



SRI CHAITANYA IAS ACADEMY

QUESTION PAPER

Name of the Student : Adm No. :

Date : 21-07-19

Subject: Ethics

Medium : English

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250 M

Answer Booklet Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

- There are **FOURTEEN** divided into **TWO SECTIONS** and printed in English.
- All questions are compulsory.
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorised 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 medium other than the authorised one.
- Keep the word limit indicated in the questions in mind.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) booklet must be clearly struck off.

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks :

Signature of Examiner

Answer questions in NOT MORE than the word limit specified for each in the parenthesis. Content of the answer is more important than its length:-

SECTION - A

1. a) What are 'social ethics'? Why are they important? Do you agree with the view that great societies and nations are built around social ethics? Substantiate? [150 Words, 10]
b) Do you agree with Gandhi's view that religion and ethics are inseparable? Substantiate your answer with examples. [150 Words, 10]
2. a) Do you agree with the view that human rights should prevail over states' sovereign rights? Does the international community have a responsibility to uphold human rights by armed intervention, if necessary? Examine the pros and cons of such intervention. [150 Words, 10]
b) What do you understand by law? Is it an instrument of common good? When can we disobey laws? Give examples to illustrate your answer. [150 Words, 10]
3. a) 'Public Administration is not just about getting things done the right way, but also about getting the right thing done'. Comment. [150 Words, 10]
b) 'The ultimate end of human actions is pleasure'. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons in support of your stand, with suitable examples. [150 Words, 10]
4. What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? [150 Words, 10]
 - i) Selflessness
 - ii) Objectivity
 - iii) Openness

5. a) Gandhi talked about 'Su-raj' and 'Swaraj'. What is Su-raj? What, according to you, are the pillars on which the edifice of good governance rests? [150 Words, 10]
- b) 'Government is a trust; a fiduciary; wielders of government power are mere trustees who shall have to act, at all times, in public interest'. Do you agree? Substantiate. [150 Words, 10]
6. 'Empathy and compassion are two virtues that public servants must possess in good measure, more so in developing societies'. Do you agree? Elaborate. [150 Words, 10]
7. Individualistic and Consumeristic attitudes are destroying the notion of 'common good'. Do you agree? Explain with relevant examples. [150 Words, 10]
8. 'Conflicting values and divergent responsibilities leave the contemporary administrator in an ethical quandary and in a state of personal anxiety and angst. The systemic doubt cannot be simply overcome by personal integrity and professional qualifications'. Do you agree? What are the uncertainties and doubts in the minds of public servants today? Explain with examples in the present context. [150 Words, 10]

SECTION - B

9. Xavier recently joined a small local company specialising in the sale of marine equipment as its Finance Manager. While his primary role was to oversee the Finance team (comprising Xavier himself and two Accounts Assistants), his Managing Director had recently hinted that he should assume a secondary, albeit more covert, role - to falsify the accounts of the company to cover up the payment of kickbacks to the representatives of the company's customers.

As Xavier voiced his misgivings over the proposed arrangements, the Managing Director dismissed his concerns, "Come on Xavier, don't act like a frightened little boy. We have always been doing this. This is common practice in the industry - you scratch my back and I scratch yours. And most importantly, I hired you because I know you are smart enough to do a thorough job. It's OK. Don't worry too much."

One day, seeing that Xavier was still struggling internally, the Managing Director's face darkened and his voice gradually took on a sterner tone, "Everyone working here knows that there is only my way - or the highway. You can either carry out the task that I have assigned you, or you can start looking around for your next job in the papers. I will give you two days to think through what I have just said." 20 M

Answer the following questions based on the facts provided in the above case:

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- b) Should Xavier follow his Managing Director's orders and proceed to falsify the accounts; or
- c) Should Xavier refuse the Managing Director's orders and immediately find himself out of job?

Substantiate your viewpoints in some detail.

10. Ramesh is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Company X, which is listed on the Indian Stock Exchange.

An hour ago, at a senior management meeting, he found out that one of Company X's largest customers was facing financial difficulties and it had recently submitted its winding up application (Insolvency Petition) to the Court. In addition, it would not be making any purchases from Company X anytime soon. This was followed by updates from the Regional Sales Director that other major customers might also be reducing their purchases for various reasons.

Given the developments, Company X's sales over the next few quarters would be adversely affected. The share price of Company X would also be expected to take a dip.

As Ramesh owned a large number of Company X's shares (from prior employee stock option schemes), he was painfully aware of the heavy losses he would incur once the news hit the streets. He started to contemplate selling his shares early to avoid the potential loss.

On the other hand, Ramesh was aware that being the CFO, he had been the privileged recipient of confidential information that would likely have a material effect on the share prices of Company X, if it was to be made public. He was well aware that under such circumstances, he was prohibited from trading in Company X's shares by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulations. 20 M

Questions :

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- b) Should Ramesh call his broker to give the instruction to sell his shares? Evaluate the pros and cons of this action.
- c) Should Ramesh avoid the temptation of selling his shares and let things run their own course? Evaluate the pros and cons of this action.

11. You are a civil engineer and work with the Water and Sewerage Board. While driving through a small town you notice a large storage tank filled with chlorine gas sitting next to an urban sprawl. The land on which the storage tank is located and the storage tank itself are owned by a local manufacturing company which uses chlorine for various business related purposes.

This is a disaster-in-the-making. Given the right conditions (a leak in the storage tank, wind blowing in a certain direction), an accident could occur that would endanger the lives of the people living in the urban sprawl. After all, chlorine gas was used during World War I to kill soldiers hiding in trenches.

You decide to find a way to get the company to move its tank to a safer location. First, you approach officials from the local government; they tell you that they do not have the authority to make the company move the tank. They suggest that you go directly to the company and ask them to move it. But the company tells you that this is none of your business; they point out that you work for the water authority and have no right to tell them where they can and cannot store materials. 20 M

Questions:

- a) Should you do something about this given that it is not a part of your job and that, as a civil engineer, it is not within your area of expertise?
- b) Should you push this matter farther? What could be done given the intransigence of both the local government and the private company that owns the storage tank?
- c) How would you respond to the following argument? This engineer is a civil engineer working for the Water and Sewerage Board. The safety or risk of the location and contents of the storage tank are beyond his job and professional qualifications. Hence it is neither obligatory nor permissible for him to try to force the company to change its location. This is someone else's problem. Furthermore, such actions, while well meaning, cost companies and consumers a great deal of trouble and money.

12. You are the District Magistrate of a place in Tamil Nadu, where the sport of Jallikattu is practised. The sport involves cruelty towards animals. Also it endangers human lives as rampaging bulls can take out human lives. The Supreme Court banned this largely rural sport and directed authorities to ensure the sport is not played.

Your attempts to curb the sport are met with stiff resistance by the local communities, who believe that the sport is part of their culture. The local community elders resist your attempts to impose a ban on the sport. They insist they would go ahead with Jallikattu and not honour the directions of the Supreme Court.

20 M

Questions:

- a) As the District Magistrate, what are the steps you could take to overcome the crisis?
- b) What should be the responsibility of civil society actors - local NGOs and Community elders - in a scenario such as the one presented above?

13. You are the District Magistrate of a place where education is taken seriously by parents. Parents believe that schools must focus on academics and not waste time on co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, including sports and games.

The Government's newly announced National Sports Policy stresses the need to incorporate sports and games in the school curriculum in a much bigger manner than had been the case before. However, the new curriculum designed by the State Government is met with stiff opposition from parents. Headmasters of local schools bring to your notice the difficulties in implementing the new curriculum. They point out to lack of sporting infrastructure and opposition from parents. 25 M

Questions:

- a) Identify the various measures you would take to overcome the problem.
 - b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.
14. You are in your early 30s and have a large family to support. After a lot of struggle, you've managed to get a small job in an armaments factory. After working there a few months, you discover that some of the clients of the factory are state actors and non-state actors with a poor human rights record. You bring the matter to the notice of your superiors. However, they dismiss your concerns as trivial. They argue that employees should focus on their work and not bother about other issues, including client profile.

You begin to feel a sense of guilt and complicity. You also feel frustrated at your powerlessness, and even contemplate quitting your job. 25 M

Questions:

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in the above case?
- b) Is an individual employee responsible for decisions beyond his jurisdiction?
- c) What are the option choices available to you? Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions.