



COMPREHENSIVE TEST

MAINS OPEN MOCK 2025

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY

GS - PAPER IV

Name Of Candidate	SREEJA J S		
Email Id		Roll No	100083
Mobile No		Date	10/08/25

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE		INSTRUCTIONS	
Total marks	87 1/2	- Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile No and Test Code in answer sheets. - There are TWELVE questions divided in two Sections. - All 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 a medium other than the authorized one. - Word limit in questions should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.	
Remarks:			
		Start Time : 02:00 pm	End Time : 05:00 pm
		Mode Of Examination :	Online ☐ Offline ☒

VH 141, Upper Meridian Road, Kuravankonam Jn, Kowdiar PO, Trivandrum 695003 | PH 9495015888

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY

TABLE OF MARKS			REMARKS
Q NO	MAXIMUM MARKS	MARKS OBTAINED	
1(a)	10	4	Question Understanding:
1(b)	10	3.5	
2(a)	10	3.5	Presentation(Neatness):
2(b)	10	5	
3(a)	10	4.5	Content:
3(b)	10	4.5	
4(a)	10	3.5	Innovation:
4(b)	10	4	
5(a)	10	4	Other suggestions:
5(b)	10	4.5	
6(a)	10	4	
6(b)	10	3.5	
6(c)	10	4.5	
7	20	9	
8	20	6	
9	20	8.5	
10	20	9	
11	20	11	
12	20	2	

SECTION : A

1.

- (a) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Patriotism refers to the intense love and devotion to one's nation. For defence services, it demands laying one's life for the sake of the nation if required. It is the duty of soldiers. It also has implications in everyday civil life.

Meanings of patriotism in everyday civil life

⇒ Adherence to Fundamental Duties :

Ex Not littering in the public, keeping up with the Fundamental Duty of protecting the environment

Ex Respect for national symbols - standing up for national anthem at college.

⇒ Working hard and studying, so that one day I can contribute to nation building :

(eg) Willingness for public spending on education and healthcare services (social sector spending).

⇒ Patiently listening to diverse views and fostering tolerance towards other cultures:

(eg) Taking part in festivals of other cultures and acknowledging and respecting people of other religions - upholding secularism and unity and diversity - core principles of India as a nation.

⇒ Respect towards authority and taking a stand when required: Involves ~~no~~ being unbiased and objective.

⇒ Voting at the time elections: Fulfilling democratic duty.

Everyday patriotism does not require doing heroic activities, but being respectful towards others and nation as a whole in one's own small ways is incredibly patriotic.

3.5

- (b) "While honesty and compassion are considered eternal human values, their expression is often shaped by prevailing social norms." In the context of a pluralistic society, discuss how a balance can be struck between universal values and cultural relativism. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Honesty refers to being truthful and straightforward at all times. Compassion refers to taking steps to alleviate the pain or suffering of others. They are considered as eternal values, but they are often shaped by social norms [universal values vs ethical relativism]

Social norms shaping values

⇒ Social norms forms the basis of values : eg A companionate society fosters the values of companion & empathy.
A anomic society with self-perceiving individual would not know empathy.

⇒ The contrast between region-specific values and universal values :

eg Democracy & individualism - values from west, but Asian values are grounded in communitarianism & communal living.

Avoid such black and white arguments in Ethics paper

⇒ Religion and cultural values shape values:

- eg) Protestantism - individualist values
- eg) Confucianism - empathy, companionship & community life

Striking balance between universal values & cultural relativism.

⇒ Developing tolerance for other's values:

In accordance with Hyadavade principle of Jainism eg) Islamic ethics coexisting with christian values in Kerala, TN etc.

⇒ Societal harmony as the end goal:

Making values means to societal harmony, balances universal values & cultural relativism

⇒ Fostering constitutional morality: Rule of law and democracy at higher ground.

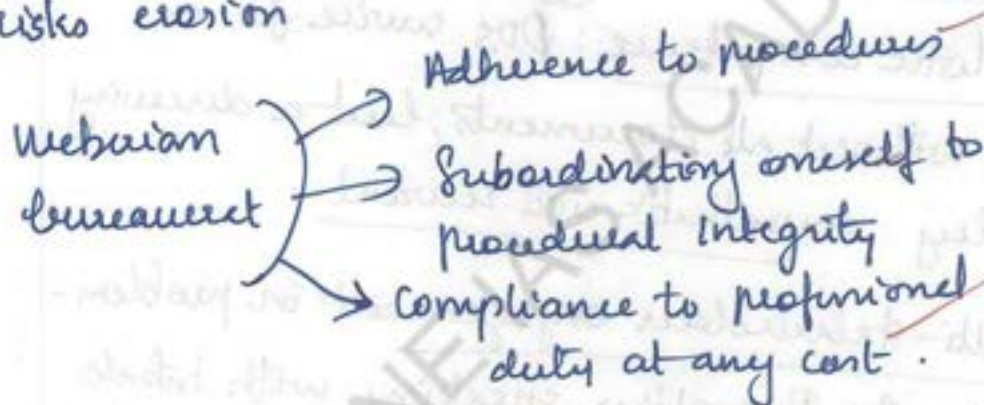
⇒ Nurturing empathy and companionship along with anuvrat for understanding

Neither should dominate the other.
There should be a perfect balance between universally applicable values and specific values for common welfare of all / Tatv / Lochanj

2.

- (a) "A rigid bureaucratic mindset may ensure procedural compliance, but a democratic attitude fosters public trust." In the context of civil services, critically examine this statement with suitable illustrations. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

A rigid bureaucratic mindset in accordance with weberian bureaucracy is efficient in ensuring procedural compliance. But without democratic attitude, public trust risks erosion.



Rigid bureaucratic mindset ensuring procedural compliance in civil services

⇒ Highly competent in profession: Strong adherence to rules (deontology).

eg Ensures quality service delivery and checks corruption

⇒ Professional integrity and model officer: Disciplined civil servant with high performance

rate.

⇒ Upholds rule of law and subjects oneself to law: eg Service delivery through proper documentation by a civil servant; PIO doing duty diligently.

Democratic attitude in civil servant, fostering public trust

⇒ Holistic competence: eg PDS service for a person without all documents, but a deserving one by empathetic civil servant.

⇒ Multi-stakeholder engagement in problem-solving: An IAS officer speaking with tribals and OJFD and taking actions for their livelihood despite political pressure for a project implementation.

⇒ Checks corruption: eg Diaga Shakti Wagpal IAS tackling sand quarry.

Bureaucratic attitude + democratic attitude

⇒ Procedural compliance + companionate governance. eg T.N. Sushan IAS - ECI reforms

Both are required as they reinforce each other.

More content needed under this heading
Cross Q's

- (b) Define Ethical Leadership and explain how a high Emotional Quotient (EQ) can enhance its practice in the civil services. Illustrate with suitable examples. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Ethical leadership refers to a leadership model grounded in values such as integrity, honesty, impartiality, compassion and non-partisanship, grounded in high EQ.

"A good leader is not concerned about the monuments he/she build for himself/herself, but whether he/she can build others."

High Emotional Quotient fostering ethical leadership civil services:

⇒ Self-awareness: A self-aware civil servant do not take hasty decisions, will acknowledge and wisely interpret one's emotions and others'. eg civil servants practicing mindfulness

⇒ Self reflection: ~~Self~~-this ensures that civil servants are aware of their strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities & challenges.

eg Calm and composed civil servant in the face of disaster management. 2

⇒ Social skill: Fosters collegiality among civil servants and better relations with politicians. eg NSA Ajit Doval and his rapport with pm Modi in foreign policy practice.

⇒ Motivation: Self-motivation of civil servants motivates others.

eg Armstrong pave 145, constructed 100 km road in Manipur with the help of villagers and no outside funding.

⇒ Empathy: Guides the civil servants to take lead in advancing social justice goals.

eg Balika Manch by Saju Vahed 145 to tackle child marriage in his district.

Therefore, high IQ is a prerequisite for ethical leadership that builds others while building oneself. Moreover, a civil servant is expected to subordinate oneself for the sake of public good without losing oneself in the process.

4.5

3.

- (a) Compare and contrast the ethical implications of pursuing happiness through virtue versus wealth. How can we promote a value-based conception of well-being in a consumerist society? (10 marks, 150 words)

"Dukkham hi, satta sukham"
(Happiness is rare, but it is what everyone wants). Some people find happiness through virtue while others in wealth, each having ethical implications.

Ethical implications

Happiness through
virtue

Happiness through
wealth

- * Kindfulness and art of living
- ↳ Happiness through being kind to oneself and others
- * Against materialism and focused on giving to others
- * Joy in little things
- * Calm, composed and based on four cardinal virtues

- * Driven by ambitions and dreams
- ↳ Capitalist principle of individual wellbeing
- * fosters consumerism culture. Self-promotion is first priority
- * Drive to make more and more
- * Little time to be calm & composed.

Similarity

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End goal is happiness • High intellectual and conscious efforts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End goal <u>highest level</u> of happiness and pleasure • Similar efforts to find happiness in wealth |
|--|--|

Promoting value-based well-being in the current consumerist society

* Upholding compassion and empathy:

Fosters kindness & charitable activities - personal fulfillment.

* Promoting environmental ethics of Stewardship and trusteeship - individual & environmental well-being

* Promotion of Jain principle of Aparigraha and eight fold path of Buddha to eliminate desire for wealth - intellectual & physical.

* Teaching young generation values of minimalism

Without money, good and fulfilled life is impossible. But money without values or efforts is a sin (Gandhi), if it doesn't bring prolonged happiness.

Avoid
extreme
argument
Provide
balanced
Content

4-5

- (b) "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as 'means'." - Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (10 marks, 150 words)

Immanuel Kant's deontology and 2nd categorical Imperative says that human being should always be treated as ends in themselves and not as means.

Meaning and significance

(1) Every human being, by virtue of being human has an intrinsic value above the means aspect.

(2) This intrinsic value equates to inherent dignity that emphasises on respecting others as dignity of others demand it.

(3) Humans thus are more than mere instruments, endowed with reason & rationality.

Implications in the modern techno-economic society

Provide
points to
address this

⇒ Individual level: Giving others due respect and upholding atmani pratikulan paushkam na samachray (Do not do unto others you do not want do unto you).

⇒ Family: Treating children with having their inherent worth

eg) Not forcing parent's dream on children → Doctor-engineer syndrome

⇒ Society: Being companionate to weaker sections and helping them instead of using them for namesake charity.
(Charismatic ethics)

⇒ Corporate world: eg) Not treating colleagues as mere employees but individuals with worth and dignity. eg) Tata's recent notice to lay off, but after helping those employees get jobs somewhere else

As human beings, we are born with dignity and we must respect that in ourselves and others for societal well being

4.

- (a) "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment; it has to be cultivated." — B.R. Ambedkar

Discuss the significance of this statement in the context of ethical governance and decision-making in public service. (10 marks, 150 words)

Constitutional morality refers to the adherence to the norms, values, and spirit of the Constitution rather than ^{mere} following of provisions word by word. As B.R. Ambedkar said, it needs to be cultivated in public sphere.

Significance in ethical governance

⇒ Adherence to rule of law:

3.5

- equality before law - requires treating everybody impartially without bias
- equal protection of law - requires treating unequals unequally ^{eg} protective discrimination
- ^{eg} providing information under RTI - quality service delivery.

⇒ Accountability and transparency: to ensure protection of freedoms and well-being of ordinary people
^{eg} ethical training ground in constitutional training.

points
could
be
better.

⇒ Supererogation: Doing duty beyond's
one's designated duty, ensuring social justice
eg) Ensuring healthcare for a person
fainted while applying for a service in office

Significance in decision-making

⇒ Multi-stakeholder engagement:

Adherence to democratic values

eg) FLA

⇒ Listening to other's perspectives:

eg) Tribal consultations before implementing
laws and projects.

⇒ Fostering fair, just, equitable
decision-making: In accordance with
natural justice eg) Lok adalats.

Constitutional morality is thus, a
moral compass determining ethicality
of action in governance and decision
making

- (b) Define trustworthiness and fortitude. How do these values reinforce each other in the context of ethical public service? Provide suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Trustworthiness refers to the quality of being honest and having integrity, resulting in others increased reliability & trust on you yourself.

Fortitude is having courage in the face of adversity. These two qualities are much needed in ethical public service.

Trustworthiness + Fortitude = ethical public service

⇒ Increased public's reliability on government for quality service delivery:

Makes civil servants strong to face any adversity. eg T.N. Seshan's election/ECR reform attempts

⇒ They are crucial for building public trust: Trustworthy officers with fortitude would be adept in their duties cultivating public trust.

eg Ashok Khemka's attempts to expose corruption

⇒ Faithfulness strengthens trustworthiness:

Courageous acts by officers increase the trustworthiness of whole government.

eg Satyendranath Dabey's effort to expose corruption cost him, his life but it helped public view civil servants as pathbreakers

⇒ Increases the moral uprightness in

public services: Helping officers fulfil their duties ethically and the public approach officers without fear.

eg Jan sunwai program in Rajasthan

These two values: trustworthiness and faithfulness, thus cannot be treated in isolation. Both are integral part of each other.

5.

- (a) "Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment." Discuss the significance of this statement for civil service organisations, highlighting the balance between strict adherence to rules and fostering creativity. (10 marks, 150 words)

Discipline bridges the gap between goals and accomplishment. It is vital for achieving the goals and accomplish them.

Significance of discipline in civil service organizations:

Need of strict adherence to rules:

◦ Disciplined officers adhere to the letter of the law with due diligence ensuring rule of law

◦ Maintenance of procedural integrity, assist for implementation of schemes and weeding out corruption and nepotism

Eg Giving clearances to a high impact project in a tribal area for nation's development.

At the same time, it must be balanced with creative decision-making & accomplishment

⇒ Officer must have high emotional intelligence and think out of the box.

⇒ Following rules is easier, but ensuring maximum good for maximum people must demand innovations ^{eg)}

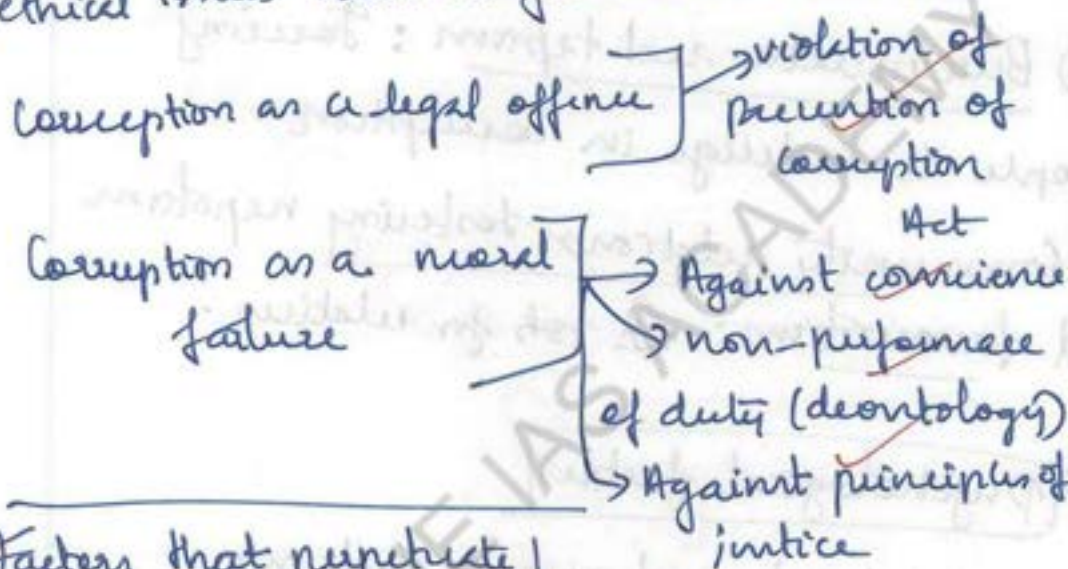
⇒ This entails, discipline to laws and creativity.

eg) Arches for Hokeck Gibbon while building railway lines in Assam

⇒ This ensures goals are achieved, and the true accomplishment came with balancing adherence to rules and creative decision making.

- (b) "Corruption is not only a legal offence but also a moral failure." Discuss the underlying ethical, cultural, and psychological factors that perpetuate corruption in public life. (10 marks, 150 words)

Corruption refers to indulging in activities involving money or other benefits from non-performance of ~~duties~~ or other ethical issues such as favouritism or nepotism.



Factors that perpetuate corruption in India

⇒ ethical factors:

- o Failure to heed to the call of conscience in the event of crisis of conscience
- o Not adhering to ~~values~~ such as honesty and integrity.

⇒ Treating other people as means for one's personal benefit (against Kantian deontology)

⇒ ethical egoism v self preservation (Ayan Rand)

⇒ Cultural factors

⇒ Bureaucratic red tapism: Forcing people to indulge in corruption
⇒ Community relations: fostering nepotism and favouritism: A job for relatives.

⇒ Psychological factors

⇒ Self-interest and money-making mindset: Reflectness in willingness to take risk

⇒ Selfish - attitude

⇒ Confidence that would not get caught

Corruption reflects the moral bankruptcy of a society. It is a evil that must be eradicated through proper legal channels such as Prevention of Corruption Act, CVC etc.

6. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these convey to you in the present context?

- (a) "Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one."
- Marcus Aurelius (10 marks, 150 words)

This quote of Marcus Aurelius highlights the personal responsibility of each individual to be a good person first before discussing on who is a good man.

Relevance of the quote

⇒ Ethical leadership: Demand that be the change you want to see in others reflecting Gandhian ideal

eg) Ratan Tata, he himself became a good man through charity activities.

⇒ Challenges preachers in the society that does not reflect in concrete actions: eg) Parents indulging in bad habits while criticizing others for doing the same.

⇒ Individual responsibility: to take actions to develop oneself to be good

virtue ethics

On the other hand, mere arguing would result in,

(1) reclaiming of moral superiority and moral absolutism disrupting societal harmony

(2) Corrupted work culture with no recognition to individual efforts

(3) Crises of conscience for individuals and knower-doer split.

eg I know lying is bad and says so, but lies to cover truth.

Aurelius quote is a call to take the ~~responsibility~~ ~~for oneself~~ responsibility for oneself before teaching others how to be good. This is highly relevant in the current society, given the rise of influencer culture

- (b) "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."
- Rabindranath Tagore (10 marks, 150 words)

Tagore's quote highlight the ultimate purpose of education.

Highest
Education gives us information

⇒ Education's first purpose is to impart knowledge or information.

eg) Schools and colleges

⇒ Literate society will know the importance of having good values

eg) Scandinavian countries

3.5
⇒ Education empowers individuals, leads to employment & growth.

However, highest education makes our life in harmony with all existence

⇒ triumphs on universal humanism:
coexistence of humanity with all of

value education.

nature.

⇒ Individually, highest education is aimed at bringing in satisfaction, contentment & good life.

⇒ Personal well-being of all members in a society leads to social well-being.

⇒ Happy society seeks harmony with nature and collective whole.

⇒ UNO - rooted in international peace and unity advancement.

⇒ Moreover, highest education cultivates global citizenship overpowering divisive kind of nationalist trends.

Education, thus, should not be limited to training just the minds, but a wholistic teaching for balancing hearts and minds.

- (c) "Purity, patience, and perseverance are the three essentials to success and, above all, love." - Swamy Vivekananda

(10 marks, 150 words)

Swami Vivekananda's words highlight, the basic necessities for success: purity, patience, perseverance and love. Success is achieved when one's personal goals not only contribute to one's fulfilment, but in turn nourishes the world.

Importance of purity in success:

⇒ purity of intentions avoid crisis of convenience for individuals

⇒ Moral compass to never use other individual as mere means

⇒ purity of mind also ensures purity of heart and intentions.

Importance of patience:

⇒ Waiting for success makes the success sweeter

eg India's national movement for years made freedom sweeter.

⇒ Patience builds character and checks emotion, contributing to personality development.

Importance of perseverance

⇒ Ability to persist despite adversity builds fortitude in the long run

⇒ Determination-building

eg) Simone Biles' Olympic victory.

Higher importance of love

⇒ Builds respect and concern for others

eg) Ethical civil servants devoted to duty to serve others.

⇒ Makes one's success, success of many

eg) Victory of WRO guided by love for country.

Vivekananda's words hold great significance in the current world where everyone wants success but often forgetting its true meaning.

SECTION: B

7. You are the Head of the Organ Transplant Committee at a premier government-funded hospital. You have two patients who are a perfect match for a single donor heart that has just become available.

- Patient A is a 65-year-old retired civil servant, a teetotaler with a healthy lifestyle, but whose post-operative recovery chances are moderate due to his age.
- Patient B is a 28-year-old brilliant musician with a history of alcohol abuse, which contributed to his heart condition. He has been sober for six months and has two young children. His chances of a full recovery are very high if the transplant is successful.

Hospital policy dictates that priority should be based on medical factors like prognosis and waiting list duration (both patients have been waiting for a similar length of time). However, there is a heated debate among committee members. Some argue for Patient A, citing his responsible life and greater "deservingness." Others argue for Patient B, citing his youth, dependents, and potential for future contribution to society, provided he stays sober.

- Discuss the ethical principles at play in this resource allocation dilemma.
- As the head of the committee, how would you structure the decision-making process to arrive at a fair and ethically sound conclusion? What would be your final recommendation and how would you justify it? (20 Marks, 250 Words)

This case presents the ethical dilemma to choose a deserving patient for organ transplantation without any bias while adhering to medical ethics principles.

Stakeholders

→ Me (Head of the Organ transplant committee)

→ Patient A - retired civil servant

→ Patient B - young musician

Children of Patient B
Key stakeholders

a) Ethical principles at play:

(1) Well-being of both patients:

My decision should be aimed at ensuring the well-being of both without giving to emotions

(2) Beneficence: the transplantation decision should benefit the receiving patient.

(3) Maleficence: The transplantation should not result in harming the patient with ^{my} knowledge and negligence

(4) Empathy and compassion: to both patient's unique circumstances.

(5) Consideration for families of both

(6) Setting up of precedent: the decision

The dilemma arises bcoz both cannot be saved

Justice vs Utility

Responsibility vs Redemption

should be logical & thorough.

(b) Structure of my decision-making
to arrive conclusion is fair and
ethical.

⇒ I will look at all the options

- ↳ background of both patients
- ↳ Dependent family members
- ↳ Age, ~~other~~
- ↳ Other disease conditions.
- ↳ future contributions to ~~society~~.
- ↳ Alternative options.

⇒ Talking with the patients and their
family members to see their opinions,
views and reactions maintaining patient
confidentiality

⇒ Talking and discussing with the
medical team - ~~doctors and nurses~~
who are part of operating team - ~~fee~~

expert opinion.

(b) Final recommendation:

⇒ Giving the organ to patient B,
the young musician.

⇒ plus, keeping the retired civil
servant in the loop for next availability
of organ.

⇒ Justification

- o Patient B is young - higher
chances of successful surgery

- o Career and family:

→ Young musician - seasonality
of employment adds to his vulnerability

→ His drinking habit in the
past is not a sin. He has been sober
for six months. Chances are, he will

there always
be opportunity for
redemption?

remain sober

→ Two young children are dependent on him.

Reason for not giving to civil servant

→ Age - chances of operation not becoming news - wasted opportunity

→ He is retired and must see receiving pension enough for his survival

→ Will keep him in loop, so that, next, he will receive the organ.

→ No information about his dependents
↳ ~~they are either not off~~ in the care.

This case ~~so~~ demands high emotional intelligence and prudent decision-making.

Not
necessary

8. You are an investigative journalist with a national daily. During a months-long investigation, you uncover credible documentary evidence showing that the founder of a nationally acclaimed charity—responsible for providing quality education to over 50,000 underprivileged children—has been siphoning off a small percentage of donations for personal expenses. The charity has a stellar record, is widely admired by the public, and has demonstrably transformed the lives of its beneficiaries. Your evidence is strong enough to stand legal scrutiny, but the exposure could severely damage the charity's reputation, leading to a sharp fall in donations and possibly threatening the continuation of its work.

The founder is a charismatic public figure, celebrated for social impact and frequently endorsed by government officials and celebrities. While the siphoning of funds is relatively small compared to the charity's total budget, it is still a breach of trust and donor intent. If you publish the story, you could ensure accountability and prevent future misuse of funds, but you might also jeopardize the charity's survival, affecting thousands of vulnerable children.

If you suppress the information, the wrongdoing continues, potentially setting a precedent for tolerance of corruption. You face pressure from multiple sides—donors urging discretion to "save the good work," activists demanding full exposure, and your editor expecting a story that upholds public interest without causing unnecessary harm. Balancing truth-telling, public accountability, and the long-term welfare of beneficiaries creates a profound ethical dilemma.

- (a) Identify and explain the key ethical issues involved in this case from the perspective of public interest, journalistic integrity, and accountability.
- (b) List possible courses of action you can take.
- (c) Suggest the most appropriate course of action and justify your choice based on ethical reasoning, professional duty, and the likely impact on stakeholders.

(20 Marks, 25 Words)

*this case demands adhering to
protecting public interest, pursuing
journalistic integrity and ensuring
accountability from all sides.*

Stakeholders

- The (investigative) journalist
- underprivileged children
- Nationally acclaimed charity & its founder
- Media house and editor
- donors
- public

a) Ethical issues

⇒ public interest

(1) Founder of the charity's actions - siphoning of money for underprivileged children erodes public interest.

(2) The negative impact on the long-term welfare of beneficiaries

(3) My responsibility to ensure public interest.

⇒ Journalistic integrity

(1) Dilemma to either expose the information or suppress it.

(2) Pressure from the activists to publish the whole story

(3) My professional duty to adhere to truth and honesty.

⇒ Accountability

(1) The violation of ^{public} accountability by the founder who is a charismatic public figure

(2) Violation of accountability to the kids and donors

(3) Donors who want to hide their accountability by suppressing information

(4) Forcing me to confirm violates my accountability to public, media, home ^{etc} and

^{is} (b) Possible cause of actions

I. Exposing the whole story without hiding anything except the identity & confidentiality of children involved

Pros: Ensure public accountability, my journalistic integrity

Cons: (Public reaction against me) ^{or} possible dismissal or suspension from home or demand to take leave. Impact on kids - psychological and loss of trust

II. Suppressing the information and listening to donors:

Pros: Status quo. The ~~ex~~ money ^{ripping} goes on. My job is safe

Cons: Loss of convenience, ~~to~~ inadvertently ^{Kids continue receiving benefits} ~~to~~ ^{than this impact on you} ~~to~~ ^{Prionifite}

III. Suppressing the info and letting donors take action

Pros: My job is safe, kids would be benefited

Cons: May or may not take action on the public figure (founder), loss of convenience of violating public trust.

(c) I will take the 1st course of action - exposing the whole story without hiding the incident.

Not the expected ³⁷ ~~decision~~ ^{decision} ~~national~~ ^{national} ~~conditional~~ ^{conditional} ~~disclosure~~ ^{disclosure} ~~after~~ ^{after} ~~talking~~ ^{talking} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~founder~~ ^{founder}

Children are the most important stakeholders in this Qstr

Candidates must not write on this margin

⇒ Justification

↓
Prioritise that

1) Ethical reasoning:

- Fortitude and integrity based decision based on Gandhian truthfulness
- Going with my conscience: Being a celebrity or public figure does not mean free pass.

2) Professional duty

- Upholding of journalistic ethics - exposing truth and rooted in integrity

3) Impact on stakeholders:

◦ Me: Likely to face a huge negative public reaction & possible termination/suspension/leave

◦ Children: Fear of public hunt on charity [But they could be taken up by other NGOs]

◦ Nidra house: Upholding of accountability.

In situations like these, it is essential to uphold Nishkam Karma.

Why are you the stakeholder in every point that children

Q.5

9. You are the CEO of a fast-growing Indian social media platform with millions of active users. The app's popularity stems largely from its promise of strong privacy protections and end-to-end encryption. One morning, you receive a legally binding, confidential directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs, ordering you to create a "backdoor" into your platform's encrypted systems. The official reason is urgent national security—your platform is allegedly being used by a terrorist network to plan an imminent attack. Your legal team confirms that the directive is valid under existing Indian laws. However, you fear that implementing such a backdoor will permanently weaken security for all users, erode public trust, and set a precedent for potential misuse in the future.

You face a dilemma balancing two competing responsibilities—safeguarding the nation from a credible security threat and protecting the privacy rights of millions of users. While complying could help avert a potential tragedy, it may also lead to irreversible trust erosion and possible abuse by future governments or malicious actors. Refusing to comply could result in legal penalties, possible personal liability, and accusations of obstructing justice during a time of crisis. Civil society advocates for digital rights urge you to resist, while intelligence officials press for immediate cooperation, warning that any delay could cost lives. The decision you make will set a precedent not only for your company but also for the broader Indian tech industry's relationship with the state.

- Identify the conflicting rights and duties involved in this scenario.
- Evaluate the merits and demerits of complying with the directive versus challenging it in court.
- What action would you take? How would you manage the repercussions with the government, your users, and your investors

(20 Marks, 250 Words)

This case involves large stakeholders like nation's security conflicting with individual rights among other issues

Stakeholders

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) → Intelligence agencies → Me (CEO) → General public

activists for digital rights

a) Conflicting rights and duties

1) Rights to privacy vs Duty to safeguard nation's interest: If I let NSA, open a back door it might lead to violation of privacy rights conflicting with my duty to provide information so that terror threat be averted.

2) Right of individuals vs State's duty to protect its citizens: Here, state has the duty to protect its citizens from a threat any means necessary conflicting with privacy right.

3) Civil society advocates right to stand for right to privacy vs their duty to let state action for greater good: for greater public good.

In Expt's Paper, Provide points from a broader social perspective than

Candidates must not write on this margin

b) 1st case of complying

Personal and Cons

Merits

- possible greater good by answering a security threat.
- positive precedent of patriotism by a CEO.
- Synergy with government & my company - creates opportunities in the future

Demerits

- possible violation of privacy rights
- fall out with civil rights advocates
- Fall out with industry counterparts
- Widespread public reaction - threat of reputation going down.

2nd case of challenging it in court

Merits

- Help from digital rights advocates

Demerits

- I may have enabled a security threat to overpower me

• Good relations with industry leaders

• Protection of rights of people

↓
Involve and Prioritize such point

country through not letting NSA officials bypass encryption.

• If the threat is valid, there is a chance that the Court would implicate me.

• Crisis of conscience ~~if~~ threat becomes attack.

c) Action

1) Short-term: Letting the intelligence officials go through the encrypted systems and detect the threat.

• Doing everything possible to assist the government

2) Long-term: Once the threat is averted.

dialogue with the ministry officials for getting the encrypted systems back in place.

• taking ends justify the means
approach - lying even necessary to the public, but taking extra precautions and technology help to prevent data breaches.

Managing reputations

With government : Discourse ethics - dialogue and keeping officials in the loop convincing them of merits and demerits.

With users : Assurance of data safety and doing everything possible to protect their data

With ministers : Convincing them of the utility of faster ~~reaction~~ action while assuring them of no revenue loss and measures to protect data integrity.
In the way patriotism and protection of larger good will be balanced with privacy right protection

10. You are the Commissioner of Police in a large metropolitan city. Your department recently adopted a "Predictive Policing Algorithm" that uses historical crime data to forecast potential crime hotspots and identify individuals considered "high risk" for criminal activity. Early reports indicate an improvement in resource allocation, faster response times, and a slight reduction in certain categories of crime. However, civil rights groups and community leaders allege that the algorithm disproportionately targets marginalised neighbourhoods, reinforcing existing biases in law enforcement and leading to over-policing of vulnerable populations.

The algorithm's data is derived from decades of police records—records that themselves reflect historical patterns of biased policing. As a result, critics argue that the system perpetuates systemic discrimination while giving it a "technological" veneer of objectivity. Your data science team insists that the tool is improving efficiency and freeing up police resources for other tasks. Human rights organisations demand its suspension, citing harassment and unjust targeting. The city mayor is keen on showcasing the technology as a "smart policing" success story and pressures you to continue its use. You face a dilemma—balancing operational efficiency, fairness, public trust, and the ethical responsibility to prevent harm to disadvantaged communities.

- (a) What are the ethical implications of using AI and historical data in law enforcement?
(b) As the Commissioner, what are your options for addressing the issue?
(c) What steps would you take to ensure that the use of technology in your department is both effective and just? (20 Marks, 250 Words)

I as the Commissioner of police
face the dilemma of balancing operational
efficiency, fairness, public trust and
ethical responsibility in this case

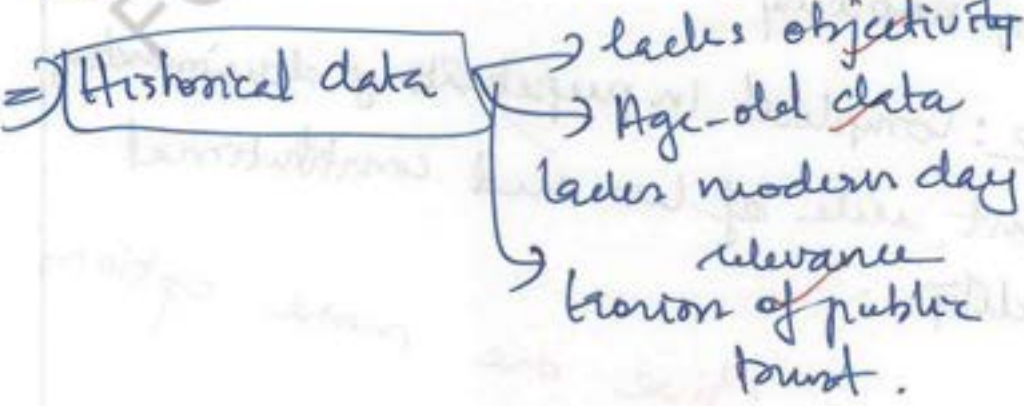
1) Ethical implications of using AI and historical data in law enforcement.

⇒ reinforcement of ~~biases~~ & prejudices: As seen in the case

⇒ perpetuation of ~~discrimination~~ and racial ostracization

⇒ sidelining ~~hampering~~ their dignified and purposeful living opportunities

⇒ Implications on ~~innocent~~ people due to historical discrimination and biases

⇒ Historical data 

- lacks objectivity
- Age-old data
- lacks modern day relevance
- erosion of public trust.

b) Options

I Revamping the algorithm after
immediately suspend the use of
algorithm for further updates:

Pros: Immediate addressing of civil
society organization's concerns; building
of people's trust in the govt; options
for further innovation

Cons: Retribution from city mayor and
senior officers, negative public reaction

II. Continuing with the algorithm

Pros: No rebuke from mayor or higher
ups, publicity

Cons: Complicit in perpetuating discrimination,
against rule of law and constitutional
morality.

Give one more option.

⇒ I will take action I - immediate
suspension of algorithm for further
updates

↳ Will also take steps to do
further research to make the system
fair and just.

c) Steps

① Contributing a research team
with the help of IT professionals
and police officers to identify the
variety of data

② Visit to the marginalized
neighbourhoods and understand
the real prevalence of crime

③ Keeping unions in the loop

④ Informing mayor about the issue
and convincing him/her to wait
for the new system

In situations like these it is
essential to ~~uphold~~ constitutional
morality while ~~has~~ maintaining
professional integrity.

11. You are an Assistant Professor at a reputed government university. Your Head of Department (HOD), who has been your mentor and instrumental in securing your position, is leading a high-profile research project funded by an international organisation. While reviewing preliminary drafts, you discover that a significant portion of the research paper contains unattributed material copied from other scholars' work. The HOD is confident the paper will be published in a prestigious journal, which would enhance the department's reputation and secure future grants. Privately, the HOD requests you to "overlook" the issue, assuring that such practices are "common" and that exposing it could damage both your careers.

You are caught between two powerful forces: your personal loyalty to a mentor who has shaped your career, and your professional duty to uphold academic honesty. Reporting the plagiarism could harm the department's image, jeopardise funding, and alienate influential colleagues. Remaining silent, however, would mean endorsing unethical academic conduct, undermining the principles of truth and fairness that form the foundation of higher education. You also fear possible retaliation from the HOD and senior faculty if you speak up. At the same time, if the plagiarism is exposed externally, your own credibility may be questioned for being part of the project team. The decision you take will have lasting consequences for your career, your conscience, and the institution's integrity.

- Analyze the ethical issues at stake for you, your mentor, and the university.
- What are the possible courses of action available to you? Evaluate the pros and cons of each.
- What would you do, and how would you prepare for the potential fallout?

(20 Marks, 250 Words)

This case deals with academic integrity, personal loyalty, reputation of the institution etc.

Stakeholders → me
 → HOD
 → project team
 University → department
 Academic community

a) ethical issues at stake

Me

1) Academic integrity: preliminary drafts containing plagiarism sent for publication - denies violation of academic integrity

2) My personal loyalty: To the mentor and HOD, Department & University as everything is at stake.

use more keywords.

3) professional duty: to uphold honesty and integrity in work (Honest living of Guru Nanak)

4) My reputation: Since I am part of project team

Mentor

1) His professional integrity: Asking me to overlook plagiarism

2) Not taking action to ~~address~~ the issue

3) His reputation as well as department's at stake due to him being ~~stop~~.

Unity

1) Reputation and ~~credibility~~.

2) Lying to ~~academic~~ community.

6) Possible courses of action

1) Resigning myself from the project.

Pros

- Going with my conscience
- Upholding ~~professional~~ integrity

Cons

- ~~Opposition~~ from everybody else
- Reputation crisis
- ~~Credibility~~ suffers.

2) Exposing the plagiarist

Pros

- Higher morality
- Truthfulness to academic community

Cons

- extreme step
- possible suspension or termination

3) Convincing the professor to take action to address plagiarism and staying with program

Pros

- Reputation saved
- project publication
- Good image

Cons

- Lengthy process
- Might have to do all the works.

4) Going with the professor

Pros

- Reputation saved
- no personal good.

Cons

- Loss of conscience
- Guilt
- Lying to whole academic community

c) My course of action

I would go by 3rd ~~can~~ option -
convincing professor of removing
plagiarism.

⇒ I would be ready to do all the
work and spend all day working

⇒ Thus I can ~~save~~ the project and
the reputation of everybody.

⇒ I might suffer physically, and
mentally, but the ~~the~~ outcome would
be beneficial to everybody. (Nirbhram
Karma).

Conclusion?

12. You are posted as the District Magistrate in a region known for its centuries-old temple complex, recognised as a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has requested strict enforcement of preservation norms, which prohibit structural alterations, commercial activity within 100 metres, and certain ritual practices that may damage the monument. However, the temple is also an active place of worship for the local community, which has been performing age-old rituals involving fire, oil, and flower offerings—practices that, according to ASI, are accelerating structural decay. Community leaders argue that these rituals are integral to their faith and cultural identity, and any restriction would amount to an infringement of their religious rights under Article 25 of the Constitution.

You face an ethical and administrative dilemma. On one hand, as a public servant, you have a statutory duty to enforce heritage protection laws and preserve the monument for future generations. On the other, you must respect the religious and cultural freedoms of a living community whose identity is deeply tied to the site. Stricter enforcement could lead to protests, political backlash, and loss of public trust. On the contrary, leniency could result in irreversible damage to a unique heritage structure, eroding national cultural legacy.

- (a) Identify the conflict between 'heritage as a monument' and 'heritage as a living tradition'.
- (b) What are the options available to you, from strict preservation to negotiated co-management?
- (c) Propose a course of action that respects both the law and the sentiments. (20 Marks, 250 Words)

9) Heritage as a monument

⇒ Requires protection and preservation

⇒ Abiding by the rules and regulations from the ASI

⇒ Stricter protection would involve keeping away the people from its surroundings. ✓

⇒ They are testaments of past.

Heritage as living tradition

⇒ tradition give meaning to monument ✓

⇒ It is part of culture of the people

⇒ part of religious tradition.

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY

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ROUGH SPACE

Candidates
must not
write on
this margin

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