

R C REDDY IAS STUDY CIRCLE

GS-04 FULL TEST (SOLUTIONS)

Q1. What do you understand by the terms 'Knowledge' and 'Wisdom'? Do you think there is any difference? According to you, which is more relevant to the civil servants? (10 marks / 150 Words)

Knowledge is organised information acquired through education or observation.

Wisdom is the ability to arrive at balanced judgement in dealing with human beings which requires good understanding of human nature.

The differences

Knowledge is just obtaining information through reading, listening, observation, and experience while Wisdom involves judgement based on the good and bad outcomes. For example, the discovery of nuclear power is knowledge whereas applying nuclear technology only to generate electricity rather than creating a nuclear bomb is wisdom.

- Knowledge is objective while wisdom is subjective as it depends on a persons maturity.
- Knowledge is acquired through information gathering while wisdom is largely based on past experiences and thinking. For instance, even after having the knowledge of loss of lives and property due to dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagshaki, yet threatening a nuclear war is clear evidence of lack of wisdom.

In the context of a civil servant, **possessing wisdom along with knowledge** is desirable rather than just knowledge because unwise decisions affect the lives of people adversely.

Thus, a knowledgeable civil servant without wisdom could cause more harm.

Q2. "Accepting bribe is no doubt a bigger offence than offering one." In your opinion should the bribe-giver along with bribe-taker be punished? Discuss. (10 marks / 150 Words)

Corruption is dishonest conduct involving the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain. In Indian context, corruption can be classified into two categories: collusive corruption, and coercive corruption.

- 1. Collusive corruption** involves benefit for both bribe-giver and taker.
- 2. Coercive corruption** involves extortion or demand for bribes. Bribe-giver is compelled often through harassment to pay bribes for the things they are legally entitled to. It has more serious consequences as it deprives the poor and impedes socio-economic development.

In either of the cases, the bribe-taker compromises on his/her integrity and abuses his or her positional power. He or She is also violating the law of the land : Prevention of corruption act, 1988.

On the other hand, the bribe-giver may offer a bribe out of his desire to gain undue benefits, or may be forced to give bribe to get his due right .Thus, a bribe giver of the former category deserves punishment, whereas the latter deserves empathy and help. Often citizens are forced to pay bribes due to denial of services which they are entitled to get. In this case, the bribe giver is the victim of a venal system that persecutes him for no fault of his. And especially in developing countries like India where much of the population is illiterate and judicial system and other grievance redressal mechanisms are ineffective, costly and time consuming, out rightly punishing all the bribe - givers would be morally wrong. Hence, necessary amendment should be made to exempt bribe giver from punishment in case of coercive corruption.

Q3. Do you think the ethical standards of media reporting are on a downward trend? Assuming yourself as a head of a reputed media house, what changes would you bring in to ensure higher ethical standards. (10 marks / 150 Words)

Media as the fourth pillar of Indian democracy has important responsibilities. However, recently it has been mired with falling ethical standards. The recent incidents like:

- **Sensationalisation** of a localised incident has caused the public outrage in Bengaluru and Chennai regarding the Cauvery water issue.
- The **insensitive** reporting during the Nepal earthquake incident in 2015, has led to tarnish of India's image in Nepal.
- Live coverage of terrorist attack on Mumbai in September 2011 also exemplifies insensitive reporting of media
- Unprofessional conduct is also reflected in incidents of Media trials, Paid-news, Politicization, Corporatisation of media and so on leading to biased reporting.
- The bad behaviour of Indian media is also seen in defamation of political candidates or corporate promotion in the form of news.

As a Chairman of a reputed media house, I would like to take the following steps to ensure higher ethical standards of media reporting:

- Ensuring the media house recruits only qualified personnel. In addition to it, a **mandatory training** period by the experts within and outside the organisation on issues like **media ethics** etc. will be held.
- Setting up of code of conduct and code of ethics that enshrine the basic foundation values of the organisation.
- To ensure effective compliance and check any violations of the code of conduct, an **Internal media ethics committee** headed by a retired judge (to ensure impartiality of the committee) would be set up with adequate powers.
- **Ensuring editorial independence** by separating the commercial wing of the organisation from the editorial wing of the organisation to maintain impartiality and avoid any conflict of interest.
- Ensure **transparent functioning** by declaring organisation's promoters and other finances.

Q4. Define and differentiate the following terms: (15 marks / 250 Words)

(a) Sympathy

(b) Empathy

(c) Compassion

(d) Altruism

Sympathy refers to acknowledging another person's emotional hardships and providing comfort and assurance. It means you are aware of someone's distress but you may not have had similar experience in your life. For example, consider the issue of child labour. On seeing a child labour in a restaurant if a person is just feeling pity for the child, then he is expressing his sympathy towards the child.

Empathy refers to ability or attempt to mentally put yourself in other person's shoes in order to understand their emotions. Empathy is a more specific term that means to actually feel concern or pity for a person's situation, usually based on the fact that one have had a similar experience and really do understand what other person is feeling or going through. If one had not experienced the emotional hardships that the other person is facing, an empathetic person should have a true desire to understand other's feelings by imagining oneself in their position.

Eg: Considering the same child labour issue if he connects himself or his own children with that child or if he remembers any of his own personal life experience and thus understand the plight of the child is the case of empathy.

Compassion refers to the ability and willingness to stand alongside someone and to put their needs before your own. It is a step further wherein a person not only feels empathy but also has an active desire to help alleviate another's sufferings. Thus, the emphasis here is on helpful action like that of Mother Theresa, or like that of an NGO that collects left out food from function halls or from donors and supplies to the needy in Hyderabad.

Altruism means selflessness or selfless service and devotion to the interests of others. It is based on moral principle that man has no right to exist for his own sake, that service to others is the only justification of his existence, and that **self-sacrifice** is his highest moral duty, virtue and value. In other words, while

Sympathy focuses on awareness, Empathy focuses on experience, Compassion focuses on action and Altruism focuses on selfless service.

Q5. Examine the meaning of quote and its significance

(a) "No success is permanent, no failure is fatal" (10 marks/ 150 Words)

Nothing is permanent in this world, success and failure are no exceptions to this. Just like an ocean wave where water raises and falls as it is nears the coast, our lives too is a mix of success and failures.

Mahatma Gandhi, father of our nation, relentlessly led the mass struggle for independence for over three decades. He failed to reach the objective of freedom with non-cooperation, civil disobedience movement, and quit India movement. Yet he did not give up the goal of freedom. Every time he failed, he came back stronger and led the movement with great grit and determination. This signifies that "No failure is fatal"

Adolf Hitler, contemporary of Gandhiji, all through his political career never faced a failure and became the Fuhrer of Nazi Germany. He won all the battles in the first few years of world war II. However, he lost a war against the USSR and led to the fall of whole Germany. Repeated success led to complacency and arrogance in approach. This proves that "No success is permanent".

Just as any coin which has a head and tail, even our lives have both failures and successes. As it is often said, failure is not about failing but refusing to get-up. Paulo Coelho in his book "The Alchemist" writes that "The darkest hour of the day is just before the dawn" which means one should never give up at the time of failure and continue to strive for success.

(b) "When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property" (10 marks/ 150 Words)

The above statement was made by Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America. It means that citizens have a right to complete confidence in public servants, made up politicians and civil servants, as they play an indispensable role in the good governance of a nation.

With the advent of the welfare state, government officials are seen as stewards of public resources and guardians of a special trust that citizens have placed in them. In return for this confidence, they are expected to put public interest above self-interest. His/her actions are expected to be free from favouritism, nepotism and other such ills.

Just like the public property which is accessible and approachable to all citizenry, persons assuming the public trust (MPs, MLAs, civil servants, etc) should function in a transparent manner and answerable to the public. Their decision making should be people centric and driven by people's aspirations. Accessibility of the public servants too is important particularly for the vulnerable sections of the country.

The quote also emphasises that public servant's private life is also under scrutiny. He or She is expected to maintain high levels of ethics and morals in personal life too. As citizens would be looking to their representatives for inspiration, and leadership, it is crucial that they ensure exemplary behaviour and set up precedents to future generations.

Q6. What is Emotional Intelligence? Why is it important for a civil servant? (10 marks / 150 Words)

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognise, understand and control his/her own emotions and the emotions of other people, both individually and in groups and use this information for better management.

Importance

An emotionally intelligent administrator is sensitive to the emotional states of self and others. People with higher EIs are also better at understanding their own psychological state, this can include managing stress effectively and being less likely to suffer from depression. This sensitivity enables the emotionally intelligent administrator to **motivate self and others to perform at an optimum level.**

EI enables Administrators in resolution of conflicts among the members of their respective organisations. Administrators with high EI make their departments work with high synergy and efficiency.

Improvement of citizen service: Many public-service jobs are characterised by interpersonal contact. In the ideal case the interaction should produce

citizen satisfaction and establish efficiency and positive perspective of the government agency. In this context, public servant must display high levels of emotional intelligence. For example, an emotional intelligent police officer would be more sensitive and empathetic in interaction with victim-survivors of child abuse or women related crimes. Similar skills are required for a government doctor when approached by distressed and worried patients.

EI with sub-ordinates and superiors: Being emotionally intelligent with one's sub-ordinates is usually tougher than being emotionally intelligent with one's superior due to the difference in power or status. Bureaucracy emphasises on obedience to instructions from superiors. Even if the sub-ordinates do not agree with each and every instruction, they are mostly afraid to disagree and do not express their feelings openly which may intensify over time and explode any time in anger against their respective sub-ordinates or other weaker individuals in the vicinity. Similarly, fears of loosing repute and the pressure of obedience tend to make the sub-ordinates accept the higher workloads in spite of being aware of the risks to their physical and mental well-being. As a result, the morale of the entire organisation is corroded over a period of time. Hence, EI is a must for administrators to build and maintain relationships with the members of their organisations at all hierarchical levels.

Q7. Enumerate the seven principles stated in Committee on Standards in Public Life (Lord Nolan) report. Indicate two more attributes which you consider very important for holders of public office. Justify your answer. (10 marks / 150 Words)

The Seven Principles of Public Life that are stated in the Report by Lord Nolan, are :

1. **Selflessness:** Public servants should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest rather than to gain benefits for themselves, their family or friends.
2. **Integrity:** Public servants should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.
3. **Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, public servants should make choices on merit.
4. **Accountability:** Public servants are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
5. **Openness:** Public servants should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
6. **Honesty:** Public servants have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
7. **Leadership:** Public servants should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Two more attributes that are necessary for the public servants are

Empathy: A civil servant should be empathetic towards the concerns of the poor and marginalised sections.

Spirit of Service refers to the quality of the character that encourages one to pursue the goals of the organization with devotion. The goal of a public organization is to do good to the society. Thus, only with a high spirit of service can the public officials bring a positive change in the society.

Q8. Write a short note on citizens charter and its importance. (10 marks / 150 Words)

A Citizen's Charter is the **expression of an understanding between the citizen and the public service** about the quantity and quality of services citizens receive in exchange for their taxes. It is essentially about the rights of the public and the obligations of the public servants. It is meant to be a document of assurances. The **Citizen's Charter is not legally enforceable** and, therefore, is non-justiciable.

Importance

- **Change Public Official's Attitude:** They help change the mindset of the public official from someone with power over the public to someone with care in spending the public's taxes and in providing them with necessary services.
- **Raise the level of standards of Service Delivery** through more responsive attitude from officials towards the public. This also ensures **Greater public satisfaction** with services.
- **Platform for Public Participation:** element of good governance
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The Charter should be an effective tool to ensure transparency and accountability and should help deliver good governance if implemented vigorously by the government departments.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions coordinates the efforts to formulate, operationalise and evaluate Citizen's Charters in Central and State Governments though **Sevottam model**.

Q9. The current education system is producing well-trained persons than well-educated individuals. Do you agree? Discuss. (10 marks / 150 words)

Our present educational system is more focused on skills that ensure employment opportunities rather than that which emphasises on values. Attitude towards education is more of securing better grades or percentages. This grading system diminishes interest in values.

Unfortunately our existing examination process does not provide enough avenues to assess values and ethics in a student. Thus majority of our efforts are to secure high percentiles in academics.

Value based education imparts values like honesty, concern, sense of service, humility, etc. If the impressionable mind once gets set to noble goals, they become better citizens of our country. People with high ethical values will never cheat others. They make their lives happier and work hard to make others happy.

NCC, boy scouts and sports are also helpful in promoting discipline and team work.

Swami Vivekananda once remarked that “We want the education by which character is formed, strength of the mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet.” This quote aptly conveys the desired objectives of the education system. Hence, the need of the hour is to revamp the existing education system with greater emphasis on value based education rather than merely imparting skills meant for a decent livelihood.

Q10. (a) Define work culture and examine the need of overhauling the work culture in government agencies. (10 marks / 150 Words)

Work culture is a set of values, norms and practices of an organisation that reflect in its functioning. **Work culture of government agencies** in India is often marked by issues like delays, official apathy, inefficiency, strict hierarchy, abuse of power, absenteeism, procrastination etc.. This needs to be addressed on a priority because of the following benefits.

Improves efficiency: By inducing positive aspects of work culture like dedication to one's duty, high standards of financial propriety, etc lead to better delivery of public services.

Checks abuse of power: As the officials concerned would be driven by foundational values of civil services like integrity, impartiality, and compassion towards the weaker sections, the bureaucracy would be insulated from issues like nepotism, corruption, etc.

Societal benefits: Better implementation of the programmes meant for social justice would help in poverty alleviation, growth with equity and social equality leading to an inclusive society.

Trust in government increases as the citizens feel that government is responsive to their needs and addressing their genuine concerns. This is especially warranted in areas affected by left wing extremism, insurgency, militancy, etc.

Further, better work culture avoids employee dissatisfaction, attracts and retains best talent in bureaucracy and improves citizen satisfaction.

(b) If you are the head of a government department, suggest some measures to improve its work culture (10 marks / 150 Words)

As head of the department I would improve the work culture by following the multi-pronged approach given below:

1. Creating conducive environment: As the work culture is often influenced by the attitude of employees, I would ensure that activities of behavioural change are carried out like conducting sensitisation workshops, issuing targets and having employee assessment sheets.
2. Public interaction will ensure that all employees, on rotation basis, are exposed to public. This will increase responsiveness among employees
3. Incentivisation and punitive actions: After formulating a clear set of values that are part of work culture, I would offer incentives like a certificate of appreciation and public recognition from superior officials, and simultaneously discouraging negative behaviour by taking disciplinary action.
4. Systemic changes :Introducing biometric attendance, setting up of CCTVs, implementation of Citizen charter, digitalisation of the work procedures, etc.
5. Group activities: Celebration of achievements with the employees to generate the feeling of oneness,and conduction of sports and other cultural competitions that not only develop team spirit but also relieve them from work related stress.

Q1. Since its inception, you are Project Head of Mission Bhagiratha which is a Water Grid scheme intended to provide safe drinking water to every household in the state. X and Y are two of your subordinates. X is the engineering head while Y is the financial head. The personal differences between the two has led to coordination issues. Whenever X brings any proposal and is sent for the financial concurrence of Y, he makes adverse observations which makes it difficult for you to take a final decision. Due to this problem, several proposals under the project are delayed. The political executive i.e. Minister is persistently pressurising you to finish the project swiftly as it is an election year. There are rumours going on in the government circles that the minister is considering to replace you as he sees you incapable and inefficient officer due to delays in project. In these circumstances, he calls you for an explanation for delays.

(a) How will you deal with the pressure from Minister ?

(b) How will you resolve differences between your subordinates so as to ensure better coordination? (20Marks / 250 Words)

Civil Servant should exhibit emotional intelligence, leadership and conflict management skills into order to navigate troubled waters as in this case where the project head has to deal with subordinate and superordinate issues in the bureaucratic hierarchy.

(a) Dealing with Super-ordinate

The Minister, not the civil servant, is ultimately answerable to the citizenry. Hence, he is correct in his perspective to expect efficient implementation of the Project. Understanding minister's obligations, I would take necessary steps to reduce the trust deficit between us.

Firstly, I will present him/her with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) which will contain the status, progress and the challenges being faced for speedy implementation of the project. I would highlight the coordination issues between the subordinates and my initiatives to resolve it.

Secondly, I would stress upon the fact that my involvement in the project since its inception makes me the person best suited for the project and any new appointee would face challenges of getting accustomed to the settings. Highlighting my career achievements and credentials, I would make a case for my continuance as project head and gain his/her confidence.

(b) Dealing with Sub-ordinates

I would call my subordinates X and Y, over a meeting first individually, later together. In these meetings, I will explain the importance of the project and

make them realise that their personal differences are delaying projects, bringing disrepute to the organisation and ultimately suffering to people.

I will give Y the opportunity to explain for his/her apprehensions, and also his/her expectations from X. I will ask Y to make a check list of the financial pre-requisite which should be followed before any project is brought for financial concurrence by X. To reduce differences between the two, I will organise more frequent meetings.

If persuasion fails to bring about coordination between the two, I will not hesitate to relieve either of the two or both of their duties.

Q2. You are the MD&CEO of L&T Metro rail of Hyderabad. It has been decided that a historical and significant marketplace where there is a huge public footfall has to be connected by metro. You have the task of deciding the alignment of metro route. When you visit the site for preliminary inspection, a large group of locals which includes the affluent traders and street hawkers approach you. They plead before you to not sanction the construction of the metro flyover since it will significantly reduce the footfall to their businesses and severely affect their livelihood. They also submit before you that if you proceed with the project, they will have no choice but to go on an indefinite hunger strike. You are further informed by your staff that most of these shops are illegal and have encroached upon the existing road, leading to traffic congestions. Many of them will have to be demolished to make way for the project which could further aggravate the protests.

What are the options available to you and evaluate each of the options and choose the option you would adopt, giving reasons. (20Marks / 250 Words)

Any development project should be as inclusive as possible, as it ensures equitable development for all and is also a core principle of good governance. In this case, as a CEO of metro rail project I face an ethical dilemma to accommodate the concerns of the stakeholders (especially vulnerable street hawkers) and ensure greater public interest by completing the metro project. I will take the following course of action:

As an underground metro project instead of flyover alignment would impact less on the locals, I will set-up an expert committee to study the technical and financial feasibility of alternate underground project within stipulated time frame. This option would not only solve the intended development purpose but also secure the livelihoods of the locals.

Based on the finding of the expert committee, if alternate underground project:

- is technically feasible and financially prudent, then I shall go ahead with the construction as it will minimal impact on the livelihoods of the locals.
- is technically feasible and not financially prudent based on cost-benefit analysis, then I would consider the prospect of viability gap funding (VGF) from the government.
 - If not granted, as a PPP entity L&T Metro cannot take the risk of huge losses without much benefits accruing from the change in alignment.
 - I would continue with the flyover model of metro.

In the scenario where I have to go forward with the flyover model of metro project, I would try to accommodate the concerns of multiple stakeholders as follows:

- **Street vendors:** Certain avenues in the project will be reserved for the affected street vendors such that their livelihood is secured.
- **Legal shop owners:** compensation in the form of cash or commercial space within the project will be allotted.
- **Illegal shops and encroachments** will be shown zero tolerance. I would recommend demolition of such shops and imposing penalties.

This option would lead to efficient and effective compensation for the legal shop owners and on the other side clearing the illegal encroachments of the market would assert legality and integrity of my actions.

Q3. You are a District magistrate of a district through which River Krishna flows. The district has several famous temple shrines along the river and it is the Krishna Pushkaralu (Pushkar) year this time. Based on the auspiciousness and the significance of the event, it is estimated that around 2 crore people across the nation would be visiting river ghats for holy dip. You made all your preparations advanced by construction of ghats, roads and other basic infrastructure for the smooth conduct of the event and safety to pilgrims. Unfortunately just three days before the inaugural date of the event, sudden cloud burst and floods have hit your district and damaged 10 of the 14 planned ghats including the one for VIPs. The damage is beyond repair in the short time available to you without any quality compromise. You have already granted all kinds of permissions to many VIPs for their special arrangements. Also your higher

officers have given you complete authority and powers on any decision based on the conditions. In this situation,

(a) What would be your immediate course of action?

(b) How would you manage the general crowd and VIP visitors to your district? (20Marks / 250 Words)

(a) Immediate course of action :

Firstly, I will convene a meeting with all the district officers to assess the flood situation and send all available quick response disaster force to the affected areas.

Also, explain the situation and the intensity of the damage to the constructions in the Pushkar ghats areas and motivate and order them to be ready and available 24*7 for any kind of distress calls. Simultaneously I would divide the officers into teams and allot them the mandate to assess the probability of repairing any of the ghats or roads and send a report by the same day. If any repairs are possible, provide them with immediate financial support from the available district contingency fund and order construction of temporary fence near the undamaged ghats to prevent people going beyond certain levels in the river as there is rise in water levels.

Later, I would immediately call for a press conference and appeal to the people to either postpone their visit for a few days or visit other places in other districts which are not affected by floods. Similarly, either an officer of higher rank or myself would personally talk to the VIPs and explain the same.

Finally, as there is a shortage of manpower , I would speak to the local panchayats and youths of the villages and motivate them to take up the relief activities and also assure them incentives in the form of awards or certificates of appreciation.

(b) Managing the crowd and VIPs

Once the event begins, there would be a gradual rise in the crowds including the VIPs especially at auspicious time (muhurtham) of the day. Considering this fact, I would take up following crowd management strategies for smooth conduct of the event:

General crowd:

- Develop an outer (2-3 km from the core area) and inner circles (500mts) with respect to the ghats and their areas and deny entry of all private four and multi axle wheelers, buses at the boundary of the outer circles. And

provide them ample space and safety and security of their vehicles at the parking and set-up free mode of transportation from the outer to inner circles through local share autos or vans.

- From the inner circle to the temple or ghats (around 500 mts) set- up multiple pedestrian paths with enough number of wheelchairs for the old and differently abled and small two lane roads for to and fro movements of government vehicles .
- The volunteers , professional swimmers and other officials would be placed near the ghats and ensure constant vigil and prohibit activities like swimming, playing in the rivers, etc. so as to accommodate large number of people in the less number of ghats.

VIPs:

- To all the VIPs who were granted permission to the special darshans etc. officers of higher rank or myself would personally talk to them and explain the situation and the damage caused to the VIP ghat and request them to take up their sacred baths or rituals with the common crowd at the available ghats.
- I would request them to visit the ghats of the neighbouring districts and I would assure them that I have already talked to the DMs of the concerned districts who expressed their willingness to co operate in this matter.

Q4. You are District Magistrate (DM) of a severe drought prone area in Maharashtra. Due to two consecutive poor monsoons, the situation assumed alarming proportions causing severe water shortage in the district. Farmers and their families face financial difficulties due to multiple crop failures. Suicides are also being reported. People along with NGOs demand release of water for (1) irrigation, (2) drinking water and (3) other domestic purposes (like sanitation). Many of the industries in the region have shut down leading to large scale unemployment. Management of (4) a textile unit in the region approach you requesting for water supply, failing which they threaten to shut down their operations. (5) A beer manufacturing unit owned by an influential minister of the state pressurises you to allocate water as a first priority. Residential welfare association of (6) a posh gated community (in which your in-laws stay) have also submitted a request for water for a golf course and swimming pool. Further, (7) an IPL cricket match is supposed to be conducted within a week. Also within the

same period, a local MLA is planning (8) a grand wedding of his daughter, which is expected to be attended by VVIPs.

Multiple water trains are scheduled to reach the district in a couple of days. As District Magistrate, what would be the order in which you would allocate water and why ? Give justifications. (20Marks / 250 Words)

This situation reflects a typical administrative challenge where a natural and scarce resource like water has to ensure judicious usage and equitable distribution. As a District Magistrate, I would follow the following order with reasons explained below :

1. Drinking water :

It is a basic need of human beings. Without access to clean drinking water, people may drink impure water leading to public health disorders. And, in hot weather conditions, people particularly old and children may become vulnerable to sun strokes, dehydration, etc.

1. Other domestic use (like sanitation) :

Without provision of water for sanitation, people might be exposed to threats of public health problems like diarrhea, cholera, etc. which would pose a significant challenge to public health facilities in the district.

1. Irrigation :

In the situation of rising number of farmer suicides, irrigation will ensure livelihood security for small and marginal farmers. It will also lead to food security of the region. In order to support farmers in financial distress, I would prioritise them in MGNREGS and other livelihood based schemes.

1. Textile unit :

Since textile industry is labour intensive employing large number of local women workers, I would allot them the requisite water to avoid factory shut down. As the farmers are far more vulnerable to financial distress when compared to monthly salaried, pension-covered and skilled labourers of textile unit, farmers have to be prioritised.

1. Beer manufacturing unit :

In any situation, civil servant should not succumb to the political pressure and should always act in public interest. Here too, I would resist the pressures from

the minister and will not give top priority to Beer unit. As the beer unit is not as labour intensive as the textile unit and being water intensive process, I would prioritise it next to textile unit. This will secure the livelihood of the employees.

Ideally, I would request and persuade both the IPL management and local MLA to shift or postpone their events until the issue of water scarcity is resolved. If they still insist then I would prefer the IPL match over MLA's private event.

1. IPL Cricket match :

As it would lead to generation of local employment in the form of street hawkers selling snacks, flags, etc.

1. Local MLA's daughter wedding :

Daughter's wedding is a private event which involves least common good though he is a local people's representative.

1. Gated community :

As golf and swimming pool are meant primarily for recreational purposes, I would address the needs of this community in the end.

Once the crisis is resolved, I would initiate steps to make the people and region drought-resilient. These would include encouraging community water harvesting techniques, alternate livelihood means to farmers like livestock etc., developing tanks (like Mission Kakatiya), and so on.

Q5. Fatima and her two sons Imran and Rahim have migrated to Hyderabad from Gujarat few decades ago. Imran and Rahim lost their father in communal riots in their childhood. Fatima has raised them with a lot of care and got them well educated. Imran, elder brother, is a renowned doctor, while Rahim is a bright prospect pursuing Bachelors of Technology in computer engineering.

In recent times, Imran observes peculiar behavioural patterns in Rahim. He spends most of the time on internet, speaks less to the family and prefer to be alone. To his utter surprise, Imran finds out that Rahim was browsing websites that promote Islamic State ideology and was frequently chatting with Islamic fundamentalists. Further observations reveal that Rahim is planning to leave India to join ISIS along with a few other

friends. Imran is afraid of the fact that his computer knowledge would be misused by the ISIS. Imran is known for his secular thoughts and rational bent of mind.

Evaluate the options available to Imran and which course of action he has to adopt and why? (20Marks / 250 Words)

ISIS has become the nerve center of global terrorism. It radicalises and recruits vulnerable youth through social media platforms by spreading false interpretations of holy Quran.

In this case, Rahim has fallen prey to this false propaganda of ISIS and Imran is facing an ethical dilemma of being an elder brother and a responsible citizen. Imran has following options:

1. Discuss and persuade Rahim to change his mindset

Imran should know the reasons for his brother coming under the influence of ISIS propaganda and use his patriotism and rationality to change his brother's perceptions and prejudice. This may resolve the issue within the family, thus protecting the reputation of Imran and his family members.

However, Imran should not take this option as it would be unwise to assume that persuasion would be enough to change Rahim's attitude. Further, Imran is powerless to stop Rahim from leaving India. If Imran chooses this option, he would let go those people who are responsible for radicalising his brother and many such youth. Though he might be able to stop Rahim from leaving India, he cannot stop Rahim's friends.

Hence, this option is not a good option.

1. Adopt coercive tactics to bring about change

Imran could resort to coercive tactics like physical abuse, house arrest, cutting off access to internet, mobiles, laptops, etc. This might insulate Rahim from ISIS influence. But as he is well versed with computer technology it might not be an effective solution. Moreover, this is not addressing the root cause of the problem. In adverse case he might even become more stubborn and eventually go abroad.

So even this option is not acceptable.

1. Complain the issue directly to the nearby police station and seek assistance

As a responsible citizen of the country, Imran should go to the police with all the evidence that he has collected like the computer, chats, mobiles, passport, etc. and request for rehabilitation of his brother. This option should be preferred as police are best equipped to seize the passport, visa and potentially check the plan of Rahim leaving for abroad. They are also better placed in terms of investigating the people behind this radicalisation and bring them to justice. Police interacting with Rahim and friends could lead to more critical data for national security purposes thereby helping the police foil similar plans and avoid strengthening of IS ideology.

While exercising this option, Imran should request the police to ensure anonymity of Rahim and his other family members. Apart from this, Imran could request police to ensure his presence in the counselling sessions as he knows his brother better.

By choosing this option, Imran could balance his responsibilities as elder brother without endangering their family reputation and fundamental duty as outlined in Article 51 A of our Indian Constitution.

Q6. You are an IAS aspirant residing in the State Capital. You have appeared at the Prelims and you are sure that you would qualify for Mains without an iota of doubt. Meanwhile, you visit your native village for a few days to meet your family members. The village is very remotely located and does not have proper means of communication like roads, telephone and internet. During your stay, you get to know that Community Panchayath has issued a dictum that the women should not wear jeans and should not carry personal mobiles. At the same time, there have been alleged cases of honour killings for marrying among the taboo gotras. You visit the only school in village (run by government) and shocked to see very few girl students in the classroom. You walk by cotton fields of the village and feel disgusted to see large number of girl children working in the fields. You also learn that the child sex ratio is extremely skewed favouring boys due to female foeticide and infanticide. All these observations outrage you to the core and you resolve to make amends. However, your family advises you to go back to state capital and focus on your forthcoming Mains exam rather than wasting time in the futile exercise. (20 marks, 250 words)

(a) Under these circumstances, what would you do?

(b) If you are successful in becoming an IAS officer and posted in this area, what steps would you take? (20Marks / 250 Words)

The irrational assumptions, prejudices and patriarchal mindset of society are leading to discrimination, and subordination affecting our nation's progress. The village portrayed in this case aptly mirrors the disruptive elements of the society.

(a) As an IAS aspirant

In this case, I am facing an ethical dilemma of either being a responsible citizen and follow by instincts for societal reform or respecting my parents' wishes and pursuing my goal of becoming an IAS.

I believe it is the responsibility of every citizen to act and uphold constitutional values when s/he witnesses any unethical, immoral, illegal and irrational actions. However, in this case the problem is of societal attitude where discrimination and subordination of women/girls is being justified on grounds of customs and traditions. And hence there cannot be an immediate solution which can reform the society overnight. Pursuing a long term solution

of attitudinal change as an activist will compromise my efforts towards becoming an IAS officer. Moreover, I would be more influential in reforming the society when I become an IAS officer.

In these circumstances, firstly I would prepare a detailed report of my observations of the village in a systemic way along with evidences of illegal activities like honour killings, female foeticide, etc. I will include the interviews of village elders and panchayat leaders.

Secondly, I would take this report and represent the case to the political representative and District Magistrate. I will seek their active interventions in order to change the village attitude. I will also take the assistance of NGOs, media, social media platforms to highlight the issues and bring about pressure on authorities.

Thirdly, I would ask my family members and friends in the village to be agents of change and role models to other villagers.

Finally, I would continue my Mains preparation.

(b) As an IAS officer

An IAS officer has far more authority and public trust than a citizen. As a civil servant, I would pursue three pronged strategy to change the village circumstances:

Change in social attitude through persuasion, rational arguments and threat of legal action. This could be effective by engaging local SHGs, Cooperatives, etc. and innovative means of communication like street plays, cinema, etc.

1. Women empowerment through effective implementation of schemes like Bank-SHG linkage, Sarva siksha abhiyan, Janani-sishu suraksha yojana, Sabla, sukanya samridhi yojana, etc. and also encouraging their participation in local panchayats.
2. Strict implementation of laws like Pre-natal Diagnostics Act, Child Marriage Act, Child Labour Act