SENIOR

VAJIRAM & RAVI

SURE SHOT TEST SERIES FLT 2024

GENERAL STUDIES
Full Length Test
Test - 4 (Ethics)

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

ADMIN. NO.: 1 6 0 0 0 3 2 9

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Batch No.:

SUBMISSION DATE: 31/07/2024

UPSC CSE 2024

AIR-260

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)

In today's society, education is more content oriented lacking value-training leading to barrier in holistic competence

Ideal Educational Institution Balance between values and contents

1) Balance attitude with aptitude to ensure righ actions with right means

Eg → cyber hackers - lack values but have high skills

2) Practical Applications in real world

Eg → civil servants often face ethical dilemma, require strong conscience

3) Decision-making during crisis situation

Eg → Ethical ambiguity surpasses content-based education

Measures to move education beyond mere content Learning

1) Revamped curriculum overhaul

Eg → Inclusion of Bhagvad Gita in school curriculum in Gujarat

2) Focus on extra-curricular education

Eg → Sports promote team spirit

→ Art & culture promotes creativity

3) Practical compulsory visit to old-age homes and NGOs

4) Focusing on learning outcomes through regular assessment

Eg → CCE in CBSE

5) Teacher training to inculcate right values

Today's children are future citizens. A value-laden knowledgable citizen can lead nation towards progress.

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 is a person's evaluation of someone or something which can be positive negative or neutral.

Attitude - crucial factor in building the social capital of an individual

1) Cognitive component → Knowledge about societal practises & culture

Eg → Tolerance towards masjid entry and other's dressing patterns

2) Affective component → regulating one's emotions in response to situation

Eg → Decision making during crisis like "hartals" in factory

3) Behavioral component → our action in response to a stimuli

Eg → Cooperation and solidarity by students during OR N student's deaths

Other factors contributing to social capital of an individual

1) Role of educational institutions →

Value-based training minimizes conflicts.

Eg → "Sarva Dharma Sambhav" → (Existence of all religion is possible)

2) Emotional Intelligence → effective regulation of one's & others emotions

Eg → persuasive speech by ministers

3) Consistency in actions

Eg → Lal Bahadur Shastri - epitome of integrity.

Social capital fulfils humanity's basic needs as well as promotes inclusive society.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

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(Don't write anything in this part)

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

According to "Daniel Goleman" - Emotional Intelligence is defined as knowing and managing one's own emotions and others emotions to achieve favourable outcome.

Emotional Intelligence primary in managing workplace conflicts

1) Self-awareness → leading to cordial balance between abilities and aspirations
   Eg → Conflict with HR for Salary

2) Self-regulation → controlling one's anger, greed and desire
   Eg → Deal with large comments

3) Social awareness → Sensitivity towards women and disabled

4) Social management → primarily helps in conflict resolution
   Eg → Persuasive Speech by CEO

5) Self-motivation → promotes cordial atmosphere.

Other factors in managing workplace conflicts

1) Strong and positive work culture

Eg → Google's culture of gender equality

2) Leadership of management

Eg → Satya Nadella's leadership helped microsoft multiply its market cap

3) Ethical atmosphere → where transparency and accountability prevails

Eg → ISRO's atmosphere

4) Societal context → diversity in group and mutual tolerance

Eg → TATA employees solidarity

5) Value education during childhood

cordial workplace promotes high productivity and innovation leading to collective growth.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

(Don't write anything in this part)

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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)**

In the era of multiple conflicts such as Russia-Ukraine war & Israel-Palestine conflict, bilateral issues suffers due to international pressures.

Role of Panchsheel in promoting ethical relations between countries

1) Respect for mutual sovereignty
Eg → India-Bangladesh ties

2) Diplomatic honesty - sharing of transparent data among countries
Eg → India-Pakistan nuclear disclosure

3) Conflict resolution through dialogue and diplomacy over confrontation
Eg → India-China corps commander level talks

4) mutual non-aggression
Eg → India's No first use policy of nuclear weapons

5) Peaceful co-existence among nations
Eg → International aid like operation Dost during Turkey earthquake

6) human-rights protections Eg → NHRC

Challenges that remain due to mutual suspicion

1) Diverse national interests
Eg → QUAD vs SCO objectives

2) Power dynamics influences

3) Trust deficit among nations
Eg → Indus water Treaty

4) Bureaucratic hurdles → Delay in ratification of treaties

Way forward
→ cooperation among nations
→ convergence on aims & objectives
→ collaboration to deal with crises

The world is one Earth, one future on lines of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

Populist subsidies account for 2-3% of GDP every year leading to inefficient resource efficiency due to freebie culture

Ethical Issues with freebie culture

1) Short term gains → Politicization of social problems for votes

Eg → Distribution of TV to eliminate poverty

2) Resource wastage → inefficient distribution of subsidies ⇒ Inclusion error

Eg → Irrigation subsidies to big farmers

3) Poor quality of service delivery → due to haphazard announcement of policies

Eg → Distribution of poor quality foodgrains

4) Poor accountability mechanism → where social services are rights of citizens

Eg → "Social contract" is a bond between state & citizen to provide essential services

5) Supply-based service rather than demand based service

6) voter's trust → no mechanism to enforce promises

measures to be undertaken

1) Declaration by parties → for roadmap to distribute freebies in manifesto

2) capacity development of citizens and voters awareness

3) high social sector expenditures on education (6% NEP, 2020) & health (3% NHP)

4) Rationalization of subsidies

5) Power to Election commission of India to enforce promises

Freebies not only leads to wastage of funds but also erodes trust among citizens leading to weakening of democracy.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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 utmost adherence to highest ethical principles and moral integrity to ensure public trust and confidence in public service

Requirement for socio-economic development for real progress of nation

1) Transparency → easy access to accurate and true information

Eg → 2G Scam exposed due to RTI

2) Accountability & Responsibility mechanism

Eg → Resignation of Lal Bahadur Shastri after rail accident

3) Responsiveness to grievances → to ensure harmony and cohesion in society

Eg → mygov.in portal

4) Effective utilization of resources to

minimize wastage. Eg → Commonwealth games scam

5) Integrity & moral Attention

Challenges to probity

1) corruption → in form of bribery & embezzlement
   Eg → vyapam scam

2) wide discretion with poor accountability
   Eg → tendering process for minerals

3) Poor adoption of technologies leading to huge leakages

4) Political interference → Leading to partisan and partial behaviour
   Eg → Satyam Scam

way forward
- → Ethics Training
- → Adoption of code of ethics (2nd ARC)
- → e-governance (e-District in HP)

Probity promotes positive work culture and fosters social welfare.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
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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)

The quotes emphasizes on the importance of self-introspection and self-reflection along with critical thinking to learn truth and unlearn lies

Ready to accept the truth and to renounce untruth

1) Social Enquiry → to discover reality

Eg → Raja Ram Mohan's Ray crusade against Sati

2) controlling emotions and relying on facts than opinions

Eg → Gandhiji always told a man's inner desire is his biggest enemy.

3) Action against falsehoods

Eg → whistleblowers

4) consistency in thoughts, actions and words

Personal Example → whenever I played table tennis, and lost I blamed bad moves and ball but when I admitted my mistakes, I improved considerably and won Bronze in Inter-hall competition in the college.

Ways to enhance self-introspection and critical thinking

1) Promoting tolerance and ability to face one's own mistakes

2) Integrity in thoughts & actions

As Socrates told - "A life without examination is not worth living" highlights the importance of truth & unbearness in truth.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)**

Indian administration is characterized by complex bureaucratic structures and layered administration - leading to multiple dilemmas.

Ethical dilemmas
- → upholding letter vs spirit of law
- → Rule bound vs Rule of law
- → output vs outcome
- → Efficiency vs Effectiveness
- → Law enforcement vs human rights

Application of Gandhi's Talisman for decision making for public servants

1) upholding Social justice → considering interest of lowest strata of society

Eg → PM Svanidhi for street vendors

2) Equity while allocation of resources

Eg → Priority and Antyodaya households in Public Distribution system

3) Collective progress and Inclusive growth

Eg → focusing on women's & child rights

4) Governance at lowest strata - decentralization of power

Eg → 73rd and 74th CAA, 1992

5) minimizing Inequality → Balanced regional development minimizing deprivation

Eg → universal Basic Income

6) promotes selflessness over personal gains

Gandhiji's talisman would help us to achieve Sarvodaya Samaj with Swaraj at individual level.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

The above quote highlights the importance of mutual respect & acceptance towards other faith, practices & tradition that could lead to progress of society.

Relevance of tolerance

1) Communal harmony → and minimize conflicts among communities

Eg → Tolerance to Burkhas & Hijabs

2) Free flow of information & expression

Eg → media critique of Budget

3) Ensuring accountability mechanism by listening for constructive feedback

Eg → Demands of NGOs in EIA

4) Promoting social justice

Eg → Differential treatment to lower strata of society

5) upholding human rights Eg → Right to life

Tolerance is not mere submission rather than inner strength to uphold and face reality. for example

1) Gandhiji's support to British during world war I

2) Nehru's acceptance of muslim League demands

3) India's actions to restore peace with naxals.

Tolerance only can lead our society towards collective progress and maintain our diversity heritage.

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

The quote emphasizes on the importance of Spirit with which the service is delivered, that decides its utility and outcome.

Service rendered without joy helps neither servant nor served

1) Lacks dedication and public spirit
   Eg → Personal gains over collective interests

2) Social welfare compromised due to inefficient use of resources

3) citizens expectations do not meet standards of service delivery
   Eg → poor quality PDS food grains

4) Fiscal pressure → due to inefficiency in policy formulation.

measures to promote joy

1) Development of public spirit through sensitivity training and value education

2) Dedication by selecting right candidates

3) Effective reward mechanism for proper service delivery

4) citizen's charter and social Audit to uphold accountability

5) capacity development of citizens to raise proper demands

Joy while delivery of services ensures minimum gap between service delivery expectations and actual service delivery.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)**

Here, Vallabhbhai Patel emphasizes on the optimistic and "hopeful attitude" during events of helplessness to achieve our goals.

Faith in absence of strength no evil

1) motivation to continue difficult time
Eg → freedom struggle despite setbacks

2) Consistency and Perseverance
Eg → Thomas Edison failed 100 times before success

3) maintaining social harmony & capital
Eg → Situation of Anarchy ⇒ civil war in Sierra Leone

4) Better than doing nothing
Eg → The darkness is not due to evils work but due to silence of "good men"

(Don't write anything in this part)

Faith – to be complemented with strength

1) match of abilities and aspirations

Eg → failure of revolutionaries in 1930s

2) Achieving realistic goals & targets

Eg → ISRO mission of chandrayaan under 600 crore

3) military power during partition

Eg → Instrument of Accession by force

4) Deal with evil elements

Way forward → maintain positive attitude by adequate training

→ Building skills & competence

Eg → Abdul Kalam – Intellect

Development of Emotional Intelligence.

"faith" and "strength" both allows a person to achieve balance b/w goals and abilities

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

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)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

anything in this part)

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)

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
Marks:	

Section - B

7. Dr. Aanand, 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. Aanand 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.

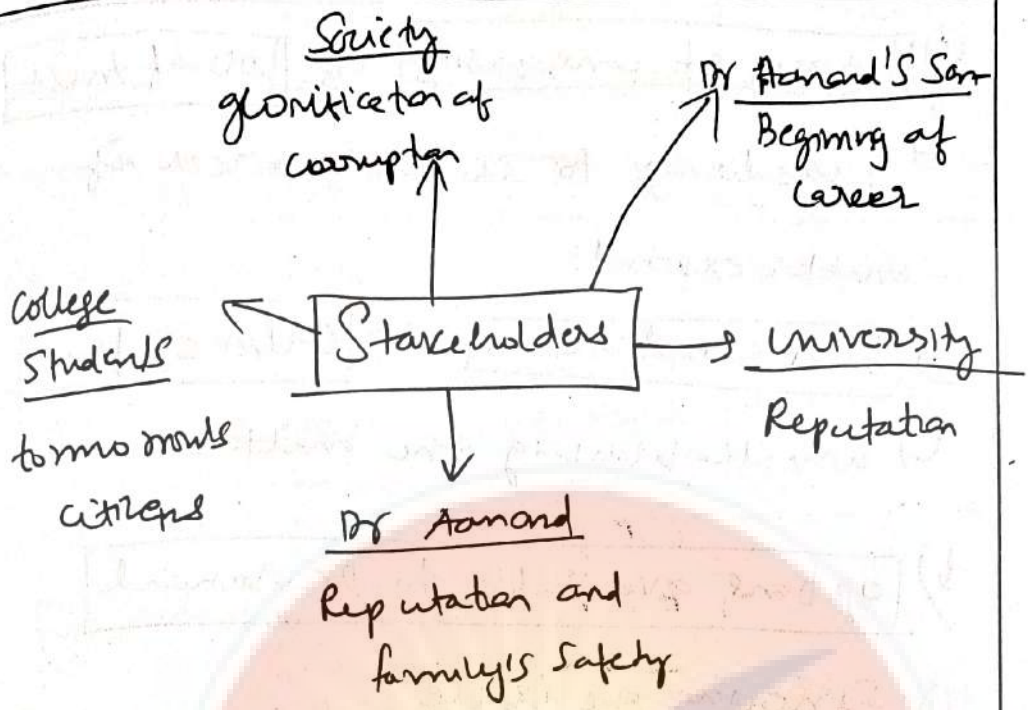
Determined to address the issue, Dr. Aanand conducted a discreet investigation. He found that the source of the drugs was linked to a well-organized network operating within the college. Shockingly, he discovered that Aditya, the son of the institution's representative at UGC for college management committee, 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. Aanand 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. Aanand was also threatened with dire consequences for both him and his son, who is yet to start his career.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The above case highlights the increasing abuse of drugs among youths, particularly students, due to mental pressures leading to loss of resources for nation.



a) Ethical dilemmas involved in case

- Reputation vs career → legacy of commitment to student welfare vs consequences
- Personal gains vs Social welfare
  even choosing to sidelline the matter
- obedience to superior vs commitment to service
  ↳ as moral duty of a teacher
- Son's safety vs Student's future prospects
  ↳ Ignoring the matter may be disastrous for students

(Don't write anything in this part)

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- Legacy of university vs Loss of trust
  - ↳ Severe damage to student's career if matter exposed.
- Individual action vs Collective effort
  - ↳ whistleblowing the matter

b) Options available to Dr Anand

1) Ignoring the issue

Merits	Demerits
• Safety of family & son • Protection of career	• Moral/cognitive dissonance • Damage to reputation if further exposed

2) Building consensus among team and complaint to higher authorities

Merits	Demerits
• Pressurize Aditya's father • Collective efforts	• People may not join due to fear • Higher authorities might be involved in nexus

3) whistleblowing the issue to media and drug enforcement agencies

Merits	Demerits
• Public outrage against issue • Personal satisfaction	• Damage to reputation of university • career of students/ sons' at risk

Course of action

1) Consensus Building → among colleagues and complaining to higher authorities still, if unresolved then

2) Reporting to agencies directly and informing media to seek public attention.

Justification

→ As an employee of university, one of the moral responsibilities of Dr Anand is to protect reputation so first try to seek resolution inside (Persuasion)

→ But If issue remains unresolved, It is duty as a teacher to guide students

a right path.

→ As far as Sar is concerned, trust on meritocracy must be maintained, where one person can't change outcome of merit.

→ Media support would help protection of Dr Anand's career.

c) Rules & Regulations to prevent drug abuse

1) NDPS Act → to prevent use of psychotropic substances

2) Setting up of NCB → to take action against potential misuse of laws

3) Regulations for regular raids

There must be a positive & participative work culture like "Hooghly" so that these issues are not ignored. & training of students to actively judge the drug's negatives.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
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Conclusion	
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Marks:	

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 liveability. 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 neighbourhood's, 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.

a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
b) 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 given case shows the entrenched corruption in public service delivery and collusive mindset to veil this leading to wastage of resources

a) Ethical Issues involved in the case

1) Inadequate delivery of services leading to loss of people's trust

(Don't write anything in this part)

2) Red - Tapism and Bureaucratic delays leading to "culture of Bribes"

3) Wastage of public resources and misutilization of funds.

4) unsustainable urbanization - toll to economic growth

5) mixing public life with personal life → asking for favours

6) Inaction of government officials

7) "commercial without morality"
→ over dependance on profit (Artha & Kama)

8) Public health risks → due to inadequate disposal of wastes

9) Dereliction of duty → as responsibility to developed "US mart city"

(Don't write anything in this part)

(b) options available to me

1) Accepting the offer but not taking part in profits - sharing

merits	Demerits
• uphold friendship & his family • no delay in contract	• cities development hampered • guilt and shame in cheating public

2) Talking and persuasion to my friend and awareness about his duty

merits	Demerits
• Balance friendship & public duty • persuasion as a tool before hand action	• friend may not change his mind • not acting according to SOP

3) End the contract and order new enquiry into clean awarding of contract

(Don't write anything in this part)

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Merits	Demerits
• upholding duty as a CEO • uphold public trust	• Damage friendship • Delay in project

Course of action

1) Trying to persuade and motivate friend to change his mind

2) If not agreed, then terminate the contract immediately and order clean awarding of contract

Justification

1) Friendship, if true, do not work on the principle of give and take, It is in his right interest to fast realize his mistake and not flow along slippery slope..

2) For his mothers health, as a true friend, would try to contribute interest free loans to him and persuade him to undertake new clean contract

3) As per Jainism's Aparigraha as a CFO I have sufficient money for living, no need to accumulate further through illegal means (also violating Astya)

There must be adoption of technology (e-tendering) to ensure transparency and accountability in public contracts.

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
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(Don't write anything in this part)

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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.

a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.
b) What are the options available with Rekha to cope up with the situation?
c) What course of action would Rekha adopt to diffuse the above situation?
d) 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)

The above case highlights the reality of dismal women's conditions at ground level and regional disparity in our nation's development.

a) Ethical Issues involved in the case

1) Evil practises still prevalent → despite numerous laws, Rules & Regulations, highlighting their ineffectiveness

2) Lack of community awareness and literacy rates very low

3) Lack of inclusive growth → still region backward

4) violation of social justice – in terms of availability of basic needs

5) failure of "social contract" as responsibility of state to ensure reforms

6) violation of Right to life (Article 21) of girl children in village

7) failure of enforcement of laws and proper monitoring

b) options available with Rekha to cope up with situation

1) To leave the mission of reform and instead work for basic amenities

2) Persuade villagers with "role models" of other villages female graduates

3) Involve civil society groups and seeking support from state for awareness generation.

(C) Course of Action by Rekha

1) Focusing on basic needs first in terms of mid-day meals, clean drinking water and sanitation to appease the villagers.

Justification → without food in stomach, a person cannot think for reforms

2) Form a small group of motivated members of village to invite civil society groups for awareness generation and providing services

Eg → Akshay Patra foundation can be commissioned to provide food to girls

3) Leading by example → A big societal

change requires perseverance and dedication.

Laws → Habit → Behaviour → Belief

Justification → If Rekha would also think of delaying the reforms the problem would complify further.

4) Focussing of effective implementation of Schemes such "Beti Bachao" - "Beti Padhao" Abhiyan, MDM scheme, MGNREGA in villages

d) government steps to end societal evils in village areas

1) Reservation of seats in Panchayati Raj (1/3)rd seats for women as women focus more on social issues (73rd CAA)

2) Female centric Reforms → mandatory

filling of birth and death of girls

3) Institutionalization of ASHA and AWWs for ground level reforms

4) laws banning child marriage (Recent steps by Assam govt)

5) Janani Suraksha Yojana (Led to increase in institutional deliveries to 80% of total - NFHS-5)

6) Wellness centres under PM-AYUSH

There is a need to ensure participation of civil society groups to fill the gap left by state and create awareness for further legal reforms

Students should not write anything inside the box

Introduction	Suggestions:
Body	
Conclusion	
Presentation	
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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 case highlights the rising "criminalization of politics" and "electoral malpractices" leading to decline in parliamentary form of governance.

Stakeholders of the case

1) Me as an IAS officer → first time big opportunity for career advancement

2) Minister → likely to influence the free and fair conduct of elections

3) People of the constituency → to uphold their trust in democratic process

4) Society at large → to deepen the democracy

1) Ethical dilemmas in above situation

(a) Personal career aspirations vs upholding responsibility as civil servant

(b) Good will of minister (if supported) vs wrath & complicacy further (if denied)

(c) Responsibility towards society vs Responsibility towards family

(d) Political neutrality v/s Danger to life and career

(e) upholding Electoral democracy vs following superior

(f) Short term gain vs Long term reputation

(2) Options available to me

- Act with passive neutrality - to neither support and neither taking action against the minister.
- Act with integrity without showing greed for career opportunities & face consequences
- Persuade the minister of his responsibility towards society & role of free and fair elections

Course of Action

1) Persuading the minister to change his mind through role models like Lal Bahadur Shastri, Abdul Kalam.

2) If minister still disagrees, I would refuse to be part of malpractice and refuse to entertain his requests

Justification

- Dedication towards service is more important than personal private gains that would defeat the purpose of me joining the service.
- The system values merit and talent, the consequence of transfer or hold on promotions cannot act as cannot towards my duty upholding.
- my ethical work would be valued by organization and thus I would be protected from any grave danger that the minister may adopt.
- It would ensure greatest benefit to greatest number. (Utilitarianism)
- officers like Ashok Khemka act as my role model.

(Don't write anything in this part)

There is need to empower Election Commission of India so that the independence and integrity of election procedures is maintained.

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VAJIRAM & RAVI

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.

a) As a commandant officer, NDRF, how would you handle the crisis?

b) Mention various steps that can be taken to avoid rail accidents, post this incident?

(20 marks, 250 words)

The crisis represents the prevalent situation of unexpected disasters hitting the people - needing innovative solutions

IEP → Recent flooding of Basement of Coaching Centre in Delhi

Ethical Issues involved here

1) Priority to save the persons - deciding the order difficult in this situation

2) limited resources → not sufficient to undertake proper rescue

3) Lack of coordination due to inelectric communication lines leading to wastage of efforts.

4) unavailability of emergency services reflecting violation of social justice.

9) Handling the crisis

1) mobilization of human resources - though limited, to the site.

2) Priority order to enhance the rescue process

① Firstly, try to rescue the youths and adults, uninjured but trapped who can fill the void of human resource.

- Informing the town of the mishap – to fast mobilize the food and first aid by voluntary contribution.
- After immediate rescue of some youths, trying to save injured persons not in critical condition.
- At the same time through a mike – announcement of NDRF arrival to be made – for providing mental support to victims.
- Leading by example to "rescue team" through motivating speeches
- Collaborating with local people to spread message to higher authorities

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

1) Effective and fast implementation of KAVACH across entire length of India.

2) Regular monitoring and maintenance of tracks to detect damage and wreckage

3) Improvise communication networks between station masters and train drivers through technology

4) Training of local villagers in Defence of Disaster to create a cadre of rescue workers

5) Setting up of emergency centres near rail tracks.

(Don't write anything in this part)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

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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.

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

(20 marks, 250 words)

The above case highlights the prevalent cheating in recent exams in JEE, NEET hampering career of millions of children.

a) Ethical Issues in the case

1) Ineffective award of contracts → to a fraudulent software company

2) Integrity of examinations compromised → erosion in trust on meritocracy

3) Collusive corruption

4) Lack of courage of convictions officials easily swayed by offers made

5) Lack of oversight and audit on exam processes

6) Lack of transparency in exam conduction

7) Values lacking in children resorting to cheating

b) Action in such a situation

1) Immediately report the incident to the Examination authority with proper proof "Wrong is wrong even if everyone agrees to it"

2) would deny any financial gifts and would also report the incident to the concerned authorities

Justification

1) I cannot live with sense of moral dissonance and infidelity to my sense. even if I had to bear consequences.

2) I deeply believe in the law of Karma!! → education of daughter financed through illicit means would anyway be useless moreover, there are sufficient channels like loans and scholarships through which I can finance my daughter's education.

c) Pros of online examination

1) Faster process reducing delays
Immediate recording of answers

2) Prevent damage to environment due to huge amount of paper required for offline examinations

3) Upholding integrity of exams → due to reduced chances of cheating

4) Lack of wastage of economic resources

Cons of online exams

1) Difficult for disadvantaged sections to rural areas due to lack of digital literacy

2) Proved Ineffectiveness → Recent Incidents of mass cheating.

3) Vulnerable to cyber threats & Blackouts

4) Difficult to implement due to large number of students in India

Despite various challenges / ways to remove irregularities

1) Feedback from students
2) e-tendering with transparency
3) Focus on securitizing our cyber infrastructure
4) Learning from best practices (conduct an online JEE by IITs)

New technologies cannot simply be rejected due to inefficiency, rather it has to be continuously monitored.

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