

## ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND APTITUDE

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Q.	Marks	Instructions to Candidate
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are 18 questions.</li><li>• All questions are compulsory</li><li>• The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</li><li>• Content of the answer is more important than its length.</li><li>• Answers must be written in the space provided.</li><li>• Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.</li></ul>
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		

1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature

Name Soumya Anand

Roll No. EAS ETS 2017054

Mobile No. [REDACTED]

Date 21 / 0 / 17

Signature Soumya Anand

## SECTION - A

Q1. The crisis of ethics in public life is more because of attitudinal problem of public servants rather than organizational ineffectiveness. Critically analyze. (1500 words) (10 Marks)

Public service is currently facing a crisis of ethics due to various ills like corruption, nepotism, bureaucratic apathy, misappropriation of funds, etc.

What should be

the standards of public life?

### Role of organizational ineffectiveness

- Rigid hierarchies that leave little room for incentives for good ethical performance
- Lack of ~~own~~ accountability below it to the people
- Focus on following rules rather than evaluating outcomes.
- Low enforcement of Code of Conduct

### Role of attitudinal problems

- Priority to individual career goals rather than public service
- Tendency to support family and friends from public office (nepotism)

Remarks

→ Inability of financial incentives to  
 Certain civil servants' tendencies to visible  
 from corruption cases against high  
 officials.

→ Decline of public morality.

→ Weak character that is unable to  
 withstand political pressure.

However, we need to consider  
 that organisations and institutions are  
 only a product of people comprising  
 them and they can go only so far  
 as the will of the public serves.  
 Hence the bigger problem is attitude of  
 public servants without which  
 organisational issues could be solved.

Emphasize  
 this  
 part  
 more

3

Q2. Explain the importance of following attributes with respect to the civil services.

- (a) Adaptability
- (b) Activism
- (c) Innovation
- (d) Courage

(250 Words) (5×4=20 Marks)

(a) Civil servants are expected to perform their best in all circumstances without any added incentives. Therefore they need to adapt themselves to changing environment → change in political leadership, change in geographical location, language, customs etc. They need to have an all-India perspective even while making local decisions.

(b) In a conventional sense, civil servants are supposed to follow bureaucratic process and refrain from activism. However, if the performance of public duty requires deviation from set rules, activism within the confines of constitutional values may be encouraged. However, it should not have political motivations or partisanship.

He has to be proactive within the system.

Remarks

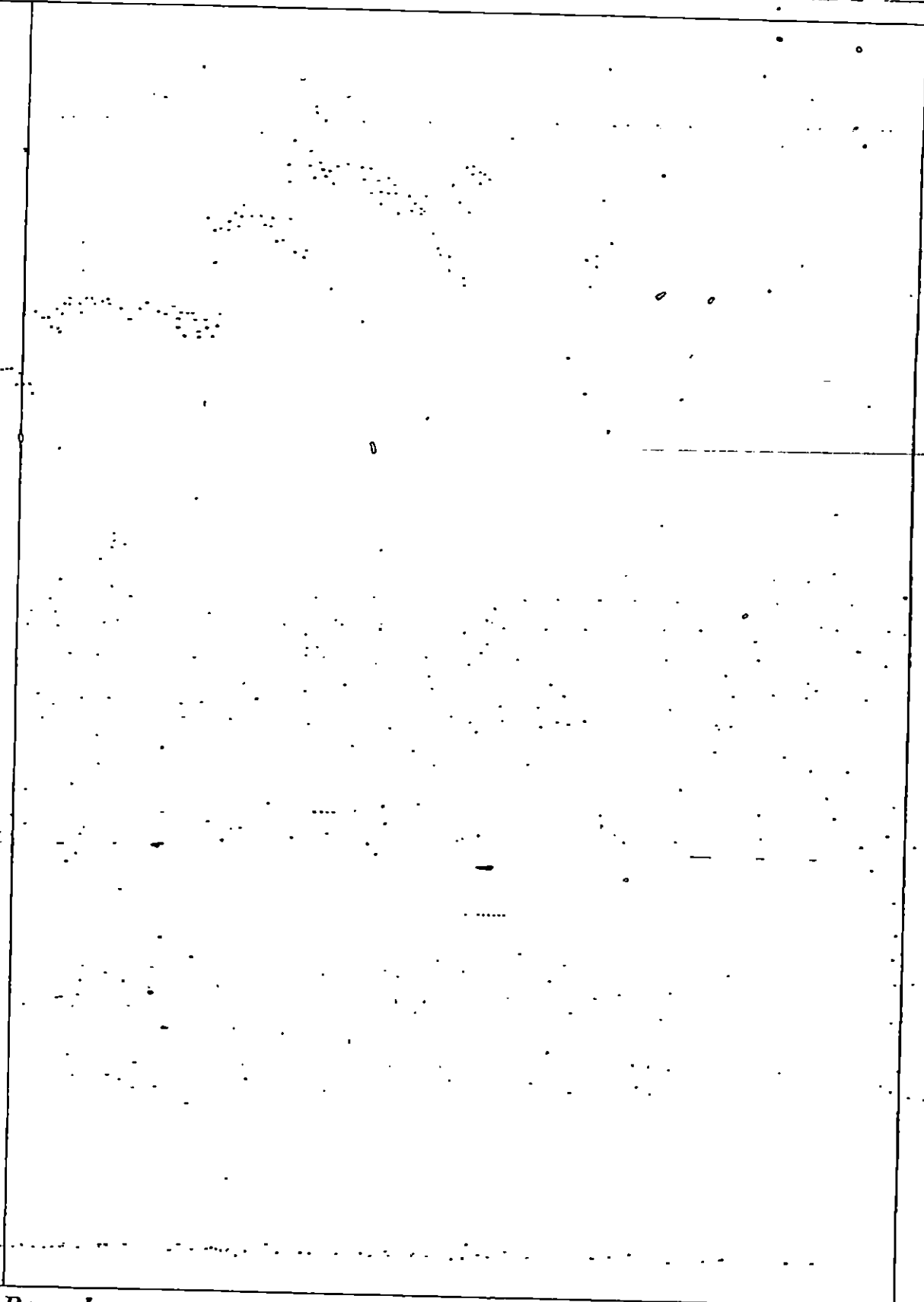
(c) Innovation. In today's era, the major problem with public service is the existence of rigid rules of procedure and hierarchy that militate against independent thinking. Therefore innovation is a welcome trait that ensures that a civil servant is trying to act out of the box for providing solutions to old problems. Without innovation it will be difficult to meet the growing challenges.

2  
How does it help them to improve themselves

(d) Courage - Courage - both physical and moral - is a necessary attribute as it helps a public servant take tough decisions in challenging circumstances. However, courage should be differentiated from recklessness and should involve a thorough analysis of all pros and cons. For example, the act of a police officer to take on a band major without police backup in MP was in hindsight not courageous.

1/2  
Better cite positive example

**GS SCORE**



*Remarks*

**GS SCORE**

--	--	--

*Remarks*

Q3. In order to enter politics and become an effective participant in transforming society, one has to win an election, but to win an election he must sully his hands. In this way, his genuinely noble objective get tainted much before he has an opportunity to realize it. Why establishing ethical framework in politics has become a distinct dream?

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Politics in India shows a paradox. While on one hand it is a means to provide public service, on the other hand the practice of it is considered dirty water to the extent that the term 'politics' itself has negative connotations.

Establishing ethical framework in

Politics

→ Gandhi was against the Machiavellian thought of separating ethics from politics. According to Mahatma Gandhi, ethics and religion is central to politics. However even in front of Gandhi we saw communalistic personal aims of politics for power.

→ While there is a Code of Conduct for public servants, there are calls for Code of Conduct for political executives to bring ethical dimensions but it is disregarded by politicians.

Remarks



→ The practice of politics has become simpler with the large involvement of money, corporate interests, muscle power and to a large extent criminal elements. It is very difficult for a public spirited citizen to escape from this web undeterred.

→ The high stakes involved have also led to greater use of communal, regional and parochial identities preventing emergence of a modern thinking in voters.

→ Any ethical framework would require consensus between different political ideologies which has become difficult in times of polarisation.

However, it must be established that politics is only a reflection of character of society and positive transformation of society especially the electorate as influenced by politics and election of public spirited citizens.

How can these obstacles be overcome?

3

Q4. 'Collusive corruption differs from other type of corruptions because its unethical affects demoralizes the entire fabric of the society, which is doomed in poverty, illiteracy and backwardness'. Illustrate. (150 Words) (10 Marks)

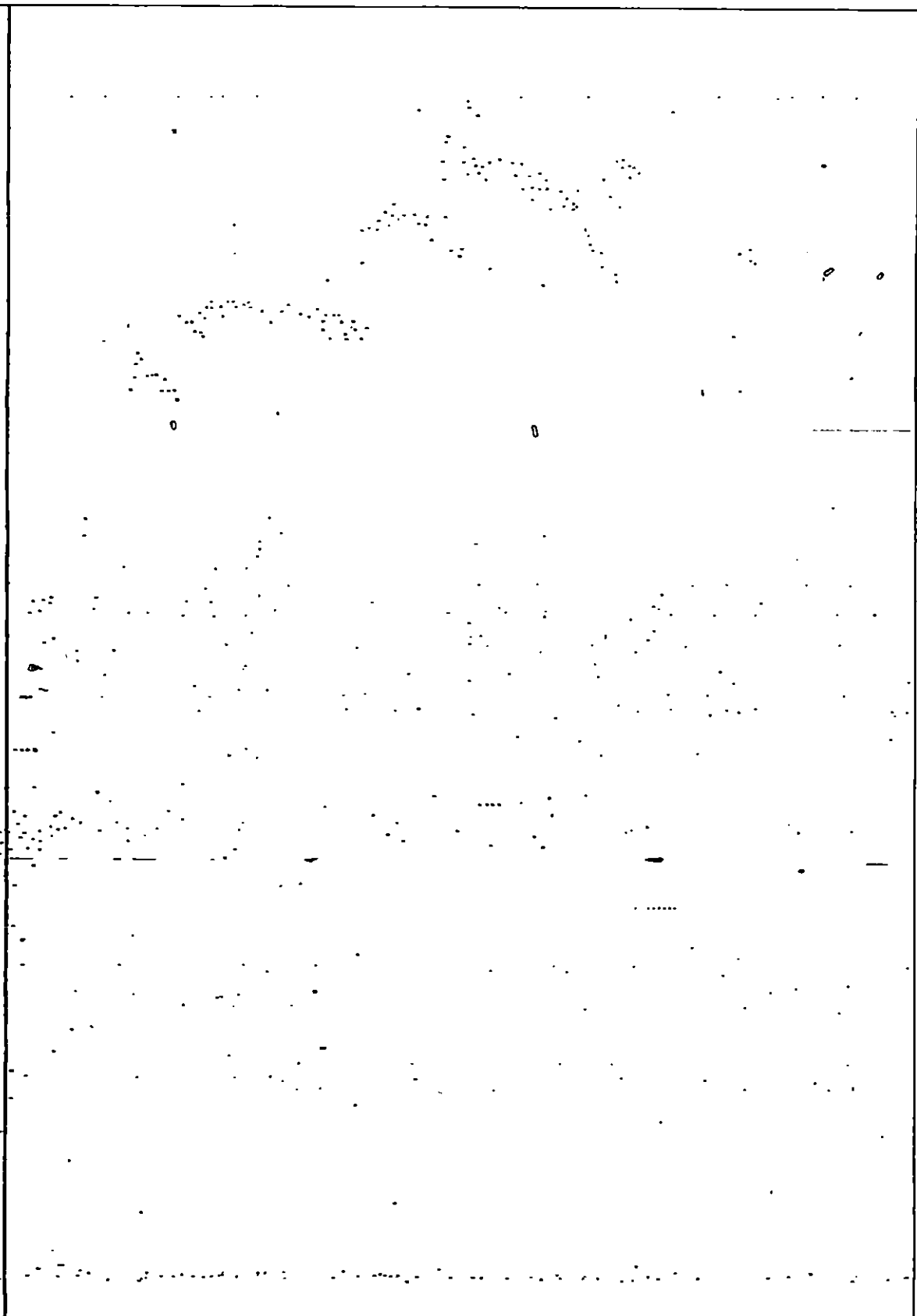
Corruption is one of the greatest threat to the moral fabric of our society. While corruption is part of all aspects of public and private life, collusive corruption entails collusion with and between the public officer and society.

When different levels of officials, private organisations and individuals collude, it affects a greater fabric.



Remarks

**GS SCORE**



*Remarks*

Q5. Given below are the two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. What they mean to you and why they are still relevant?

(a) 'Those who do ill shall suffer more if they are not caught than those that are'. (Boethius)

(b) 'The king should surrender his individuality in the interest of his duty'. (Kautilya)  
(150 Words) (10 Marks)

(c) The statement is a reflection on the consequences of doing evil and subsequent justice. It looks at justice as a reformative tool.

The aim of justice is to reform an individual, even after being caught doing evil, he will be given opportunity to redeem himself and follow a righteous path.

However, those who do not get caught are likely to continue doing evil and suffer from the consequences of their actions. This is visible in the theory of mythology.

The statement also encourages us to correct ourselves through our conscience. If we realise we are on the wrong path and correct ourselves, we can prevent falling into greater depths of evil.

23

Good Comment

Remarks

This is also applicable to society as a whole. As a society we have harmed the environment and shall do greater harm to ourselves if we ignore this fact. Otherwise we have the option to amend our mistakes.

(b) Kautilya's statement is a direction to a king. It tries to establish a society where the king is guided by his duties irrespective of his personal ideas and inclinations.

We see a direct correlation with the task of a civil servant who is supposed to follow rules and act in public service irrespective of his personal beliefs, ideologies, etc and be objective, neutral and non-partisan. Even while obeying orders of a political executive, he has to keep his political ideology aside.

This ensures a minimum deviation from prescribed norms and prevents injustice to certain sections, that a king may be biased against. However it is difficult in practice and requires concerted effort by people in official positions.

2 1/2

good

Remarks

Q6. What could be the influence of a civil servant's private life on his/her public life? How would you prepare yourself to separate the two? (150 Words) (10 Marks)

As a civil servant, it is the duty of an individual to prioritise public welfare over all other personal goals. However, it may happen that there is a contrast between the two.

Impact of personal life on public life:

→ In terms of monetary situation, a civil servant with financial issues may be tempted to engage in corrupt practices in public life.

→ The manner in which a civil servant behaves with elders, vulnerable sections, lower castes/class etc in personal life is reflected in his dealings in public life.

→ Issues in personal life may create stress in public dealings and in severe situation also lead to death eg suicide of an IAS officer in Chozabod recently due to family issues.

→ A civil servant's personal values are also positively reflected in public work.

Remarks

→ Conflict of interests may occur in certain situations when family members may be involved in public dealing.

Though it is not entirely possible to compartmentalise the two, following steps can be taken:

→ Not to use benefits available in public capacity for private use eg. official vehicle.

→ Ensure minimum disclosure of work related aspects in private life and vice versa to ensure separation.

→ To recuse oneself from any dealing where a family member is involved.

→ Declare all private assets in future so that there is no possibility to mis-use funds.

→ Ensure healthy work life balance without heavily relying on others to ensure mental peace.

- What is the role of law in it?

- Develop social morality.

3 1/2

Remarks

Q7. All the discourse of ethics ultimately is another facet of bureaucratic incompetence. Analyze. (150 Words) (10 Marks)

Ethics are an important dimension of both public and private life. The degradation of morals of society has an equal effect on decline of ethics in bureaucracy and resulting lack of competencies.

The statement puts the blame of ineffective bureaucratic performance on the incompetence of officials rather than on the decline in ethics forms a part of

Ethical competency is a part of bureaucratic competencies. It involves knowledge of ethical principles and application of those principles when faced with an ethical dilemma. For example, a civil servant preferring political patronage over public good may otherwise be competent to implement the task but lacks ethical competency.

On the other hand there are various other dimensions of bureaucratic incompetence. Lack of proper training

Remarks



Lack of sensitivity to problems of physically challenged; - Lack of upto date training with respect to technology and other facets of ~~bureaucratic~~ incompetence.

~~the~~ Hence the problems in society are because both lack of ethics and lack of competency. Hence the former is a greater threat as they would use their superior knowledge to create greater ~~harm~~ to society.

There is need to implement code of conduct & ethical principles in practice.

3

Q8. Why is obedience important in an administrative hierarchy? Is it always important to obey the superiors? Mention some conditions in which obedience act as virtue and others in which it becomes a vice.

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Obedience is a virtue in itself. It has its origin in religious obedience. In the administrative hierarchy, it is important because

→ It ensure following of prescribed chain of command.

→ It ensure the superior position of experienced individuals.

→ It maintains discipline in administration.

However, it may not be always important.

Conditions where obedience acts as virtue:

→ In conflict situations, a lower official should obey a higher authority rather than create independent process while pursuing max. efficiency.

→ In case of young officers with little experience, being obedient pays off in the complex situations.

Remarks

However,

- Obedience prevents critical thinking eg. Hitler's officials following his orders of genocide for ~~personal~~ personal gains
- It prevents new ideas from coming up
- In situation where a civil servant is aware of the pharisaism of an order or attached to it, the political pressures amount to ~~the~~ the ~~obedience~~ obedience ~~of~~ of ~~many~~ many ~~duty.~~ duty.

Supplement your views with examples.

3

Remarks

Q9. Citizen Charters are more moral, than legal. Critically analyze.

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Citizen Charters are instruments that are used by organisations to enlist details of services provided and minimum standards that people may expect from the organisation.

Citizen Charters are a means to provide greater power in the hands of citizens. They are made aware of different avenues for redress of their complaints. Even the employees of organisation have a presence of reference of the so they know the extent of the tests they have.

However, Citizen Charters are merely a moral force. They are not binding on an organisation to enforce. They are used to enhance credibility but in difficult situations they may choose not to implement provisions, leaving little power with citizens.

Remarks

However, even as a moral face  
 it has huge implications as citizens.  
 are assured of the extent of the  
 services they are provided and a  
 means to keep employees accountable.

What does it reflect  
 on the part of  
 governance?

2 1/2

Remarks -

Q10. What does success mean to a civil servant? What are the obstacles faced by them in achieving success in their career. What steps can be taken to win such obstacles?

(150 Words) (10 Marks)

Success is a relative term. It has both immediate and long term aspects. For a civil servant, success would imply performing his duty to the best of his capability in a consistent manner and creating a positive impact on the society in the process.

Hence success for a civil servant is much more than achieving a particular rank and office. It has to have an impact on people's lives as well.

Obstacles faced:

→ Structural obstacles

- 1) Rigidity of appraisal system that focuses on age not merit
- 2) Frequent transfers and lack of domain expertise
- 3) Constraints imposed by excessive focus on rules rather than outcome

→ Attitudinal obstacles

- 1) Pressure from political executive

Remarks

- 2) Reluctance of lower bureaucracy to effect change
- 3) Corruption

### Steps to be taken

- At organisational level, there needs to be a greater focus on performance based incentives.
- Sufficient time should be given for each posting to bring proper change.
- Scope of discretionary activities may be widened.
- At individual level, he needs to ensure non-partisanship and objectivity. He also needs to lead by example when it comes to bringing social change.
- Certain morals and principles like impartiality, justice, should be kept inviolable.

4

good content

Remarks

Q11. How the innate qualities of people of a country affect ethical values and the effectiveness of its institutions? Which matters more for progress and growth of the nation--'people' or 'institutions'— and why? Which of the two is more important for good governance? Give reasons. (150 Words) (10 Marks)

Societies differ in terms of morals and values and that is reflected in its political institutions. For example, the US election process is more transparent with respect to funding due to evolved nature of democracy.

Impact of qualities of people

→ An orthodox religious society like India presents effective religious reforms when political institutions try to implement female franchise.

Better look for bright side →

(A) people that are more committed against individualistic values entrenched in constitutions of freedom of speech.

A corrupt society is reluctant to bring change in institutions and is ineffective in electing good politics.

It is debatable whether people or institutions matter more. Institutions in a country like India enjoy enormous

Remarks



state power and patronage. However, eventually all institutions are composed of people and reflect the ideology of people. For eg patriarchal attitudes of police constables. Therefore it is not possible to separate the two.

→ Good governance requires that institutions are able to identify the most efficient and ethical people to govern them.

→ Progressive attitude of citizens can change the institutional / legislative change as well as bring Renaissance. eg India

→ People which are ethical and participate in democracy can elect a ethical parliament for good governance.

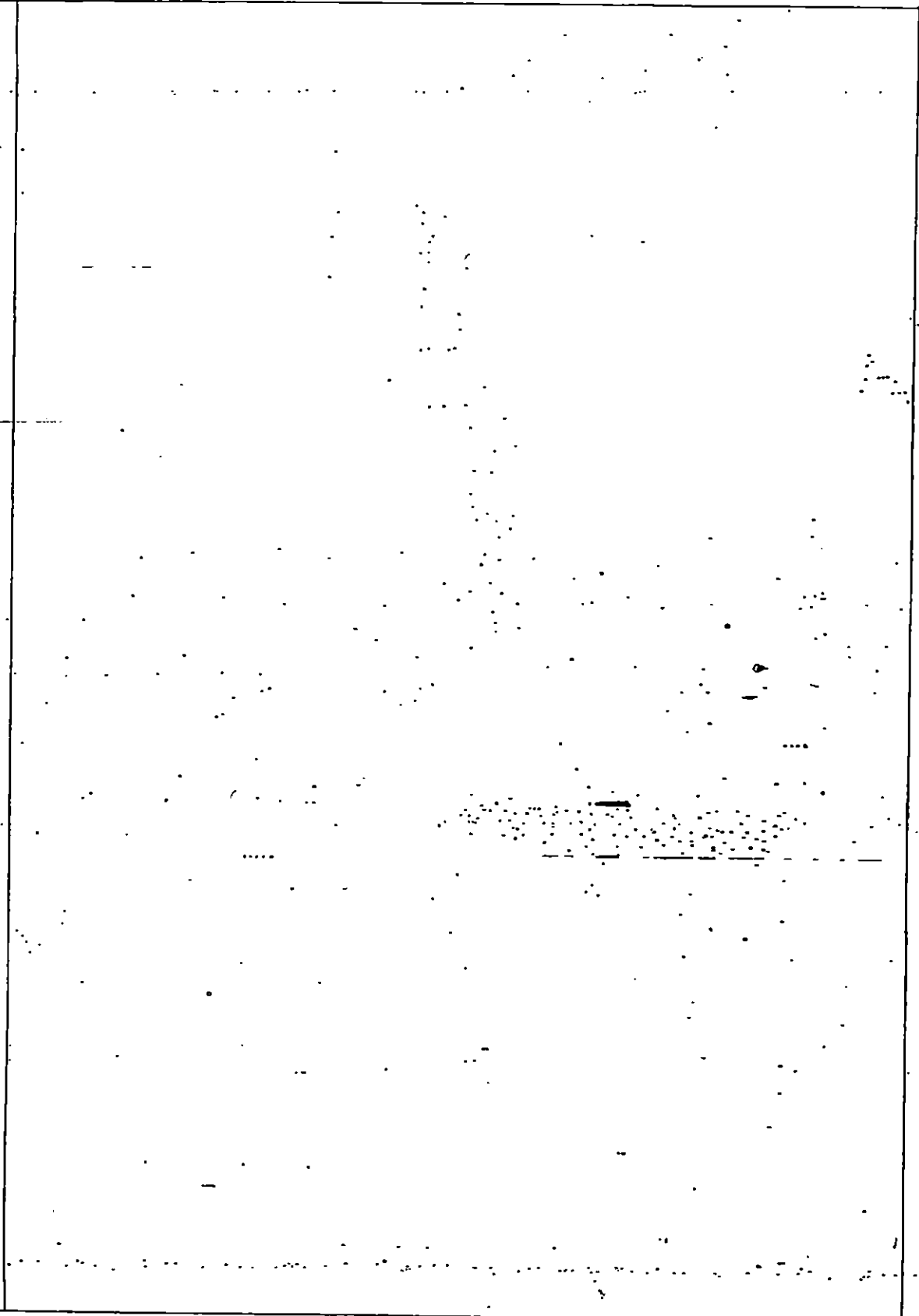
3 1/2

Remarks

Q12. Concept of accountability is inherent to the Weberian hierarchy. *Central concept*  
*Illustrate.*  
(150 Words) (10 Marks)

--	--

*Remarks*



*Remarks*

## SECTION - B

In the following questions carefully study the cases presented and then answer the question that follows:

**Q13.** Although India is amongst the fastest growing economies in the world, it still has one third of the world's illiterates. India is now confronting the perils of its failure to educate its citizens, notably the poor. India, being a mixed economy, needs government intervention in the area of education because education driven by profit motive cannot benefit the masses. But the condition of government schools in India is pathetic. Except for two or three states, all the Indian states have poor educational statistics. More Indian children are in school than ever before, but the quality of government schools has sunk to spectacularly low levels. The children in these schools come from the poorest of families - those who cannot afford to send away their young to private schools elsewhere, as do most Indian families who have the means. India has had a legacy of weak schooling for its young, even as it has promoted high-quality government-financed universities. If in the past, a largely poor and agrarian nation could afford to leave millions of its people illiterate, that is no longer the case. Not only has the high growth ensured that we have a shortage of skilled labor, the nation's many new roads, phones and television-sets have also fueled new ambitions for economic advancement among its people - and new expectations for schools to help them achieve it. In the light of the grim picture of public schooling in India suppose you are a District Collector, and a group of poor people approach to make you aware about the pathetic conditions of public schools in their areas. They handed you a letter that contains five problems regarding dismal states of schools i.e.

- (a) Lack of hygienic toilet facility especially for girls as there are common toilets only,
- (b) Non availability of clean drinking water,
- (c) Lack of proper security,
- (d) Absentee teachers and
- (e) Rude behavior of teachers and staff with the students.

Because of such problem often parents are not sending their children. Dropout rate is also high. Your education minister also expects something concrete from you, as he has to answer local public and media about this issue. With respect to such problems how will you go about providing solutions so that your action may become example for others to learn?

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

Schooling is not only necessary to provide skills in a growing economy.

Remarks

it is also a primary institute for character building and socialization. Provision of a healthy environment is a necessity to ensure that children grow up to become moral, national citizens of the country.

The situation of government school is problematic both at institutional and attitudinal levels. Therefore, to provide solutions to the given problems, a comprehensive strategy would be required:

(a) Issue of hygiene  
I would request the education and health ministries to provide funds for setting up adequate infrastructure i.e. toilets that are biotoilets or require minimum maintenance.

I would encourage school administration to inculcate the attitudes of hygiene and self dependence in line with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Therefore, the policy of China where students themselves can be employed to clean to school premises regularly.

(b) Drinking water  
This would require coordination with local governments to ensure schools get water as a priority basis.

Fund is already there under certain scheme

Remarks

However, values of water conservation would be inculcated to ensure efficient utilisation.

(c) Security

Security is a major concern for female students. A permanent security guard for the school along with authorised personnel for transport faculty would be provided. School transport would ensure that girls do not have to travel alone.

Community policy can be handy in this regard.

(d) Absentee teachers

This would require both technological and social audit. While attendance of teachers can be taken through biometrics, a more holistic solution, per local population should be included in social especially points.

They should be ethically trained to impart education children.

Rude behaviour of staff

A conducive environment for teachers has to be created so that they are satisfied with the perks offered. Greater interaction with parents through parent teacher meetings that would create more understanding between the two stakeholders. Teachers that are more sensitive towards children

Remarks

can also be rewarded regularly  
and hence create incentives.

However, strict action should be taken  
against any sort of physical violence.  
Hence a committee of village headmen  
and school and parents representatives can  
be created to listen to such  
situation

64

Hence solution to the problem of  
schools today does not only require  
infrastructure augmentation but greater  
involvement of all stakeholders so  
that the perpetuation of all  
institutions is guaranteed. This would create  
an appropriate platform for all  
as well.

Remarks

Q14. For thousands of years, man has exploited the earth in the name of development. In return, instead of replenishing it, we humans defile it and pollute the environment. Be it forests, natural resources, water, soil, rain, mountains, winds, flora or fauna, we have ravaged it in the name of our use and needs. By making concrete jungles out of green belts, we have destroyed the ecology in the garb of growth. After exploiting the earth for hundreds and thousands of years, the planet is now taking its revenge: Can we grudge this, for this is our own doing and we cannot escape the penalty? But then is it too late to correct our mistakes? Well, pause for a moment and think. For the time immemorial most of the people have initially been concerned with the goals to achieve and then pragmatically considered means available to them. In other words end mattered first, means were chosen according to their compatibility with desired ends.

In the premise of this paradigm evaluate the following thoughts.

- What is the relation between means and ends?
- What was the idea of Gandhi in this regard?
- Illustrate the relevancy of the whole concept in context of modern world.

(250 Words) (20 Marks)

(a) The relation between means and ends is highly debated. Teleological school of thought prioritises ends over means. The end is highly acceptable. Such an attitude towards our environment has led to rampant exploitation for our own selfish ends. There has been no consideration towards the ill-impact on surroundings by means chosen. On the other hand, deontological thinkers believe that our means matter. Our actions should be guided by values irrespective of the ends they achieve.

Remarks



(b) According to Mahatma Gandhi, means and ends are not contradictory. The end is truth the means also be of truth. They cannot be separated.

Gandhi's idea of non violence and satyagraha as means to achieve independence were also derived from this approach. Since the goal was noble, the means could not be violent.

Gandhi's ideas can be applied in the natural world too. His words that of India follows the development model of west, a more earth would be needed also establishes the importance of being ~~considered~~ towards the environment.

(c) The modern world has regard men to be individualistic and strive for his own success. This sometimes makes men take actions not conducive to the well being of others. Therefore it is important that we take a step back to evaluate all ~~consequences~~ of our actions.

2 1/2

Remarks

Being driven by ends should not  
force us to take unethical means.  
The importance of certain moral  
values needs to be established in  
the modern world too.

2

Remarks

Q15. The Civil Services Exam is one of the toughest and the longest exam system in the country. With the limited number of attempts and nearly five to six lakh applicants appearing each year, of which only 1,000 or less get selected, there is a huge pressure on the candidates to crack the exam and it may lead to the bouts of depression, anxiety and mental stress. Civil Services candidate faces many issues during the course of the preparation. Many candidates leave their homes and move to metro cities for coaching and preparation. They take up accommodation that gives them little comfort. Most of the aspirants do not know how to cook, and some in order to save time eat at the roadside stalls or depend on "Dubbawalas." Having improper food and uncomfortable living, many aspirants end up having health issues. Besides, the coaching institutes in order to produce good results put pressure on the candidates to increase the hours of studies. Loss of sleep impacts the body and the aspirants get totally exhausted. Overall level of stress is very high. For an exam like UPSC, where there is cut-throat competition, the only goal of aspirants is to somehow clear the exam and they ignore the insurmountable pressure on them. You are also one among them. After repeated attempts you failed to qualify this exam and you are in stress as you have lost most valuable time where you could have easily opted for alternate career. One of your best friends has met the same fate and he is in depression. His mother calls you and asks you to take care of her only child. She requests you to motivate him to something big in life, one examination does not make or break everything in life. In the given scenario, how will you motivate yourself and your friend? And, how will you cope with your stress? (250 Words) (20 Marks)

The importance of mental and physical stress is often ignored by students who are in pursuit of career goals. However, it is necessary to establish the need of self-care in an environment of rat race.

There are various issues involved here :-

- The pursuit of an success through an alternative career
- Dealing with depression, anxiety and mental stress

Remarks

→ Moving on in life and appreciating other aspects of life

In order to truly motivate my friend, I need to myself be convinced of the strength of the words of motivation. This would ensure that I influence by example and also create a lasting impression on my friend.

Firstly, I would try to look at the positive aspects - the knowledge gained, the overall perspective developed, the ability to live independently in hardships with little social interaction. This would ensure that both of us realize that the years have not gone in vain. We have built a strength of character.

Secondly, I would discuss with him the specific reasons for insecurities and try to come up with alternative perspectives that can help alleviate his mood.

Remarks

I would also suggest options that can be considered for cancer is the future knowledge gained that would build on the

I would also encourage him to spend time with friends and family that would help create a more vibrant atmosphere.

If required, I would also support him to seek medical help for depression as it is a mental illness that can be controlled with medication.

For a long term perspective, I would encourage him and myself try to pursue stress-relieving activities like yoga and pursue interests and hobbies to create a channel for stress. I would also suggest physical activities like sports which help build a positive attitude.

I would also try to follow these steps and try to find out a alternative career path for myself that is in line with my personal aspirations.

6

Remarks

- Keep self confidence intact which is key to success
- Let your emotion overcome despair
- Accept failure & introspect

Q16. Public utilities and spaces in India are in a bad shape. Roads, water supply, street lighting, market cleanliness, railway stations, parks, community centres, public toilets, rivers and ponds are considered as the sole responsibility of the government to maintain without charging anything. People consider that they have rights to better public utilities and public spaces solely on the basis of government's ability to provide them. However, there is an anomaly in the society. People when travel in local trains do not follow the rules related to hygiene and sanitation but when the same people travel in Metro trains they follow all the rules. Similarly, when people roam in local markets their behaviour is different as comparison to that in Shopping Malls.

Based on the above case, answer the following questions:

- (a) What should be the ideal way to manage the quality of public utilities and public spaces in a populous country like India?
- (b) Identify limitations of each competing options.
- (c) What is the role of peer pressure in this context? (250 Words) (20 Marks)

(c) Public Utilities are common resources which are used by everyone but considered the sole responsibility of the government.

The following can be considered as different alternatives:

(A) → Complete responsibility of all public utilities or government provided which is tax and toll ~~increasing~~ the tax.

(B) → Differentiating between essential and non-essential functions. Essential functions have greater social justice responsibility eg. education, health in comparison to non-essential - communication, markets etc.

Remarks

How about making real change?

Non essential utilities may be privatised and fee charged accordingly to market rates. It will increase efficiency.

(c) → Involvement of local bodies for all utilities. If people are aware of the costs involved they tend to use resources more efficiently. Moreover, the local bodies can prioritise spending according to the requirements of the region. They can levy nominal charges.

(d) Limitations

(A) → Increasing indirect taxes would lead to disproportionate burden on the poor.

→ It is beyond the expertise and capability of government to manage all utilities.

(B) → It may create imbalance as private sector motivation is profit. eg. rich regions may prioritise water supply to

↔ Market based pricing can be limiting for the lower class and subject to fluctuations.

Remarks:

(a) → Improving capability of local governments is a long process as they lack funds, functions and functionaries.

→ There is possibility of appropriation of resources by the more powerful caste / sections of society especially in rural areas.

3

Therefore, a mix of all options is needed. One way could be a PPP model that ensure equity by public partners and efficiency by private. Local governments can provide social audit and in the meantime improve capabilities.

(c) Role of peer pressure → Role of environment is visible by the stark difference in which Indians behave in western countries and in India with respect to hygiene, following laws etc.

→ Importance of enforceability of laws i.e. people fear being fined that is absent here.

→ People tend to mould themselves according to environment and avoid unnecessary attention by breaking social rules. Hence, do not break hygiene rules in metro.

→ Therefore, it is important to ensure clean environment so they think before making it dirty again.

2

Remarks

over all good approach



Q17. Mr. 'X' had applied under RTI Act to the District Planning Officer who was also PIO, asking information about unspent balance of the last five years on account of MPLAD funds. The name of a particular MP was mentioned in the RTI application. The PIO knew applicant to be a political opponent of the particular M.P. The PIO came to know informally about the applicant's plan to discredit the sitting M.P. in the forthcoming General Elections, by bringing these information in the knowledge of the voters.

The following are some suggested options for PIO. Evaluate the merits and demerits of the options.

- (a) PIO should ask M.P. whether he should provide these information to the applicant because MP is third party in the case. According to the act, third party consent is mandatory.
- (b) PIO should refuse to provide information because the applicant might use these information against the local M.P. to discredit him.
- (c) PIO should provide all the information as has been requested whether local M.P. likes or not.
- (d) PIO should seek the guidance of District Collector Cum District Election Officer because information sought is related to his jurisdiction and is political in nature.

Also please indicate (without necessarily restricting to the above options) what PIO should do in future in order to avoid such controversies? (250 Words) (20 Marks)

The situation presents a dilemma before the Public Information Officer where he has to the following role obligations:

- Ensure transparency in his actions
- Follow the guidelines in spirit of public interest
- Follow administrative hierarchy
- Ensure neutrality and non-partisanship

(c) Asking MPs before providing information

Remarks

Merits

- Following RTI Act to the letter
- ~~Transparency~~ in action May create positive relation with sitting MP.

Is it his duty

Dement

- Giving unfair advantage to the MP
- in a political issue
- Disclosing details of RTI query

(b) Refusal to provide information

Merit

- Will prevent any political contest based on a political RTI query

Dement you are nothing to do with it

- A violation of spirit of RTI
- Unfair advantage to MP
- Loss to public to know information on MPLAD funds

(c) Provide all information

Merit

- Transparent action leading to disclosure of facts to public

Dement

- Politicisation of issue that could have been dealt internally (allocation of funds)

Remarks

(d) Seek guidance of District Collector

Ment

- Follows administrative hierarchy
- Prevents taking controversial decision
- Ensures greater analysis of all facets of case

Demerit

- Dereliction of duty

Given the sensitive nature of content of RTI query, seeking help of District Election officer would ensure the appropriate time and effort <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> release of the appropriate information that was leads to minimum collateral damage.

However, following steps should also be taken:

- As a District Planning officer, PIO need to ensure that MPLAD planning is not politically motivated and funds are distributed in accordance to objective criteria.
- Priority should be given to transparency irrespective of result of disclosure.
- Political considerations should be avoided as far as possible and new partnership should be encouraged.

2/2

good

Remarks

Q18. One small area of a district headquarter town is in the grip of encroachment. As a result, people face lots of problems due to the congestion of roads and the most affected lot are senior citizens, who face difficulty in crossing the congested and crowded roads. This is creating a problem about two roundabouts and two parks of that area. Besides, area is also very dirty and there is no arrangement of cleanliness. Senior citizens of that area have appealed to the state government to appoint a young but disciplined and energetic officer in the town to take care of the problems and grievances of the people. Executive officer of the local civic body said they were doing their best to clear the encroachments in the town from time to time. However, once the encroachments were removed, the same people find other sites in the same area to be encroached upon. Residents desire that there should be some attempts to beautify these places as are done in many other cities of the country. They also want beautification of parks so that even children can play. Local MLA is also ready to fund. You are Municipal Commissioner of the city and when a delegation of eminent people has come to meet you with a request to do something for the purpose, you checked up with your finance and accounts department, which expressed its reluctance to provide with resources.

What are the issues before you in this case & how you will execute options effectively?  
(250 Words) (20 Marks)

- As a Municipal Commissioner, I face the following issues:
- Meeting aspirations of people who want a decongested, encroachment free public space.
  - Taking care of vulnerable sections like senior citizens for crossing roads and children for playing.
  - Inability of local civic body to ensure compliance.
  - Lack of resources with finance department.
  - Political incentive and for local MLA to fund.
  - Health issues due to lack of cleanliness, time lost due to congestion affecting productivity of district.

Remarks

Therefore after considering all aspects of the situation, I would take the following steps:

- Since the demand is from the citizens, I would encourage private citizens and NGOs to raise funds and volunteers like the story of DM Armstrong Pare in Manipur. NGOs, CSR could also be provided by the funding which would also create political leadership.
- A local MLA good relation between people and Civic body can be assigned a task of removing encroachment and building sustainable infrastructure.
- For maintenance, local volunteers can be employed with the groups help of NGOs that encourage good upkeep and build citizen awareness and sanitation.
- This would also limit the resources needed for maintenance.
- Use of technology eg. CCTVs to monitor for the encroachment on the parts etc.

Private funding  
Encroachers need to be relocated too as it is the matter of their livelihood.

5 1/2

Remarks

Success of one initiative on  
be replicated in remaining parts  
and roundabouts

*Remarks*