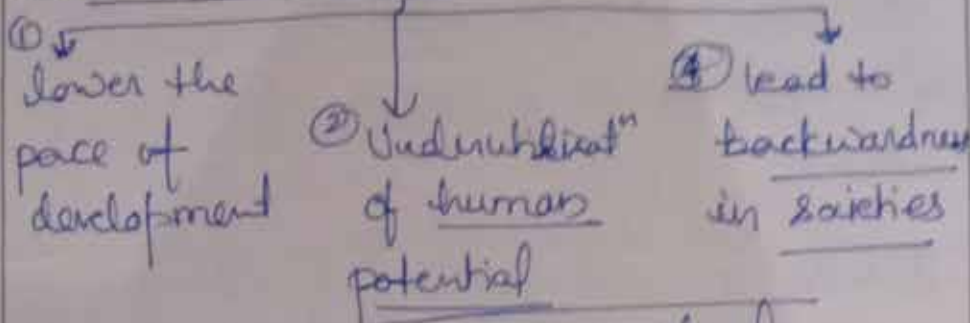
(10 marks, 150 words)

"Education is kindling of flame, not filling of a vessel." - Socrates

In an ideal educational institution, there is a need to balance values and content as if one is missing, it may lead to disastrous consequences:

- (eg) Education with content & without value
 - ① Germany under Hitler
 - ↳ will lead to cult leadership
 - (eg) North Korea
 - ↳ scientific development without humanity
 - (eg) Nuclear bombs, weapons and wars.
 - ④ Maladministration and misuse of law (eg) corruption - 2G scam

Value education without content is also not realistic -



So a balance of both is ideal -

eg) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Azad - Missile man of India with highest level of integrity.

In order to ensure this balance -

- ↳ 1. Right parenting and value inculcation
- ↳ 2. Important role of schools - teachers with integrity and aptitude.

Education should be such that Einstein's brain should be complemented by Buddha's heart.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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b) Attitude is a crucial factor in building the social capital of an individual. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words)

Attitude refers to mental disposition with respect to morality of an action.

Attitude: crucial factor in building social capital of individual -

- ① Positive attitude leads to courage
(eg) Victor Frankle survived atrocities of holocaust due to his positive attitude.
- ② Enhance trust and social communication
- ③ help in learning new ideas & inculcating entrepreneurial spirit.
(eg) attitude based on protestant work ethics
- ④ Positive attitude leads to good work culture.
- ⑤ help dealing with risks and provide strength.

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While on other hand, negative attitude may obstruct social capital of individual -

↳ ① exploitative & discriminatory behaviours in society

↳ eg lynching, harrasing, rape etc!

↳ ② leads to passimism and negative outlook.

↳ ③ leads to erosion of trust

However, apart from attitude, there are other factors like integrity, intelligence, behaviour, morals, which also help building social capital of individual.

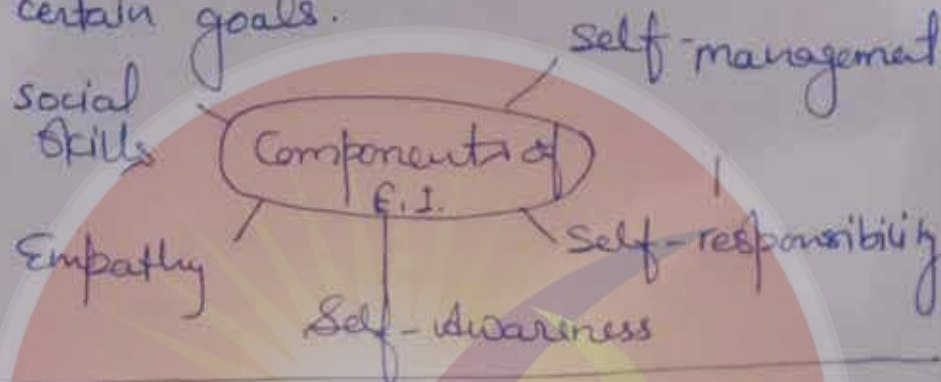
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Introduction	Suggestions:
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2. a) Emotional intelligence is primary in managing workplace conflicts. Discuss with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Emotional intelligence is ability to utilise one's emotions & emotions of other to achieve certain goals.



Importance of E.I. in managing workplace conflicts -

① Self-awareness help in accepting mistakes and take corrective measures

(eg) strategies like product recall

② boost and team spirit

③ help taking leadership roles and conflict resolution.

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④ Enthuse spirit of forgiveness
↳ forgiving juniors for their mistakes

⑤ Empathy at workplace help tackling issues like-
↳ sexual harassment
↳ LG/BTQ discrimination.

⑥ Emotional Intelligence lies in giving rewards and punishment such a way that it maximises efficiency.

Use of emotions only can exacerbate conflicts while emotional intelligence helps in managing workplace conflicts.

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- b) Most of the time, the bilateral conflicts become difficult to resolve due to mutual suspicion. How does the 'Panch Sheel' help in promoting ethical relations between countries? (10 marks, 150 words)

India is facing the problem of bilateral conflict with many of its neighbours which are crippling development in region.

① SAARC is disfunctioned due to India-Pak conflict.

Bilateral conflict difficult to resolve due to mutual suspicion -

② lack of trust and faith

① India-China bilateral conflict due to repeated Chinese breach of trust.

② Internal security issues and resultant suspicion -

↳ ① drug trafficking, illegal migration etc.

③ lack of active efforts due to suspicious.

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Panchsheel in promoting ethical relations-

- ① Enhance mutual trust by doctrine of non-reciprocity
 (eg) India's help during Sri-Lanka crisis.
- ② foster people-to-people relation
 (eg) Buddhist circuits India-Nepal
- ③ leveraging cultural ties and cultural ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

- Issues
- ① big-brother attitude
 - ② Rising instability in the region
 - ③ China's unethical practices - debt trap

Resolving conflicts by enhancing ethical relations is cardinal for nations to focus on democracy & development

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3. a) Huge sums of public funds are used in populist measures for electoral gains. What are the ethical issues associated with the freebie culture?

(10 marks, 150 words)

Supreme Court in S. Balaji vs State of Tamil Nadu ruled that freebies disturb the level playing field.

Use of funds for populist measures

- ① Excessive welfarism leads to failure of democracy.
- ② Populist schemes like loan waivers, irrational subsidies etc distort electoral choices.
- ③ have severe economic implications.

Ethical issues associated with freebie culture

- ① Corruption - misuse of public resources for political gains.
- ② Amhull indiscipline among public sector (eg) electricity subsidies

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made DISCOMs debt ridden.

- ③ Misuse of taxpayers money.
- ④ Unethical governance - compromising development for short-term gains.
- ⑤ against free & fair elections.
- ⑥ erosion of trust in democracy
- ⑦ Enhance dependency on govt. and infuses indiscipline.

Give a man a fish - feeds for a day but teaching him how to fish - feeds for lifetime.

Freebies should be rationalised to ensure people become active participants in governance, not passive receivers.

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Introduction	Suggestion:
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- b) Probity in governance is a vital requirement for socio-economic development, without which no real progress is possible in a nation. Discuss. Support your answer with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Probity refers to consistent and uncompromising adherence to principles of honesty & integrity.

Probity in governance - vital for socio-economic development

- ① Enhance good governance
↳ transparency & accountability are two pillars of probity.
- ② Enhance people trust and ensure public funds being used for public welfare.
- ③ reduces corruption and imparts ethical governance
eg) Schemes like lokvani (U.S.) for public grievance.

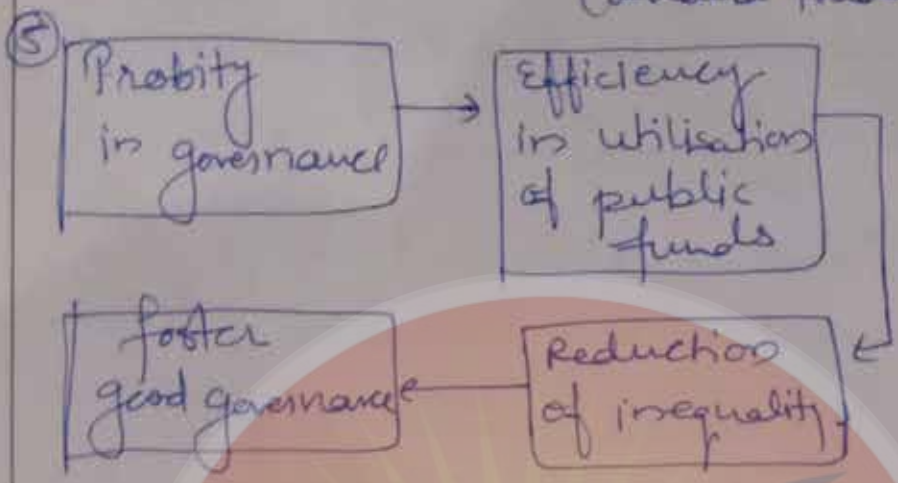
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④ Compassionate administrations -

eg) Schemes like Amma Vodi
(Andhra Pradesh)



However, there are issues

- Corruption
- Red tapism
- feebie culture
- blind obey

There is need of officers with probity in governance to tackle these issues & usher good governance & development.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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4. a) "Wisdom is attained when a person is always ready to accept the truth and to renounce untruth." (10 marks, 150 words)

Wisdom is intellectual ability to discern truth and stating actions accordingly.

The above statement aptly summarises the nature of wisdom.

It is attained when a person is ready to accept truth.

eg. Black lives matter movement

☞ #metoo initiative accepted discrimination and voiced against them.

Accepting truth is a difficult task. It requires courage, responsibility, and acceptance of mistakes.

Similarly, renouncing untruth

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is also difficult. It requires shedding dogmas, beliefs and mental constructs.

(eg) abolition of Sati was renouncing untruth.

Similarly, Germany also renounced untruth after WWII and ushered country on path of democracy & development.

"Truth doesn't pay homage to any society. Society has to pay homage to truth or shall perish."
- Swami Vivekananda

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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- b) Increasing complexity in public administration creates multiple ethical dilemmas. Explain the application of Gandhi's Talisman in decision making for public servants. (10 marks, 150 words)

Public administration is becoming increasingly complex with rising challenges like cyber attacks, digital frauds, service delivery issues, political pressure etc.

Multiple ethical dilemmas

- ① Conflict of interest - personal vs public interest collides -
 (eg.) neglect of family to fulfill objective of public duty.
- ② Crisis of conscience - (eg.) Whistle-blowers faces it - whether to compromise one's life for people welfare.
- ③ Service delivery challenges like

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ghost beneficiaries, corruption, leakages etc.

Gandhi's Talisman as a guide

Gandhi's Talisman is to resolve ethical dilemmas as - if our actions benefit people at last surely then they are ethical without compromising means.

eg ensuring every needy gets PDS even at cost of few ghost beneficiaries.

In conclusion, administrators need to pursue public interest over any other forms of interest as public duty is highest form of duty.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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5. What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context?

a) "The highest result of education is tolerance" - Helen Keller.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Helen Keller aptly describes the highest goal of education as tolerance from her own experience of intolerance horrors in Nazi era.

Intolerance breeds hated, injustice, discriminations and usher war and conflict in societies.

(eg.) Israel-Hamas war is result of intolerance and unacceptance of diversity & coexistence.

Education has important role to play in inculcating the value of education tolerance.

(eg.) Gandhi's Nai Talim

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promotes non-violence and intolerance.

Education during colonial times taught divide & rule, religious intolerance which resulted in partition horrors. The legacy of this hollowed education still continues in form of lynching & riots.

There is need to impart inclusive education which teaches tolerance as it is said, "The mark of an educated mind is to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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b) "Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served."
 Mahatma Gandhi (10 marks, 150 words)

Service refers to selfless actions of doing good to others in order to alleviate their pain and suffering.

"Public service is highest form of joy."
 Service which is rendered without joy is not true service. It doesn't involve act of sacrifice, daas and empathy.

True service involves these values and ushers joy.

(eg) Mother Teresa's compassionate acts ushered joy to both her and the served.

Similarly, Sudhu Tai Satpal (mother of orphans) also render

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Service out of joy and alleviated
pains of many children.

Service without joy involve
lesser values like moral compulsion,
moral fatigue and the act of
service becomes act of charity.

Though it help in alleviating
poverty but not alleviating pain.

The true bliss is inherent
in true service. It helps make
this world a better place to live.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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c) "Faith is of no evil in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work" - Vallabhbhai Patel (10 marks, 150 words)

Faith refers to strong beliefs which one person perceives to be morally true.

1. Faith is of no evil in absence of strength -

① Faith is inner dimension while strength is outer manifestation

② Faith alone is not harmful without strength as -

eg) A person's faith is his religious superiority but w/o any action, it doesn't do harm.

③ Faith is limited to individual understanding. It is not harmful till it becomes a propaganda

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Faith and strength; essential to accomplish great work

① to convert words into actions -

eg. Dasrath Manjhi carved road out of mountain due to both faith & hardwork.

② achieving a vision is possible only if one has strength

eg. Sardar Patel integrated India by both - persuasion & power.

In conclusion, manifestation of faith requires indomitable will and strength to accomplish great deeds.

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Introduction

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Suggestions:

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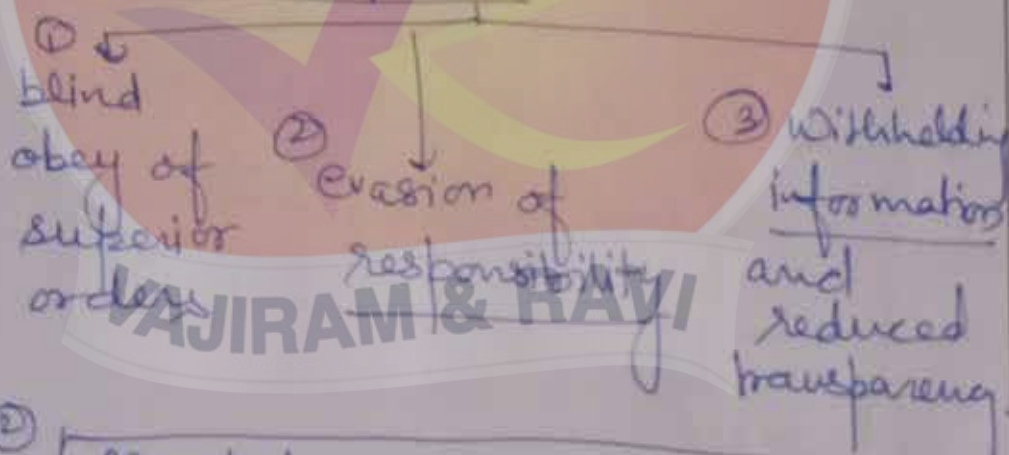
6. a) 'The scope for corruption increases when the accountability of public administration is fragile and division of power is ambiguous.' Analyse.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Corruption refers to misuse of entrusted power for personal gains as per Transparency International.

1. Corruption increases when accountability is fragile -

① accountability erosion leads to moral corruption -



② Monopoly + discretion - accountability = corruption.

↳ fragile accountability leads to misuse of discretion.

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Ambiguous division of power

① overlapping rules & regulations

duplicity
of efforts

reduced
accountability

② Conflict among different pillars

(eg) Judicial overreach, executive influence etc.

③ induces inefficiency and delays

Way forward

① clear demarcations of power.

② accountability as well as responsibility.

③ Ethical practices as moral compass.

There is a need for zero tolerance towards corruption. [2nd ARC]

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each:

1. Non-Partisanship
2. Cognitive Dissonance
3. Veil of Ignorance
4. Moral Relativism
5. Social Influence

(10 marks, 150 words)

1) Non-Partisanship refers to being politically neutral and ready to serve government of any complexion.
↳ It ensures — continuity of policies and efficiency in administration.

However, civil servants should not be policy neutral.

2) Cognitive dissonance refers to conflict and crisis of conscience when our actions violates our attitude.

It leads to guilt, anxiety and moral conflict.

To avoid this, behaviour & attitude should be coherent.

3) Veil of ignorance means not

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being aware about situations and ignorant about facts & figures.
 ↳ Veil of ignorance can lead to injustice, discriminations and corruption.

4.) Moral relativism refers to relative morality i.e. being morally correct or wrong relative to others.

(eg) If someone is inflicting harm & I am not doing anything - moral relativism says it is moral act of silence.

5.) Social influence refers to ability to convince others for achieving goals (eg) Gandhi persuaded people for non-violence.

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Introduction	Suggestions:
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Section - B

7. Dr. Anand, a professor of chemistry at ABC College, Pune, had been teaching there for over 20 years. He is known for his passion for teaching and commitment to student welfare, and is respected by both colleagues and students. His son is also a final year student in the very same college. Over the past few months, Dr. Anand observed a significant change in the behaviour of some of his students. There was a noticeable decline in academic performance, increased absenteeism, and instances of erratic behaviour. Through confidential conversations with a few students and careful observation, he discovered that several students were using contraband drugs. Upon inspecting the student's hostel rooms he found evidence of usage of illegal drugs such as weed, marijuana etc. Determined to address the issue, Dr. Anand conducted a discreet investigation. He found that the source of the drugs was linked to a well-organized network operating within the college. Shockingly, he discovered that Aditya, the son of the institution's representative at UGC for college management committee, was lynchpin in this drug network. He exploited his privileged position as he was backed by his father, making it difficult for students and authorities to complain and take action against him. Bothered by this incident, Dr. Anand quickly reported the incident to the management and Aditya's father, who advised him to leave the matter as any action taken would harm the reputation of the college. Dr. Anand was also threatened with dire consequences for both him and his son, who is yet to start his career.

- Discuss the ethical dilemmas involved in the case.
- What are the options available to Dr. Anand? Evaluate each of these options and choose the option he would adopt giving reasons.
- Based on the given case study mention few laws, rules and regulations related to prevention of drug abuse in India.

(20 marks, 250 words)

Case study involves unethical practice of illegal drug usage by students operated by well-organised network and issue of personal loss if takes any action.

Stakeholders involved -

(Don't write anything in this part)

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- ① ABC College, Pune
- ② Dr Arund - Chemistry Professor & his son
- ③ students using drugs.
- ④ Aditya - Lynchpin in drug network
- ⑤ Aditya's father - representative at UAC for college management committee.

a) Ethical dilemmas involved in the case -

- ① Unethical and harmful practice of drugs used by students
- ② Misuse of power by representative at UAC. (Aditya's father)
- ③ Compromise of students' welfare for personal gain (Aditya operating drug network.)
- ④ illegal usage of drug at school.
- ⑤ Means (drug abuse) vs ends (students' pressure)

① Students welfare vs personal loss
 ↳ students health & studies compromised.
 ↳ of takes action - threat of severe consequence

b) Options available to Dr. Arund

① Report incident to relevant authorities with sufficient evidence

Merits

Demerits

③ Rawlsian justice
 ↳ students welfare ensured.

① Personal loss - dire consequences

② Bentham's utilitarianism - welfare for maximum number.

② Welfare of son is compromised - may affect his career.

③ Devotion to duty as a teacher.

③ reputation of college is compromised.

② Don't do any action as suggested by Aditya's father

Merits

Demerits

① School reputation saved

② Crisis of conscience

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- ① Not going against those in power.
- ② Son's welfare ensured.

- ① Dereliction of duty - sin.
- ② Student's health & studies compromised
- ③ Harmful for school in long term.

③ Discuss the matter with someone above in authority over Aditya's father & persuade him in college's interest.

Merits	Demerits
① Self interests saved.	① <u>Issue of nexus</u>
② <u>Student's welfare</u> ensured	② May not yield results

He should choose option 1 and report the matter to relevant authorities because nothing is above student's welfare and it would amount to service to duty.

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9) Laws, rules & regulations related to prevention of drug abuse -

① Narcotic drugs & psychotropic substances (NDPS) Act -
↳ to prevent substance abuse.

② Juvenile Justice Act
↳ for rehabilitation of juveniles involved in drug abuse

③ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 -
↳ also covers money laundering in drug trafficking.

Implementation of laws in letter & spirit is need of hour to save youth from wasting their life.

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Suggestions:

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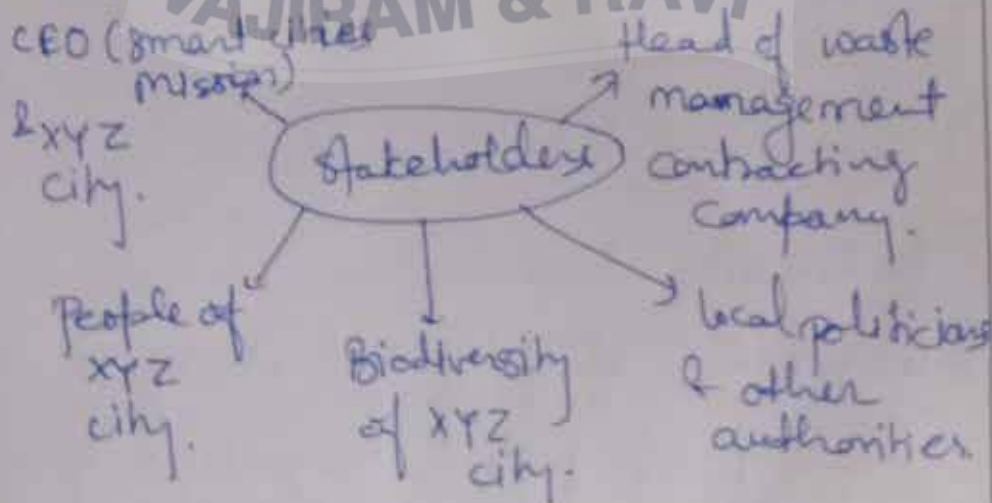
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8. You are the CEO of the Smart Cities Mission in XYZ City. As the CEO, you are tasked with transforming your city into a model of sustainability, efficiency, and livability. The mission aims to enhance quality of urban living through advanced infrastructure, improved public services, and environmental sustainability. However, recent reports indicate significant environmental deterioration due to ineffective waste management practices. The city has witnessed a rise in pollution levels, overflowing garbage bins, and uncollected waste in several neighbourhoods, leading to downgrading of its cleanliness ranking. An investigation into the waste management system revealed that the contracting company responsible for waste disposal is performing poorly. The company is failing to adhere to the terms of the contract, resulting in irregular waste collection, improper disposal methods, and inadequate recycling processes. Soon, you call the head of the waste management contracting company, who happens to be your college friend. During the meeting, he discloses how he was able to get this lucrative contract using bribes and kickbacks given to local politicians and your predecessor. As a result, he is financially and managerially constrained from improving the waste management process in the area. Furthermore, your friend is dealing with severe financial difficulties due to his mother's serious illness. Additionally, he offers you a share of the contract if you agree to overlook the issue. Therefore, he is appealing to you as a friend to ignore the issue and approve his bills to ensure timely payments for the waste management contract.

- Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
- What are the options available to you in this situation? Evaluate each of these options and choose the option the CEO would adopt giving reasons.

(20 marks, 250 words)

The case involves compromise of public welfare vs selective welfare of few.



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9) Ethical issues involved in the case —

- ① Means vs ends
 - ↳ bribery, corruption
 - ↳ contract awarding
- ② Public welfare compromised due to corruption.
- ③ Against Bentham's Utilitarianism
 - ↳ welfare of selective few over collective welfare of all.
- ④ Against Justice approach (John Rawls)
 - ↳ misuse of public resources.
- ⑤ Nexus and erosion of accountability
 - ↳ politician or company involved in corruption
- ⑥ Environmental degradation & biodiversity harms
- ⑦ Dereliction of entrusted duty —
company failing to adhere terms of contract.

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c) Options available and their evaluations -

① Ignore issue & approve his bills to ensure timely payments

Merits

Demerits

③ friendship & poor financial condition of friend.

④ Severe illness of mother.

① Being part of nexus.

② Amount to corruption and dereliction of duty

③ Unethical & immoral.

② Revoke his contract citing nexus, corruption and failure of compliance

Merits

Demerits

① Justice approach
↳ justice to people & environment

② fulfilling duty without bias.

① Will exacerbate situation of his family - mother health & financial condition.

② whistleblowing

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- ③ Ideal friend to comply to contract and assure if he remains honest in future then approve his bills

Merits	Demerits
① <u>Madhyam Marg.</u>	① Being part of <u>nexus</u>
② A chance to <u>correct errors</u>	② Ignoring <u>corrupt practices</u> .

CFO should adopt 1st option because —

- ↳ ① Corruption is an evil — need of no tolerance.
- ↳ ② Public welfare is highest form of worship.
- ↳ ③ Conservation of biodiversity & environment degradation.

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- ↳ ④ fulfilling duty as CEO of smart cities Mission.
- ↳ ⑤ Good governance of transparency and accountability.
- ↳ ⑥ Setting right precedent.
- ↳ ⑦ Ensuring welfare of large number (Utilitarianism)
- ↳ ⑧ Kantian Categorical imperative and ensuring punishment to corruption.
- Evil of corruption must not be tolerated at any cost even ignoring corruption, is part of doing corruption.
- Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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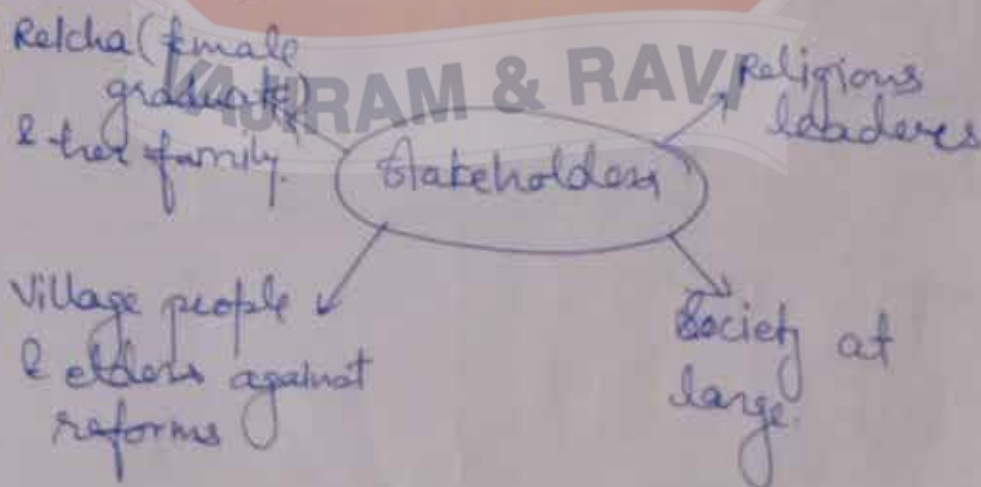
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9. Rekha, one of the few female graduates in her village, got elected as the new Sarpanch of her village Bhavanipuram. The village of Bhavanipuram is located in a remote part of a backward district and is plagued by female infanticide, child marriage, and high maternal mortality. After her election, she decided to tackle these issues in every possible way and is determined to address the village's deep-rooted socio-cultural issues. However, she faces stiff resistance from the village elders, who hold significant influence in the village. They view her initiatives, such as banning child marriages, as a threat to their traditional way of life, normalised over generations. As Rekha pushes forward with her reforms, she also faces social ostracization. The community shunned her and her family, making it difficult for them to participate in social and cultural activities. Moreover, some of her family members, influenced by societal norms, did not support her initiatives, creating a challenging environment at home. Religious leaders in the village are also opposing her initiatives, viewing them as contrary to religious doctrines, complicating the situation even more. The situation is compounded by low literacy rates and high levels of poverty, especially among women. This lack of education perpetuates ignorance and superstition, making it difficult for Rekha to communicate the importance of her reforms. Many villagers prioritise immediate economic survival over long-term social reforms and view her initiatives as secondary to the pressing need for food, shelter, and employment.

- Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
- What are the options available with Rekha to cope up with the situation?
- What course of action would Rekha adopt to diffuse the above situation?
- Mention few of the government steps and laws made to prevent female infanticide, child marriage, and high maternal mortality in remote areas of the country.

(20 marks, 250 words)

Given situation highlights challenges faced by social reformers.



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(Don't write anything in this part)

a) Ethical issues involved in case

① Reforms vs resistance

↳ traditional practices & dogmas prevalence.

② Unethical practices like female infanticide, child marriage, maternal mortality.

③ Social issues like low literacy & high poverty.

④ Gender inequality and discriminations against women.

⑤ Unethical religious doctrine and resistance to reforms

⑥ Issues faced by Retha's family
↳ Personal welfare compromised.

b) Options available with Retha

① Accept defeat & don't do social change

Merit	Demerit
① <u>Personal welfare</u>	① <u>Social backwardness</u> will continue.

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① Won't face social ostracisation.

② dereliction of duty as sarpanch
③ loss of life due to female infanticide.

② Continue her reforms without caring for people response

Merits

Demerits

① Rights approach
↳ female rights & justice

① social ostracisation & impending difficulties.

② Utilitarianism
↳ for larger good & public welfare.

② displeasing village elders & religious leaders

③ Adopt Madhyam marg of consultation, awareness & gradual reforms

Merits

Demerits

① Consensus oriented approach
↳ least resistance

① May not yield immediate results

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(Don't write anything in this part)

(Don't write anything in this part)

① Gandhian Talisman
↳ welfare of last rung

② Continued loss of life
↳ infanticide.

9) To diffuse above situation, Retha should adopt mix of 2nd & 3rd options.

In short term - strictness against child marriage & infanticide using legal means.

In medium-term -

↳ ① Nuktad natat - for awareness

↳ ② Use of schemes like

Behi Bachao, Behi Padhao, Udaan etc - female justice.

In long term - institutional mechanisms like improving literacy by primary education, better healthcare and role models.

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d) Government steps & laws to prevent
 ① female infanticide, child marriage
 & high maternal mortality -

① Child marriage restraint Act.

↳ child marriage below 21 -
 illegal.

② Right to health under Article 21

③ Female infanticide Act
 ↳ illegal practice & steps
 to prevent it.

④ Domestic violence Act
 ↳ to reduce violence & deaths.

Alongwith above legal measures,
 there is need of social sensitisation
 & awareness camps to curb
 these unethical practices.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestion:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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(Don't write anything in this part)

10. You are an IAS officer with 10 years of service. This is your 1st posting as a District Magistrate (DM) in a big city. Prior to this you have always held not so important junior designations in the remote parts of the state. You are happy that you got a lucrative posting and now your children can have good schooling in the city. As a DM, you are appointed as the Returning Officer (RO) for the 18th Lok Sabha elections in your district's parliamentary constituency. In the above capacity, you are responsible for overseeing the electoral process, ensuring conducting a free, fair and transparent election in the constituency as well as upholding the democratic ethos of the constitution and public at large.

A powerful politician serving as a minister from the ruling party is contesting election from the constituency. You are well versed with the fact that the minister adopts malpractices during the election. The minister approached and promised you with key positions, career advancements and further promotions in future on the condition that you overlook his corrupt practices during this election. He also warns you of the consequences if his demands are not met. Since, for the past many years, you have been assigned to less significant posts in the state, you cannot simply let go of such postings in near future.

1. As a civil servant what are the ethical dilemmas involved in the above situation?
2. List the options available to you and justify which one you would choose.

(20 marks, 250 words)

This is a situation of balancing personal interest and dedication to duty culminating into conflict of interests.



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a) Ethical dilemmas involved in case

① Unethical & malpractices

compromising free & fair elections process.

② Means vs ends

↳ malpractice & influencing of elections
↳ democratic exercise of elections

③ Personal interest vs Professional interests

④ Misuse of power

↳ threat of dire consequences.

⑤ Jeremy Bentham's Utilitarianism

of maximum number welfare vs personal welfare

⑥ Democracy at stake to due selective welfare of few.

b) Options available & their justification

① Concede demand of politician

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(Don't write anything in this part)

Merits

Demerits

① Personal interest supremacy
↳ career advancement

② beneficial for family.

① against free & fair election.
(Art 324)

② dereliction of duty & cowardice

③ part of corrupt practice.

③ Expose corrupt practices to relevant authorities

Merits

Demerits

① Kant's duty dictum
↳ priority to duty

② Honesty and justice

③ Not bowing to unethical leaders.

① Personal losses
↳ career compromised

↳ welfare of family also compromised.

② Nexus among higher authorities may be there.

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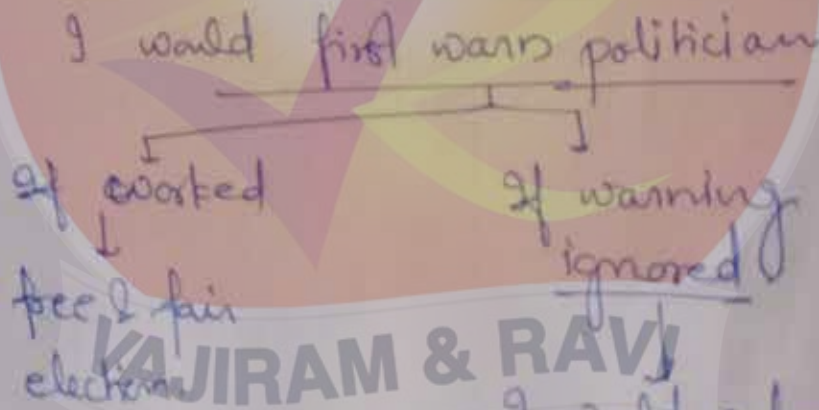
② Warns politician to prohibit from adopting unfair means & expose if not listen -

Merits

- ① May yield result - fear appeal
- ② Madhyam marg - less extreme.

Demerits

- ① Warning can be ignored.
- ② Personal loss
- ③ Negative consequences for family.



I would report to relevant authorities with required evidences.

Also, I would act using my

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(Don't write anything in this part)

Emotional Intelligence and
would not be subservient to
corrupt politicians.

In long term, voter education
by means of —

- ↳ ① Awareness campaigns.
- ↳ ② Social media
- ↳ ③ Unity campaigns

In a democracy, it is cardinal
that we don't adhere to politics
without principle (Gandhi) & ensure
democratic practices not in just
letters but also spirit.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestion:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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11. In the early hours of the morning on 25th August, 2023, a passenger train derailed near a small town in Odisha, approximately 80 kilometres from Bhubaneswar. The accident was caused by a broken railway track, which had been weakened by continuous heavy rains over the past week. The derailment led to significant loss of life and injury to many passengers, along with extensive damage to the train and surrounding infrastructure.

You are a commandant officer, NDRF and were immediately informed of the incident. You rush to the site for immediate support and inform others to reach the site as soon as possible. Upon reaching the accident site, you are faced with a chaotic and distressing scene. Several train coaches are overturned, and many passengers are trapped inside. The rescue operations are underway, but the heavy rains and muddy terrain are making the process difficult. The rains and lightning have also disturbed communication lines making it difficult to mobilise help immediately.

Moreover, due to excessive rain and difficult terrain it was getting difficult to mobilise enough support staff to the site. This was further aggravated by limited resources available for rescue operations. Equipment such as metal cutters, canine squads and other heavy-lift equipment were difficult to reach to the site. As a result rescue workers were unable to rescue people properly, creating more chaos and panic, leading to protest by passengers and victims. Medical teams and first-aid kits were still on the way, adding more to the crisis.

- As a commandant officer, NDRF, how would you handle the crisis?
- Mention various steps that can be taken to avoid rail accidents, post this incident?

(20 marks, 250 words)

This case study is replica of Balasore railway tragedy that shoot entire nation.



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(Don't write anything in this part)

2) Handling above crisis require multifaceted strategy -

① Immediate relief and rescue efforts

↳ ① mobilising staff (difficult due to rain)

↳ ② Community volunteers

↳ appeal & persuasions to first responders

↳ ③ mobilization of equipments at earliest
↳ social media usage to appeal nearby equipment stations.

② Medical facilities to rescued people
↳ timely medical care and hospitalisation.

③ Communication between railway authorities
↳ to inform about tragedy & ensure no train run that track.

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- ④ Law & order situation handling
 - ↳ emotional appeal to protesting passengers.
 - ↳ ① use of authorities - whenever needed.

- ⑤ After rescue operations -
 - ↳ reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.
 - ↳ ② Mental support to victims & family.
 - ↳ ③ Crowd funding to aid victims.

b) Various steps that can be taken to avoid rail accidents -

- ① Modernisation of railway infrastructure
 - ↳ (eg) Vande Bharat, Namo rail.
 - ↳ ② repair tracks & maintenance

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

- ② Smart signaling systems akin to Europe
- ③ Recommendation of Katodkar Committee
↳ constitution of Railway safety authority.
- ④ Provision of immediate medical care within train premises.
- ⑤ Training of train staff & task force for rescue operation.
- ⑥ Increasing railway infrastructure to tackle issue of over capacity.
- ⑦ Enhancing funds allocated to railway department.
- ⑧ Smooth coordination with agencies like NDRF, SDRF & other rescue forces.

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- ① Weather monitoring and railway halting in case of rains, floods, cyclones etc.
- ② Use of digital technology to facilitate communication.

Indian Railway is 4th largest in world. Lot of people depend on railways for transportation.

Safety & security is need of hour to prevent loss of human lives.

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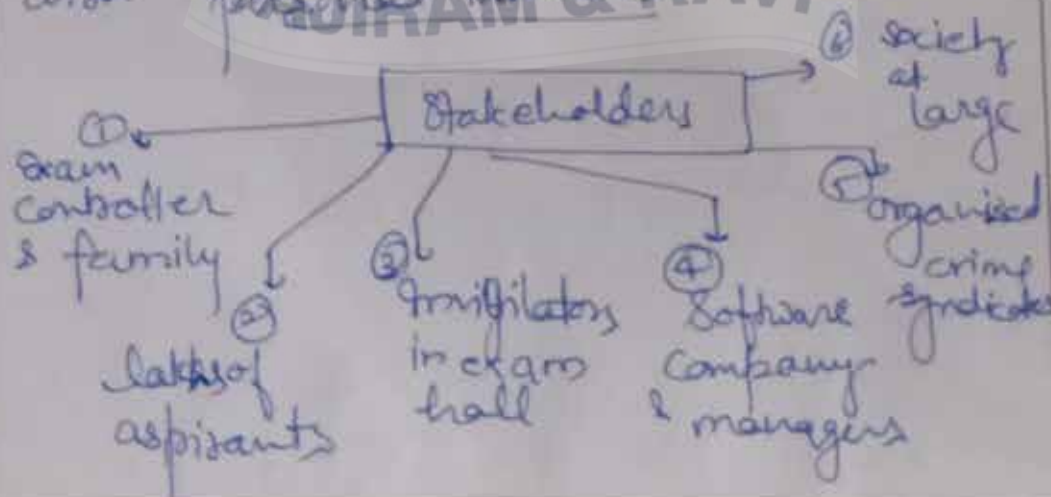
Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

12. You are the Exam Controller at an exam centre conducting a government recruitment examination. The exam is being conducted online by a reputed software company known for its advanced security measures. This examination is crucial for lakhs of aspirants seeking stable and prestigious government positions. During the examination, an invigilator notices suspicious behaviour from a candidate who appears to be frequently looking off-screen. Upon closer scrutiny and examination of the candidate's activity logs, it is confirmed that the candidate is using unauthorised electronic devices and software to receive answers in real-time. The candidate is immediately detained for questioning. The candidate's confession reveals that they are part of a larger network involving managers from the software company responsible for conducting the online exam. These managers are found to be colluding with organized crime syndicates to facilitate cheating in exchange for substantial sums of money. These syndicates orchestrate the cheating operations, recruit candidates, and handle financial transactions. The mafia, aware of your discovery, approaches you with an offer. They promise a significant cut of the profits not only for you but for every person working at the centre if they turn a blind eye to the cheating and allow the network to operate. Many employees are in favour of agreeing to it, while a few oppose it. They also threaten you with severe consequences if you refuse. At the same time, you are facing financial pressure to secure funds for your daughter's admission into a prestigious management college.

- What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- What would you do in such a scenario?
- Based on the above case study, discuss the pros and cons of online examination. And provide ways to improve it.

(20 marks, 250 words)

Case involves conflict of interest where professional duty is colliding with personal interests



2) ethical issues involved in case

- ① Means vs Ends
↳ Wrong means (cheating) to get job.
- ② Sanctity of exam process compromised
- ③ Selective welfare of few over collective welfare of all.
- ④ Illegal & unethical practices
↳ cheating & organised crime.
- ⑤ Slippery slope for students
- ⑥ Unfairness & injustice to other students.
- ⑦ Commerce without morality -
a sin (Gandhi)
↳ Company involved in cheating.
- ⑧ Acceptance of cheating by other invigilators for money.

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

b) In such scenario, I have few options -

① Ignore cheating & accept money

Merits

① daughter's education funds

② No dire consequences

Demerits

① Unethical as per Bentham's Utilitarianism.

② Corruption and intolerance towards it.

② Report organised crime of cheating with sufficient evidence to relevant authorities

Merits

① Kant's duty dictum - duty as worship.

② Honesty & Integrity

③ Justice to students (John Rawls)

Demerits

① Fear of dire consequences

② daughter's education - may be compromised

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The practice of cheating compromise integrity of exam process. So Exam Controller should immediately report cheating practice & halt it at exam.

In our society, there is need to give highest priority to student welfare & such corrupt practices should be punished strictly.

9) Pros & cons of online exams

Pros	Cons
① <u>faster process</u>	① Use of advanced technology for <u>cheating</u>
② <u>increased transparency</u>	② <u>Difficulty for</u>
③ <u>Ease of exams</u>	

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④ Easy to identify cheating

Students not well versed with technology.

⑤ Logistical cost reduced.

② Easy to tamper with exam process. (cyber attack)

Ways to improve online exams

① Robust technological systems-

Use of blockchain technology

Strong algorithms to prevent cyber attacks

② Integrity throughout exam process - invigilators, software company, students

③ Strict punishment as credible deterrence.

"Education without character" is a sin as per Gandhiji.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction

Suggestions:

Body

Conclusion

Presentation

Marks:

Space for Rough Work

