

ForumIAS

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate Vibhor Kaushik

Roll No. 1910079181

Date: 15/11/2021

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
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20		

Total Marks:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTION

- Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.
- There are TWELVE questions 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 authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

For Student Only

Start Time |

End Time |

Mode Of Examination:

Online Offline

For Office Use Only

ECN CODE:

EG:

Evaluation Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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Section - A

Q.1) a) There is a view that the principal objective of ethics is equitable distribution of resources in a society and behavioural regulation at an individual level. Comment.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans: Principal objective of ethics is the upliftment of our moral values and mainin maintaining the morality of society.

Objective of Ethics

At society level

- equality of opportunity and equality of outcome.
- equal distribution of resources.
- welfare of society at large.
- upholding Rule of law in society.
- upliftment of poor, remove gender bias, caste discrimination, poverty and hunger.
- Approve Justice as fairness.

At individual level

- removing Cognitive dissonance
- enhancing our values and morality
- respecting elders
- enhances accountability and transparency
- improving our Emotional intelligence and honesty.
- remain down to earth at all times

way forward

Hence, objectivity of ethics at the society at large and individual level is to help us conduct Right action at Right time without creating confusion in our mind.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

b) How far do you agree that in modern times, ethical conduct requires a blend of teleological and deontological approach? Explain with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Aus: Teleological Approach → end justify the means.

Deontological Approach → mean for the achievement of end should be ethical.

Ethical conduct → teleological + deontological

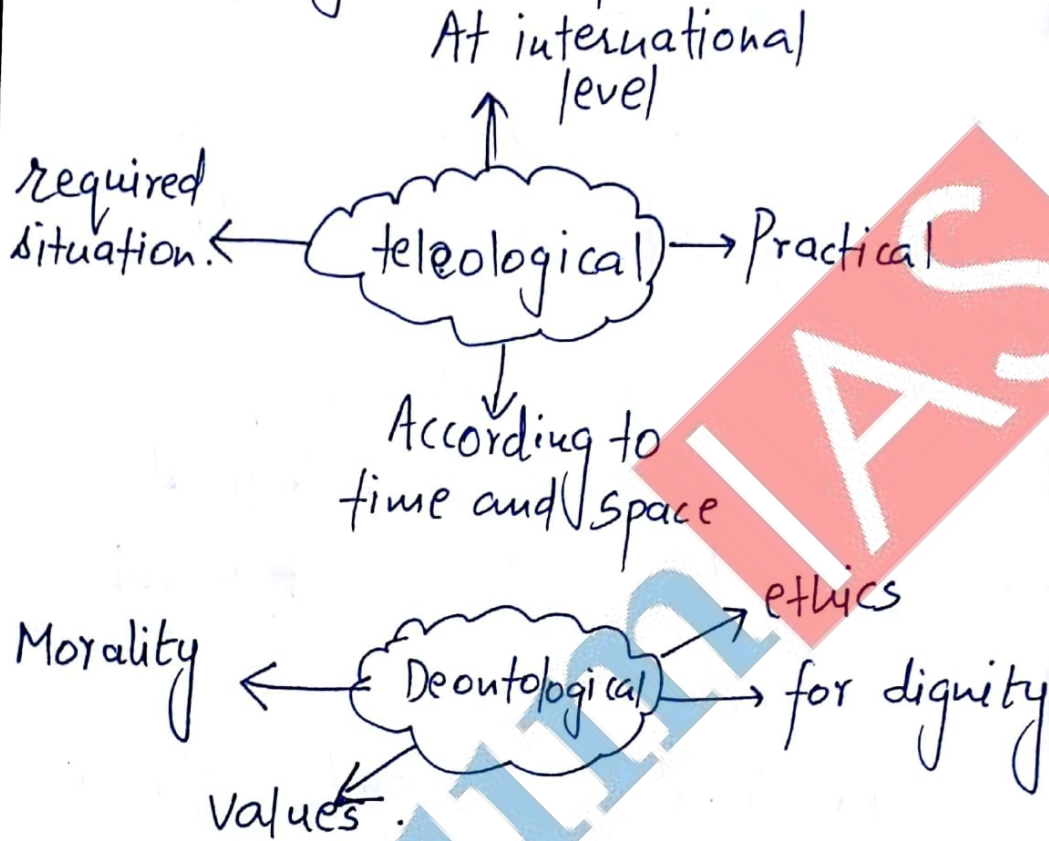
In today's world ethical conduct requires both.

•) In International politics End justify the means, no one can compromise its National Interest for sake of ethical conduct.

•) According to Machiavelli, ethical conduct at the personal level and at the country level are different.

•) Teleological approach comes near to Bentham's utilitarian approach

Whereas deontological approach refers to Kant's categorical imperative.



Hence, both teleological as well as deontological approach is required for ethical conduct depending upon time and situation.

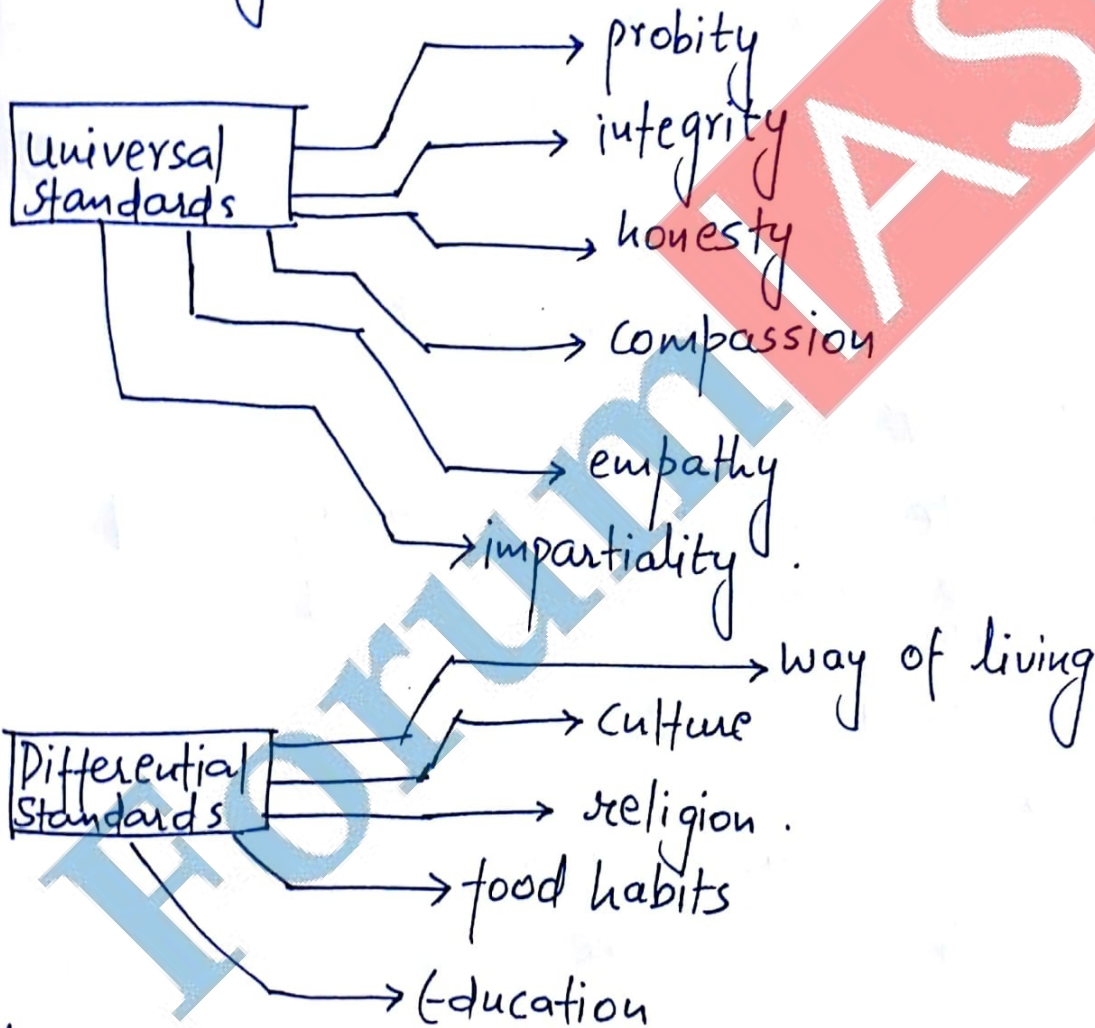
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.2) a) Are moral standards universal or do they vary across time and place? In what ways do you think religion plays a role in determining the moral standards of an individual?
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

Some moral standards are universal while some vary across time and place.



According to Michael Sandel, different communities have different cultures. For example, in Liberal Countries female genital mutilation is a crime and unacceptable.

While it can be normal in countries of West Asia and Africa.

Importance of Religion

- imparting values and morality
- imparting ethics and discipline in our life.
- Creating awareness about ourselves and others.
- Create confidence, objectivity and giving purpose to us.

Way Ahead

Religion plays very important role in our life to enhance our beliefs and ethical values.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

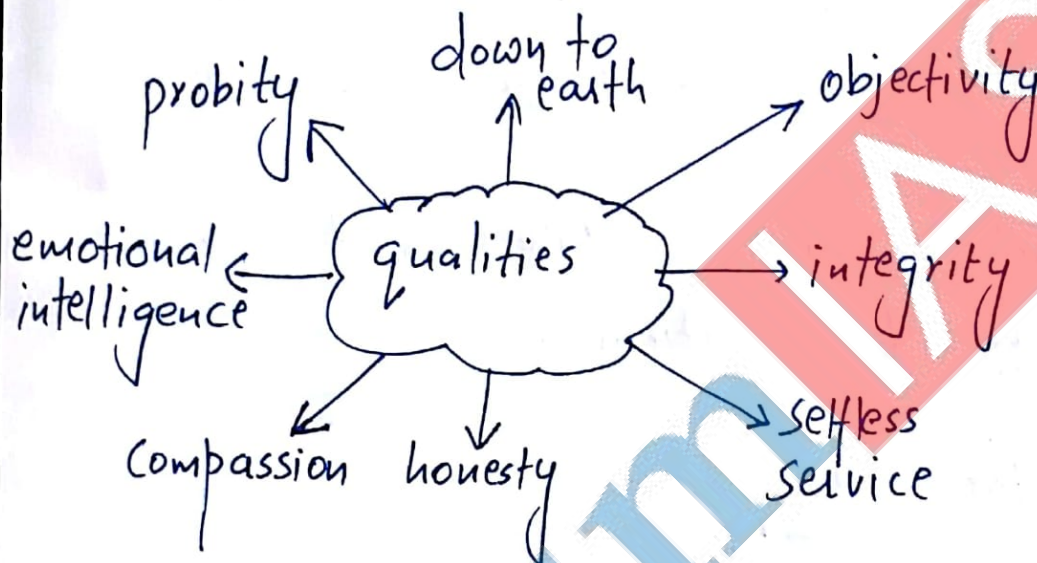
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



b) Which famous personality has influenced you the most and why? In what ways have you adopted their philosophy in your life? (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans.

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam has influenced me a lot due to his following qualities.



All these qualities of Dr. Kalam has influenced me in life. like

→ I pay respect to people from all cast and creeds irrespective of their financial conditions.

→ Try to empathise with poor people and help them in whatever way I can.

→ Try to make thinks as simple as possible

in my life by adopting Scientific approach in life.

→ From Dr. Kalam I learn to remain always down to earth and connected with your roots ~~now~~ no matter how successful you become in your life.

→ Upholding ~~fr~~ my values and morals in difficult situation.

Way forward

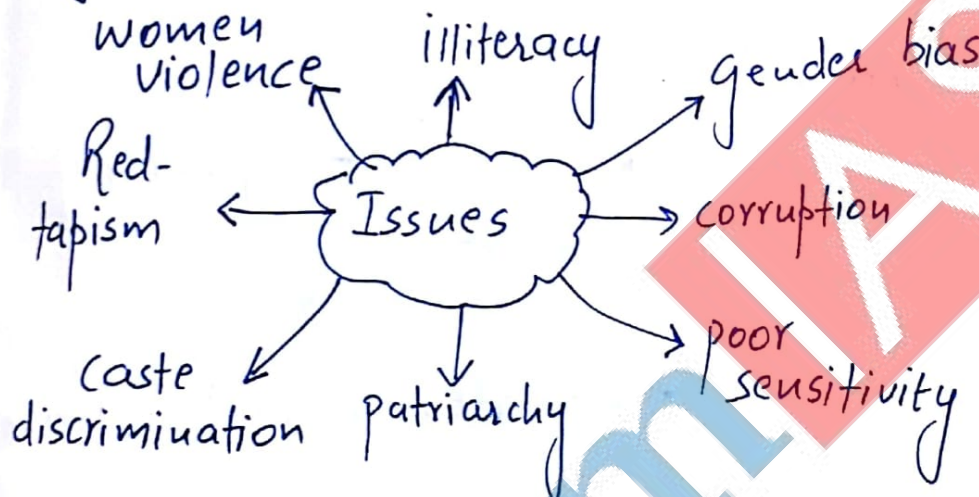
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has impacted ~~by~~ my life in conducting right work under right conditions with right intention not thinking about the result in future.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.3) a) Major challenges of present Indian society can be solved merely by transforming the attitude of people towards certain issues. Identify and discuss any three such social issues. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans. Indian Society has been grappling with many issues.



Corruption → Huge corruption in our country.

- High inequality and poverty
- Creates inefficiency, distrust among people.
- erodes acceptability of authority and reduces legitimacy.
- Promotes crimes, unaccountability and opacity.

Caste discrimination

→ Very old problem.

- promotes hatred towards each other.
- promotes discrimination.
- historical injustice.
- Reduces efficiency, against equality of law, outcome and opportunity.

illiteracy

→ promotes unskill Labour

- Low economic development
- Creates corruption, Red tapism
- increases poverty, slum penetration

Way Ahead

Removing all these deficiency is very importance for achieving just society!

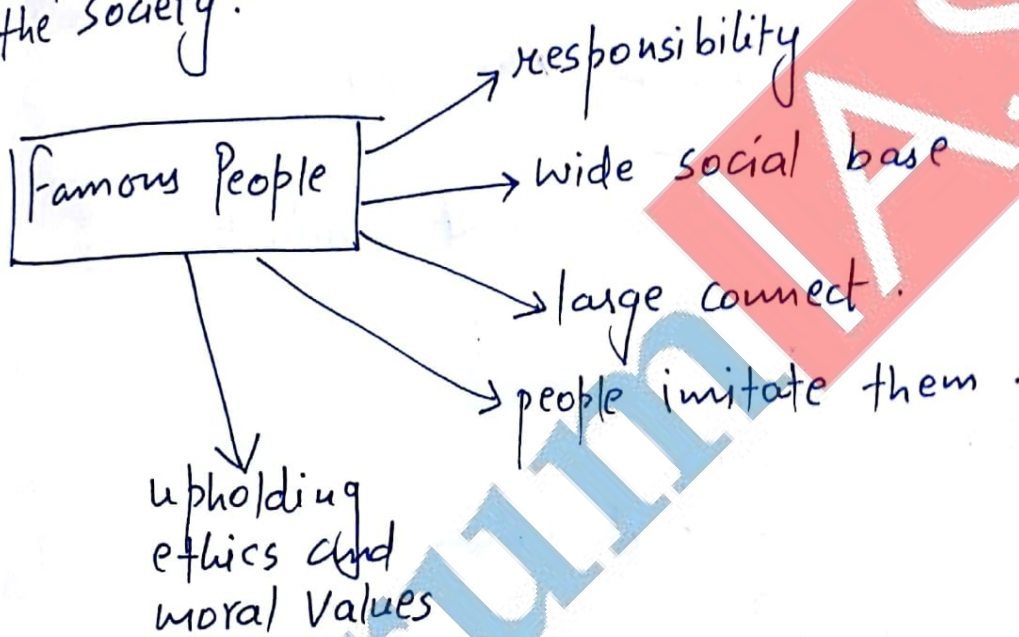
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

b) Do you agree that people who have social influence should also have moral accountability towards their followers as well as to the wider society? Justify giving suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans.

People with social influence have wider responsibility than common people towards the society.



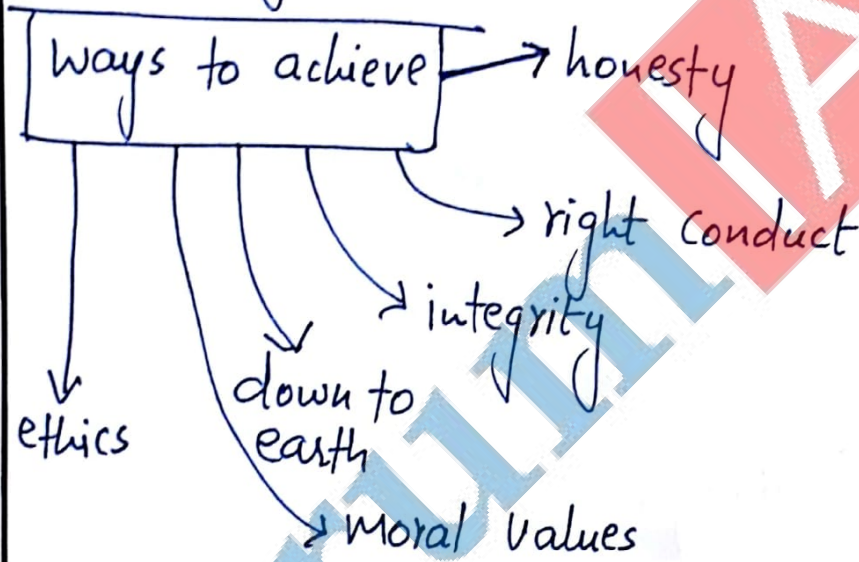
Responsibility towards society

- To give right message to society
- Follow right path so that people can also influenced from them. For eg; if a celebrity smokes, normal public follows them.
- upholding values of honesty and

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integrity in their professional and public life

→ For eg; drug menace in bollywood influence youth and their followers



Way Ahead

→ Celebrities should remain cautious about their conduct at all times due to their more influence.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.4) a) What do you understand by the following values? Discuss how they are relevant in the life of a public servant. (10 marks, 150 words)

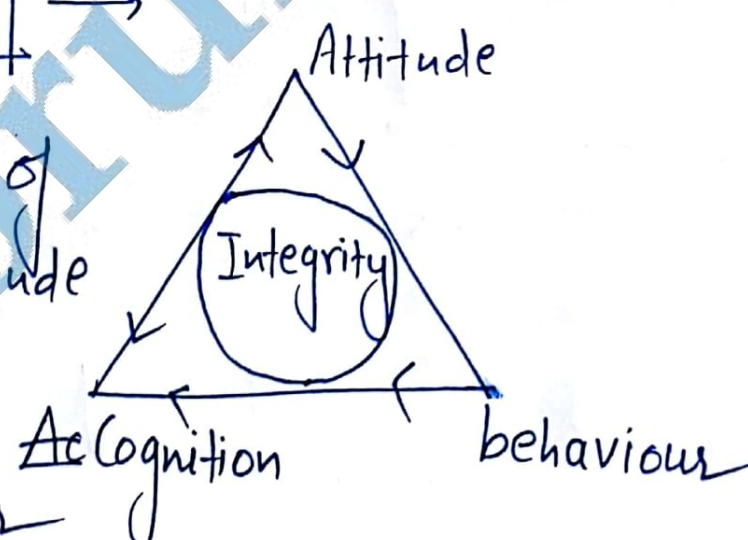
1. Compassion
2. Integrity
3. Spirit of Service
4. Non-partisanship

Ans

① Compassion → Understanding the problem of someone and comes forward in helping him comes out of ~~his~~ his condition. For e.g.; helping beggar to evacuate and start new life is an example of compassion.

② Integrity →

Uprightness of action, attitude as well as behaviour towards it.



③ Spirit of service → Not thinking about one self rather thinking about Society at large : — Mahatma Gandhi
 → free education —
 → free health service . — Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam .

④ Non-Partisanship → Acting with impartiality and objectivity. According to the base of merit.
 Promotes → merit
 → reduce corruption .
 ↓
 → transparency
 accountability .

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

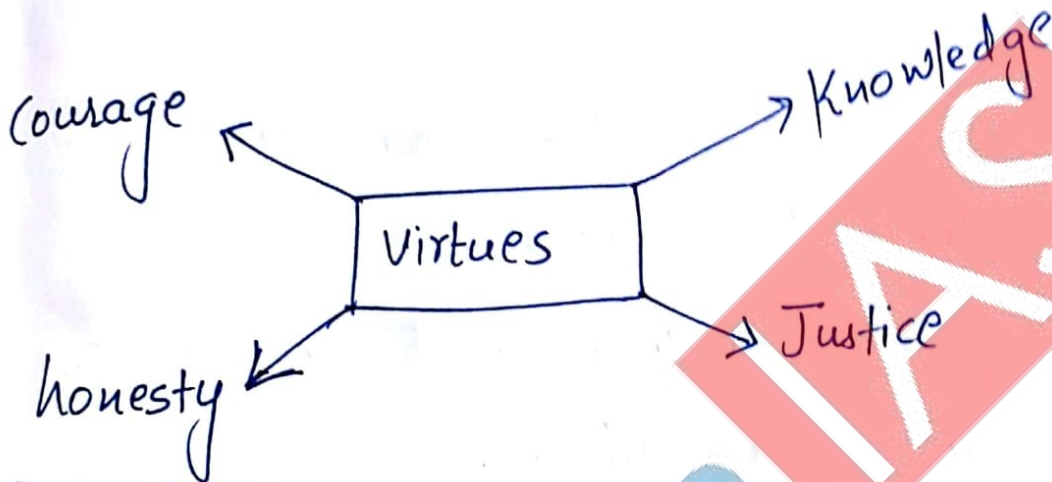
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



b) Discuss the significance of Plato's 'Four Golden Virtue' philosophy in the life of a common citizen in modern times. (10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

Plato's 'Four Golden Virtues' are .



Knowledge → important for good conduct .

- "Knowledge is virtue".
- Increase consciousness .
- helps in achieving good life .
- enhances our moral values and ethics .
- creates awareness

Justice

- improves efficiency .
- Create situation of trust and

fairness.

→ Just like truth is first virtue of thought, justice is first virtue of society.

honesty

- Creates opportunity
- equality of outcomes.
- helps in achieving Right conduct.
- Removes confusion.
- enhances our ethical conduct.
- improves our thinking

Courage.

- important to take any decision.
- removes fear
- enhance ~~to~~ integrity

Way Ahead

All virtues helps in achieving good life according to Plato.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

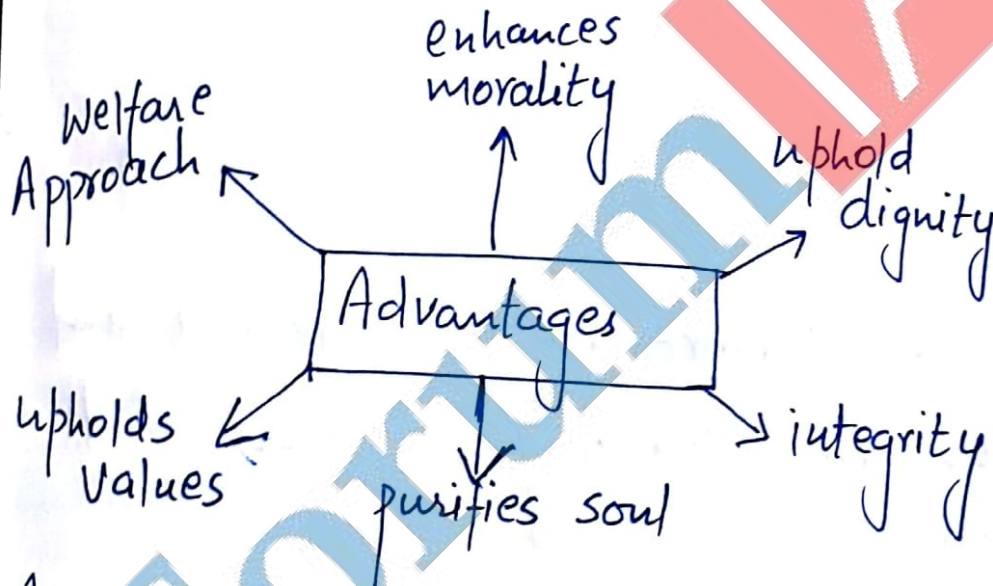


Q.5) Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these bring out what it means to you in the present context.

a) In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so. -Immanuel Kant

(10 marks, 150 words)

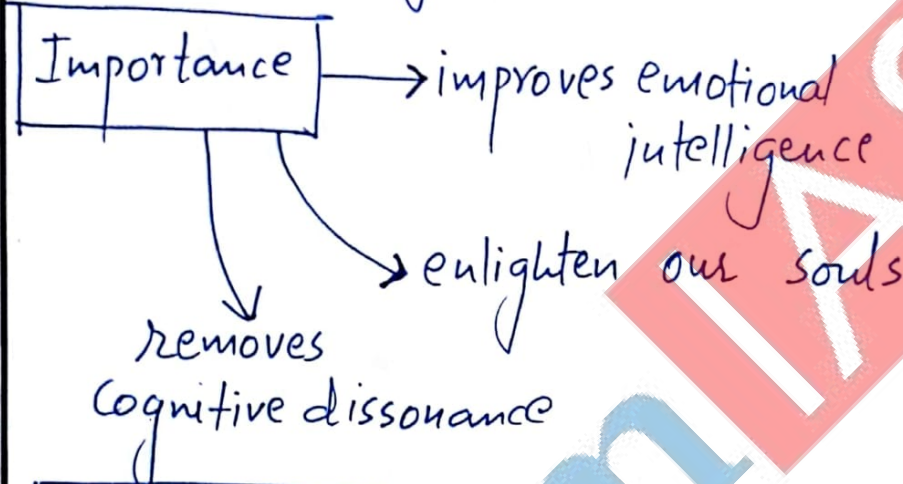
Ans Immanuel Kant gave the principal of categorical imperative which signifies that dignity of every individual is of utmost importance.



Acc. to Kant when we conduct any action if it violates rights of others it is against law and if we think of doing so it is against our ethics.

It denotes our soul and our

Conscience. Here Kant comes closer to Gandhi's Satyagraha in which he advocates purity of ^{ends} social and means.



Way Ahead

→ Kant's importance to dignity and soul helps in achieving welfare and just society.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



b) Righteousness is the foundation of good governance and peace. - Confucius.
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans:

Elements of Good Governance

- transparency
- Accountability
- Objectivity
- honesty
- integrity
- Result oriented
- probity.
- courageous.

Elements of peace

→ Tolerance → without tolerance peace cannot be achieved.

→ impartiality → for achieving piece impartiality of civil servant is important towards different religions.

→ Empathy and Compassion.

→ overlapping consensus → towards achieving just value.

→ feeling of service and brotherhood

Ways to acquire good governance and peace

Good Governance

- Citizen's charter
- RTI, honest in Civil servants.
- Effective utilisation of resources.

Peace

- Proper training of Law and order agencies.
- feeling of service and following constitutional values.

Way forward

- Hence, Good Governance and peace both are pillars of Right conduct.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



Q.6) a) What is the role of emotional intelligence in balancing the personal and public life stresses of a civil servant?
(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans. Emotional intelligence refers to control our emotions according to the situation and conduct actions accordingly.

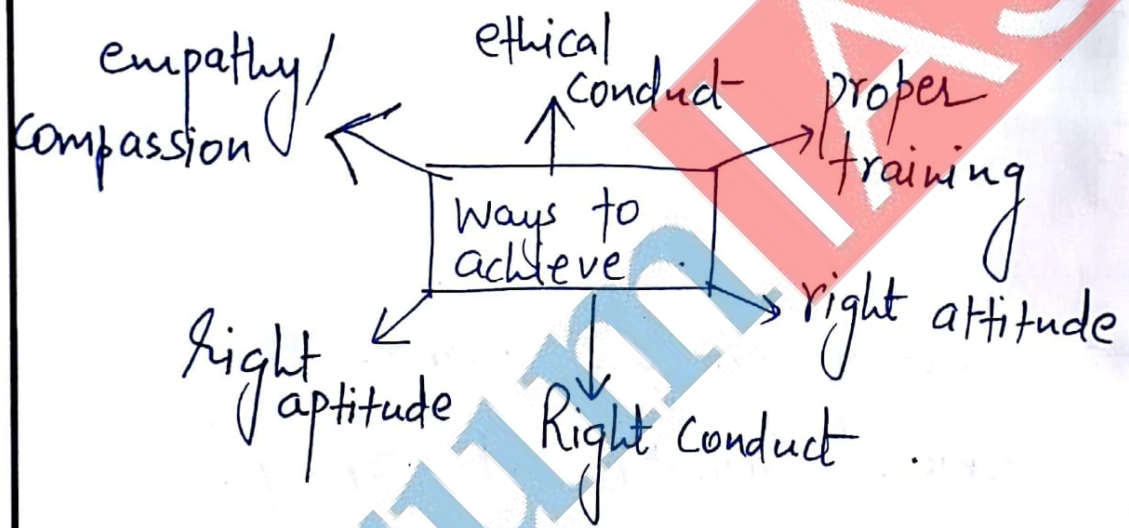
Importance of Emotional Intelligence

In Personal life

- creating trust b/w partners.
- promotes honesty and integrity.
- helps in removing cognitive dissonance
- creates awareness.
- helps in handling our emotions.
- helps in achieving moral values and respect for elders and achieving family values.
- participation in society.

(Don't
anything

- In Public life** → For ~~probability~~ probity
- For right conduct.
- For timely decision and action.
- improves work culture



Way Ahead → E.I is very important
Value for achieving balance in personal
and professional life.

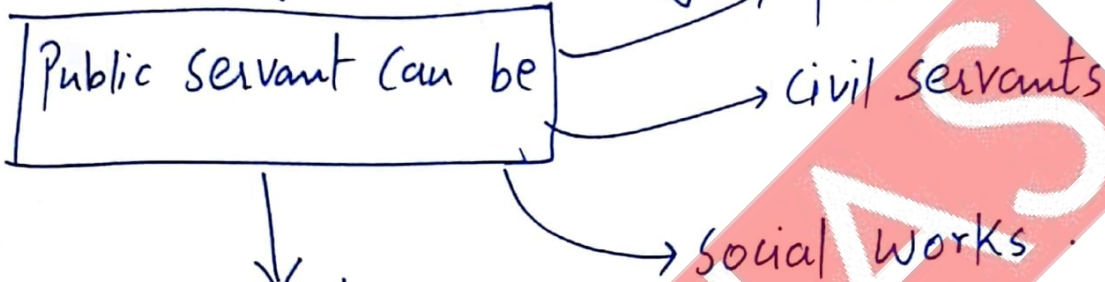
Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	



b) Examine the qualities of a public servant which will be required to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities. (10 marks, 150 words)

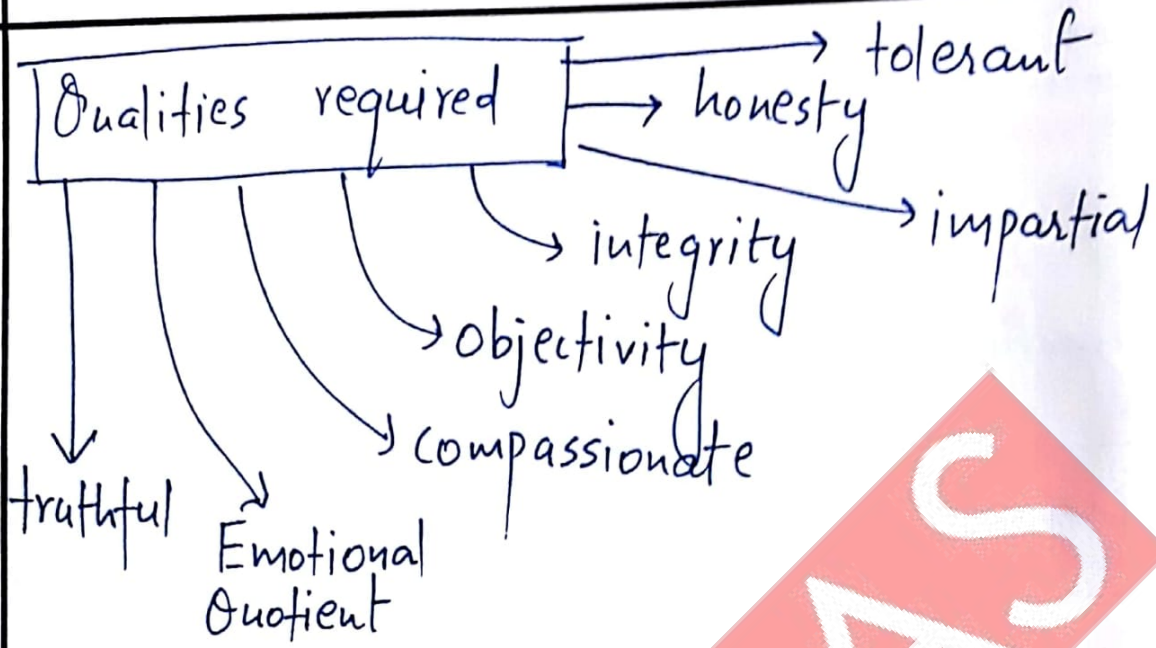
Ans Public servant is the most important functionary in democracy.



Anyone who serves public in achieving their objectives.

Importance of Public servant

- For achieving any task.
- Creating just and welfare society.
- equitable distribution of resources.
- implementing government schemes on ground and providing feedback to improve the same.



Way forward → Thus it is utmost important for a civil servant to have above qualities in order to achieve and promote harmony and brotherhood in society specially in India which is huge diverse country.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

e) "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to be empathetic and compassionate towards the weaker sections of the society to bring about their overall upliftment in a true sense." Explain with the help of examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

Ans

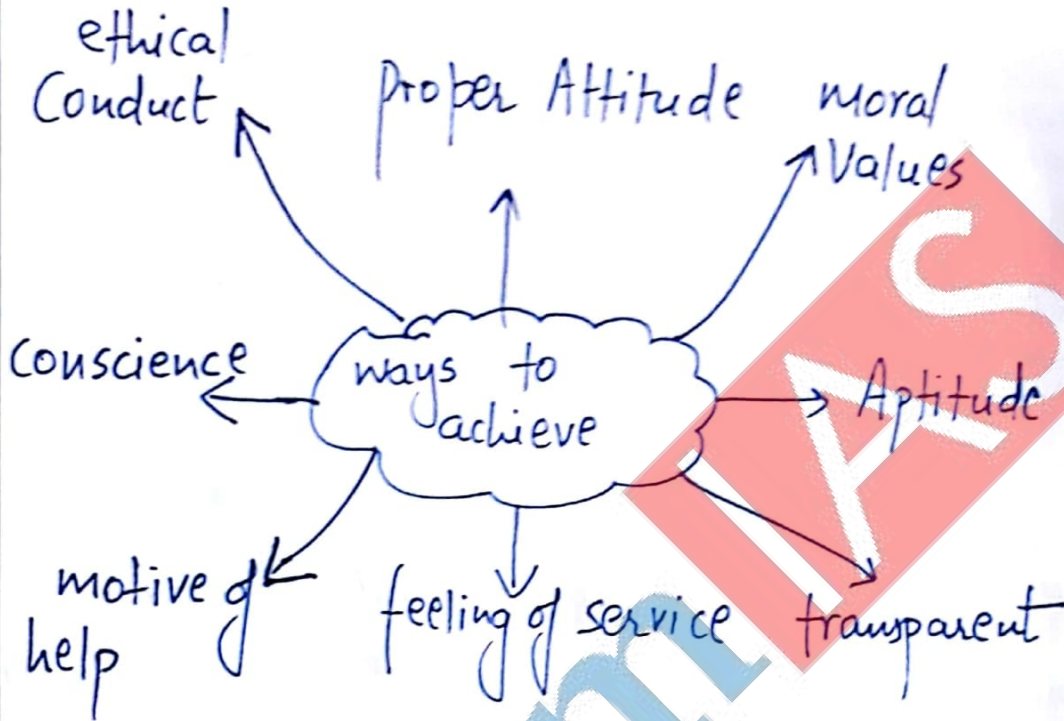
Empathy → is the quality which identifies the problems of others and feels like it is our problem → thinking like in the shoes of others.

Compassion → It is same as empathy but it moves one step forward like helping others in coming out of that difficulty.

Importance of Empathy and Compassion

- more people centric bureaucracy.
- Creates Public trust and confidence in public service.
- enhance the motive of selfless service.

For .eg : → If poor student does not have money to deposit fees. Compassionate officer will give him money to fulfill his dream.



Way Ahead

Acc. to Sardar Patel empathy and Compassion and two guiding lights to public servant in achieving max. good of public.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Section - B

Q.7) Jyoti Kumari is a young girl staying in Gurugram with her father. Due to a nation-wide lockdown and cessation of all economic activity, her father loses his job and falls sick. With no work at hand, and little means to survive in the city, Jyoti and her father decide to go back to their native village in Bihar. However, no means of transport are available given the lockdown situation. Jyoti then decides to cycle more than 1200 km to take her father from Gurugram to their native village in Bihar.

The story of Jyoti and her father is not an isolated one in India. 'Lockdown restrictions introduced by the government have forced many migrant workers out of jobs, forcing them to migrate to their hometowns and villages. Also, the situation has been worsened due to tussle between centre and state on the issue of bearing the cost of travel of migrant labourers.

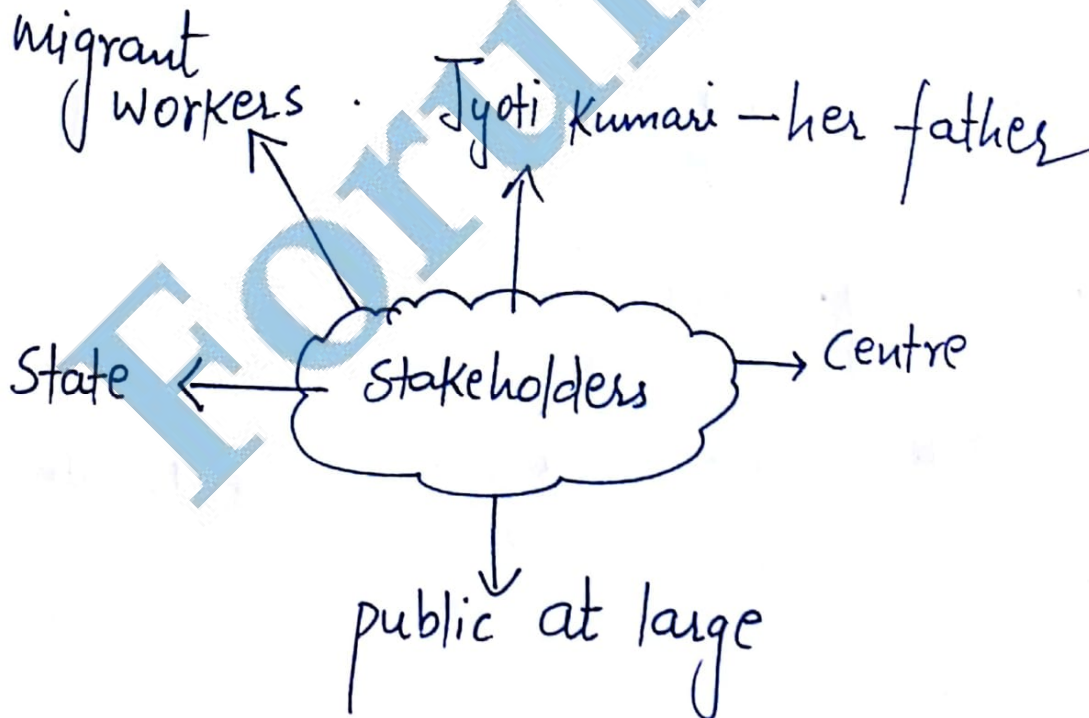
While the courage and determination of Jyoti has been widely appreciated by the public, such a scenario also paints a grim picture of a larger ethical concern that government and society at large have collectively failed to protect the rights and dignity of vulnerable sections.

a) You have been tasked with drafting a policy for migrant workers affected by the lockdown. How will you approach the problem and what would be the main elements of your suggested policy?

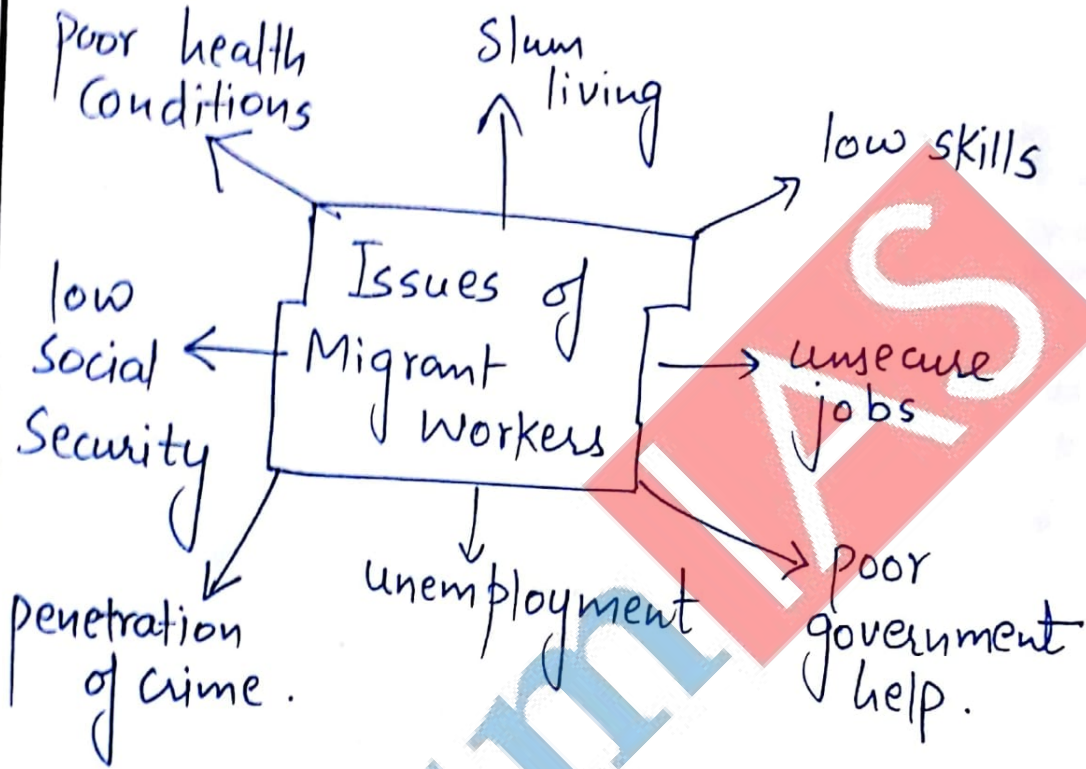
b) What are the exceptional qualities demonstrated by Jyoti Kumari?

(20 marks, 250 words)

Ans:



(a)



Elements of Policy

- improving working conditions.
- create more employment opportunities
- covering informal sector under social security schemes.

- upskilling of migrant labourers.
- data base should be made in each district regarding migrant workers and sharing with leaving and accepting districts.
- improving conditions of slums and living conditions.

(b) Qualities show by Jyoti Kumari are: →

-) courage
-) determination.
-) hard work.
-) respect for elders (Father)
-) ability to do anything in any situation
-) women power.

Hence, this incident shows that women are at par with men and can achieve any task if guided by determination.

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Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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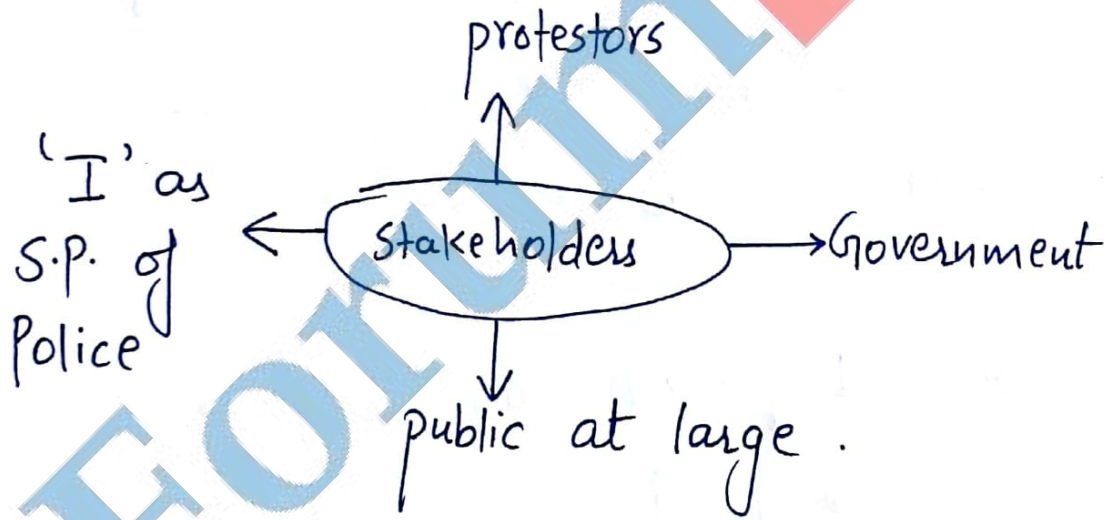


Q.8) Government, recently passed a legislation which has angered a large section of the society. People belonging to all age groups, both male and female have been protesting against it. While the protest has been peaceful it has been ongoing for several months. The cause of the protestors have received support from the prominent public figures in the country.

Having stretched for such a long period, the protest has caused major inconvenience to local residents due to prolonged closure of roads. While the protestors are convinced of their right to peaceful protest till their demands are met, the local residents are of the view that protest cannot go for very long time as it is disrupting their daily normal lives. You are the Superintendent of Police in the region. You have been receiving multiple complaints by the local residents about their grievances.

- a) As a Superintendent of Police of the area what shall be your role during the prolonged protest?
 - b) What are various options available with you? What will be your course of action?
 - c) Do you think that right to peaceful protest should be an absolute right available to the citizen in a democracy?
- (20 marks, 250 words)

Ans.



(a) As a S.P. of the area I would → urge protestors to leave the place and will provide alternate place or

ground for protest.

→ Will involve local leaders and elders to urge the protestors to evacuate.

→ If all the options will get exhaust give ultimatum to protestors to leave and urge force to remain alert and evacuate the place.

→ Will give direction to force to use least possible force and early evacuation of injured protestors to hospital

(b) Option - 1 → Remain protestors as it is on the road.

Merit

→ Law and Order can be maintained

Demerit

→ Create traffic and problem to general public.

Option-2

→ Talks with Protestors if not successful, evacuate the place with minimum force : And provide alternate ground for protest.

Merit

Demerit

- Place can be evacuated and beneficial for larger public.
- upholding right to protest.

→ can create serious law and order situation.

I would choose option-2 with minimum force applicable and providing first aid to injured.

(C) Under Constitution Right to Protest is included in fundamental Rights. But it has following issues involved :-

- Comes with reasonable restrictions .
- Also comes with Right to life and dignity .

→ Acc. to S.C. it cannot encroach upon the Right to life of others .

Hence, Right to Protest is good when it comes with Right to life of others .
There should be ethical balance b/w the two .

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

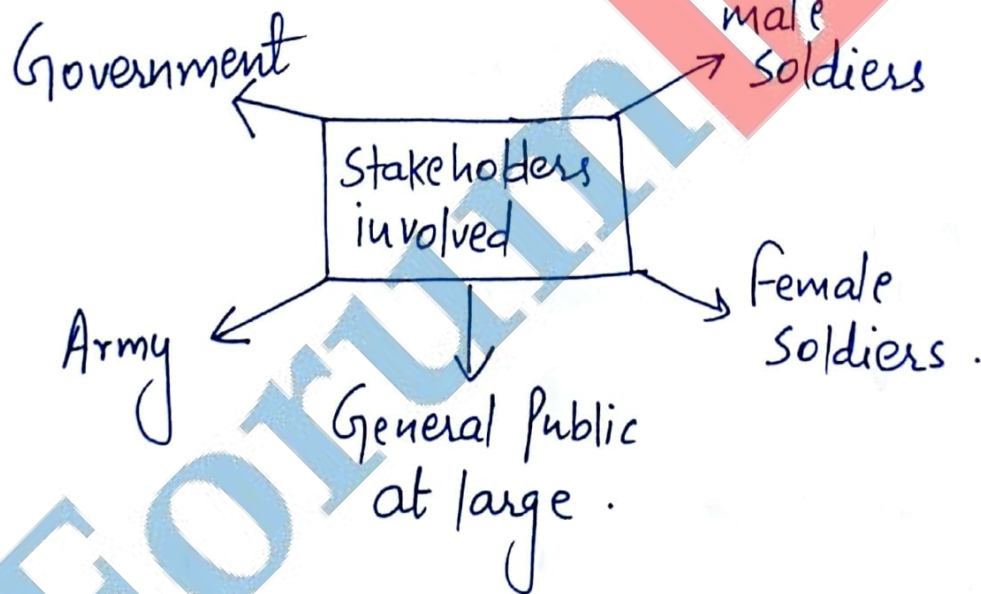
Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

Q.9) You are Commanding Officer of an army regiment posted in a strategic location. A batch of female officers have joined your regiment after they were granted permanent commission. After sometime, the female officer complained to you about being taken for granted by male soldiers of the regiment, working under them. They complained of being derided and laughed at and not being taken seriously. Your regiment, which traditionally had a male dominant culture is finding difficult to come to terms with women officers giving them orders.

One of the female officers has spoken to media about this issue stating that permanent commission of women is "more optics than substance". The government has come under severe criticism after this incident and mounted pressure on you to resolve the issue

Discuss the course of action you will take, under such circumstances to resolve the issue. Justify your answers. (20 marks, 250 words)

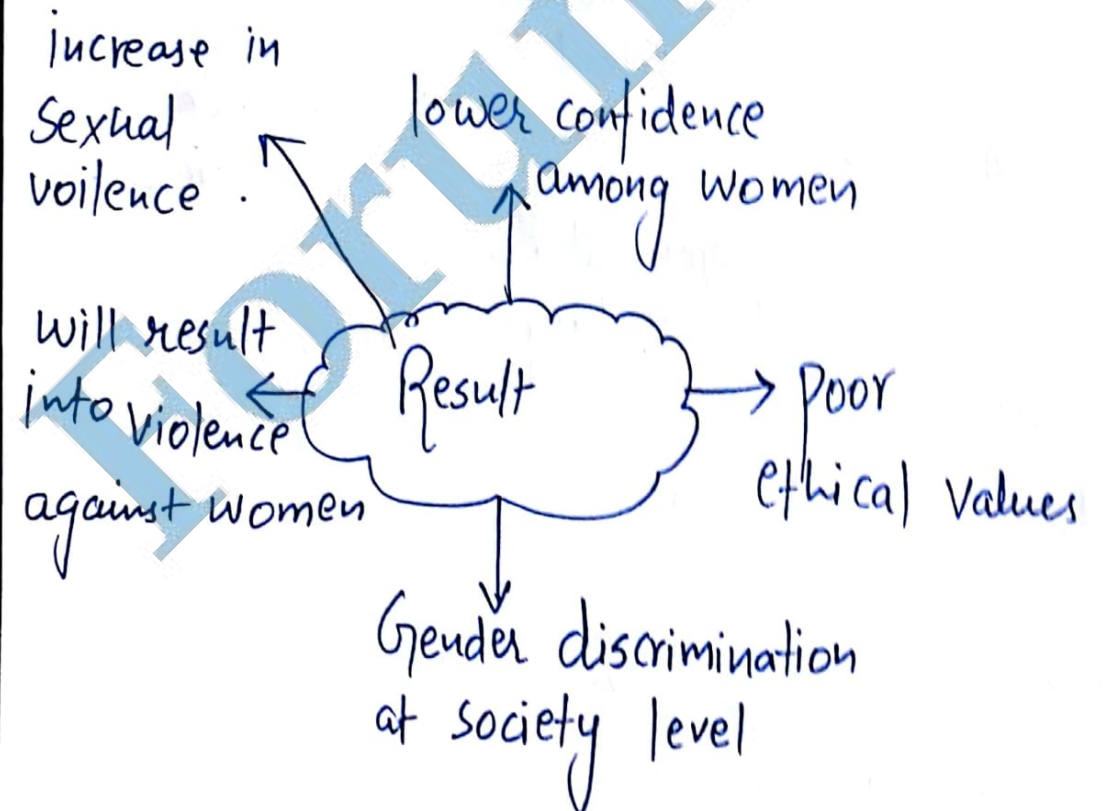
Ans.



Issues involved

→ Patriarchy entrenched in our society.

- Gender discrimination even at the top and educated level.
- Violation of right to equality
- Creating issues in regiment not good for unity and cooperation.
- Violation of motive behind this decision reducing dignity of women.



Solution

- Proper enquiry regarding the allegation of women officers.
- If found guilty punishment should be given.
- Counselling of both male and females of the regiment regarding gender issues.
- Show cause notice to lady officers regarding media talk and ~~to~~ not using proper forum for complaint.
- discipline of the regiment should not be broken under any circumstance

Way forward

Proper training about gender sensitivity to Jawans and proper discipline can help in solving such problems. Also lady officers should first exhaust internal mechanism for complaint as it hampers the discipline ^{and} reduces trust of general public in public institution.

Lastly society at large should change their patriarchal mindset in order to remove gender discrimination.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
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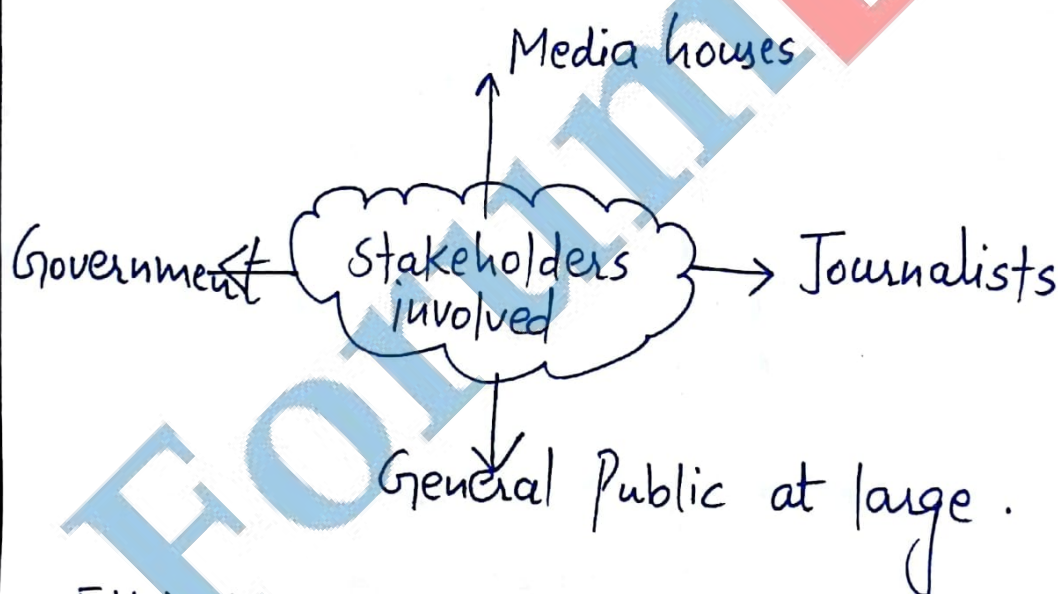
Q.10) Media is considered the fourth pillar of democracy. It is the machinery which holds government and institutions accountable and keeps their power in check. It acts as conduit between common citizen and people in power, thus playing an instrumental role in protecting the rights, liberty and dignity of the people.

However, in recent times, the mainstream media has been criticized to have shifted from ethical and responsible journalism to biased and whimsical journalism. Extreme competition and over commercialization have resulted in sensationalism taking over media ethics. Media has been focusing on trivial issues rather than concerns of common people. The current trends of media trials, fake news and paid journalism have made people question the authenticity and integrity of journalism.

In this context, discuss the ethical issues that have plagued journalism in India. How far do you think that media needs to be regulated by the government?

(20 marks, 250 words)

Ans.

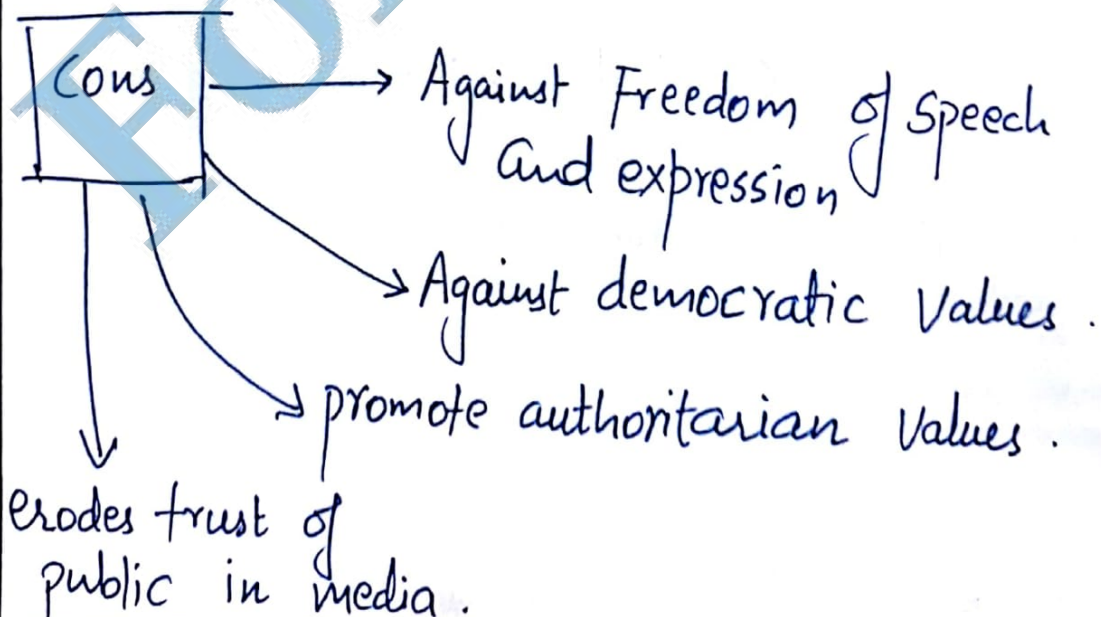
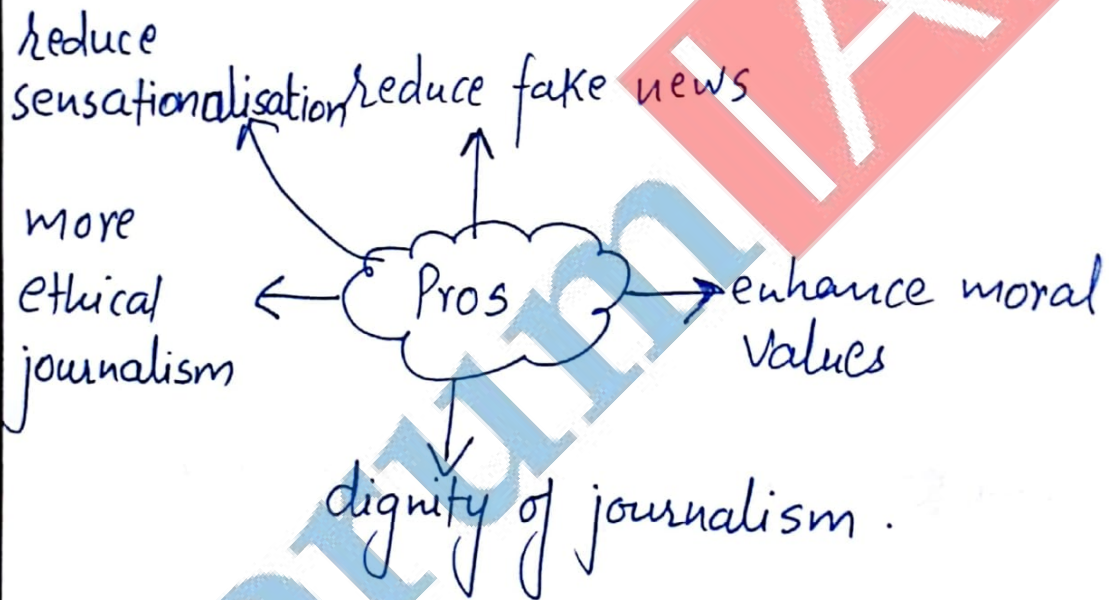


Ethical Issues involved

- paid news .
- sensationalisation .
- unethical journalism .

- poor quality of news.
- compromising democracy for profit.

Regulation by Government

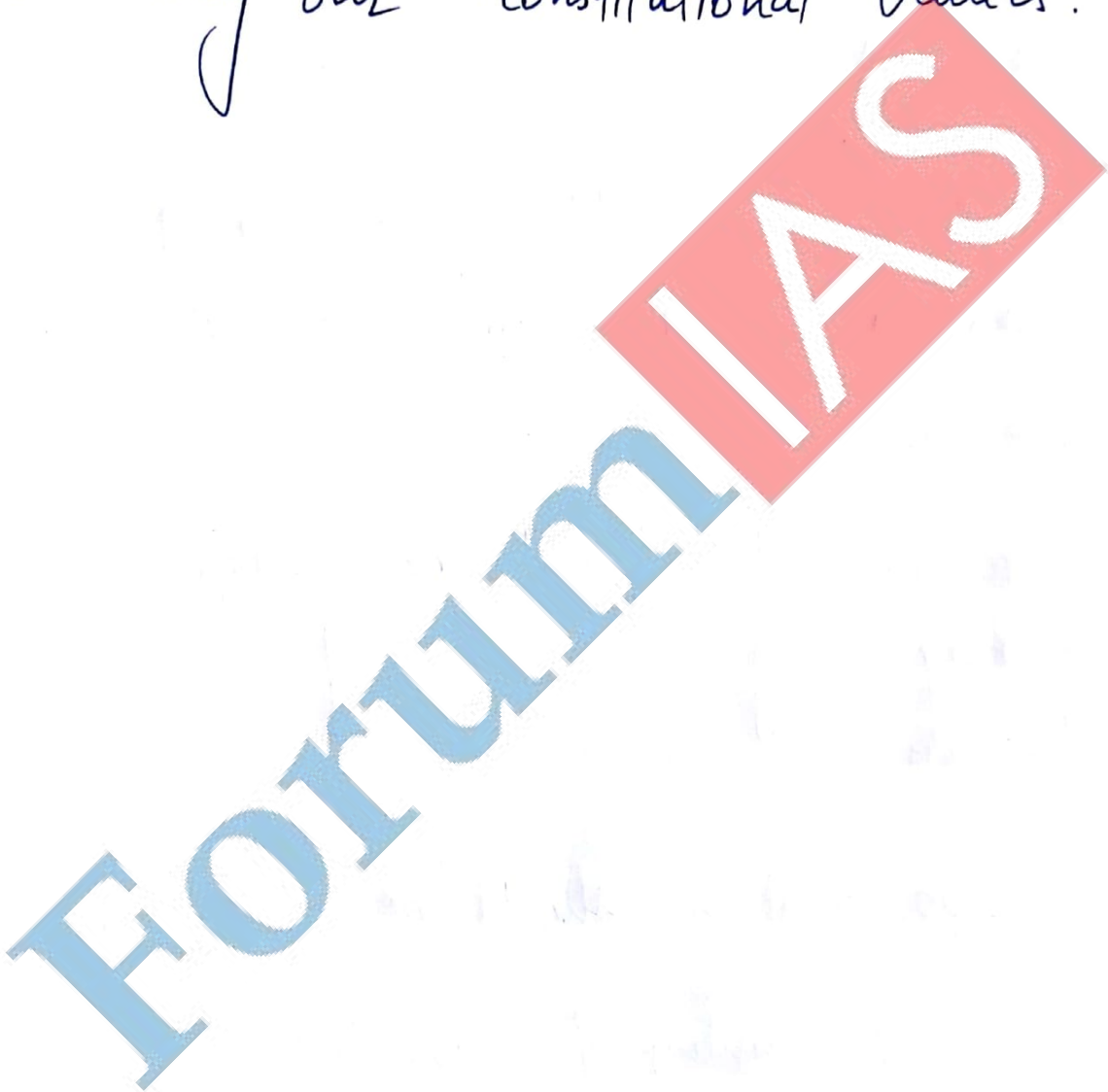


Solution

- Media should first introspect among itself and create self regulation body.
- More focus should be on ethical journalism rather than profit or fake news.
- Government should form independent regulatory body on the lines of Election Commission or U.P.S.C.
- Corporatisation should be discouraged.
- Ethical training of Journalists should be made compulsory

Hence, rather than Government Media should itself focus on proper

Journalism to enhance its value
as a 4th pillar of democracy and
enhancing our constitutional values.



Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

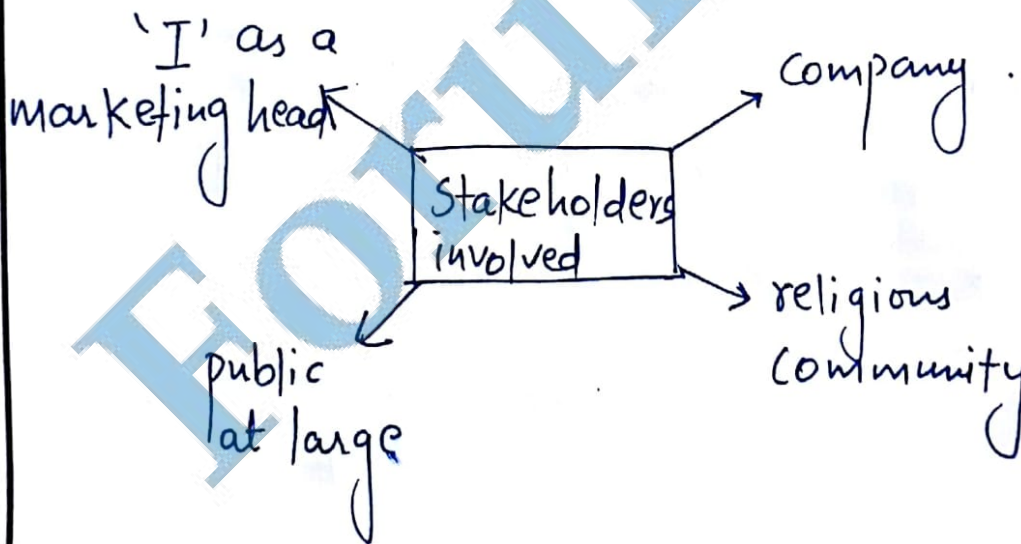
Q.11) You are the marketing head of a major jewellery brand. With festive season approaching, your team decides to adopt an aggressive marketing strategy and plans to go for advertisements in all mediums including television advertisements.

However, one of the advertisements when released got unwanted attention. Some fringe elements from a religious community claimed that the advertisement intended to malign their religious practices and it hurt the sentiments of the community. The outcry for boycotting your brand started trending on social media. The issue gained traction with some politicians commenting against your brand making it national news. This led to a lot of negative publicity and stock prices of the company going down.

On enquiry, you found that the advertisement did not raise any red flags from the research team or the focus groups and was deemed appropriate for release. You belong to the same religion which raised objections, but personally, even you did not find anything wrong with it. You have always stood up for what is right and, in this instance, you feel there was nothing wrong with the advertisement and you plan to stand up against bullying by some fringe elements. However, senior management has been pressuring you to make a public apology for the incidence. Failing to do so, you may get fired.

- What are the various ethical issues involved in this case?
- Analyze the options available with you. What will be your course of action? Justify your answer. (20 marks, 250 words)

Ans.



(a) Issues involved in this case.

→ Law and order situation.

- Freedom of speech and expression.
- intolerance increasing in our society
- deviation from major developmental issues like education, health etc.
- respecting religious beliefs of people.
- upholding on one's morals and values.

(b) Options available to me

Option-1 → Go with advertisement as I found nothing wrong in it against anyone.

Merit → uphold my freedom of speech and expression.

- upholding my beliefs and values.
- Slap on intolerant elements in society

Demerit → •) firing from job.

-) hurting religious sentiments.
-) may create law and order problem.

option-2 → Tendering apology and remove advertisement.

Merit → Job can be saved.

→ can create peace, beneficial for company.

Demerit → create cognitive dissonance for my conscience.

→ rule of majority / mob mentality

→ against Freedom of speech and exp.

→ promotes intolerance.

Solution

After seeing both the options I would go with option-1. I would first explain the situation to my bosses regarding the advertisement and ask them to think beyond profit for the greater benefit of society and suggest them ^{that I will} to take the help of police as nothing is against in it against anyone. And also call protestors to talk. If nothing goes my way I would be happy to resign. As intolerance cannot be the value of any democracy.

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	

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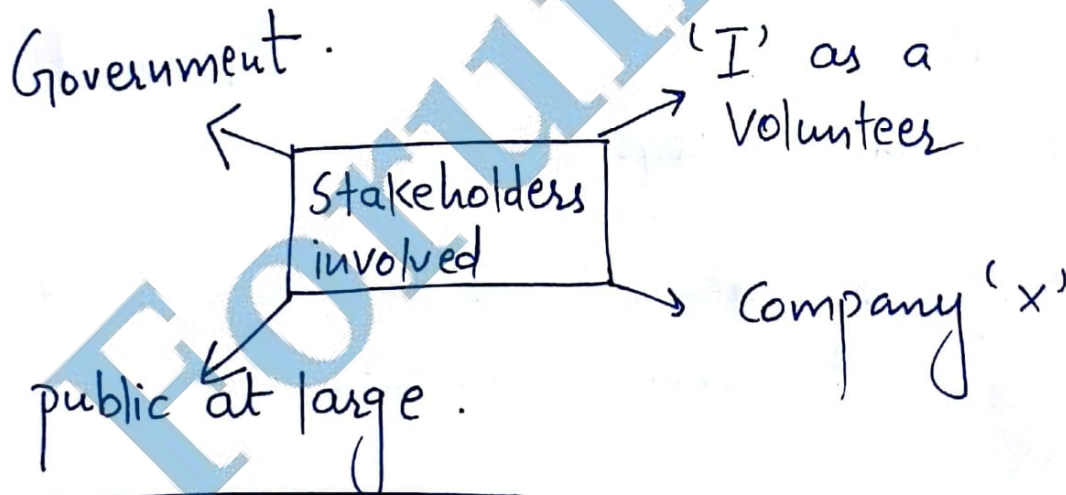
Q.12) During the peak of a pandemic, you registered to become a volunteer for human trials during vaccine development by a reputed pharmaceutical company X. Being a young, athletic and fit person, you were immediately selected for the trial.

After being given the vaccine, your tests showed positive results with 90% effectiveness, which was considered a huge success. The company X published about this trial in a month. The company thereafter bagged contracts for vaccine supply from the health ministry as well as many foreign governments. The share prices of the company also skyrocketed within a few days.

A few weeks after the trials however, you started showing symptoms of many side-effects of the vaccine - including breathing problems, blurry vision and severe headache. When you contacted the company X about the issue, they asked you to remain silent about the issue as it would result in a huge financial loss for the company. You want to release the issue of side-effects to the media in order to prevent a defective vaccine from being released. However, you have signed a non-disclosure agreement with X. Thus, you may get sued for going public.

Analyze the options available with you. What will be your course of action? Justify your answer. (20 marks, 250 words)

tw.



Issues involved

→ Side affects of Vaccine which will affect larger population when enter

in market.

→ unethical conduct of the company for its economic objectives.

→ responsibility of the company towards its volunteers and their health.

Here options available for me are :-

Option-1 → Sit quietly about the issue as I can be the only one who has these syst symptoms and will go in few days.

Merit → beneficial for company and its economic objectives.

Demerit → issue will not come in public and in future rather than benefitting it may harm more to people and thus very unethical.

Option-2 → Complaint to relevant authorities about side effects of vaccine and its efficacy.

Merit → This option will help in proper enquiry about the efficacy of vaccine and its side effects before coming to the market.

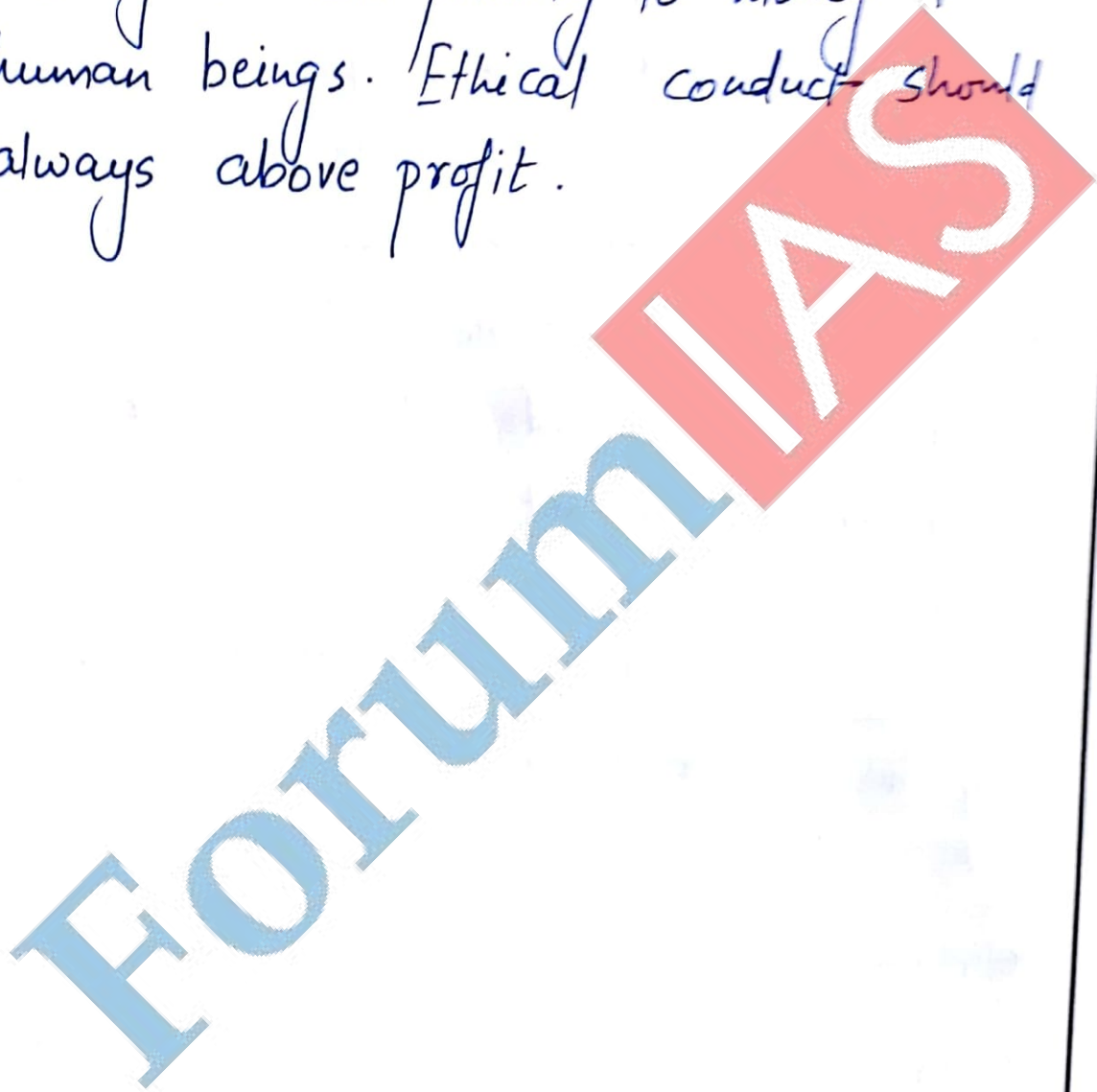
Demerit → If allegations found true may hamper company 'x' profits.

Solution

After Analysing both options I would choose option-2 as there cannot be given more value to money than a life of a person.

Money can be earn again but

if life goes no one can return it back.
This will also be lesson for others
who gave more priority to money than
human beings. Ethical conduct should
always above profit.



Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure		Content	
Question Interpretation		Total :	