

ETHICS SECTION - A

2015

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.
 - (b) Differentiate between the following:
 - (i) Law and Ethics
 - (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics
 - (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment
 - (iv) Personal Ethics and Professional Ethics
2. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context:
 - (a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong."
 - (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"
3.
 - (a) "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has 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.
 - (b) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.
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.
 - (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.
5. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude.
 - (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?

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.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications.
 - Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.
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 tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.
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.

2014

- 1.
- All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.
 - What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?
- 2.
- 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.
 - What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?
- 3.
- "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.
 - "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.
- 4.
- Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.
 - There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

- 5.
- (a) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy?
 - (b) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.
6. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes?
7. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?
8. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

2013

1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?
2.
 - (a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service?
 - (i) Integrity
 - (ii) Perseverance
 - (iii) Spirit of service
 - (iv) Commitment
 - (v) Courage of conviction
 - (b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.
3. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification.
4. What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?
5.
 - (a) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?
 - (b) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same.

6. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context:2.
- (a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed." Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power".-Abraham Lincoln
 - (c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies".- Aristotle
7. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all". What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?
8. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations.

