



GENERAL STUDIES PAPER IV KEY

1. (a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.

- Environmental ethics studies the relation of human beings and the environment and how ethics play a role in this. It believes that humans are a part of society as well as other living creatures, which includes plants and animals.
- It considers the ethical relationship between people and the natural world and the kind of decisions people have to make about the environment.
- It builds on scientific understanding by bringing human values, moral principles, and improved decision making into conversation with science.
- Due to rapid growth in knowledge and technology we make choices that affect the continuation of humanity and the world.
- It has grown in importance because to make no decisions about environmental issues is to decide in favour of the status quo which is no longer an option.
- Global warming and its effect on our lives tell its importance. When the natural resources are tapped unmindfully and unethically it can result in several adverse consequences. The recent floods in Chennai are an example for this. The unmindful grabbing of lakes and water bodies to construct houses to cater to expanding city resulted in the disaster.

(b) (i) Difference between Law and ethics

- Laws are legal-rational enacted and enforced by the government, in order to provide balance in society and protection to its citizens.
- Ethics are based on person's conscience and self-worth and come from within a person's moral sense.
- Ethics does not carry any punishment for violation but law entails a punishment for violation.

(b) (ii) Ethical management and management of ethics

- Ethical management is the management that not only fulfils economic goals and legal responsibilities, but also meets the ethical expectations imposed by social norms in conducting business.
- Management of ethics involves aligning the system to the ethical conduct. It is to create Ethical Awareness and helping people to arrive at Ethical Judgment.

(b) (iii) Discrimination and preferential treatment

- Discrimination is to imposing certain conditions, constraints or disqualification on persons unduly or on the basis of extraneous considerations. It is to single out or make a distinction about that person and is illegal.

- Preferential treatment is to show special consideration to someone and prioritising him over others. Although it is not illegal, it may result in social consequence and result in conflict.

(b) (iv) Personal Ethics and Professional Ethics

- Personal Ethics are individual codes of conduct and doing what one feels as morally correct. Personal ethics depend largely on a person's background and life relationships.
- Professional ethics, however, are based heavily on the requirements or principles of the profession. It refers to codes of conduct that are stated by a particular governing body of an organization.

2. (a) “The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong.” Bring out what it means to you in the present context.

- Forgive refers ‘to give up resentment of’. The weak can never forgive as weakness is a mental and intellectual deficiency. It is the result of lack of judgment. It is a mental state of inability to withstand temptation, whereas ‘Strong’ refers to the ‘determination of spirit’.
- By forgiving one does not try to minimize the harm or claim that the behaviour was acceptable. By forgiving, he is not sacrificing anything or giving up his sense of self-worth. Indeed, he is doing just the opposite – by taking a stand that says that he is strong and finally free of playing the role of victim. Forgiveness is a way of declaring one’s integrity.
- In the present context, we live in a pluralistic society ridden with competing and conflicting interests and values & beliefs. Hence there is a very high potential for conflicts arising and as a result being hurt. In this context if one chooses to hold on to the incident by which he was hurt, he will lose peace of mind.

2. (b) “We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light” (10 marks) (150 words)

- The statement refers to the ‘fear of unknown’ and people’s tendency to shy away from things which they are not familiar with. It results in people venturing to do something that is new. Such behaviour can be forgiven and such people can be educated, trained and brought out of their ignorance.
- But, the real tragedy is ‘when men are afraid of the light’. At times people do not want to be exposed or known due to their weaknesses. The fear of speaking or a fear of doing something and being disliked because of it makes people to shy away from doing what is essential.
- In the present context, people do not want to criticise the government that does not provide good governance as fear something. They prefer to live tolerating injustice. This, according to the thinker, is unforgivable. Even Mahatma Gandhi said, when you do not oppose injustice, you are part of it. Napoleon Bonaparte said ‘it is not the violence of bad people but silence of good people causes more damages’. Hence, we cannot forgive ‘men are afraid of the light’.

3. (a) “A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also have to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties” Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (10 Marks) (150 words)

- A mere compliance with law without a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues will result in a bureaucratic behaviour. Such bureaucratic behaviour will be un-empathetic to people’s needs especially those of weaker sections and deserving. It is required of the public servant to take stock of the situation, understand the values and beliefs that influence the issue in hand, the psychological factors involved in the issue and the consequences that may follow along with the effects and people who will be affected by those consequences. His decisions must be made after reckoning with the above.
 - i) For example, when police officer detains a person on the complaint by his wife under the Dowry (Abolition) Act, may result in the couple dissolving the marital relationship. This could ruin the life of their children. Here the officer is legally right but will suffer from a moral crisis. This was highlighted by Madava Menon committee on reforming judicial system.
 - ii) In case of a police officer involved in gathering intelligence information, it may be needed to bribe somebody to gather the vital information for the security of the nation. Such an act is not legally right, but in the larger interest of the nation it can be justified as ethically right.

3. (b) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples (10) (150 words)

- ‘Trustworthiness’ and ‘fortitude’ are two cardinal virtues of public service. ‘Trustworthiness’ refers to complete reliability and dependability. The public servants must enjoy the trustworthiness of the people at all times. People are dependent on the public servants for many services. Especially, the weak and vulnerable are more dependent on the government and so the public service must be dependable. This becomes all the more important as the public servant wields the people’s power and sanctions expenditure on the public money.
- ‘Fortitude’ refers to mental strength and courage that allows someone to face danger, pain. Public servants must be ready to face any circumstance in the service of the people. Particularly at times when a disaster hits mental and psychological strength of people may be at the lowest. At such times the public servant must show a high order of fortitude and lead the way. Fortitude also enables a public servant to tide over the circumstances in which he has to face the wrath of powerful politicians and affluent people when they pressurise him to make decisions favouring vested interest.

4. (a) Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (150 words) (10 Marks)

- Social values are more important for the inclusive growth of a country than the economic values. Economic values tend to drive the growth more lopsided. Economic growth results in one-dimensional growth which could breed corruption. It also kills the social consciousness of people and their sense of social responsibility. It tends to increase the consumption for greed than for need. In the present context, one can realise this as a consequence of the ‘consumerism’.
- On the other hand, it is proven beyond doubt by the theories of sociology and public administration that social values are more important for inclusive growth. The effective implementation of public policy demands a value based approach. According to the welfare economist A.K.Sen, the growth of any society is counted based on the freedoms the citizens enjoy. This has been reiterated by the UNCTAD 2000 summit. The same is reflected in the Preamble to the constitution of India and the DPSP.
- Social values help ushering in a ‘socialistic’ pattern of society in which ‘justice – social, political and economic, will inform all institutions of national life’.

4. (b) Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc. are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyse the situation in detail and suggest how the dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimised. (150 words) (10 Marks)

- The main reasons for the misuse of the media, RTI etc by a set of people are lack of education about the utility of such mechanisms to usher into good governance, vested interest and the indifferent attitude of the people. On the other hand the officers perceive these as an impediment and consider them as something that questions their trustworthiness and credibility. At times officers feel that these are overburdening them and discourage.
- People with vested interest file RTI petitions to get information that are trivial and politically motivated. The same is true in case of judicial activism also. There have been cases of politically motivated PILs filed and the courts have admonished such litigants. The power sector reform in India is a victim of such suits filed. (Cogentrix Case). The controversies relating to the investigative journalism (Sting operations) and the paid news are glaring examples.
- Educating the people, sensitising the officials through training and capacity building exercises and inculcating values and building strong ethics is the way to tide over such a crisis. People should be educated to resist such vested interest; officers must develop moral courage to take decisions fully complying with the letter and spirit of law.

5. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. (10 Marks) (150 words)

(a) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits.

(b) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

- Refer Pub Ad Paper Mains 2008 Paper II. For key refer class discussion.

6. Today we find that in spite of various measures of prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanism, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (10 Marks) (150 words)

(a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications

- The effectiveness of any measure to control corruption depends on how far the mechanism is popular, simple and people are educated about using them effectively. It also depends on the inculcation of corresponding values. There is a marked change in the social perception on corruption. There has come in the culture of tolerating corruption as normal feature of administration. Further, the attitude of the administration towards these mechanisms also plays an important role in the effective functioning of such mechanisms.

(b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace

- Whatsoever be the mechanism and howsoever be it powerful, it cannot function effectively unless the ecosystem in which operates remain intact. When the social ethical setting is weak such mechanisms will only be present and do not have any impact. This has been highlighted by the Second ARC. Towards this it is essential to build ethics and inculcate values in the society and strengthen the socialisation agents like the family and schools. The public servants must also be trained and sensitised about the menace of corruption and its evil effects on society.

7. At the international level, bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tension between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (10 Marks) (150 words)

- The answer for this question can be drawn from the constitution of India DPSP article 51 and Panch Sheel. Those will represent the values and give ethical maxims to be applied to international relations.
- International relations normally operate on the principle that 'real-politik does not know ethics'. For example in the negotiations on climate change the interest of the Small island states are not taken into consideration at all.

8. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of “Conflict of Interest”. What do you understand by the term “Conflict of Interest” and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. (10 Marks) (150 words)

- Conflict of interest refers to the conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. It will result in the lowering of integrity and loss of public trust.

Measures to Prevent Conflict of Interest

- It is impossible to prescribe a remedy for every situation that could give rise to a real, apparent potential conflict, however, the following measures can be adopted.
 - i) Avoiding and preventing situations that could give rise to a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest.
 - ii) In carrying out their official duties, public servants should arrange their private affairs in a manner that will prevent real, apparent or potential conflicts of interest from arising.
 - iii) If a conflict does arise between the private interests and the official duties of a public servant, the conflict should be resolved in favour of the public interest.
 - iv) They should not have private interests, other than those permitted pursuant to these measures, which would be affected particularly or significantly by government actions in which they participate.
 - v) They should not solicit or accept transfers of economic benefit.
 - vi) They should not step out of their official roles to assist private entities or persons in their dealings with the government where this would result in preferential treatment to the entities or persons.

9. CASE STUDY I

(a) Assume you are the CEO of the company. What would you do to diffuse the volatile situation on the date of gate crashing with the violent mob sitting inside the company premises?

(a) As the CEO of the company I will first provide them a place to sit, so that their issue will be discussed and sorted out. My first priority would be to restore the smooth operation of the company and the employees must be resorting to work without being affected by this incident.

- In the mean time I will inform the local police station about the incident request for security. It is my right to request for the security and it is the duty of the law enforcement agency to provide that to any citizen. Moreover, it involves the smooth running of the company and the safety of the workers and the property.
- Then I will begin the talks with the men who had gate crashed. I will categorically reject their demand to be on the company’s payroll. I will strongly put before them my inability to accommodate their demand as the company has its own procedure for recruiting people. Further, no company can accommodate people because they are capable of coerce the organisation. The recruitment is based on the needs of the

organisation. I will categorically tell them about this and reject their demand. This is also not the way to approach any organisation when somebody wants to seek a job.

(b) The long term solution will be to be strong in not entertaining any such demand. I as the CEO will clearly specify this in my company policy. I will also approach the party headquarters to take the matter to their knowledge and request them to take action against such people as this kind of behaviour will impact the party's image also.

- I will also file a complaint with the local police and initiate appropriate legal action so that it will be documented and the company's stand is made clear.

(c) When I take such measures as narrated above will have the following consequences

- i) It will boost the confidence of the employees. The trust and confidence that the company has been enjoying until this time will be secured and protected.
 - ii) When I accommodate such people who use foul language they will spoil the spirit of the organisation.
 - iii) When I accommodate such people it will spoil the cooperative environment which has been developed with great effort.
 - iv) As a CEO I need to show solidarity with the employees and it is an important leadership quality to instil confidence in the employees especially at a time of crisis. Leader's ability to face the crisis with confidence is an important factor of building confidence in the employees.
- However, this can also result in certain negative consequences which are as follows
 - i) I may have to face the wrath of the local politicians.
 - ii) This incident can damage the image of the company.

10. CASE STUDY II

You are the Sarpanch of a Panchayat. There is a primary school run by the government in your area. Midday meals are provided to children attending the school. The headmaster has now appointed a new cook in the school to prepare the meals. However, when it is found that cook is from Dalit community, almost half of the children belonging to higher castes are not allowed to take meals by their parents. Consequently the attendance in the schools falls sharply. This could result in the possibility of discontinuation of midday meal scheme, thereafter of teaching staff and subsequent closing down the school. (20 Marks) (250 Words)

Discuss some feasible strategies to overcome the conflict and to create right ambiance.

What should be the responsibilities of different social segments and agencies to create positive social ambiance for accepting such changes?

- The situation involves a reaction that is unconstitutional. It is violation of Art 14, 15 & 17
- It is the practice of Untouchability which is the result of age-old cultural practice
- I will as a sarpanch, I will take the following measures;
 1. Being Sarpanch, I will call for the gram sabha meeting wherein all the eligible voters of the village or members. In the meeting, I will explain to them the legal consequences of such a practice of Untouchability. I will also explain to them the

consequences of such practice which might result in closing down of the school which would adversely affect the future of the children.

2. I will individually meet the community leaders explain to them the above consequences. I will also discuss with them the need for the unity in the village. I will explain to them the situation until then wherein such problems had not arisen. I will seek their cooperation and assistance for restoring such cooperation.
3. I will inform the district admin and seek their assistance in organising meetings, in which persons from dalit community who have achieved in various walks of life will interact with the people in the village. This is the positive measure to prove to the people that merit overwrites such extraneous condition as caste. When a person is meritorious his caste is immaterial
4. In such meetings, I will also invite civil society organisations who can share their experience of serving the people cutting across the caste barriers for the betterment of the society. I will request them to share their experience of incidence wherein caste and community were being naturally overlooked for a public cause. Example: The role of civil society organisation in recent Chennai Floods.
5. I will seek the assistance of the media to highlight such issues especially in that locality to make people understand
6. I will seek the assistance of the media and educational institutions to organise workshops to expose the people and the children to the vast opportunities beyond the locality. As part of the workshop I will also request the educationalist to highlight the importance of keeping children away from such practices of discrimination because they must grow with the open mind and develop the condition of dignity.