

**CSM : 25**

**GENERAL STUDIES - IV**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 250

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**QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

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

There are Seventeen (17) questions. Question Nos. 1-14 carry 12.5 marks each and Question Nos. 15 - 17 carry 25 marks each.

All questions are compulsory.

Word Limit:

- (a) Questions carrying 12.5 marks shall be limited to 200 words, and
- (b) Questions carrying 25 marks shall be limited to 300 words.

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

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1. What do you understand by the term “Conflict of Interest”? How are ethical values important for solving conflict of interest? (12.5)
2. What is AI (Artificial Intelligence) ethics? What are the risks and consequences of unethical AI? (2.5+10=12.5)
3. “In public service, neutrality does not mean the absence of values but the right balance between moral conviction and political objectivity.” Discuss with reference to current governance challenges. (12.5)
4. Define attitude. Discuss how attitude affects the behaviour of public servants? (2.5+10=12.5)
5. “Dedication to public service requires not only efficiency but also sacrifice.” Discuss in the context of natural disaster management. (12.5)
6. Compassion is the courageous choice to feel another’s suffering as one’s own, and to act upon it, even when silence is safer and indifference is easier. Examine the significance of compassion as an essential ethical value for civil servants in India. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. (6.25+6.25=12.5)
7. “Compassion without Competence in public service can lead to greater harm than good.” Discuss this statement with reference to emotional intelligence in governance. (12.5)
8. Public officials often deal with hostile citizens, agitated protestors or distressed families in crisis situations. Explain how emotional intelligence equips them to respond constructively rather than react defensively. (12.5)
9. Discuss the relevance of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar’s concept of social justice in the present scenario. (12.5)
10. Thinkers like John Stuart Mill advocated liberty, while Indian traditions often highlight community obligations. How should a civil servant balance individual rights and collective welfare? (12.5)
11. “Moral courage often requires choosing between institutional loyalty and public interests.” In light of this statement, what are the challenges in choosing public interest over institutional loyalty? Suggest how to balance it. (6.25+6.25=12.5)
12. Laws promote social control by resolving basic value conflicts, settling individual disputes and making rules that even our rulers must follow. But law does not always achieve its purpose and can rather harm society. In this backdrop, discuss the limitations and dysfunctions of law and explain with examples how conscience can act as a supplementary guide for public servants in decision-making. (6.25+6.25=12.5)
13. What is Social Audit? How does a Social Audit aid in good governance? (2.5+10=12.5)
14. Probity acts as a bridge between constitutional morality, administrative accountability, and citizen-centric governance. In light of the above statement, explain the significance of probity in ensuring good governance. (12.5)

15. You are Deputy Commissioner, who also happens to be the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, of a flood-prone district. The Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department has allocated ₹20 crores for building embankments in the low-lying area of the river bed. There have been various complaints from locals over the delay in project completion, violations of rules and misuse of funds by the nexus of politicians and contractors.

During monsoon, the embankment construction couldn't withstand a single season of flooding. This has led to the submergence of many villages in floodwater and thousands of people are trapped in the villages. The villages are completely cut off and there is a scarcity of food and drinking water. Due to water stagnation, there is also a risk of epidemic spread in the region.

There is huge discontent and protest over the allegation of corruption against the local politician. As he is a popular face of ruling political party in the state, there is severe pressure from political heads to cover the corruption issue. Defying the orders of political bosses will bring wrath towards you and may also lead to transfer.

In this context, answer the following:

- (a) What will be your course of action to manage the situation in the district. (10)
  - (b) Identify the ethical and legal dimensions of the crisis involved in the issue. Based on your understanding, suggest measures to deal with the crisis. (15)
16. You are a Secretary in the Department of Urban Development. Your Minister has recently proposed a project called the "Smart Fountain Project", which involves constructing musical fountains and decorative lighting systems in 11 district headquarters. The project is estimated to cost ₹800 crores from the public exchequer. The stated aim is to "beautify towns and inspire civic pride."

However, your Department's studies reveal no direct socio-economic benefits whereby villages nearby still lack drinking water, healthcare centres, and job opportunities. The fountains would involve high recurring costs for maintenance and electricity. Similar projects in other states have failed, becoming liabilities. When you present these facts, the Minister insists that the project will create a visible impact before elections. He pressurizes you to prepare reports highlighting only positive aspects and suppress negative findings, as the ruling party is expected to return to power. Your promotion to Chief Secretary is due in a few months, and the Minister hints that your cooperation will be remembered.

In this context, answer the following:

- (a) Identify the major ethical issues involved in the case. (8)
- (b) What are the possible courses of action available to you? Evaluate their merits and demerits. (10)
- (c) What would be your course of action, and why? (7)

17. You are the District Magistrate of a border district in Northeast India. Recently, due to political unrest and ethnic violence in a neighbouring country, over 1,000 refugees have crossed the border and sought shelter in your district. There are many women and children among the refugees.

The Union Government has directed that refugees should not be formally settled as India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. However, humanitarian agencies, local civil society groups and religious organizations are demanding immediate relief, shelter and medical facilities for the refugees.

Meanwhile, local citizens are expressing concerns such as fear loss of land and resources if the refugees settle permanently. There is also fear among the locals that providing aid will encourage more influx. There are reports of rising petty thefts and tensions between locals and refugees.

In this context, answer the following:

- (a) What are the ethical issues and dilemmas involved in this case? (5)
- (b) As District Magistrate, what immediate steps would you take to address the crisis? (5)
- (c) Suggest a medium- and long-term strategy to ensure justice both for the refugees and the host community. (7)
- (d) If you were asked to justify your actions to the Union Government, how would you defend them from the lens of probity and compassion? (8)

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