



## Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

by A. Sheikh

### GENERAL STUDIES (PAPER-IV)

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

#### QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

There are FOURTEEN questions divided in two Sections printed in ENGLISH only.

All questions are compulsory.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

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.

#### PART – A

1. Answer the following:

- a. Explain the domain of ethics in Human actions. How do ethics relate to areas of Codified laws and Free Choice? Illustrate the relationship with an example. (10 marks, 150 words)
- b. Explain the following in reference to the foundational values of civil servants. (10 marks, 150 words)
  - I. Probity
  - II. Objectivity
  - III. Conflict of interest
  - IV. Selflessness

2. Answer the following:

- a. Explain “Corruption equals monopoly plus discretion minus accountability” - Robert Klitgard. (10 marks, 150 words)
- b. Some people feel, adhering to legal systems is sufficient to remain ethical, do you agree? Explain your reasoning. (10 marks, 150 words)

3. Explain

- a. How ethical is (i) Ethical Hacking, (ii) Social Media and Yellow Journalism. (10 marks, 150 words)

- b. The meaning of the word “Ethical Dilemma” with a couple of examples. (10 marks, 150 words)
4. Answer the following:
- a. It was a violation if information was shared, it is a violation if is not shared. Comment on this statement. (10 marks, 150 words)
- b. Between Section 4 and Section 8 of RTI Act 2005, which one furthers the objective of good governance? Give reasons. (10 marks, 150 words)
5. Bring out the relevance of the following quotes in the present context. (20 marks, 150 words each)
- a. I am different from George Washington; I have a higher grander standard of principle. Washington could not lie. I can lie, but I won't -Mark Twain. (10 marks, 150 words)
- b. Distinguish between “in the public interest” and “of the public interest” in the context of ethical code of conduct for journalists. Illustrate your answer with an example for each. (10 marks, 150 words).
6. What is ‘emotional intelligence’? How can a government functionary effectively use it in administration and governance? Illustrate by an example. (10 marks, 150 words)
7. The attitude of Indian society towards Sati ritual has changed over time. In your opinion, what is the one issue of current times towards which the attitude of Indians has to change, reason out your answer in detail. (10 marks, 250 words)
8. What do you understand by Integrity in public life? It is often said discharging duty with absolute integrity is very difficult; hence it pays to be practical and flow with the trend. Do you agree with this statement? Give ethical reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with it. (10 marks, 150 words)

## PART - B

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

9. A Public Information Officer has received an application under RTI Act. Having gathered the information, the PIO discovers that the information pertains to some of the decisions taken by him, which were found to be not altogether right. There were other employees also who party to these decisions were. Disclosure of the information is likely to lead to disciplinary action with the possibility of punishment against him as well as some of his colleagues. Non-disclosure or part disclosure or camouflaged disclosure of information will result in lesser punishment or no punishment.

The PIO is otherwise an honest and conscientious person, but this particular decision, on which the RTI application has been filed, turned out to be wrong. He comes to you for advice.

The following are some suggested options. Please evaluate the merits and demerits of each of the options:

1. The PIO could refer the matter to his superior officer and seek his advice and act strictly in accordance with the advice, even though he is not completely in agreement with the advice of the superior.
2. The PIO could proceed on leave and leave the matter to be dealt by his successor in office or request for transfer of the application to another PIO.
3. The PIO could weigh the consequences of disclosing the information truthfully, including the effect on his career, and reply in a manner that would not place him or his career in jeopardy, but at the same time a little compromise can be made on the contents of the information.
4. The PIO could consult his other colleagues who are party to the decision and take action as per their advice.

Also, please indicate (without necessarily restricting to the above options) what you would like to advise, giving proper reasons. (20 marks, 250 words)

10. You are heading a leading technical institute of the country. The institute is planning to convene an interview panel shortly under your chairmanship for selection of the post of professors. A few days before the interview, you get a call from the Personal Secretary (PS) of a senior government functionary seeking your intervention in favour of the selection of a close relative of the functionary for this post. The PS also informs you that he is aware of the long pending and urgent proposals of your institute for grant of funds for modernization, which are awaiting the functionary's approval. He assures you that he would get these proposals cleared. (20 marks, 250 words)

1. What are the options available to you?
2. Evaluate each of these options and choose the option which you would adopt, giving reasons.

11. The safety of women in general has been in focus lately. Despite considerable legal provisions in the law, repeated instances of violence are reported against them on a daily basis. The violence ranges from stalking to sexual abuse, domestic violence to acid attacks. During many prime-time discussions, most of the commentators and leaders condemn these attacks and call for strict action against the offenders. However, there are few people who squarely blame the women for these attacks, they argue that women through their lifestyle and dressing style cause to invite offenders upon themselves.

Please discuss the attitudinal issues involved here and suggest actions to make India a safer place for women. (20 marks, 250 words)

12. The government has embarked on mission programme of establishing 7 million rural gas connections by 2020. You as an officer of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas go on an inspection to assess the ground situation. You are surprised to find out that despite the subsidy provided in the gas supply, the off take is very low and it is very unlikely the target set by the government will be achieved. On deeper inquiry you figure out that all

the agencies that are supposed to provide the connections are not venturing into the rural areas as it is logistically difficult and financially not profitable. Instead, they are diverting the subsidized cylinders into the black market and making large illegal profits. The marketing officers of the PSU's who are supposed to go into the villages and spread the awareness of the gas connectivity and subsidy are bribed by the gas agencies every month to refrain from doing marketing.

On returning to HQ you have to file your report. Detail all the points that have to be covered in the report including the suggestions. (20 marks, 250 words)

13. As an Executive Engineer of the water works department, Mr. Rajan has an issue at hand dealing with the staff under him. He has to write the Annual Performance Report of two Section Engineers working under him. Under his charge are two divisions both of which are very important locations in the city. One division has the houses of all important government officers and the other one is a rich locality. Incidentally Mr. Rajan receives several complaints from the first division, while there are no complaints from the second division. On investigation, he finds out that the Section Engineer of the second division Mr. White, is very efficient and ensures water supply to the second division without any interruption. Even in cases whenever there is a complaint, it does not reach the Executive Engineer. He is, however, known for accepting favors, both in cash and kind. On the other hand, Mr. Gray the Section Engineer in charge of the first division is very upright, rule bound man. He neither breaks the rules, nor indulges in any illegal acts. Since he works by the rule book, it takes time for him to comply with the service complaints; hence several complaints get generated in his division.

Now, going by the record, Mr. Gray has more complains than as against Mr. White. But it is also true that Mr. Gray is very upright in his working, and incidentally there is no documentary proof against Mr. White. Mr. Rajan understands, whatever he writes in the APR will be the basis for the Section Engineers next promotion. Can you suggest to Mr. Rajan, his next course of action? (20 Marks, 250 words)

14. You are a hardworking, disciplined person coming from a poor background. You have struggled many years after graduation looking for employment. During this time you were overlooked to accommodate lesser-qualified candidates who had connections and influence. Finally, you get through the state civil service exam. After the initial years of service, you are now posted as a deputy secretary in the education department. Under your charge, a notification for recruitment of primary school teachers is issued. The Sarpanch of your village comes to you with a request to help recruit about ten youngsters from your village and surrounding areas who are unemployed and have no source of livelihood other than manual labour. He requests you to help these youngsters to secure the teacher's job. The Sarpanch is a kind man who had helped you monetarily and motivated you during your struggling years. At the same time, you also receive a slip with a list of ten names that your minister wants you to select as teachers.

How would you resolve this issue? What action, would you take and why? Give justification for the action proposed. (20 marks, 250 words)