

GS MTS - Ethics Test 1 (KIRTAN BHATT)उम्मीदवारों को
इस हार्गिए में
नहीं लिखना
चाहिएCandidates
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① Despite long-standing reliance on GDP & per capita income ... increasing the

The use of GNH by Bhutan and SPI by many European countries has garnered global attention & renewed debate about ethical foundation of progress.

Ethical shortcomings of GDP

① High inequality despite rising GDP $\Rightarrow$ against utilitarianism and resulting in a sort of

* Matsya Nyaya

(e.g.) as per Oxfam, 10% of Indians control 70% of national wealth.

② It can be environmentally unethical, as

Q.1

nature is seen as a means to an end for achieving economic growth $\Rightarrow$ against principle of stewardship.

③ It can also violate Kant's deontology as humans are seen as products and workers rather than an end in itself.

Ethical foundation of holistic indices

① Happiness as the ultimate goal of life and a democracy, as per Epicurus.

② They embody the Gandhian principle of Sarvodaya, i.e. upliftment of all.

(e.g.) Social welfare systems of Scandinavian countries.

③ Principle of trusteeship - humans have the responsibility to preserve & conserve nature.

As per Gandhiji's Talisman, betterment of the most downtrodden is thus the true indicator of a society's progress.

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good in
Presentation
&
Content

Q.1

② Hierarchy is essential for smooth functioning ...

Weberian notion of bureaucracy & public life treats hierarchy as one of the central pillars of governance.

Essential for smooth functioning

① A clear chain of command and division of tasks makes the organization efficient.

(e.g.) Armed Forces.

② Everyone has a clear sense of one's duty and can do their job without confusion.

③ Lack of hierarchy can lead to organizational anarchy and internal power struggles

(e.g.) Fall of many startups due to ~~the~~ lack of clear job roles.

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Obedience v. Submissiveness

Obedience

- Following orders considering their merit.
- Following the law in its spirit.
- Critical reviews, feedback appreciated

Submissiveness

- Following orders blindly.
- Following the law only in letter.
- Only teamwork appreciated.

Effect on efficiency of organization

- ① Room for constructive criticism makes the organization more effective & efficient.
 - ② Obedience rather than submissiveness enhances the work culture and ethical climate of the organization.
 - ③ It helps in upholding professional integrity as unethical orders are not followed.
- Thus, a positive climate of dialogue & discourse while maintaining hierarchy is the way ahead.

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Can add any eg.

Promotes innovation

Q.1

③ Religion, conscience, law, & customs have long served as traditional sources...

Religion & customs have long shaped societal ethics, ultimately reflected in laws which derive their values from them.

Religion, law,
conscience as
source of ethics

1) Universal values of love, compassion, truth derived from them.

2) They present an incentive for leading a moral life.

3) Conscience acts as an inner moral compass for most individuals (e.g. Gandhiji's use of conscience as a guiding light)

Contemporary superiority of constitutional morality

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① Constitutional morality is secular in nature and thus can accommodate diverse interests.

(e.g.) Art. 25-28 of Indian Constitution.

② Ethics based on conscience & religion can lead to moral relativism.

⇒ Constitutional morality offers a uniform ethical framework.

③ Constitutional morality has more room for reform as per changing societal needs.

(e.g.) Art. 17, Art. 21, expanding scope.

④ It is better enforceable through laws.

(e.g.) Civil Rights Protection Act, Right to Education.

⑤ It can incorporate the "best of both worlds".

i.e. elements of religious & secular morality.

It is thus rightly said that the constitution is a living progressive document accommodating changing societal needs.

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How to
build
constitutional
morality
can
be
method
in
conclusion

④ "A child learns more from what you are than what you teach..."

The quote rightly reflects the motto of "showing rather than telling" and the importance of leading by example in the context of parenting.

If example added here it will be good.

Ethical meaning

- ① Parents are the 1st agents of socialization and a child imitates their behaviour.
- e.g) Importance of caring & sharing taught through a positive climate at home.
- ② Non-verbal cues are more effective in parenting than verbal instructions.

Relevance in the context of parenting, education, leadership

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① Doctrine of dynamic parenting shows that positive values like truth, compassion, discipline can only be taught in an interactive manner.

② In terms of education, learning by doing has been proven to be the most effective way.

(e.g.) Emphasis of learning through games in NEP 2020.

③ A good leader always "walks the talk" rather than preaching from an ivory tower.

(e.g.) Capt. Vikram Batra's leadership from the front & war cry of "Ye Dil Mange More".

④ A child can easily internalize positive values through lived experience.

It is therefore crucial to have congruence between words and action for better value education.

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Present each
separately
↳ parenting
↳ Education
↳ Leadership

You can add
eg. in each
case.

Capt. APJ
Mandela.
etc.

Impact of
-ve Role
models.

Q.1

⑤ "Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." ...

"I had to fail 1000 times to be successful in the end"

— Thomas Alwa Edison.

The quote reflects the importance of perseverance for attaining success in any sphere of life.

Realizing that each failure is a mere stepping stone to success is vital for any endeavour in life.

Significance for a public servant

① A public servant must navigate complexities of the bureaucratic setup without losing patience.

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② Policy formulation is an iterative & continuous process. Success 'is' not a destination but the journey itself.

③ Learning from past mistakes & failures makes the ultimate success even more glorious.

(e.g.) Chandrayan III's Success.

④ A good leader must motivate his team and not lose hope in the face of adversity.

(e.g.) Satish Dhawan took the responsibility of failures himself but gave the credit of success to his team. *Has sufficient points*

⑤ A positive attitude in face of failures is essential for an emotionally intelligent leader.

(e.g.) COVID warriors remained steadfast in their duty despite multiple hurdles. *If army thinkers linked will be very good!*

Success lies in the realisation that failure is not defeat, but a step closer to the goal.

Q.1 ⑥ "Explain with an example what you understand by environmental ethics."

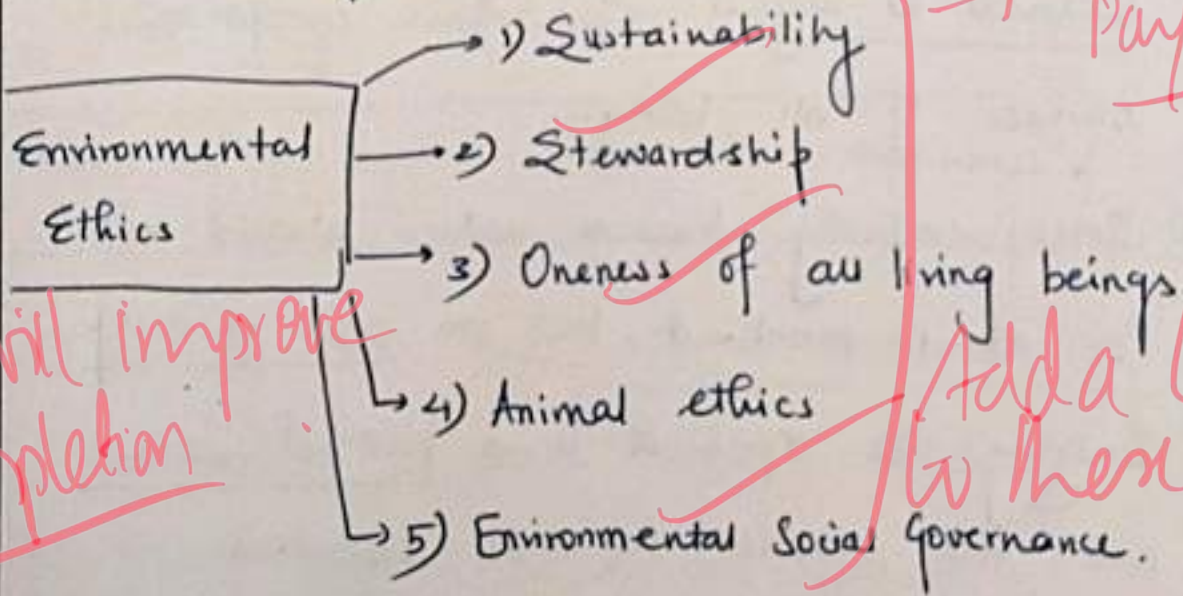
Challenges can be added

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Environmental ethics refers to the study of rightful & wrongful actions in the context of environmental governance, and how human actions impact the environment.

e.g. Volunter Pay concept



will improve completion

Add a line to these

For example, modern capitalism has largely treated the environment as a means to achieve wealth & growth, resulting in the present environmental crisis.

Empathy towards mankind v. nature

① Modern western thoughts like humanism treats humans as the centre of creation & thus separate from the rest of nature.

② But eastern thoughts like Vedanta and Wahadat ul Wujud of Sufism accept the oneness of all beings.

③ Hence, empathy towards nature should not be about mankind, but an end in itself.

④ Realising the mankind is a part of nature and not superior to it is essential.

(e.g.) Jadav Payeng's sole heroism to restore Majuli's forest ecosystem without expecting any benefits.

Gandhian minimalism says that "Nature has enough for everyone's needs, but not greeds".

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⑦ In the Indian context, public servants are a part of permanent executive...

Though public servants must largely comply by laws in doing their duty, the classic debate of laws v. ethics often poses challenging dilemmas.

Need to go beyond mere rule compliance

① Laws & rules are not an end in itself but means to serve public welfare.

(e.g.) Giving rations to a poor person despite lacking documentation.

② Laws must be interpreted in their spirit and not merely letter.

(e.g.) Breaking traffic rules to save a person.

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→ Importance of
Rule following

Then
go beyond
mere rule
compliance

③ Complex rules & red tapism are often used as excuses for derection of duty.

(e.g.) Tokenism in following Citizen's Charter.

④ Mere rules & laws often leads to lack of ^{Following} empathy for the problems of the people, resulting in a bureaucratic attitude.

⑤ Loopholes in rules & laws are used to indulge in corrupt practices and conflict of interest.

However, frequent departure from laws is also not preferable, as it can lead to excessive discretion, subjectivity & anarchy in public service.

A fine balance with public welfare at the centre, and lokniti over Rajniti is ~~the~~ the way ahead.

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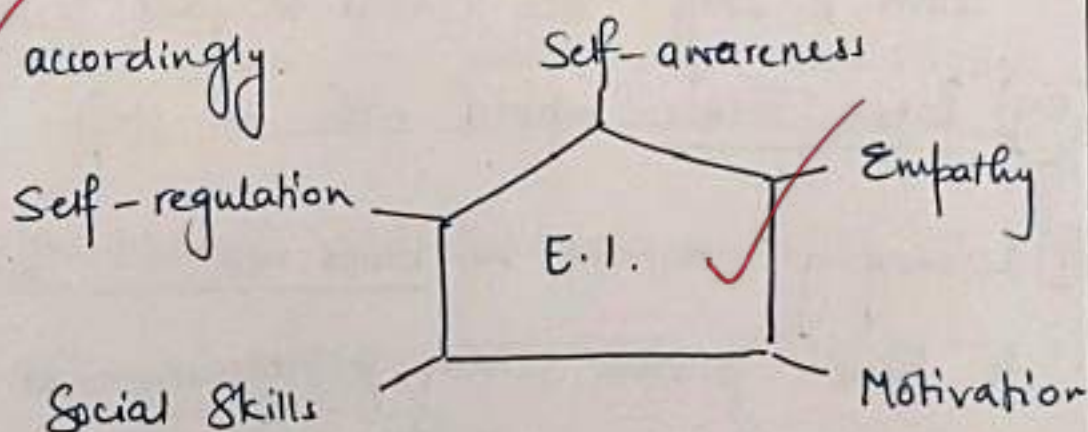
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⑧ Emotional Intelligence is not merely about understanding or regulation emotions...

"As much as 80% of success can be attributed to Emotional Intelligence"

- Daniel Goleman

EI is the ability to understand one's own and also others' emotions, and act accordingly.



Real strength lies in harnessing emotions

① Emotions, if leveraged in the right manner, can lead to finding common ground and collaboration.

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will be better
if present in
Individual
Organisation
Heads

Both 5 points
with examples.

(e.g.) Gandhiji uniting Hindus & Muslims during Non Cooperation — Khilafat movement.

② Even negative emotions like anger can act as a thrust for good.

"90% of what I did was driven by anger towards injustice"
— Kailash Satyarthi

③ Showing empathy & compassion towards one's team & staff are central to good leadership

(e.g.) Ratan Tata's rapport with his staff.

~~4~~ ④ Leveraging emotions to build networks leads to better problem solving & organizational success.

⑤ Emotions act as a motivation to act valiantly in face of adversity.

(e.g.) 2nd Lt. Arun Khetrapal continued fighting despite failure of his tank.

However, an emotionally intelligent person must balance emotions with prudence.

⑨ "List 5 key foundational values of civil services..."

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Nolan committee has listed 7 foundational values for civil servants, including selfless-ness, objectivity, openness, honesty, accountability, integrity, leadership.

Foundational values for modern age civil servants

① Non-partisanship and political neutrality - in an age where bureaucrat-politician-businessmen nexus is becoming prevalent, non-partisanship is essential for public integrity.

(e.g.) IES Satyendra Dubey Good

② Leadership & collegiality - a good leader must lead by example & from the front

0.1 to keep his team motivated. (eg)

③ Bureaucratic wisdom to navigate complex government ecosystem.

④ Adaptability and ability to learn new things in the era of AI, IoT, Blockchain, etc.

⑤ Compassion for the plight of common people.

(eg) IAS Sandeep Nandani's cafe for the disabled.

Relevance of anonymity

① A public servant must act selflessly without seeking spotlight. He/she is a mere means for public welfare.

② Data privacy is a facet of right to life & liberty, as held by SC.

(eg) faceless assessment with anonymous identity

③ Upholding anonymity prevents conflict of interest for a public servant.

Public servants must refrain from seeking publicity & work silently behind curtains.

We can prevent it as
→ for anonymity
→ against anonymity

- ⑩ As civic sense deepens among citizens the distinction between ruler & the ruled begins to fade...

In a democracy, the citizens are the true sovereign and the ruler is a mere trustee of power.

Fading distinction between ruler & ruled

- ↳ Accountability mechanisms like RTI & Citizens' Charter
- ↳ Social audit of government schemes
- ↳ Free & fair elections where citizens can hold the government accountable
- ↳ Pressure groups, NGOs & CSOs acting as vigilants against arbitrary government action
(e.g.) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangh.

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Governance a shared ethical responsibility

① Citizens must act responsibly themselves and hold the government accountable in a fair manner.

(e.g.) Refraining from frivolous RTIs.

② Consensus-based participatory governance mechanisms must be established.

(e.g.) Citizen feedback to bills of Parliament.

③ Responsiveness to public issues & grievance redressal mechanisms are key to good governance.

④ Citizen-centricity in developmental planning through involvement of local bodies.

However, to achieve good governance in true sense, we must go beyond tokenism and establish a truly empowered citizenry.

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⑪ Procedures are essential in governance, especially within a bureaucratic structure ...

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Thinkers like Confucious A Weber considered procedures to be central to governance and the ultimate goal of a bureaucracy.

Though essential to maintain stability and order in a diverse country like India, they miss their purpose when they become too complex.

Erode public trust

↳ Too complex laws make public service inaccessible for the masses.

↳ They lead to bureaucratic hegemony and ultimately a corrupt nexus between the powerful.

(e.g.) License Raj

proceduralism
is
Responsive
governance.

Weaken citizen-state relationship

↳ Procedures should act as enabling interfaces, but complexity isolates the state from the citizenry.

↳ The dilemma is thus one of means vs. ends, procedure vs. outcome, and bureaucratic vs. democratic attitude.

Measures taken

① E-governance to make services more inclusive & accessible.

(e.g.) MyGov app, DBT, etc.

② Single window clearance to enhance ease of doing business & reduce redtapism.

③ Citizens' Charter to make the timeline & quality of services more transparent.

④ Citizen feedback and grievance redressal mechanism.

In this context, Scrutton model of service delivery in its letter & spirit is the need of the hour.

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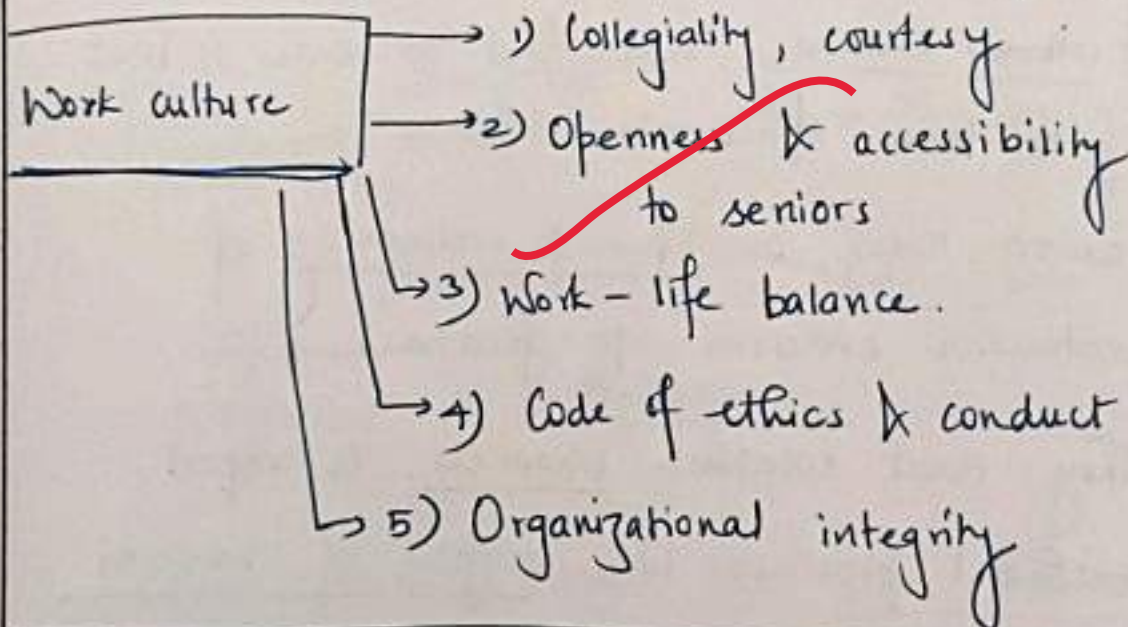
Include more
examples
- Refer key.

⑫ What do you understand by "work culture"...

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Work culture of an organization refers to the practices, environment, and relationship among employer & employees of the organization.



Shaped by vision & intent of leadership

① The policymakers are responsible for the formulation of code of ethics in the organization.

(e.g.) Infosys code of ethics with employee feedback

② Leaders must not promote toxic work culture and be considerate towards personal lives of employees

(e.g.) Controversy over "80-hour" workweeks

③ Policymakers & seniors must lead by example and be role models to subordinates.

(e.g.) Abdul Kalam was first to enter & last to leave office in ISRO.

④ Leaders must be open & welcoming of constructive criticism & feedback.

Can be better conveyed

⑤ They must establish channels to report unethical practices like conflict of interest and corruption.

⑥ They must establish enforcement mechanisms to reinforce a positive work culture.

However, employees themselves are also responsible for creating an ethical work climate through dedication to duty & personal integrity.

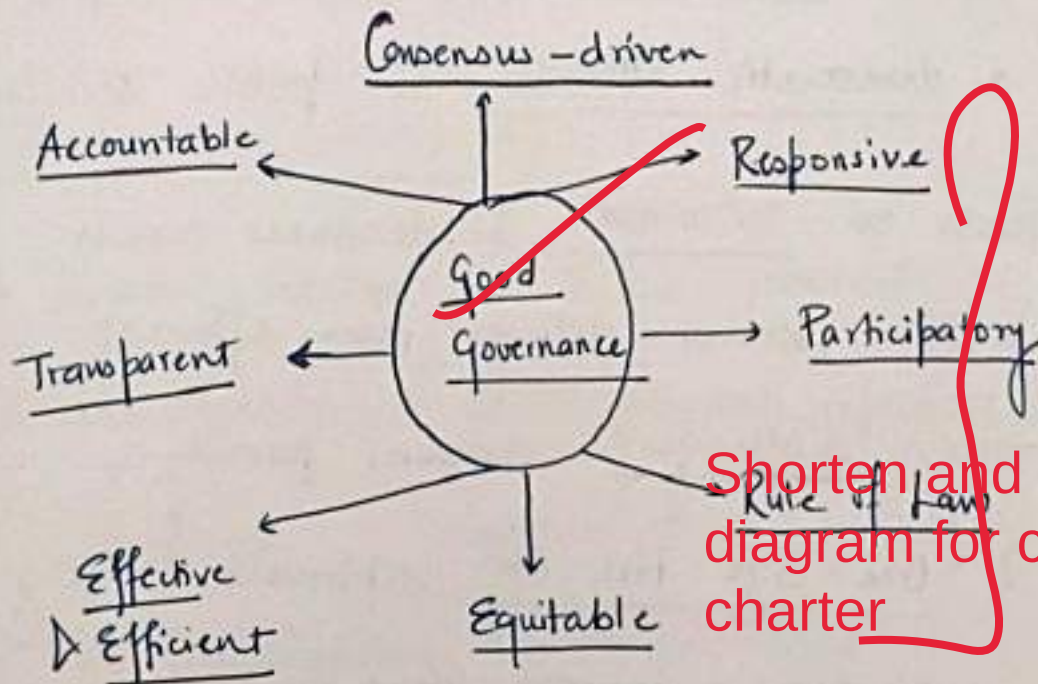
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13 " Good Governance is when government listens, delivers, & is answerable...

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World Bank defines Good Governance as :



Shorten and include
diagram for citizen
charter

Citizens Charter enlists the scope, timeline, & quality of services delivered by a public authority and is a central tool for Good Governance.

Ethical & administrative significance

① Ensures transparency & accountability in delivery

of public services.

- ② Enhances responsiveness through grievance redressal mechanisms. Bring examples
- ③ Combats bureaucratic redtapism and promotes a democratic attitude in public services.
- ④ Focus on outcomes & deadlines makes public service delivery more efficient.

However, challenges remain, namely:

↳ 1) "One-Size-Fits-All" approach to citizens charter ⇒ ignores local context.

↳ 2) Mere tokenism and lack of enforcement on ground.

Not necessary

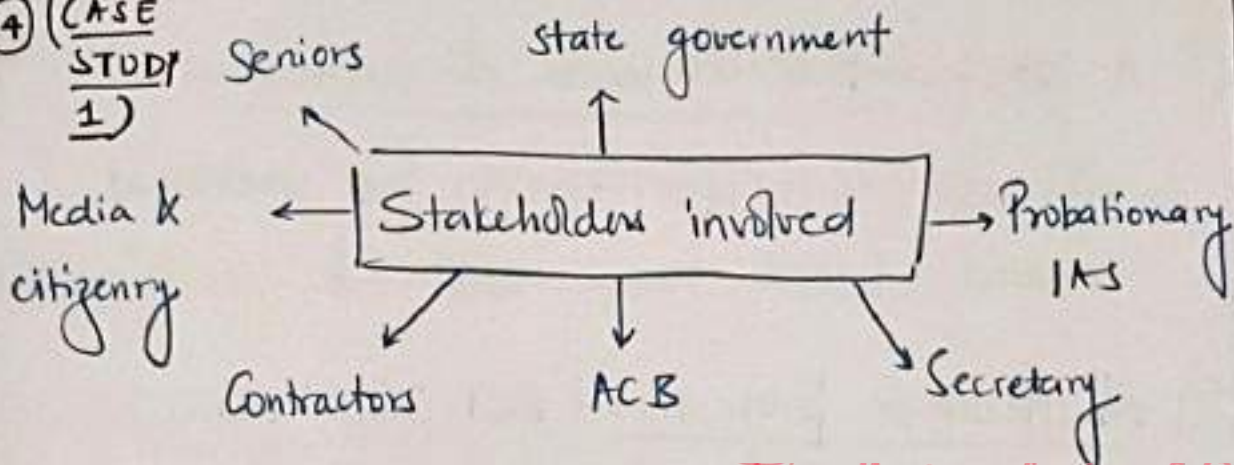
↳ 3) Lack of vernacular languages ⇒ hinders equity & inclusivity.

↳ 4) Lack of citizen & stakeholder engagement.

Learning from global best practices like UK & Scandinavian models will make Citizens' Charter truly effective.

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(14) (CASE STUDY 1)

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(a) Ethical issues involved

Use the context of
the case.

- (i) Personal interest v. Public interest
- (ii) Transparency v. organizational reputation
- (iii) Obedience v. Submissiveness (to seniors)
- (iv) Fair investigation v. media trial.
- (v) Empathy (towards probationer) v. Consequences (for wrong-doing)
- (vi) Forgiveness v. setting a precedent.

Scattered!

Personal
to the

Question

(b) How tensions can be addressed

- (i) A strict enforceable code of conduct with severe repercussions for unethical conduct (short-term solution)
- (ii) Whistleblower protection and safe channels to report such practices
- (iii) Value education and inculcation of temperance (Aristotelian cardinal virtue)
- (iv) Monitoring mechanisms to ensure ethical work climate

(C) Silence of leaders - failure of ethical leadership

- (i) Silence sets a poor precedent that such unethical practices will go unpunished.
- (ii) Severely tarnishes organizational reputation & erodes public trust.
- (iii) Prioritizes personal over public interest, violating foundational value of probity

(iv) Violates a public servant's Dharma of judicious & ethical use of public funds, with which he has been entrusted.

(d) Practical steps

(i) Foundational training - first hand experience of how public suffers due to corruption
→ exposures to the lives of marginalized.

(ii) Daily reinforcement from lives of honest & upright public servants like Ashok Khemka

(iii) Code of ethics and conduct with an organizational vision of duty and service over everything else.

(iv) Incentivize honest officers through promotions, punish unethical practices severely.

→ Has scope for inclusion of thinkers + Governance angle

(CASE STUDY 2)

a) Key ethical issues

Introduce the case

↳ i) Following law in letter v. spirit

↳ ii) Objectivity v. empathy

↳ iii) Bureaucratic v. democratic attitude

↳ iv) Ethical relativism v. absolutism

Add 2-3 lines & explain

b) Whether rigidity is ethical↳ i) Rules are a means to an end and not an end in itself.↳ ii) Reasonable deviation from rules on compassionate humanitarian grounds ensures the spirit of maximum good to maximum people (utilitarian view)↳ iii) Harm principle - if slight deviation from rules causes no harm to others, it should be allowed.

However, such flexibility should be no
excuse for complacency and indiscipline.

Also, it is essential to ensure that such accommodation is not ethically misused
by corrupt and vested interests.

How institutions can ensure fairness

↳ i) Make reasonable exceptions only on
rare grounds, e.g. unforeseen natural
calamities.

↳ ii) Transparent guidelines for exceptions
and proactive disclosure.

↳ iii) Monitoring and review of such
decisions.

© My action as an examiner

→ I would use my moral intuition and.

Consider all the stakeholders involved to arrive at my action:

↳ i) Provide a reasonable window to affected candidates considering unforeseen events.

↳ ii) Report my action to the authorities and my justifications for the same $\Rightarrow$ ensure transparency.

↳ iii) I would still conduct exams on time, considering credibility of the organization and larger interest of candidates.

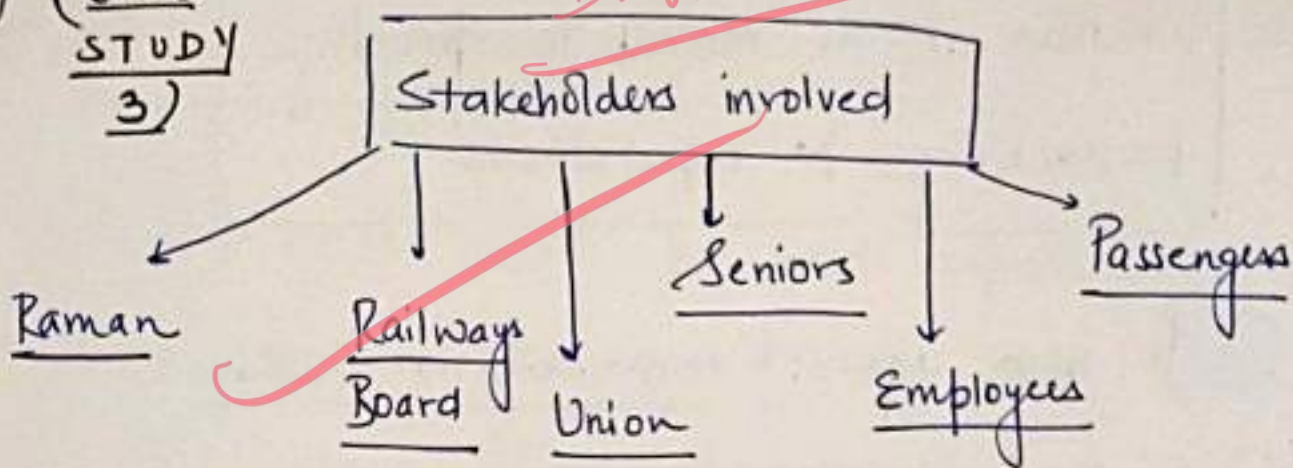
This action will thus ensure justice to all and at the same time uphold institutional fairness.

There is need to personalise the above content with care content like issues of stakeholders.

work on
Adding
thinking

Introduce

(16) (CASE STUDY 3)



(a) Issues involved in the case

↳ i) Passenger safety vs. railway efficiency

↳ ii) Transparency (in reporting cases) vs. efficiency

↳ iii) Organizational/divisional interest vs. larger public interest

↳ v) Larger issue of means vs. ends, as divisional heads are employing unfair means of underreporting to achieve the ends of performance & smooth functioning.

Link content with Qm

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(b) Whether it is moral to prioritize productivity & reputation

- (i) It goes against communitarian ethics and public integrity to prioritize short-term productivity over employee health & safety.
- (ii) Employees & passengers have an innate value and are not means for productivity, as per Kantian deontology.
- (iii) Though incidents are minor, truth and transparency must be prioritized to ensure long-term safety.
- (iv) Hiding & underreporting can result in a major incident in the future, jeopardizing human lives & railway credibility in the long run.

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② Who is responsible

↳ (i) Loco pilots cannot be held responsible as their union raised the issue with the board, prioritizing transparency & adherence to truth.

↳ (ii) Railway board also acted promptly, exhibiting prudence & responsiveness.

↳ (iii) Major responsibility lies with the divisional heads, who prioritized performance over long-term safety. Their actions can be termed as myopic and driven by self-interest.

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Not able to fully utilize the
content to properly explain the questions.
→ Add ethical thinkers plus
governance points.

(CASE STUDY 4)*Introduce the case*(a) Various issues involved

- (i) Environmental degradation vs. profit maximization
- (ii) Short term gain vs. long-term gain
- (iii) Government - businessmen nexus ; crony capitalism
- (iv) Economic / corporate interest vs. ecological & public interest
- (v) Empathy & compassion vs. vested interests

Link with Question Demand(b) Who holds primary & secondary responsibility

- Primary responsibility lies with the government
- ⇒ they should enforce consequences on the ship owning company, as their abandonment of the ship is both illegal & unethical

⇒ The government should also send immediate relief to the innocent crew members & affected communities, inline with universal human rights and international ethics.

⇒ Meanwhile, government authorities can initiate proceedings against the company and upon non-compliance, confiscate their license & properties.

⇒ Government should also collaborate with the neighbouring country to mitigate environmental damage and remove the spilled oil, inline with principle of stewardship.

→ Secondary responsibility lies with the ship-owning company for illegal & unethical abandonment.

⇒ Owners must listen to their inner moral

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compass & respond accordingly.

(c) Polluter Pays Principle

↳ It says that the entity responsible for pollution & degradation of the environment should pay for its consequences & mitigation.

↳ Shipowning company is thus accountable here, but the government must enforce the principle as the company has refused to pay.

(d) Ethical theory

→ Though utilitarianism aims to maximize common good, it prioritizes means over ends.

→ Ship-owning company sees no incentive in maximizing common good & is using unfair means to serve own good.

→ Deontology (duty for its own sake) combined with environmental virtue ethics (environment as an end in itself) can thus provide best guidance.

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(18)

(CASE STUDY 5)

Introduction

(a) National interest v. global welfare

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↳ Traditional eastern ethics emphasise the Onerus of humanity and of all beings.

Vedas treat the World as a Family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam).

↳ Emerging crises like Climate Change, Wars, Terrorism, etc. require a united response globally.

↳ Even thinkers like Tagore & Russell spoke of necessity of universal brotherhood and nationalism beyond borders for global progress.

↳ Also, developed nations have a historical liability towards climate & developing nations, as their industrialization & wealth came at the cost of environmental exploitation & colonialism.

→ Thus, though nationalism is not unethical, but nationalism at the cost of other nations goes against ethical principles of universal human rights & utilitarianism.

⑥ Ethical dimensions involved

↳ (i) Personal / national interest vs. larger / global interest

↳ (ii) Self preservation vs. utilitarianism.

↳ (iii) Ethical egoism vs. ethical altruism

Link with
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issues
raised

Merits of nationalism

↳ (i) Domestic peace & satisfaction due to prosperity & growth.

↳ (ii) Enhanced national & cultural pride

↳ (iii) Ease of resource allocation for national interest.

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इस हार्निंग में
नहीं लिखना
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Demerits of extreme nationalism

- (i) Can heighten tensions & potentially lead to global conflicts.
- (ii) Ethnic & xenophobic violence against immigrants.
- (iii) Trade isolationism can lead to economic downturn globally (e.g. Recession in USA due to tariff wars)
- (iv) Climate disasters affect developing tropical nations disproportionately $\Rightarrow$ social & environmental cost of extreme nationalism.

(c) Whether nationalism can justify war & violence

(i) It is said that "there are no victors in a war" $\Rightarrow$ both sides suffer.

$\Rightarrow$ loss of innocent lives cannot be justified.

(ii) However, just war theory says that a war to defend oneself is ethically justified.

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a) Issues involved

Introduce the case

- (i) Dereliction of duty by the responsible medical professionals.
- (ii) Accountability for the negligence in true sense vs. tokenism by suspending few officials.
- (iii) Loyalty towards one's own organization/fraternity (doctors) vs. loyalty to one's duty & larger public good.

b) Whether doctors should be penalized

- (i) Every profession has a margin of human error.
- (ii) Doctors are often overburdened & overworked, facing immense stress, leading to unintentional negligence.

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(iii) The responsibility lies with the organization as a whole, in that standard operating procedures and strict protocols for sensitive cases are established to minimize error.

(iv) However, the doctor should be penalized & face consequences if intentional or malevolent negligence is proven.

(c) Government's course of action

- (i) An independent investigation to identify the root cause of the negligence.
- (ii) Regulatory guidelines for sensitive procedures like blood transfusion, surgeries, etc.
- (iii) Establishing SOPs and monitoring & enforcement mechanisms.
- (iv) Ultimately, government should fulfil its social contract and ensure larger public

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interest.

(d) Media's role

- (i) Media should refrain from media trials and only indulge in objective & evidence-based reporting.
- (ii) Media should heed to the dignity of the affected and not sensationalize their plight, empathizing with them.
- (iii) It should act as a true 4th estate of democracy & cooperate in investigation & uncovering the truth.

In such ethically complex scenarios with multiple stakeholders, an impartial & objective investigation & a long-term solution is the only way ahead.

(total time — 3h 15m)