



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

ARNAV SHIVENDU

RANK - 283

GS MAINS ETHICS

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 17 questions.• All questions are compulsory• The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.• Content of the answer is more important than its length.• Answers must be written in the space provided. <p>Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</p>
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2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name ARNAV SHIVENDU

Roll No. _____

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Arnav

Roll No. _____

SECTION - A

Q1. Why does cultural relativism supposedly make us more tolerant of other cultures and, critically examine the view that moral values are relative? (150 Words) (10 Marks)

In societies of US and France, culture relativism has been relegated to private sphere. Wearing of Burkha, for instance, in France has been banned publicly.

However, with growing interdependence due to globalisation, identity consciousness has peaked among various group. This causes insecurity amongst them.

To solve such issues, scholars have proposed cultural relativism.

Cultural relativism involves granting special recognition to ^{all} the groups whether minority or majority.

Shining example of this is India which celebrates "Unity in diversity". India adopted the mosaic model, thus rejecting melting pot model of USA. This

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has ensured continued existence of Union of India despite multidimensional diversity.

Moral values are relative i.e. they vary from society to society.

For instance, an industrialised nation like USA believes in individualism.

However, India, traditionally an agrarian economy, still remains a collective society as observed in villages and tier II and III cities.

Thus, culture relativism is the need of the hour with the extent of rising cultural integration amongst societies. This would ensure peace, harmony and social well being for all.

Q2. What is the relation between conviction, integrity and courage? Illustrate. What is the need and importance of conviction in leading a society or a group or an organization to achieve the goals of change and progress? (150 Words) (10 Marks)

Integrity means integration of moral, values, beliefs of a person/organisation irrespective of the situation.

Conviction stands for one's belief or faith in someone or something.

Courage is the strength possessed by someone.

The relationship between ~~the~~ conviction, integrity and courage is strongly interwoven. If either one is sacrificed, the other two will fall apart.

To illustrate, if a ~~MP asks~~ ^{of an institute} minister asks the Principal to admit an individual in exchange for stalled funds needed by the institute, the principal if accepts it he would sacrifice the integrity of the institute which is based on merit. This would be a result of the Principal's lack of moral courage to

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oppose the demand and lack of
conviction in himself.

In a society ^{or a group or an organisation}, if such instances become rampant, goals of change and progress would be hindered.

Lack of integrity in public institutions (or private), absence of courage and conviction in a society would affect the optimal decision making, reducing the social welfare.

This would further result in social conflicts and ultimately yield a stagnant society. Colonisation of India by Britishers was an instance where no bright rulers/leaders or a vibrant society existed ^(presence of Sati, child marriage), thus, making the nation vulnerable to both internal and external threats.

Thus, a society should always strive for a continuous evaluation of ethics and

Remarks

morals to strengthen its convictions, integrity and courage to give rise to a strong and a vibrant political system and a vibrant society.

Q3. Explain role of epistemology in administrative decisions through an example?

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Epistemology is the study of knowledge. It is a branch of philosophy that deals with questions like what is knowledge, how do you acquire knowledge.

Administrators in general are required to work in accordance to the policy, law and conventions in place.

However, there are instances when they may need to use their discretion to take their decision.

For an instance, an administrator is required as per orders to vacate a habitation. Now it is upto the administrator to be empathetic and compassionate to the dwellers and give them sufficient time and assistance.

Remarks

without ~~cause~~ aggravating their already existing suffering.

If these feelings are taken into account, it would promote

① better contact between the citizens and the state, thus, promoting good governance.

② better adherence to law.

Therefore, it is extremely important that an administrative decision is based on epistemology, thus, respecting the other individual's beliefs and values and in the process bridging trust deficit and promoting good governance.

Q4. Do you think that the best civil servant is one who acts as a whistle blower or one who tries to find the possible solution from within the system? Give reasons and cite examples. What are the challenges in finding a solution from within the system?

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

There is no one solution to the above given dilemma. The approach is contextual and differs from time to time.

For instance, Satyendra Dubey, an IES officer, was a whistleblower who gave up his life in the process of exposing the unlawful acts in the construction of highways. However, it was not before he had exhausted all possible means to expose the corrupt act.

On the other hand, Durga Shakti Nagpal worked within the system to check the sand mining mafia but in the process was suspended.

Therefore, in both the cases it is evident that means may differ but end is to maintain integrity, trust

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and corruption free functioning of the system.

However, challenges are immense—

- ① a civil servant is generally suspended due to politician - criminal nexus.
- ② lives of civil servants and their family are threatened.
- ③ continuous transfers. For eg, Ashok Khemka

Therefore, the solution is ^① to give legal framework to Article 309 to protect honest civil servants.

- ② formulate a code of ethics for both politicians and civil servants as recommended by 2nd ARC Report.

These measures would go a long way in promoting effective and efficient working by the civil servants irrespective of the approach adopted by them.

Q5. Explain and elaborate the following statements:

- Never stop your heart from desiring and always surround yourself with people who will inspire you to push the envelope.
- Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.
- Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.
- To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue.
- There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope.

(50 Words Each) (5 × 4 = 20 Marks)

(a) Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." If an individual does not desire, (he) remains no different from an animal. It is the critical reasoning and freedom of speech and expression that makes a person human.

However, desire of a person is not only innate but acquired. If you have family, friends, peers who inspire, motivate or act as role models, you as a person automatically expand your desires.

For instance, the rivalry between Nadal and Federer have made each other excel

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for the past 10 years and dominate tennis unlike ever witnessed.

(b) Success as defined by Messi once is that it took 17 years 116 days to become an overnight sensation.

Success cannot be achieved immediately. It is a result of years of planning, realistic goal setting and persistent hardwork. Hence, it is said success is not the result of spontaneous combustion.

For instance, preparation of civil services is a similar process which makes a raw candidate toil for day in day out without which (s)he will never possess the qualities such as patience, honesty, courage etc which are cardinal virtues needed by him/her to be an idle citizen and then a civil servant. Hence, he/she must

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set oneself on fire to emerge successful not just in one instance but in life.

(C) Courage is the strength possessed by someone to face any situation or dilemma. It is regarded as a cardinal virtue apart from honesty, temperance. In the absence of courage, all other virtues vanish.

For instance, a man who does not refuse a bribe because of lack of moral courage may soon start lying as he may feel he can always get away. This would ultimately compromise his integrity. Hence, courage remains a cardinal virtue to secure a man's morality and integrity.

(D) Socrates believed knowledge is virtue since it leads to happiness. If a man lives his life without acquiring wisdom and

Remarks

disregard guidance of virtue (she may become rich but will never be happy).

For instance, Osama Bin Laden, though was an engineer but lacked virtue. He ~~die~~ lived a life cut off from the society and died nameless death.

On the other hand, N. Mandela, started out as a revolutionary but with wisdom, he came to be regarded as a great personality across the world.

(C) Hope is having belief / faith in someone / something. It is a positive attribute. Just like every sunset there is sunrise, similarly, for every problem there is hope. In the absence of hope, men cannot look for solutions, it is hope which keeps them working tirelessly towards their goal.

For instance, when India was ruled by the Britishers, it was hope of seeing India as independent nation which

Remarks made the people sacrifice and work towards freedom.

Q6. What is doctrine of double effect? Does 'Principle of Permissible Harm' stand the test of moral laws?
(150 Words) (10 Marks)

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Q7. What is excellence? What are the main obstacles in the pursuit of excellence? How does continuous pursuit of excellence help an ordinary person or a leader in betterment of the life and society?
(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Excellence is the state of perfection
Obstacles in pursuit of excellence

(a) Innate

A man may have the desire but lack the courage to pursue it.

(b) Social / Environmental factors

A person may be hindered to pursue an activity which the society or circumstances may not allow.

ex - A child in Syria wanting to learn football but cannot due to war.

(c) Lack of guidance

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An individual who goes for continuous pursuit of excellence allows an ordinary person or leader in betterment of society.

For instance, Lincoln was lost when his fiancée died, became bankrupt but his zeal to have a united nation made him successful in the American Civil War.

Similarly, Mandela was a violent revolutionary but in the post apartheid era emerged as a leader not only for Blacks but also the whites.

Remarks

Q8. Is innocence a positive or negative attribute? Can you say that the death of innocence is one of the main reasons for decline in faith in goodness? Would you agree that as the more intelligent and practical we become, there are more chance of death of innocence?
(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Innocence is the state of ignorance either unintentionally or deliberately. Innocence can be both positive or negative.

When a child ^{lies to} cheats his parents by eating an extra candy and claims his innocence is a positive attribute. This is because he/she is not mature enough to understand the distinction between right and wrong.

But Nazi officials claiming innocence for killing of Jews was a case of moral corruption wherein they claimed innocence for in the negative sense.

Remarks

It's because of these instances that the faith in goodness declines.

The chances of death of innocence becomes more as become more intelligent and practical. It is because we start justifying our acts by erasing guilt, dissonance by our purchased self perception based on external factors.

Therefore, it is imperative to understand ourselves and look within as recommended by Ratho upanishad to protect innocence from diminishing.

Q9. Can 'goodness' be learnt? Discuss the eightfold path suggested by Buddha in this regard and explain its relevance in contemporary times for ordinary citizens, leaders and administrators? (150 Words) (10 Marks)

Goodness is an attribute can be both innate and acquired. However, it is more refined as our ~~life~~ relationships change, new life experiences occur. Therefore, it can be learnt.

Buddha's ~~8~~ eightfold path is social tool to sensitise the citizens, leaders and administrators.

The doctrine advocates to have good thoughts, faith, actions etc. ~~Thus~~ The presence of these attributes in any individual makes him more compassionate, empathetic, honest. This ensures that the socialisation and actions resulting from this individual is positive.

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bringing in better response from everyone around him.

This will result in a better organised society, social harmony, prudent policies for welfare of the citizens by the administrators.

The ultimate consequence of it would be not just good but ethical governance and help in realising the goal of Vasudeva katumbakam.

Q10. Define the following terms with respect to civil servants:

- (a) Beneficence
- (b) Self-integrity
- (c) Reciprocity
- (d) Serviceability

(50 Words Each) (4 × 5 = 20 Marks)

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Q11. 'Only when correct reasoning and right desire come together does truly virtuous action results'. Do you agree? Justify. (150 Words) (10 Marks)

An individual may be morally virtuous but unless he has both correct reasoning and right desire his acts cannot yield ~~are~~ virtuous action result.

For instance, American intervention in the Vietnam / Korea / Iraq was based on purely American interests. This ultimately worked in favour of none. Americans remained stuck in the war, on the other hand, Iraq etc became a non functional entity.

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SECTION - B

Q12. One of your friend, a mid-level bureaucrat, is highly upset because of his job related stress and family problems and often expresses his disenchantment with life. He gave an application for 3 week leave, which was sanctioned by his boss. However, a senior officer (placed higher than his boss), called him during his leave period to office for handling a sudden exigency and this was not the first time when such a thing had happened to him. It happens very often because the officer is very efficient and reliable. The officer has a feeling that those who work honestly are overused while those who work less but keep a personal liaison with seniors work less and get various rewards and privileges. He is disillusioned. He is unable to give reasonable time to his ageing sick mother, his wife who is under depression and children who are going to face their 10th and 12th board examinations. The officer is very upset and broken because of his inability to reconcile his official duties and family responsibilities. He seems to be very disturbed and broken. Despite being an honest and efficient officer he has not been given adequate rewards and recognition and space for looking after his personal needs; he displays signals of suicidal tendencies. What would be your suggestions to him? Discuss merits and demerits of each option. (250 Words) (20 Marks)

As a friend, I recognise that his problems are due to imbalanced professional and personal lives.

As he feels disillusioned with the working style of the organisation, it is his duty that he reports his honest observations along with his personal problems to his immediate senior.

If he does not do so, he may face emotional turmoil and may commit an act of suicide. This will not only affect him personally alone but also

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his ailing mother, depressed wife and his children. Thus, destroying his family. His senior (immediate) has given him leave, thus, he perhaps will understand and take note of this.

However, if he does not report this and the senior disregards his problems, my friend can always approach the other officer who assigned him the task. ~~If he does not~~ If the senior does not reciprocate properly, this shows the lack of sincere and honest work culture.

Sooner or later, a similar dilemma will faced by other members of the organisation too.

As my friend has been a sincere and an efficient officer if he feels that he still unable to reconcile

his official duties and family responsibilities.
I would recommend him to resign.
Though it is a drastic move, it
would ensure that his human dignity
and his (and his family's) right to
life is not jeopardised. Being a
mid-level bureaucrat, he is suitable
for good posts elsewhere.

On a milder note, he may ask
his senior initially for a transfer to
another department as well. This
would set a precedent for all
honest officers to communicate to their
seniors and improve the work culture.

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Q13. As a District Magistrate in a tribal area, you have found that there are many superstitious practices which inhibit the welfare of the people such as - believing in super natural powers responsible for droughts, famines, natural disasters and diseases, witch hunting, fatalism (surrendered to fate rather than making efforts to change). While aspiring to act as an agent of change and development in the region, you find that there is opposition by people to modern ideas and practices. Answer the following questions:

- How will you proceed to remove superstition in tribal area and instill rationality among the people?
- Do change and progress needed to dismantle the local traditions in the tribal area?
- How a civil servant can win the trust of the people in a tribal area?
- How to ensure people's participation in any measure which you have suggested?

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

(a) As a District Magistrate, my job is to emphatically and compassionately understand the problems of the people and act accordingly.

The tribal people having been isolated from mainstream society are superstitious. Therefore, it is imperative, they are educated, made aware of the causes behind the disasters.

Elders from the ^{tribal} society could be the initiators for this. This art would reduce the trust deficit amongst the tribals against the government. They should also be made aware of adopting new technologies and how it would aid

Remarks

their socio-economic progress.

(b) Change and progress though necessary,
should not dismantle local traditions.

Local traditions are a consequence of
years of existence and socialisation
with of environment. Wholesome change

instead of piecemeal social engineering
will lead to an identity crisis
amongst tribals. They may be exposed
to exploitation by outsiders.

Therefore, changes adopted should
be piecemeal in conciliation with
tribals.

(c) For a fruitful interaction and
between the state and tribals, a
civil servant acts as the bridge.

He needs to be empathetic and
compassionate to understand the

Remarks

concerns of the tribals. To reduce trust deficit, (she should communicate and come up with solutions taking into confidence the entire population. The approach should be deliberative and participative to build trust among the tribals.

(d) In the short term, people should be allowed to participate in all the planning process for any activity. This is already been envisaged under PESA.

In the longer run, people should be adequately trained in appropriate discipline to build their capacity.

This would ensure their active participation, increase trust, enhance state's accountability, thus, enhancing people's confidence in these measures.

Q14. You are CEO of a company, which is involved in manufacturing of large-scale copper products. It has created good employment opportunity for the locals. But the local residents are not happy with the management of the company and big group of local residents are protesting continuously. They are demanding closer of the plant as factory discharge is contaminating the local water sources. ..

Your father is a senior IAS officer placed in the concerned Ministry. He is influential and very well networked. Company's management is pushing you to manage the situation and local authority through your father, as putting high quality production facility in plant will increase the cost of production, and company may loose market share in terms of sales if cost goes high. Based on the above situation answer the following questions:

- What are the options available to you?
- Discuss merits & demerits of each option.
- What will be your final call? Justify.

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

a) Being the CEO of a company, I have the following options —

- either close the factory or install high quality production facility
- ask my father (IAS) to manage the situation.

b) The two options available raises two major dilemmas moral v/s ethical v/s unethical and legal v/s illegal. If I close the factory or install a superior production facility, it will raise production cost. However, it will protect the locals. Business ethics

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needs to be taken into account.

The right to life locals will be protected. This ~~was~~ move may raise reputation of the firm and may instead increase market share.

On the other hand, if I ask my father to manage this issue, and it would be conflict of interest, ^{to} amount corruption this would be unethical and also illegal. This would affect the locals' right to life. In the long run, the law may catch up as well, thus, impacting both the firm and me and my father.

(c) As Gandhiji had said, "Business without ethics is sin". Hence, as the CEO of my company it is my duty to oppose any unethical move. If it is not done, it will cause guilt,

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and cause a lot of dissonance in ~~any~~ me as an individual.

An act like this would further fracture society's trust in the corporate and the government.

The consequences of which would be disastrous.

But opposing the move and ~~se~~ installing a new facility will set an example for the entire society. Thus, enhancing trust in the corporate paving way for a more synergetic existence between the people and the business.

Q15. You are head of a charitable trust that takes care of education, clothing, food & other basic needs of children from marginal community. Your organization also offers health services to the members of weaker section. You find it difficult to serve qualitatively because of the crunch of funds. Trust runs on donations and contributions from donors only. There is a regular fall in contribution from several imminent persons who were prime donors previously. Now you have decided to go for small advertisement to get donation for the good cause. Response is not very encouraging, however, a prominent local politician with a criminal record offers a hefty donation. The options available are:

- (a) Take donation from that politician.
- (b) Reject offer of that politician as his track record is poor.
- (c) Ask him to directly assist to those who are in need.
- (d) Reduce your operational scale to affordable level, so that you can sustain charitable work.

Analyse each option with its consequences.

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

Being the head of a charitable trust my prime responsibility is to collect funds to ensure welfare of children. However, with lack of funds and in the absence of donors, local politician's offer is lucrative.

But accepting it would be incorrect. Since the politician has a criminal record, he may sometime in the future seek favours for in exchange of donation. This would compromise the very nature of the organisation which is based on trust,

Remarks

empathy and compassion. The children ^(and others) may be forced in criminal acts,
 (a) thus jeopardising their very future which the trust seeks to protect.

(b) Rejecting the offer will lead to the closure of the trust, thus, impacting the welfare of the children and the minority section. This would further marginalise them. To resolve this, I can utilise social media forums, approach the government. #

(c) If I ask the politician to directly help those in need looks a favourable option. However, in the longer run, these people would be coerced to work for the politicians and participate in criminal acts. Film, Ghulam, is an appropriate example demonstrating this

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wherein Amir Khan becomes a thug in return for childhood care by a local mafia.

Instead, the politician may deposit this money in a state run institution or donate it anonymously.

(d) Reducing operational scale to affordable level is a viabile option

This would ensure that these vulnerable groups are not relegated to depravity in entirety. However, it raises another dilemma i. e. lack of equity. Not all would be able to avail these benefits. Therefore, as the head, I would seek to utilise social media forums, approach other NGOs, carry out awareness campaigns to mobilise sensitise the society. Approach corporates for CSR and work with the Government.

Remarks

Failure to work on this charitable cause is not only the trust failure but a collective failure of society.

Q16. You are a District Collector. A seven-year boy has been killed on a school. Parents are angry and protesting. They have blocked the traffic and want speedy action. Parents are scared as it happened during the school hours. They also want tough action against school administration. Few parents don't want to send their children to same school. They tried admission in different schools but all of them have been denied admission. Now, few parents seek help from administration for admission of their children at different places. They don't want to send their children to same school where a boy has been killed. It is harming their children's study as examination is approaching. What are the options before you as District Collector to address the concerns of the parents?

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

As the District Collector, my responsibility is to maintain the law and order and address the concerns of the parents.

It is my responsibility to ensure that a full fledged police enquiry is initiated. Once done parents protesting should be emphatically explained the actions being taken by the administration. They should be asked to unblock the road and wait for the administration's update on the matter. Not complying shall only delay the police enquiry against the school administration.

Remarks

Since examinations are approaching, students' academics is at stake.

As parents are sceptical to send their ward to the school, administration can ask all the heads of all schools to come up with a plan to accommodate these students for the time the enquiry is not completed and the ~~same~~

If no consensus can be reached, the administration can ask the school to utilise the Information and Communication Technology to serve these children online.

The government schools can also be asked to serve the children.

Seeing the pain of the parents and being an administrator, it is my duty to ensure that in the long proper measures such as

arduous verification and eligibility
test is conducted, ^{for employees} children are made
aware of such societal issues. This is
very essential since it may occur
in any other school as well.

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Q17. As a young IAS officer, you have been posted as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in a remote area. You have found that schools, road connectivity, community halls are not in good conditions. You know that allocated budget is not sufficient and also the whole process of getting nod from higher authority is time consuming. You have found an alternative to do it through public participation. Mention the steps you will follow in this case and justify each step. (250 Words) (20 Marks)

With the lack of sufficient funds, the ^{essential} infrastructure projects are stalled. Being a remote area, the problem is further aggravated. Thus, as a civil servant, I would go for public participation other than budgetary allocation in the following manner—

① ~~Ask~~ Contribute from my own salary. Though miniscule, it acts as motivation for people around me to participate.

② Ask my friends, relatives and family members to contribute as per their capacity.

I would further ask them to sensitise people around them for the cause.

Remarks

People's participation would result in attracting swifter project implementation with each one of them holding themselves accountable.

③ Social media intervention

This would ensure a greater reach to other like minded emphatic and compassionate people to contribute.

④ In the meanwhile, I would keep a ledger maintaining these funds to ensure financial accountability and report ~~to~~ the development ~~to~~ the government. This would perhaps quicken the process of government approval.

The approach proved successful in reality when Armstrong Pame, IAS utilised public participation to build

~~It~~ ⁶⁶People's bridge⁹⁹, thus, proving
the worth of a society's might and
collective effort.

Remarks