

INSIGHT GS MAINS TEST SERIES

GENERAL STUDIES

TEST - 11

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

*There are **FOURTEEN** questions printed in **ENGLISH**. All the questions are compulsory.*

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.

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.

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

SECTION A

1. Codes of conduct are coercive, quick-fix strategy that reduces ethics to legalism by focusing on both the lowest common denominator and penalties for deviations. Do you agree with the above argument? Justify your answer. (150 words) **10**
2. It is impossible to be both ethical and successful in business. Ethics and business are opposites. Either one is unethical and successful, or ethical and unsuccessful. In this context, share your view on the role of ethics in corporate governance? (150 words) **10**
3. (a) Citizen's Charter initiative is considered a paradigm shift in the bureaucracy - client interface that has the potential to transform public service delivery. Comment upon the effectiveness of Citizen Charter in India in improving public service delivery. (150 words) **10**
(b) Corruption confiscates the welfare programmes and policies and makes them contagious and constipates the progressive development of the nations. Elaborate the effects of corruption in Indian context. (150 words) **10**

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4. While morality is concerned with what is right or wrong, national interest on the other hand is concerned with what is advantageous or disadvantageous in the prevailing situation for the nation. Critically comment. (150 words) **10**
5. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these - bring out what it means to you in the present context.
- (a) "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." (150 words) **10**
- (b) No success or achievement in material term is worthwhile unless it serves the need or interest of the country or its people by fair and honest means.'--- JRD Tata (150 words) **10**
6. (a) Do you think conscience can act as reliable guide to decision making? If yes, highlight how conscience can act as source of ethical guidance for bureaucrats, politicians and citizens in a democratic set-up. (150 words) **10**
- (b) Explain the term work culture & its prerequisite for good governance. Do you think the work culture in Indian Administration is undermining efficiency and compromises ethical conduct? (150 words) **10**
7. (a) Huge amounts of public money sanctioned for vital public works often remain unspent, delaying or stalling such projects. In this context, critically examine the reason behind the underutilization and misutilisation of public funds. Suggest with examples how public fund can be effectively utilized? (150 words) **10**
- (b) Should bureaucrats use their discretion to decide whether or not to obey an order? Clarify your position with examples. (150 words) **10**
8. What do you understand by probity and integrity in public life? To what extent the Indian administration characterises it? Do you think that there are difficulties in practicing it in the present day Indian administration? How can these difficulties be overcome? (150 words) **10**

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SECTION B

9. The two kids of the Mehra family, Kapil and Vasant, have been very bright right from their childhood. Kapil did chemical engineering from Delhi Engineering of College (DEC) while younger Vasant graduated in civil engineering from IIT Kanpur. Both the brothers did Masters in Environmental Engineering from USA and are currently in Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) serving at the level of Deputy Director in two different areas. Their expertise is fabulous and they have earned many accolades in public service. They are known to have spotless integrity in an environment not worth the discussion.

A few months ago the younger brother Vasant proposed an idea to Kapil that they could render valuable service in many areas of environmental management to individual and corporate clients including consultants. Kapil was initially hesitant but Vasant assured him that they would not do it from office but mostly utilize time at home and that later they may employ a few good professionals who would work under their guidance. They both agreed that they would never accept any client from the pre-eminent public body they are working for. With these ground rules they created a partnership 'VAKA Envirotech' and advertised their services on World Wide platform.

Imagine you are an employee of CPCB and your chamber is next to Kapil's. Today, you overheard a pitched business conversation between Kapil and a client from which it is clear that VAKA Envirotech is finalizing some deal with a client. Last few weeks, you have observed that Kapil has become too engrossed with own self and does not seem to have even time for normal courtesies. On suspicion, you verify the website of VAKA and recognize that the services offered match with the expertise of the two brothers though the website without identifying names spells out qualifications that match too.

In these circumstances what should you do? Should you discuss this with the brothers first or approach their respective superiors? Do you consider the conduct of the brothers unethical and/or violative of the conduct rules? (300 words) 25

10. You have been recently hired as a quality controller of Food products. On your first inspection only you learnt that there are violations in maintaining the proper sanitation in storage and there is adulteration of food products. To your surprise, your senior inspectors have been ignoring these serious health code violations. You decided to take up this issue with your higher officials. But instead of getting support, you find that the superiors asked you not to raise the issue because of the possible negative publicity that it might attract. Though, they told to gradually rectify the situation. Further, if the issue is taken forward, people might have a perception that if taken forward it might become difficult to persuade people and public media that the senior officers were unaware of the issue, which can lead towards serious trust deficit.

- (a) Should you obey to your higher officials?
- (b) Should you act as a good team player and support the gradual corrective measures that the senior officials are suggesting?
- (c) Should you launch an investigation to take appropriate disciplinary actions?
- (d) What are the other possible course(s) of action in this situation? (250 words) 20

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11. Anita works in a PSU firm. She has just returned to work after taking special leave to take care for her elderly mother. She is facing difficulties with her mother's home care arrangements causing her to miss a number of team meetings which usually take place at the beginning of each day. She is very competent in her work but her absences are putting pressure on her and her overworked colleagues.

You are her manager and you are aware that the flow of work through the practice is coming under pressure. The team is working on its first project from a foreign company and therefore is immense pressure to complete the project on time. If the project is completed on time, the PSU will get international recognition.

One of her male colleagues is beginning to make comments such as "a woman's place is in the home" and is undermining her at every opportunity putting her under even great stress. At times, his remarks amount to sexual harassment.

One day she complains to you about the colleague remarks and seeks immediate redress otherwise she will file a FIR. You are under pressure as your intervention might disturb completion of project work on time.

(a) What are the options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the best option you would adopt with reasons. (250 words) **20**

12. You are working as a District Educational Officer (DEO) of the Chigmagalur district and while inspecting the schools, you found that there is huge dropout rate among the children from the government schools in your district. This has become one of the serious issues in the state. The students from government schools are joining the famous private school in the same locality. Initially you took a lot of efforts such as improving the infrastructure and other facilities in the school, but still no fruitful results could be achieved. But every now and then the education minister is asking for the reports and media is also sensitizing the issue.

(a) What will you do to improve the strength in the government school?

(b) Being a government employee will you prefer to join your child in a government school instead of a private school?

(c) In the present context it is not just in your district but around the whole country private school are overriding government schools in all perspectives. What step government should take according to you to improve Government schools. (250 words) **20**

13. Coco-Cola has set up a bottling plant in Perummati in the southern state of Kerala. Since it opened, local villagers have complained about the fall in the amount of water available to them and have blamed the fall in supplies on Coco-Cola who they claim use upto a million litres per day at the plant. Coco-cola claims that the shortage in the water is due to the lack of rains in the region. Coco-cola sends round tankers of water to the region to help the local community. Local farmers are claiming that their livelihood has been destroyed since the building of the plant and that the number of people working on the land has dropped considerably because they cannot survive.

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Following the cleaning of the bottles, a waste sludge is produced that Coca-Cola have been disposing of on the land of the local farmers claiming it was a useful fertiliser. Following a BBC Radio 4 programme, samples of the sludge were analyzed by scientists at Exeter University in the South West of England and found to contain toxic chemicals including lead and cadmium – both of which can be harmful to humans – and further suggested that there was little or no benefit of the sludge as a fertiliser. Recent tests by the local state laboratories find that the levels of toxic chemicals is within safety chemicals but that it should not be used as a fertiliser. In a separate development, sales of Coca-Cola have been hit by suggestions that its drinks produced in India contained higher levels of pesticide residues than was healthy. A large number of bodies have joined in the campaign for the local community demanding the plant be closed down and that tests be carried out on Coca-Cola to assess its safety.

Discuss the options available with you as a head of Indian Unit of Coca-Cola and their merits and demerits. In your views, what is the most appropriate option and why? (300 words) **25**

14. You are a senior officer in the Home Ministry with a reputation of commitment towards work and public service. You have a loving family including your wife and son. You love your son too much in whom you might see a bright future. Your son got an offer to study abroad when he was around 18. It was only a few weeks before his travel that on a pleasure trip in a car with his friends, he accidentally ran over a pedestrian. It was your son who was driving the car and as per his friends he was under mild influence of alcohol. The pedestrian was killed and you are shocked to hear the news.

You are not sure whether your son can handle the subsequent mental torture by police and court proceedings. The victim's relative who intends to make some quick money approaches you. They offer to settle the cases without much complications and court proceedings, if you give them 10 lakh rupees. If you move as per the legal course, it will take a long time for a solution. As there was fault with your son, there is every chance that the verdict will be negative to him. Besides, he will lose his higher education possibilities in the US. The pedestrian who got killed as per his relatives was a nuisance to the society when he was alive and there are not many who weep over his death. They are happy to close the case for the mentioned amount.

(a) What are the possible options available to you?

(b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the best option you would adopt with reasons. (250 words)

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