



SRI CHAITANYA IAS ACADEMY

QUESTION PAPER

Name of the Student : Adm No. :

Date : 11-08-19

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. 'An ethical code of conduct for public servants can only defeat the perverse mind, but it cannot defeat the perversity of the heart'. Comment.
[150 Words] 10
2. a) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? [250 Words] 5 x 3 = 15
 - i) Selflessness
 - ii) Objectivity
 - iii) Openness
 - iv) Honesty
 - v) Accountability
- b) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. [100 Words] 10
3. What do you understand by the term 'attitude' ? Is behaviour always a reflection of one's attitude? Explain with relevant examples.
[150 Words] 10
4. 'Self-awareness and empathy help us better navigate our personal and professional lives'. Comment. [150 Words] 10
5. a) 'All religious values are essentially codified ethical principles'. Do you agree with the above statement? Substantiate with two examples. [150 Words] 10
- b) 'Being ethical is doing what the law requires' ? Do you agree with the above statement?
Substantiate with two relevant examples.[150 Words] 10
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:

- a) The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. - Mahatma Gandhi [150 Words] 10
 - b) In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of. - Confucius [150 Words] 10
 - c) Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all. - Aristotle [150 Words] 10
7. 'Many people say ethics and business are not compatible'. In the light of the above statement, do you think the term 'business ethics' is a contradiction in terms? Can business be both ethical and successful? Justify your answer with suitable examples. [150 Words] 10
8. Do you think modern Nation-States are capable of ethical conduct? What is a just war, and what are the conditions that must be satisfied for a war to be just? [150 Words] 10

SECTION - B

In the following questions, carefully study the cases presented and then answer the questions that follow:

9. You are the administrator of a place where an annual religious fair is held, and it is attended by not less than a lakh people. It is an annual event dating back to the 18th Century. Given the religious, historical and cultural significance of the fair, the administration makes all possible arrangements to ensure that the fair is incident-free. The diety is atop a hillock. The climb is narrow, and devotees are required to circumnavigate a section of the hill's foot to reach the stairway.
- The week leading to the fair has seen incessant rains, resulting in considerable loosening up of the hill mud. The Meteorological Office has warned more rain in the coming days, and you are worried that mudslides could lead to pilgrim deaths. You speak to community elders and request them to agree for a subdued celebration. They refuse to accede to your request citing religious reasons. You promptly report your fears to the District Administration.

The higher authorities feel your fears are exaggerated. They ask you, instead, to take all precautions to meet any eventuality. You are convinced that going ahead with the celebrations as originally planned would compromise public safety. You feel that the issue deserves greater scrutiny and it should not, in any case, be left unaddressed.

What will you do in such a situation? Some of the options are given below. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each of these options and finally suggest the course of action you would like to take, giving suitable reasons.

[300 Words] 25

- i) Follow the advice of the District administration and make arrangements for the fair.
 - ii) Prepare a detailed report of the situation bringing out the facts of the case, clearly outlining your fears and the reasons thereof. Further, you seek orders in writing from the District administration before you proceed further.
 - iii) Talk to the press, calling upon people to not turn up at the shrine, given the dangers involved.
 - iv) Feign illness and apply for leave, fearing the negative impact an untoward incident could have on your career.
 - v) Highlight the issue so that it reaches the higher officials in the State administration
10. You are the head of a prestigious organisation, which values hard work and commitment in equal measure. Mrs. X is an employee of your organisation. She has, over the years, proven herself to be a talented and conscientious employee. Of late she has been going through a turbulent phase in her personal life. She went through a painful divorce, with the kids left under her care. Her mother was diagnosed with a terminally ill disease and looked up to her for care. Mrs. X has been turning up at office late, and leaving early. Her teammates feel she is missing the meetings, leading to confusion and delay in the execution of the project. Some employees have vented their resentment at the supposed preferential treatment accorded to Mrs. X.

You have information that the majority of the employees are not happy with her office hours. You are wary of confronting her because she might offer to tender her resignation, which would be a major loss to the organisation given the projects lined up for the future. [250 Words] 20

- a) Caught as you are in the above situation, what are the options available to you.
- b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons.

11. Mrs. Sandhya is an employee of a private organisation, which has been doing good business in recent years. She was promoted to the advertising wing of the organisation a couple of years ago. The advertising department has to meet tight deadlines, and hence employees are required to work outside of the scheduled hours, if required. Sometimes employees of the department have to work during the weekends too in order to meet the deadlines.

Mrs. Sandhya had been overworked for the last two months. She planned to visit a temple town with her husband over the weekend. It was a well deserved trip because her long working hours were beginning to show strain on her family life. As she was about to leave office Friday evening, she was called in by her superior, who told her that an urgent assignment needed to be completed in three days time, which meant she had to work during the weekend. Walking out of her superior's chambers she began to wonder if her professional responsibilities were costing her personal life.

She could not afford to resign and find another job as the remuneration was attractive. If this preliminary assignment is executed well, more work would follow, which in all likelihood, would keep her busy during the weekends. A shoddy performance, on the other hand, might not result in job loss, but would redeem her personal life. [250 Words] 20

- a) If you were Sandhya, what are the options available to you?
- b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons

12. You are working as a senior accountant in a public sector organisation, which is soon expected to divest some of its stake in order to mobilize resources for the government.

During routine internal audit, you discover accounting discrepancies which show the public sector organisation's finances as being healthy than what they actually are. You bring the discrepancies to the notice of the chief internal auditor, who dismisses them as minor accounting errors which do not merit serious attention. Unconvinced by his response, you decide to report the matter to the regional head of the organisation. You are warned by a colleague that not much would come out of your effort because the organization was trying to fake good health to attract shareholders. You are convinced of the accounting fraud and write to the chief auditor and the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (CEO & MD) explaining in great detail how the errors are glaring and, therefore, need to be corrected before the disinvestment process. You receive no reply from either of them.

A senior executive tells you over lunch that if decent profits are not shown, the disinvestment process would not go as expected, resulting in lesser mobilization of resources for the government. You understand from his tone and tenor that the top brass was in the know of the 'accounting errors'. You are gravely concerned about the safety of investments of ordinarily people who might overvalue the stock and suffer losses. [250 Words] 20

- a) Given the scenario you find yourself in, what options are available to you?
- b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons.
13. You are a senior civil servant, charged with the responsibility of investigating a Chit Fund scam. Lakhs of gullible investors have been defrauded of their hard earned savings.

Given the magnitude of the financial fraud, the public has been demanding swift and stern action against the promoters and directors

of the company. You and your team swing into action to investigate the case from all possible dimensions. During the inspection of the account books, you discover entries of a company which belongs to the son of a retired bureaucrat, who you have always looked up to for his honesty and integrity.

He has been your mentor and friend with a clean public service record. Upon further investigation, you realize that the payments made to the agency by the Chit Fund Company are not significant either. But some of these payments are not properly accounted for.

Since the payments are small in proportion to the scam, you are not sure whether to include the agency as a beneficiary. You fear inclusion of name would result in the witch hunting of your friends' family because he had played by the rules in the past and not obliged the favours sought by some members of the present government. [250 Words] 20

- a) What are the options available to you?
- b) Evaluate each of these options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons.

14. As the Labour Officer of the District, you receive a complaint of under payment of wages in an agro-industry on the outskirts of a village, located 50 km from the district headquarters. You decide to investigate by paying a personal visit. One of your primary responsibilities is to enforce the minimum wage standards prescribed by statute.

As you reach the premises, you find around 300 women working in the Chilli Pepper grading unit. The owner, though surprised by your visit, takes you around the premises. When you wish to inspect the wage payment records, he calls upon his accountant to submit the records for your scrutiny. The records do not show under payment of wages.

When you try to speak to the women working on the factory floor, the owner protests.

You show him the door and inquire with some women about the wages they were receiving for their work. They all feel happy about the sum

the owner was paying them. But you discover it was 30% less than the minimum wage prescribed by law.

When confronted, the owner pleads guilty, but says that he has been providing steady employment to women who have been pushed out of the farm sector because of the losses they had suffered cultivating commercial crops. He contends that he would incur losses if he paid minimum wages as stipulated by law. You decide to serve notice and close down the industry.

While returning back to your office, you stop at the village square for a cup of tea. Not knowing who you are, the villagers tell you how the agro-industry has provided them livelihood during times of distress. But for the agro-industry, their lives would have been ruined, they say. Now, having listened to the villagers, you are not sure whether closing down the agro-industry was such a good idea. But, you remind yourself that you have to implement the law.

The above case presents an ethical dilemma. The following are some suggested options in resolving the dilemma. Please evaluate the merits and demerits of each of the options. [250 Words] 20

- i) You could refer the matter to your superior officer and seek his guidance in taking a decision
- ii) You go by the statute and order closure of the agro-industry
- iii) You try to persuade the owner to pay the minimum wages, and assure him of your help in expanding the firm.
- iv) Given the fact that closure destroys livelihoods of women, you decide not to press the matter further.

You may not necessarily have to restrict to the above options. What would you do in the above scenario? Justify your choice.