

ETHICS – UPSC MAINS PYQS (BRAINSTORMING SHEETS - 13 YEARS PYQS COVERED)

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV SUBJECT: ETHICS AND HUMAN INTERFACE (ESSENCE, DETERMINANTS, CONSEQUENCES OF ETHICS IN HUMAN ACTIONS); DIMENSIONS OF ETHICS; ETHICS IN PUBLIC & PRIVATE RELATIONSHIPS."				
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
1.	Ethics in conflict resolution	2022	10	It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?
2.	Ethical vs Legal Rights	2022	10	Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do"
3.	Integrity as a value	2021	10	"Integrity is a value that empowers the human being". Justify with suitable illustration.
4.	Basic principles of public life	2019	10	What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.
5.	Tirukkural on ethics	2018	10	What does this quotation mean to you in the present context: "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good"- Tirukkural.
6.	Means vs Ends in morality	2018	10	With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.
7.	Ethical values in modern times	2017	10	The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss.
8.	Moral values for law, democracy	2017	10	Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.
9.	Ethics and social & human well-being	2016	10	Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being.
10.	Law vs Ethics	2016	10	Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples and show how the two differ in their approaches.
11.	Environmental Ethics	2015	10	What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.
12.	Differentiate:	2015	12.5	Differentiate between the following: a) Law and Ethics; b) Ethical management and Management of ethics; c) Discrimination and Preferential treatment; d) Personal ethics and Professional ethics.
13.	Kantian ethics	2014	10	Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'. Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.

14.	Values and Ethics	2013	10	What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?
15.	Changing values vs Universal values	2013	10	Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification.
16.	AI in decision-making	2024	10	The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.
17.	Key dimensions of ethics	2024	10	1(b) "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.
18.	Ethical dilemmas	2025	10	In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard.

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (CONCEPTS, UTILITY & APPLICATION IN ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE)"**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
19	EI in crisis of conscience	2021	10	In case of a crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical and moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.
20	Components of EI	2020	10	What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI) ? Can they be learned? discuss.
21	Emotional Intelligence	2019	10	"Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss.
22	Crisis of conscience	2019	10	What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?
23	Mahatma Gandhi.	2018	10	What does this quotation mean to you in the present context: Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding? "Mahatma Gandhi.
24		2018	10	"In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.
25	EI in administrative practices	2017	10	How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices?
26	Management & control of anger	2016	10	Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled?
27	Meaning of happiness	2014	10	All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.

28	Emotional Intelligence – definition,	2013	10	What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?
29	Voice of conscience	2013	10	What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?
30	Crisis of conscience	2013	10	What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same.

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV

SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORAL THINKERS & PHILOSOPHERS FROM INDIA AND WORLD; HUMAN VALUE LESSONS FROM GREAT LEADERS, REFORMERS & ADMINISTRATORS"

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
31	Thinkers (Swami Vivekananda, Sardar Patel, Immanuel Kant)	2024	10	Given below are three quotations... (a) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." — Swami Vivekananda (b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." — Sardar Patel (c) "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
32	Guru Nanak	2023	10	What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.
33	Thinkers (Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekananda)	2023	10	Given below are three quotations... (a) "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." – Mahatma Gandhi (b) "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." – Jawaharlal Nehru (c) "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." – Swami Vivekananda
34	Thinkers	2025	10	Given below are three quotations... (a) "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself?" — Thiruvalluvar (b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind." — William James (c) "The strength of a society lies not in its laudable ideals, but in the morality of its people." — Swami Vivekananda (Answer in 150 words each)
35	Mahavira	2025	10	What are the major teachings of Mahavira? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.
36	APJ Abdul Kalam	2022	10	What does each of the following quotations mean to you? "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel that there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother and teacher."-APJ Abdul Kalam
37	Dalai Lama	2022	10	What does each of the following quotations mean to you? Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it."-Dalai Lama
38	Swami Vivekananda	2021	10	Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later" – Swami Vivekananda

39	Dalai Lama	2021	10	“We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves” – Dalai Lama
40	Erik Erikson	2021	10	“Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that it is better for us all” – Erik Erikson
41	Teachings of Buddha	2020	10	What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.
42	Contribution of Savitribai Phule	2020	10	What are the main factors responsible for gender responsibility in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.
43	Swami Vivekananda	2020	10	”Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand do so. If not fold your hands, bless your brothers and let them go their own way.” – Swami Vivekanand
44	Mahatma Gandhi	2020	10	“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others .” Mahatma Gandhi
45	Socrates	2020	10	”A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates.
46	Socrates	2019	10	“An unexamined life is not worth living”. – Socrates
47	Mahatma Gandhi	2019	10	“A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes.” – M.K. Gandhi
48	APJ Abdul Kalam	2019	10	“Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world” – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
49	Napoleon Bonaparte	2017	10	“Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them.” – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country.
50	Mahatma Gandhi’s Seven Sins	2016	10	Discuss Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of seven sins.
51	John Rawls	2016	10	Analyse John Rawls’s concept of social justice in the Indian context.
52	Kautilya’s views on corruption	2016	10	Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, Administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national Development. Discuss Kautilya’s views.
53	Max Weber	2016	10	Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality. Critically analyse this statement.
54	Gandhi	2015	10	“The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”
55	Plato	2015	10	We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

56	inspiring personality for ethical conduct	2014	10	Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples; describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.
57	Mahatma Gandhi.	2013	10	There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed. Mahatma Gandhi.
58	Abraham Lincoln	2013	10	Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.—Abraham Lincoln
59	Aristotle	2013	10	I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies.—Aristotle

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: ATTITUDE(CONTENT, STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, INFLUENCE &RELATION WITH
THOUGHT &BEHAVIOUR); MORAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES"**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
60	Moral intuition vs Moral reasoning	2023	10	Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples.
61	EQ vs IQ for success	2023	10	"What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills – your EQ – not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.
62	responsibility as civil servant	2025	10	"One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant.
63	attitude for a public servant	2021	10	Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human beings. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant?
64	Positive attitude for civil servants	2020	10	A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes a positive attitude in person.?
65	Motivating young people to join politics	2017	10	Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward.
66	Patriotism in everyday civil life	2014	10	In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.
67	Politics and Ethics	2013	10	It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations.

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: ROLE OF FAMILY, SOCIETY, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN INCULCATING
VALUES;"**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
68	New Education Policy 2020	2020	10	"Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social

				transformation". Examine the New Education Policy,2020(NEP,2020) in light of the above statement.
69	wisdom and conscience	2020	10	'Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
70	Internet expansionvs traditional l values	2020	10	The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are in conflict with traditional values. Discuss.
71	Undesirable attitudes	2016	10	Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians. (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio- ethical values be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?
72	Social values vs Economic values	2015	10	Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.
73	Trust-deficit in society	2014	10	The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy?
74	attitude towards social problems	2014	10	What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes?
75	Sexual violence against women	2014	10	We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: SOCIAL INFLUENCE AND PERSUASION"**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
76	Social influence & persuasion	2016	10	"How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan?"

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV

SUBJECT: CIVIL SERVICE APTITUDE & FOUNDATIONAL VALUES (INTEGRITY, IMPARTIALITY, NON-PARTISANSHIP, OBJECTIVITY, DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE"

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
77	Impartiality & non-partisanship	2021	10	Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.
78	Innovativeness & creativity	2021	10	Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with a suitable example.
79	Five ethical traits	2021	10	Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.
80	Ten essential values for public servant	2021	10	Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in public servants.
81	Integrity, Intelligence & Energy	2018	10	"In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.
82	Public interest	2018	10	What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?
83	universal values in civil services	2018	10	State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.
84	: Relevance of Transparency, Accountability	2017	10	Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service.
85	Integrity	2017	10	One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.
86	Conflict of interest	2017	10	Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example.
87	Impartiality & non-partisanship	2016	10	Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples.
88	Conflict of Interest in public service	2015	10	Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples.
89	Trustworthiness & fortitude	2015	10	How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.
90	Ethical sensibility	2015	10	A mere compliance with law is not enough; the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically.

91	Bureaucratic vs Democratic attitude	2015	10	Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. A) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits. B) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?
92	accountability	2014	10	What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?
93	Integrity vs Knowledge	2014	10	Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful. What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.
94	Ethical responsibility of public servants	2014	10	There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?
95	Defination	2013	15	What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (5 terms x 3 marks each: a) Integrity b) Perseverance c) Spirit of service d) Commitment e) Courage of conviction f) Personal opinion
96	important attributes for public service	2013	10	Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.

MACRO TOPIC – PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV SUBJECT: WORK CULTURE

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
97	Discipline in organisation	2017	10	Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES & ETHICS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; STRENGTHENING OF ETHICAL & MORAL VALUES IN GOVERNANCE; ACCOUNTABILITY & ETHICAL GOVERNANCE; PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS OF GOVERNANCE AND PROBITY"

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
98	Short notes	2022	10	Write short notes on the following in 30 words each : (i) Constitutional morality (ii) Conflict of interest (iii) Probity in public life (iv) Challenges of digitalization (v) Devotion to duty
99	Probity in governance	2019	10	What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.
100	Constitutional morality	2019	10	What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?

101	Public servant	2019	10	What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.
102	Good governance & Ethical governance	2016	10	What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?
103	Probity in public life	2014	10	What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?
104	What ethics promote	2014	10	What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?
105	Good of individual in good of all	2013	10	The good of an individual is contained in the good of all. What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?
106	Gender-specific challenges	2024	10	"In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.
107	Moral integrity	2023	10	1(a) What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples.
108	Uplifting core values	2023	10	2 (a) "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?
109	Coercion vs Undue influence	2023	10	2 (b) In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.
110	Conscience vs Laws	2023	10	5 (a) Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making? Discuss.
111	Probity in governance	2023	10	5(b) 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss.
112	Mission Karmayogi	2024	10	Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level?
113	Code of Conduct vs Code of Ethics	2024	10	'The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.
114	Constitutional morality	2025	10	"Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and maturity of sense of rule of law." Examine this statement in the light of the role of civil servants in upholding constitutional morality, promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.

115	Objectivity	2025	10	“For any kind of social re-engineering by successful implementation of a welfare scheme, a civil servant must rise above personal biases and prejudices to maintain objectivity.” Justify this statement with suitable examples.
116	Civil servant as enabler	2025	10	To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?
117	Code of ethics	2025	10	It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure values-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your workplace?

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS, DILEMMAS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE."

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
118	Good Governance & e-Governance	2022	10	What do you understand by the term good governance? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.
119	Ethical Issues in Online Methodology	2022	10	Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society.
120	Digital Technology in Rational Decision Making	2021	10	Impact of digital technology as a reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with a suitable example.
121	Social Audit Mechanism	2021	10	An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including the judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.
122	Law vs Rules	2020	10	Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.
123	Policy Judgement	2018	10	What do these quotations mean to you in the present context: “The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded.” Abraham Lincoln.
124	Ethical Dilemmas	2018	10	Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.
125	Ethical Policy for Development Projects	2018	10	Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: CODES OF ETHICS; CODES OF CONDUCT; LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS,
CONSCIENCE AS SOURCES OF ETHICAL GUIDANCE."**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
126	Issues in Bureaucracy	2022	10	Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is not rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate.
127	Empathy & Compassion	2022	10	Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.
128	Positive vs Negative Mindse	2022	10	The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.
129	Citizens Charter	2019	10	Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.
130	Code of Ethics vs Code of Conduct	2018	10	Distinguish between "Code of ethics" and "Code of conduct" with suitable examples.
131	Public Services Code	2016	10	Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.

**MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV
SUBJECT: CHALLENGES OF CORRUPTION; UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS"**

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
132	Corruption	2019	10	"Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
133	Mis-utilization of Public Funds	2019	10	Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.
134	Conflict of Interest	2018	10	What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.
135	Kalam's Quote on Corruption	2017	10	"If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, the mother and the teacher." – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.
136	Causes of Corruption	2014	10	It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV

SUBJECT: INFORMATION (SHARING & TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT); RTI;"

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
137	Official Secrets Act vs RTI	2019	10	There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.
138	RTI and Accountability	2018	10	"The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone; it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss.
139	RTI, Media, Judicial Activism	2015	10	Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyse this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized.
140	Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Measures	2015	10	Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. A) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. B) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.

MACRO TOPIC – INDIAN SOCIETY - SALIENT FEATURES

#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
141	Ethical Issues in Russia-Ukraine War	2022	10	Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.
142	Ethical Issues in Refugee Policy	2021	10	"Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face prosecution or human rights violation." Examine the statement with reference to the ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with an open society.
143	Ethics in Comprehensive National Power	2020	10	Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power(CNP)viz. human capital, soft power(culture and policies), and social harmony.
144	Will to Power in IR	2020	10	'The will to power exits, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations.
145	Pillars of International Relations	2017	10	Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate.
146	Ethics in Resolving International Conflicts	2015	10	At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical

				consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.
147	Ethics in International Aid	2023	10	'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples.
148	Ethical Considerations of Powerful Nations in Conflicts	2024	10	2 (a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest... What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts? 2 (b) Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development... How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment?
149	Clausewitz on War Ethical Dilemmas in Border Development Ethical Framework for Sustainable Economic Growth	2025	10	2 (a) Carl von Clausewitz states that "war is the continuation of politics by other means." Critically examine the relevance of this statement in present context of contemporary geo-political conflicts. 2 (b) Considering the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversial issues of compensation in case of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country. 6 (b) India is an emerging economic power of the world... However, it is still a developing country. In this context, how will you justify the need of an ethical framework for sustainable economic growth of the country?

MACRO TOPIC – "PAPER: GENERAL STUDIES IV SUBJECT: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE; ETHICAL CONCERNS AND DILEMMAS IN GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS"				
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
150	Corporate Social Responsibility	2022	10	In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine.
151	Protection of Whistle Blowers	2022	10	Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower?
152	CSR and Profitability	2017	10	Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse.
153	Inequitable Distribution of National Wealth	2017	10	Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify.

MACRO TOPIC – CONTEXTUAL/APPLIED ETHICS & JUSTICE-RELATED

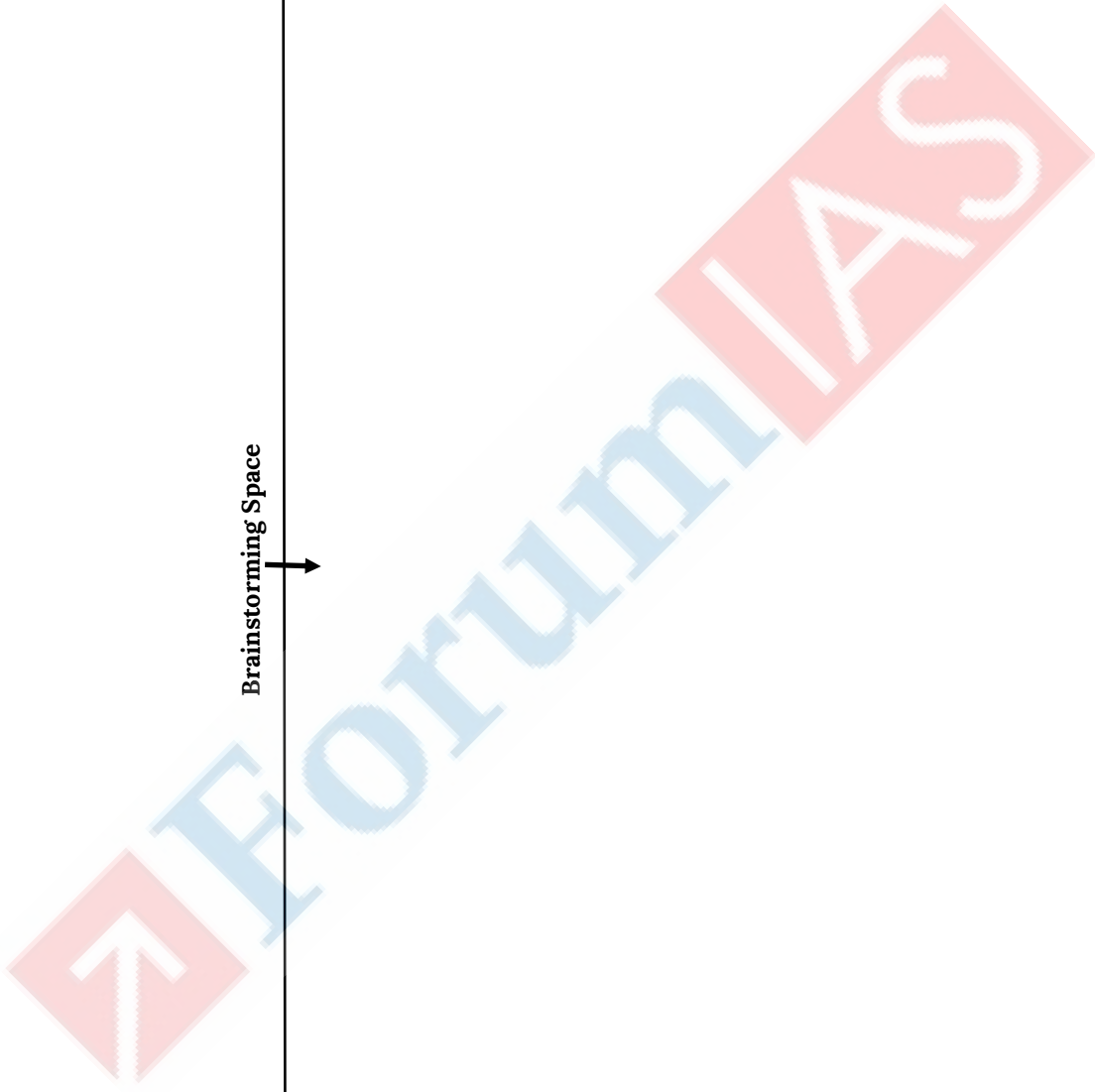
#	Micro Topic	Year	Marks	Question
154	Contextual Nature of Justice	2024	10	4 (a) “The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today’s context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice.” Examine the above statement with suitable examples.
155	Form vs Substance in Administration	2024	10	4 (b) “Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent.” Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations.
156	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita	2024	10	5 (b) The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system.

Q.1) It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space

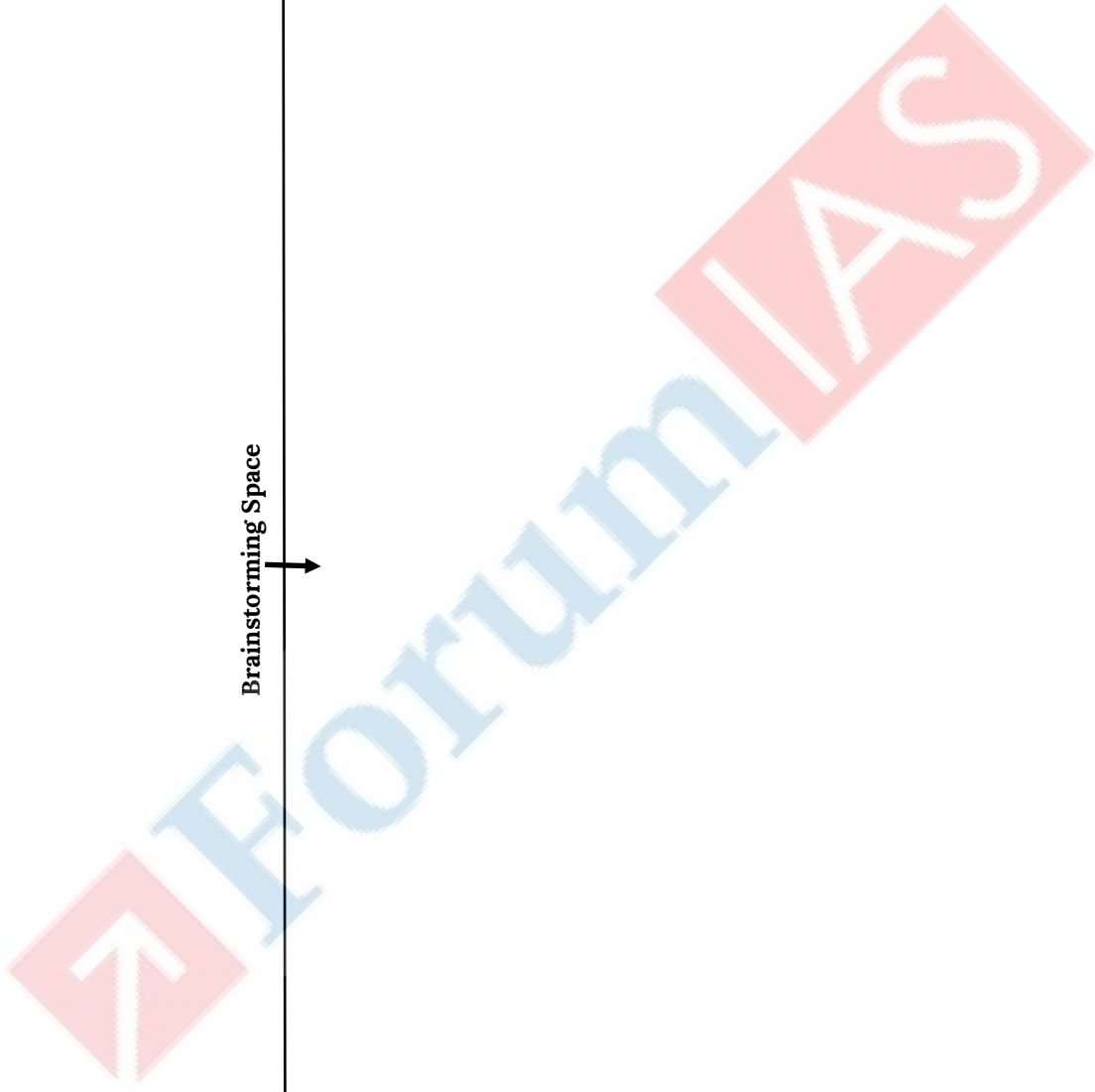
Q.2) Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do”
(15 marks, 250 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space



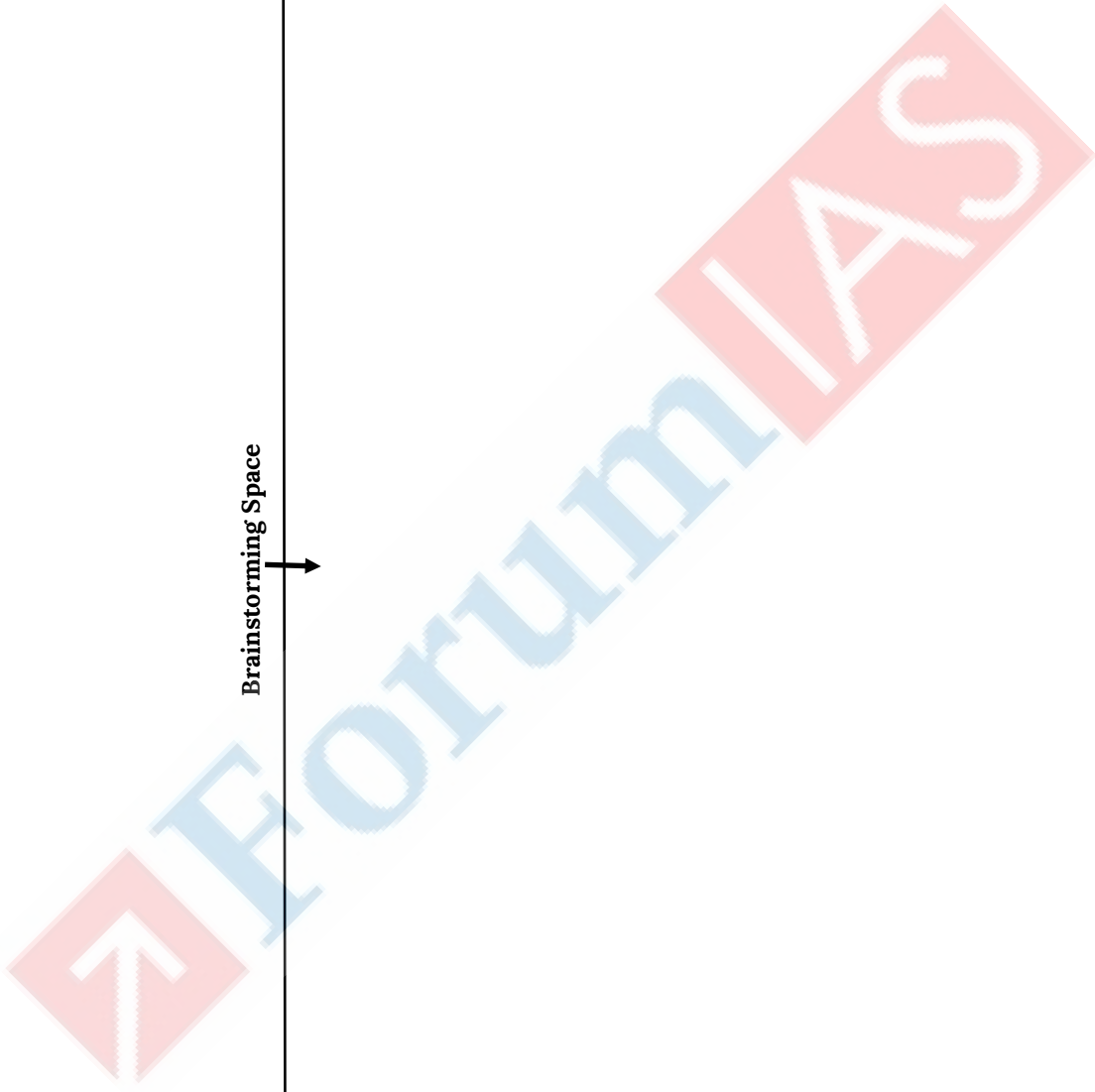
Q.3) "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being". Justify with suitable illustration. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



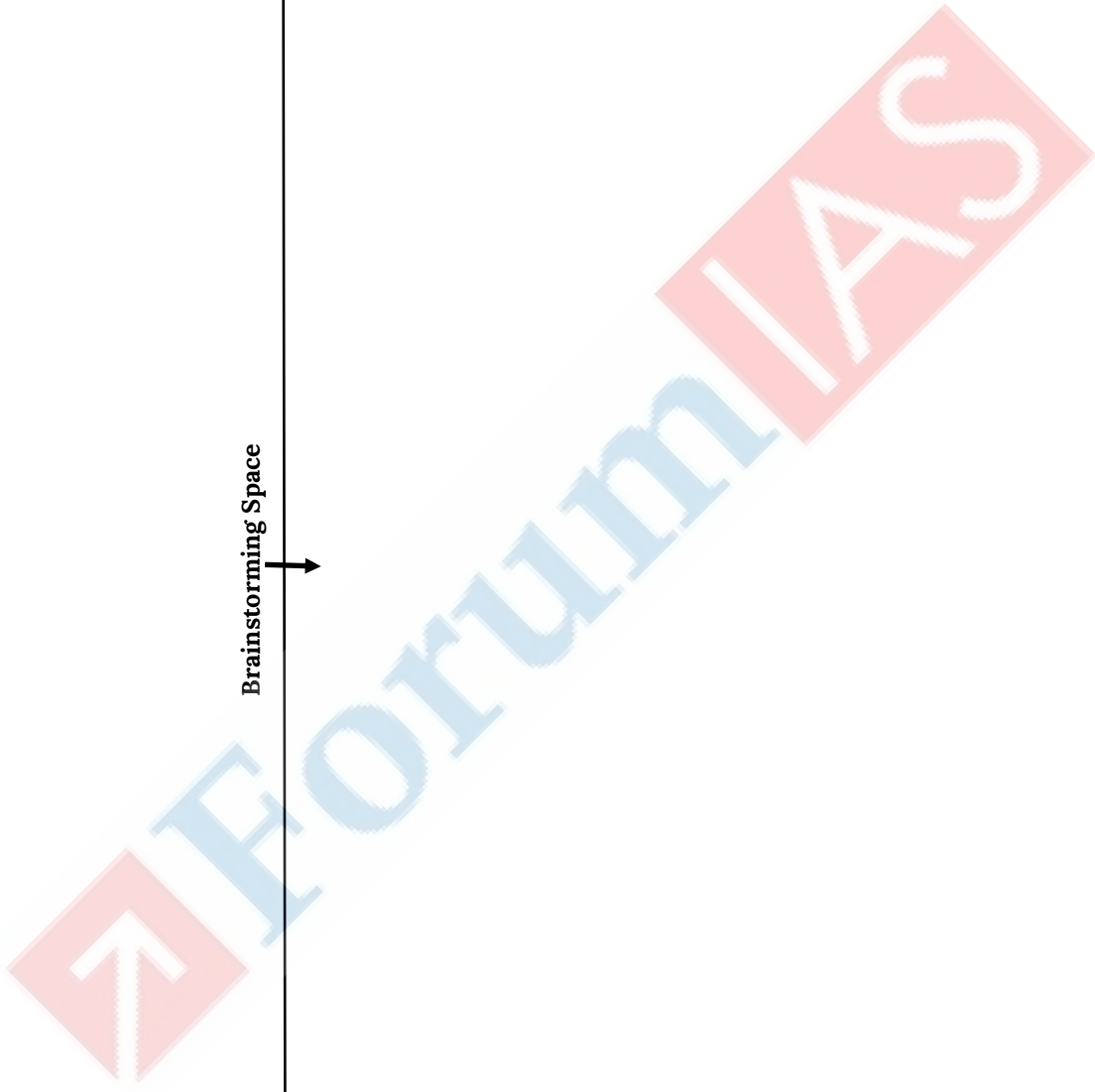
Q.4) What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



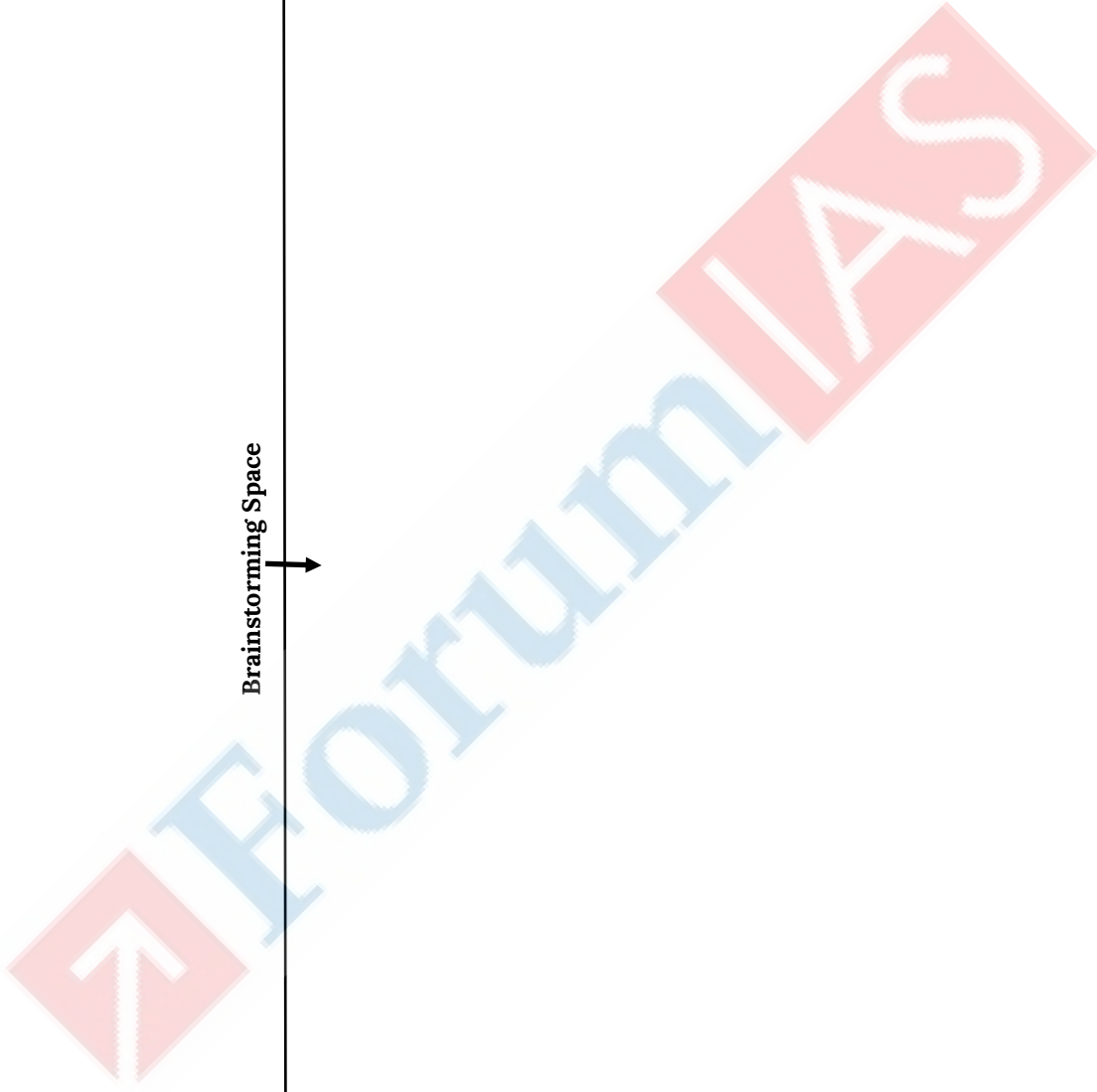
Q.5) What does this quotation mean to you in the present context: "Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good"- Tirukkural. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



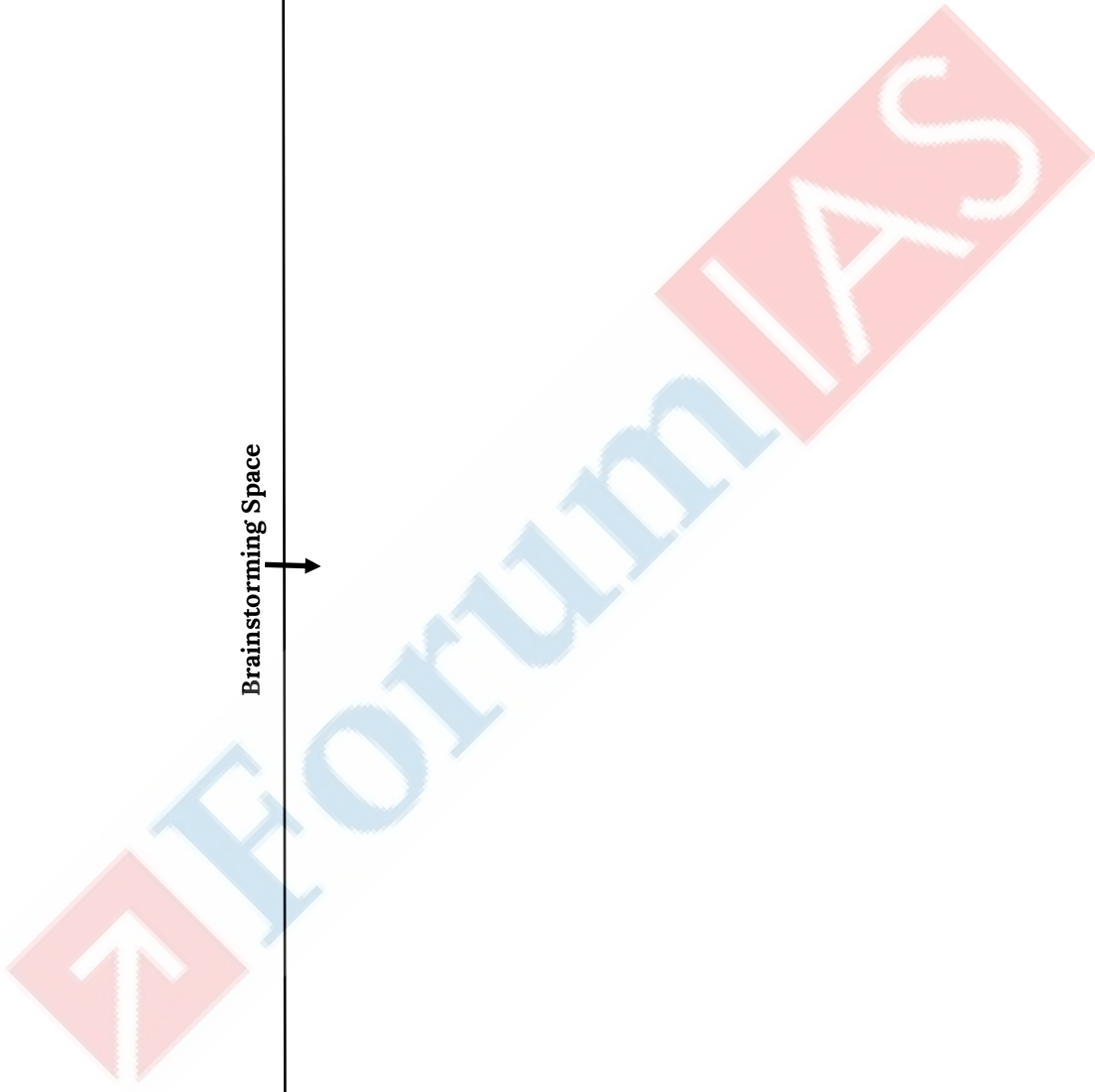
Q.6) With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



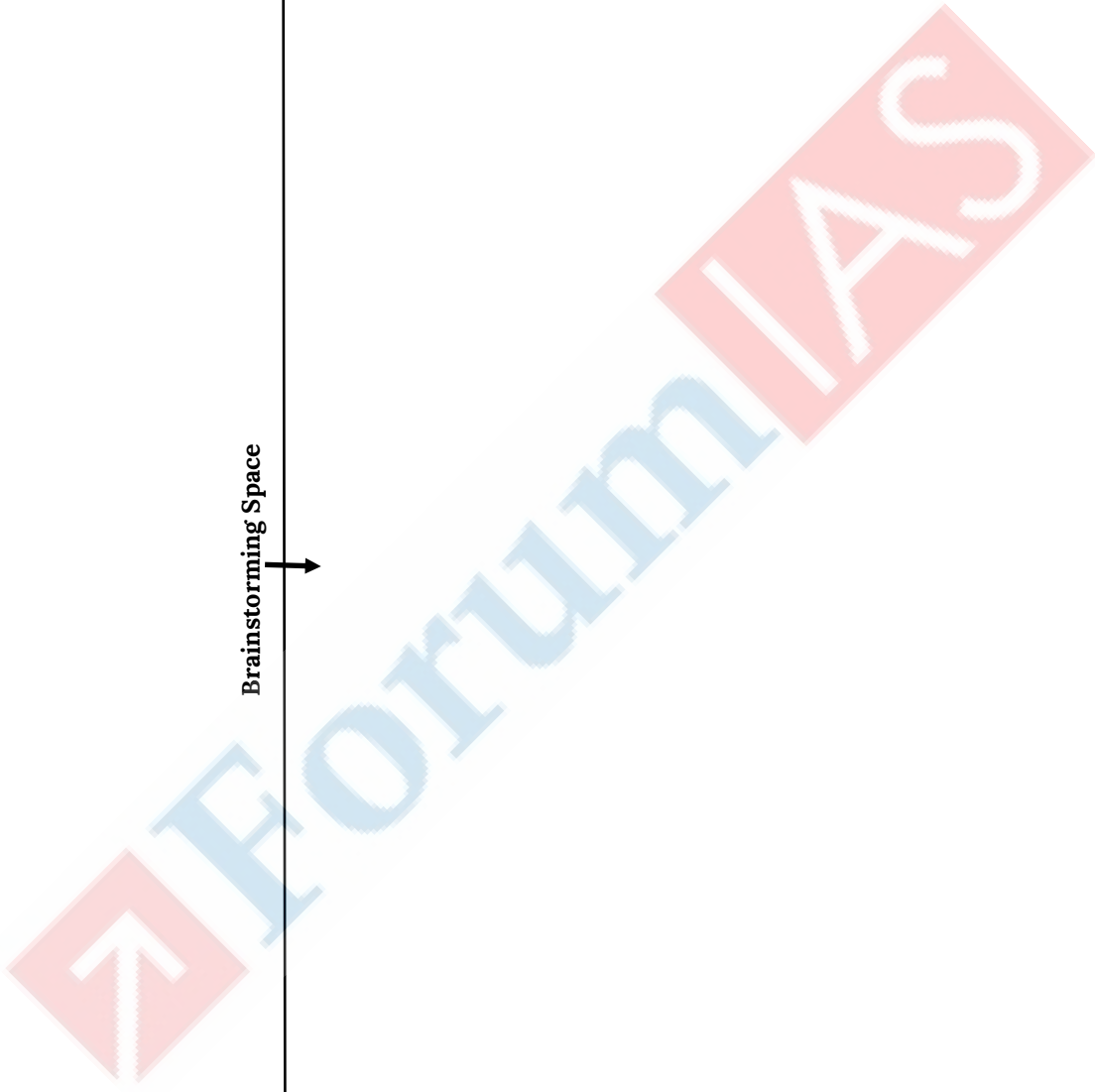
Q.7) The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



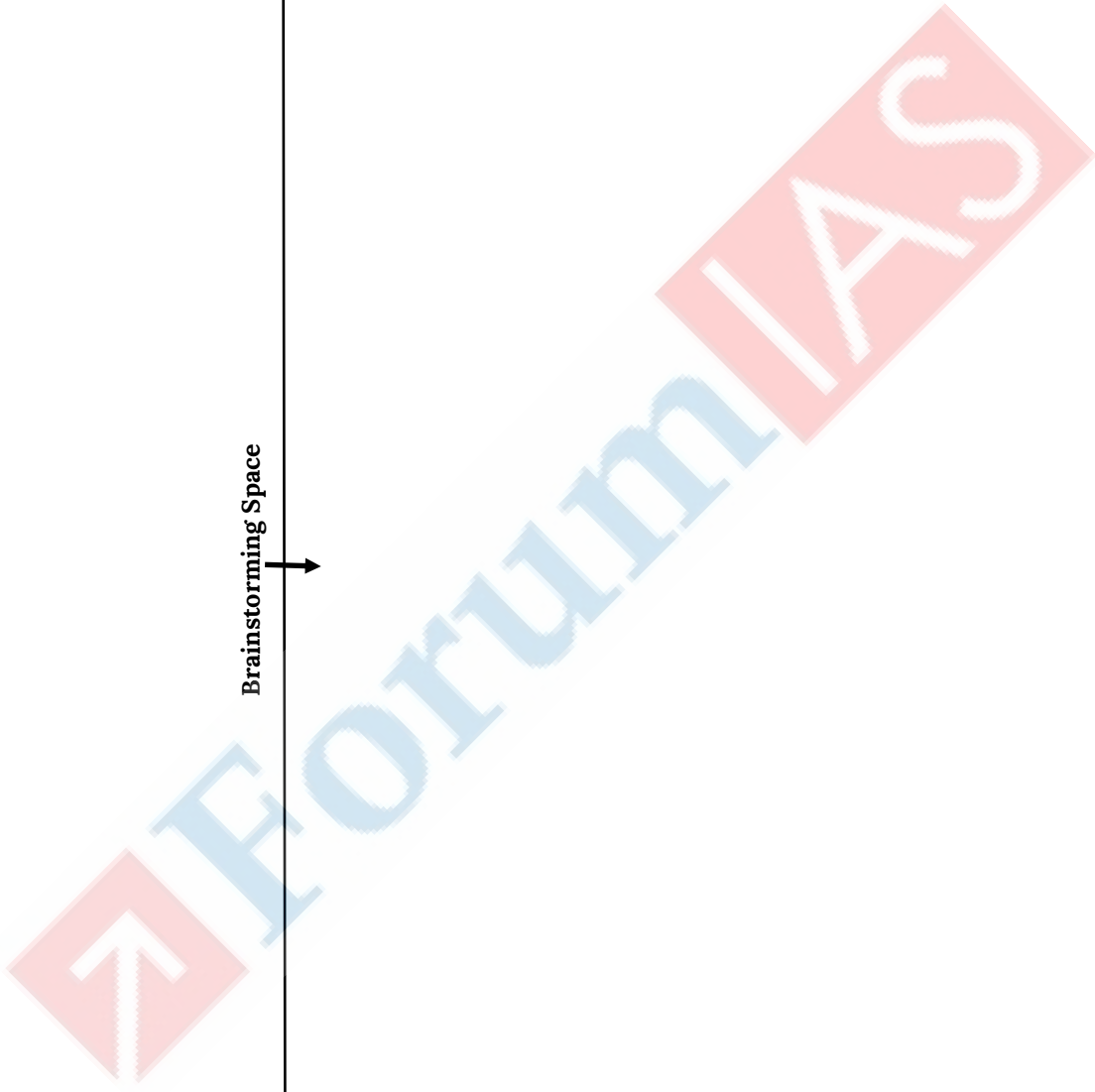
Q.8) Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



Q.9) Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space

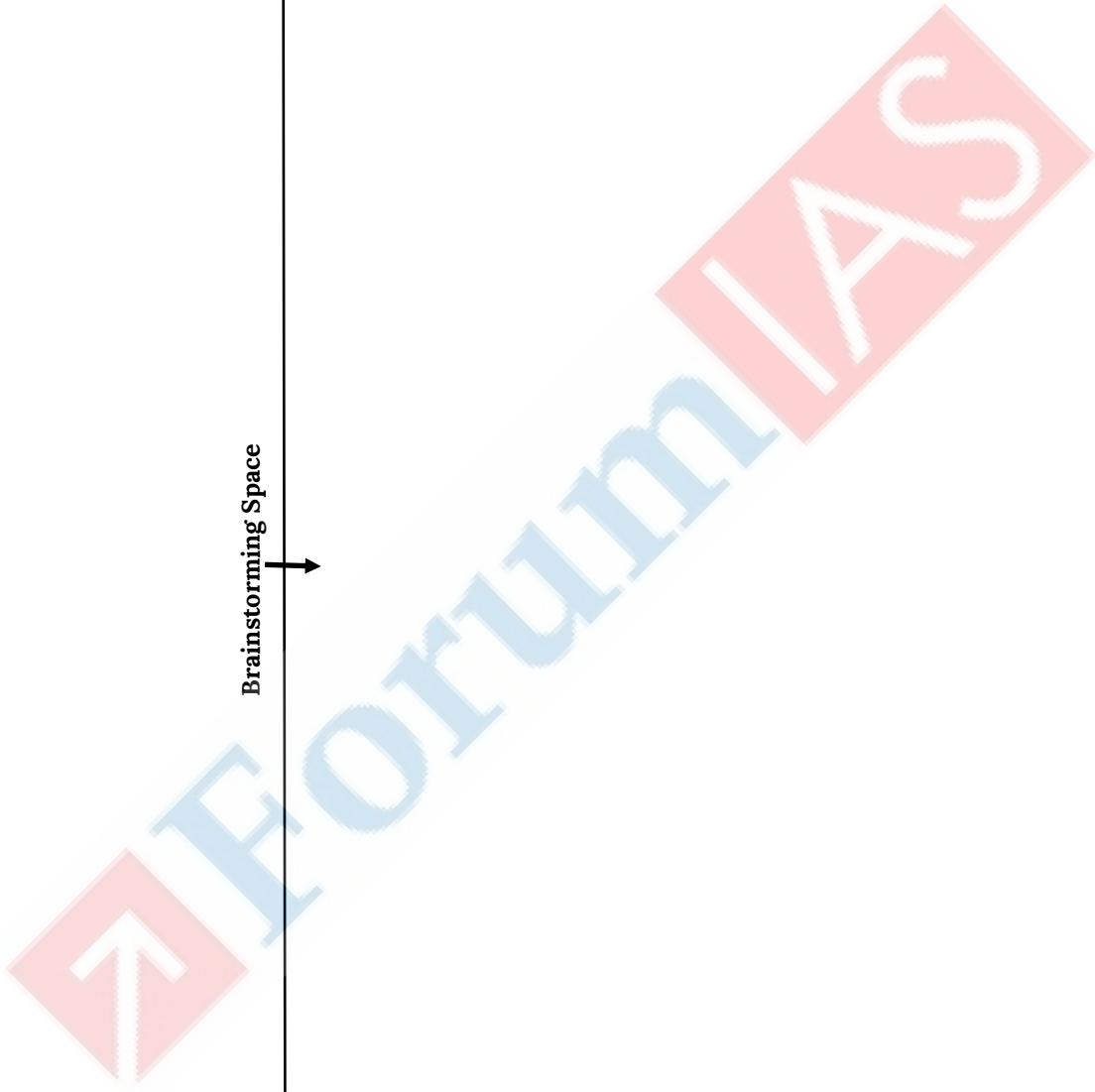




Q.10) Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence.

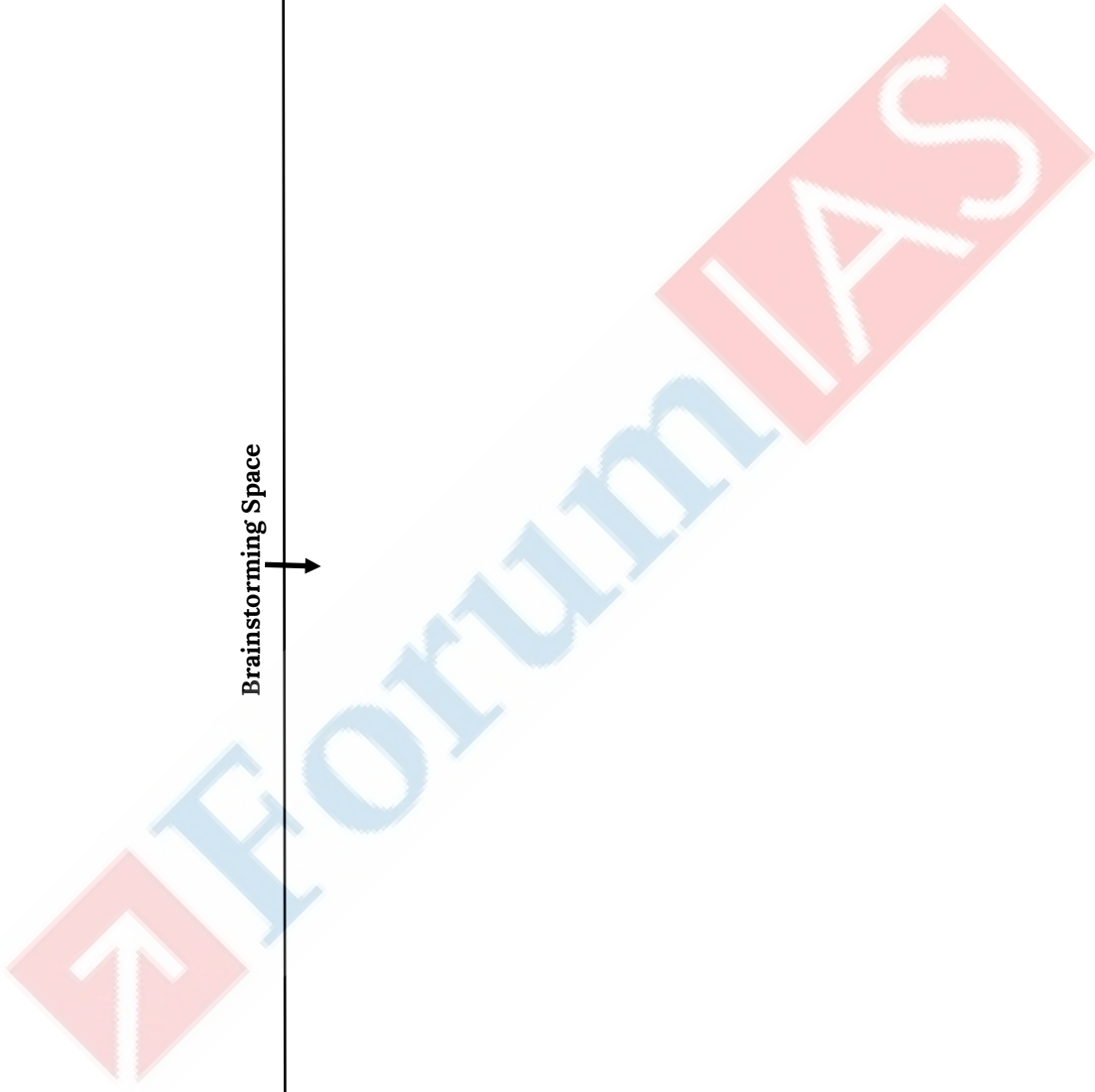
- (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.
 - (b) Giving examples and show how the two differ in their approaches.
- (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.11) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (10marks, 150 words) (2015)

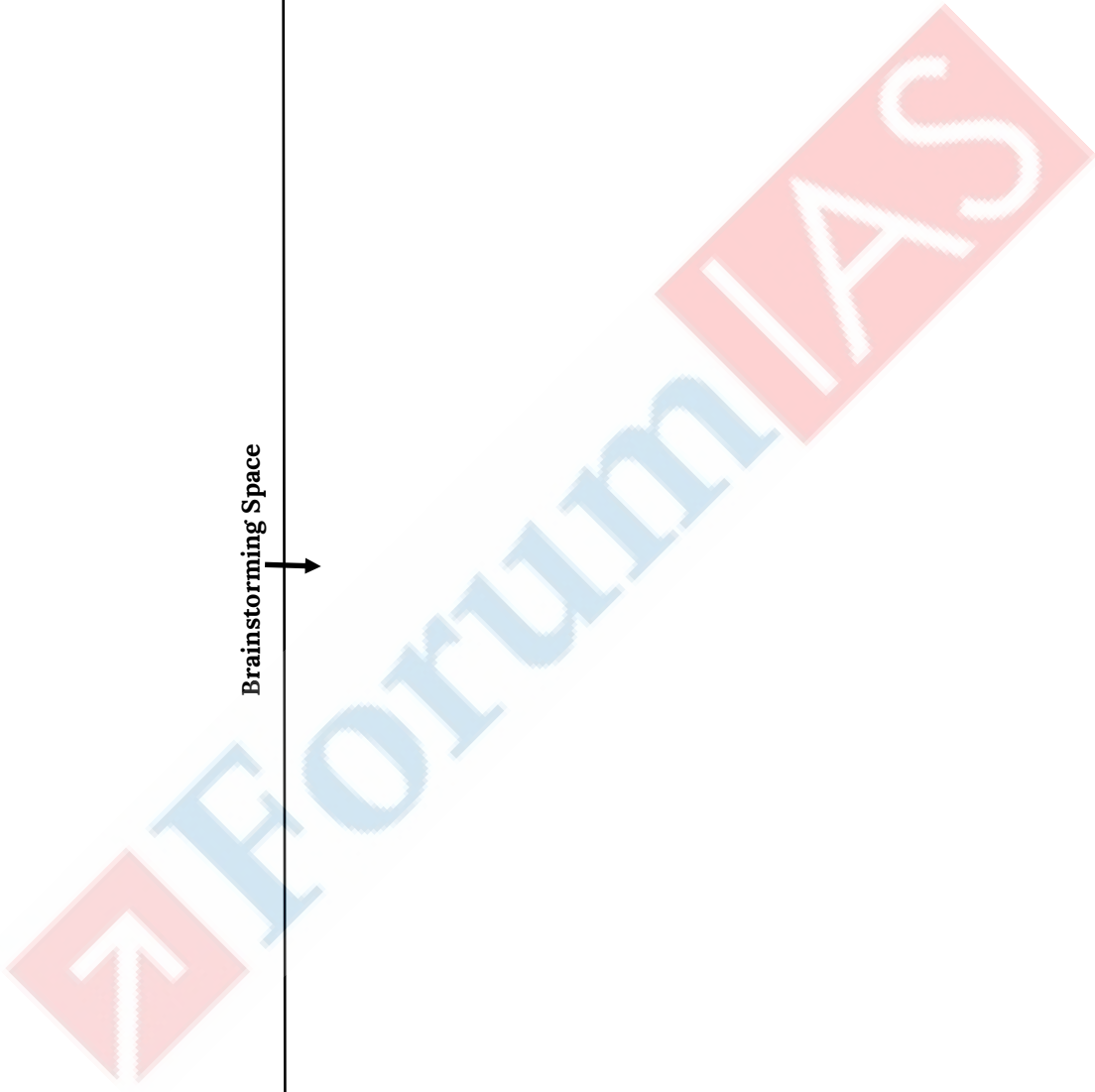
Brainstorming Space



Q.12) Differentiate between the following:

- a) Law and Ethics;
- b) Ethical management and Management of ethics;
- c) Discrimination and Preferential treatment;
- d) Personal ethics and Professional ethics. (12.5 marks, 200 words) (2015)

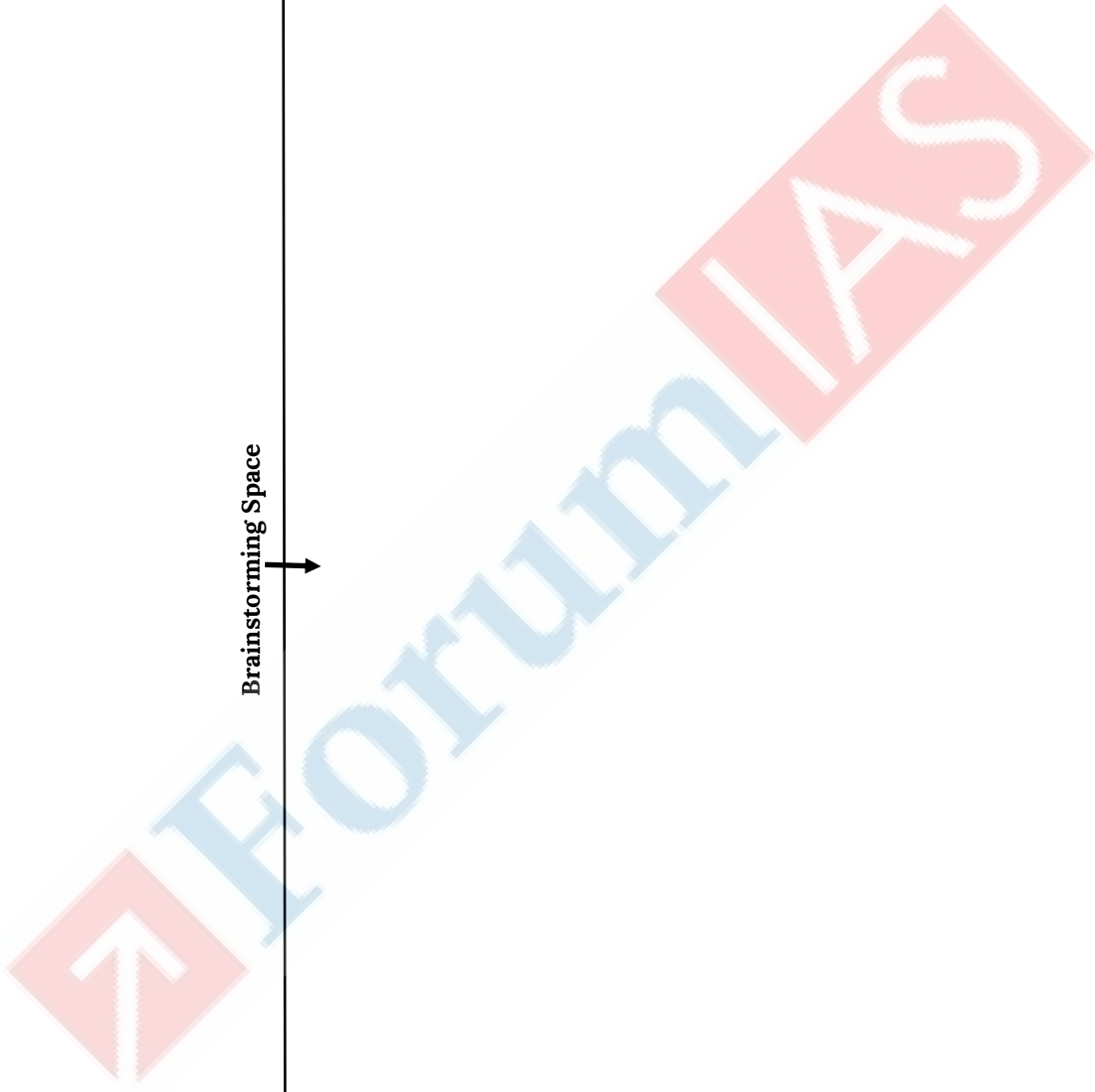
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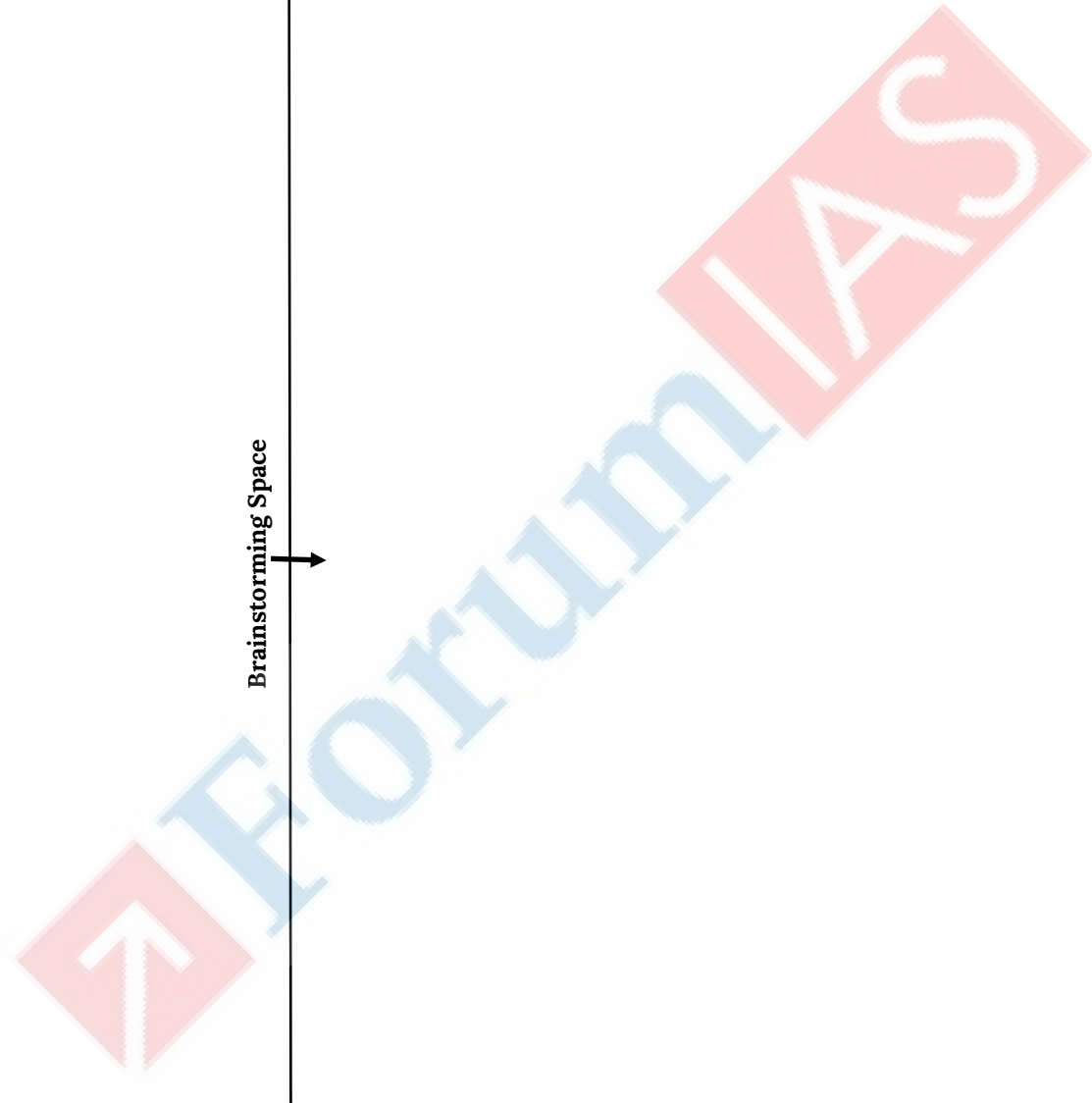
Q.13) Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'. Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (10marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



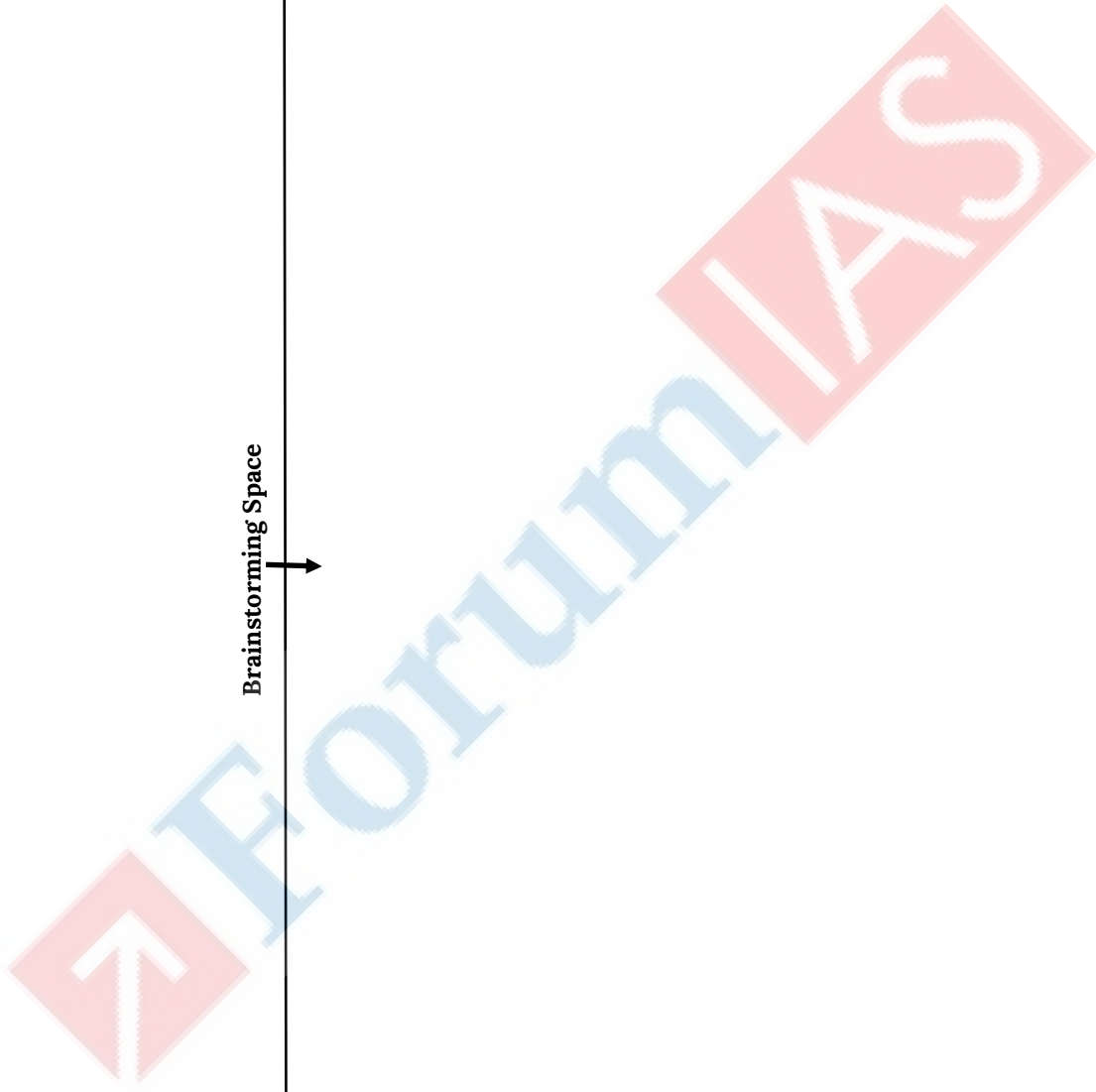
Q.14) What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (15 marks, 250 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.15) Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

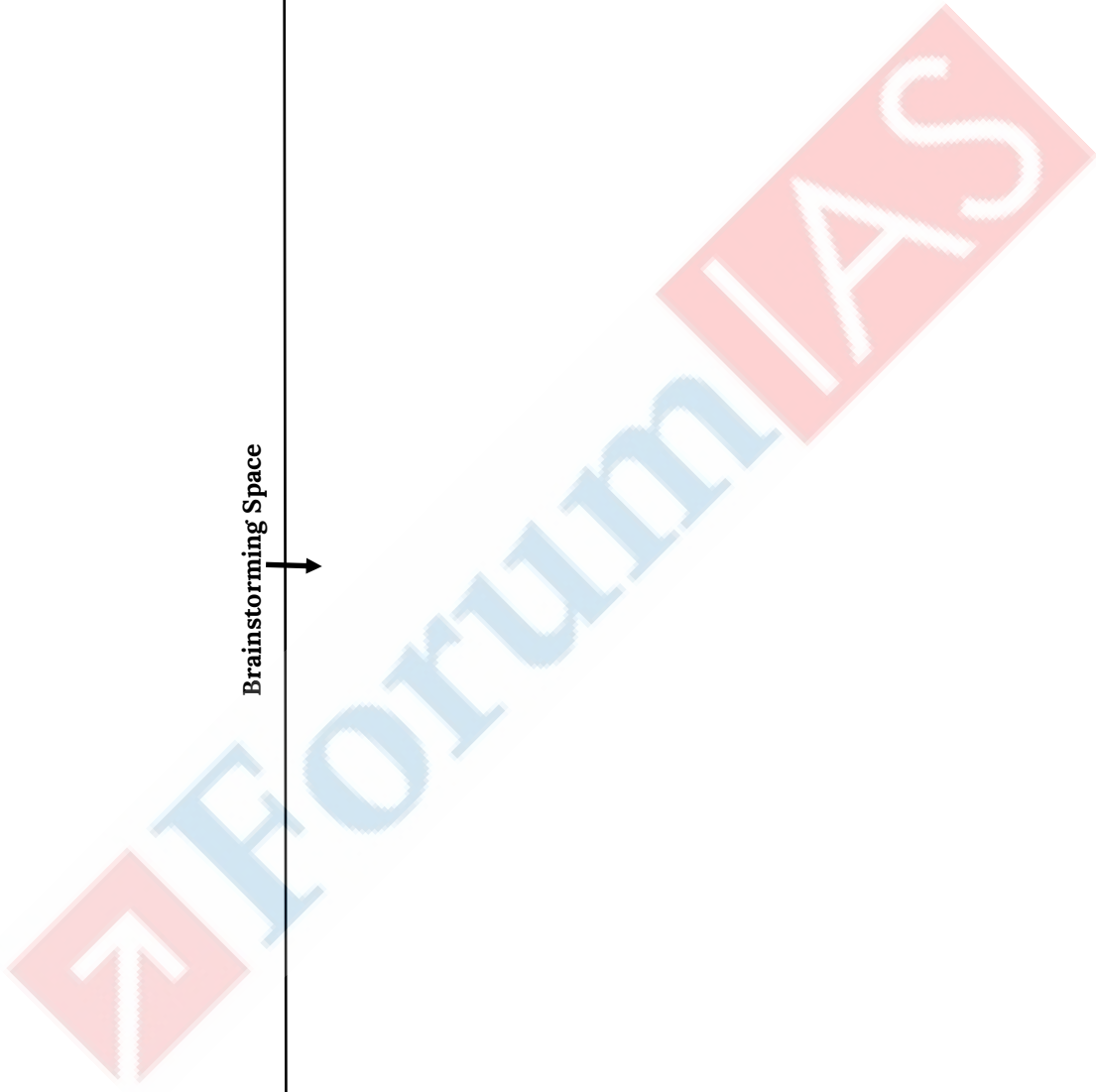
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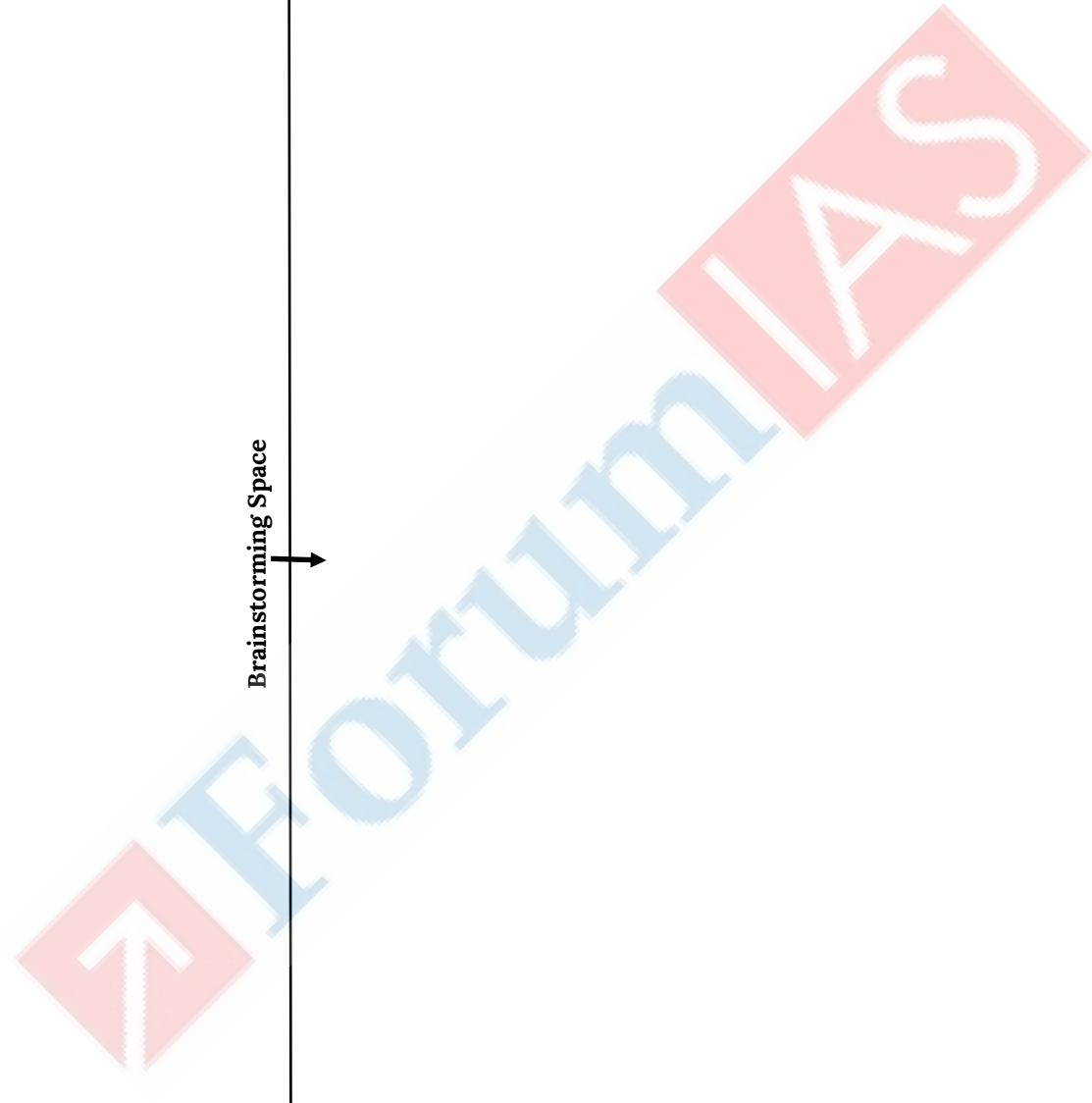
Q.16) The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



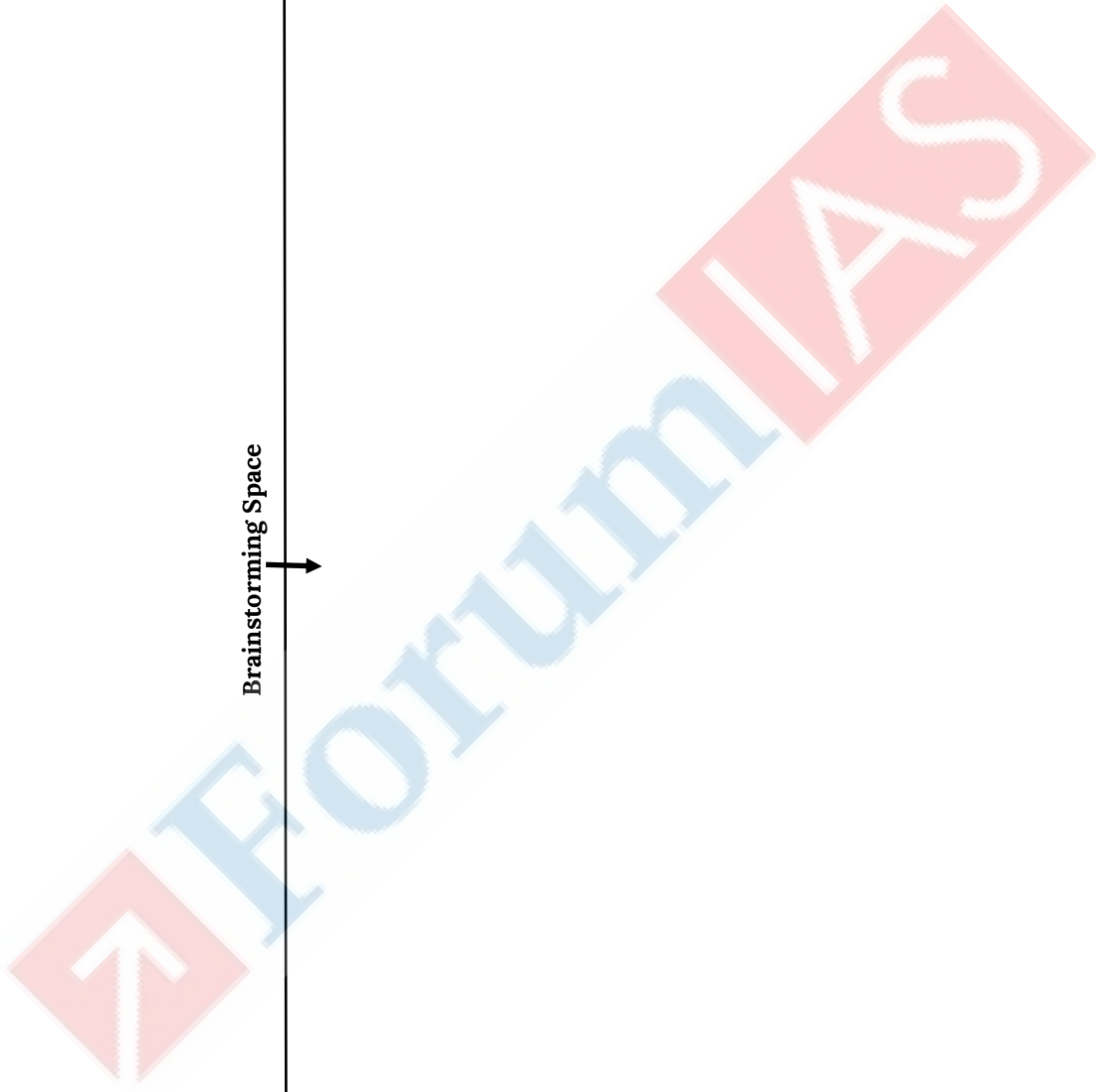
Q.17) "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



Q.18) In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

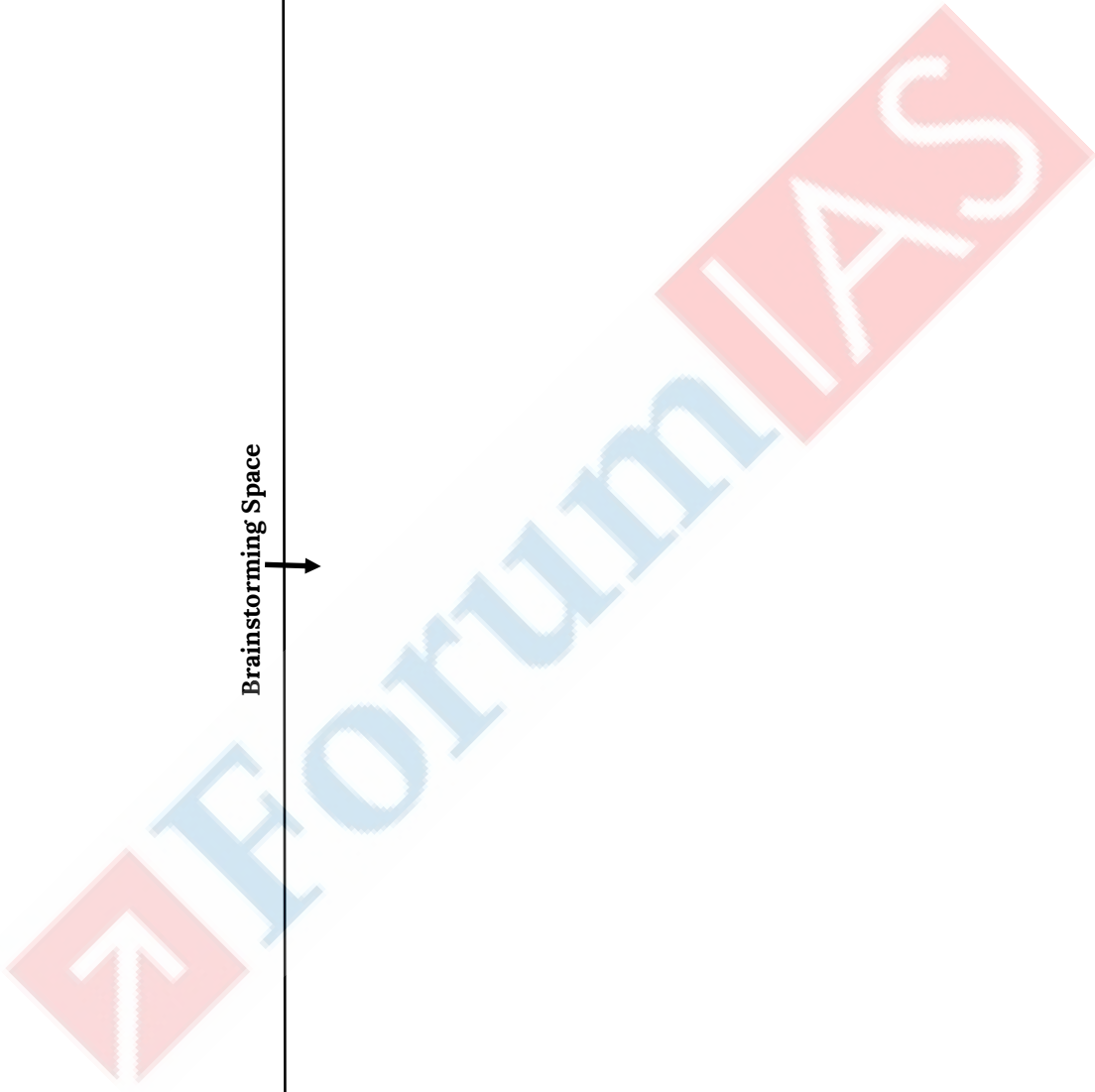
Brainstorming Space



Q.19) In case of a crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical and moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.

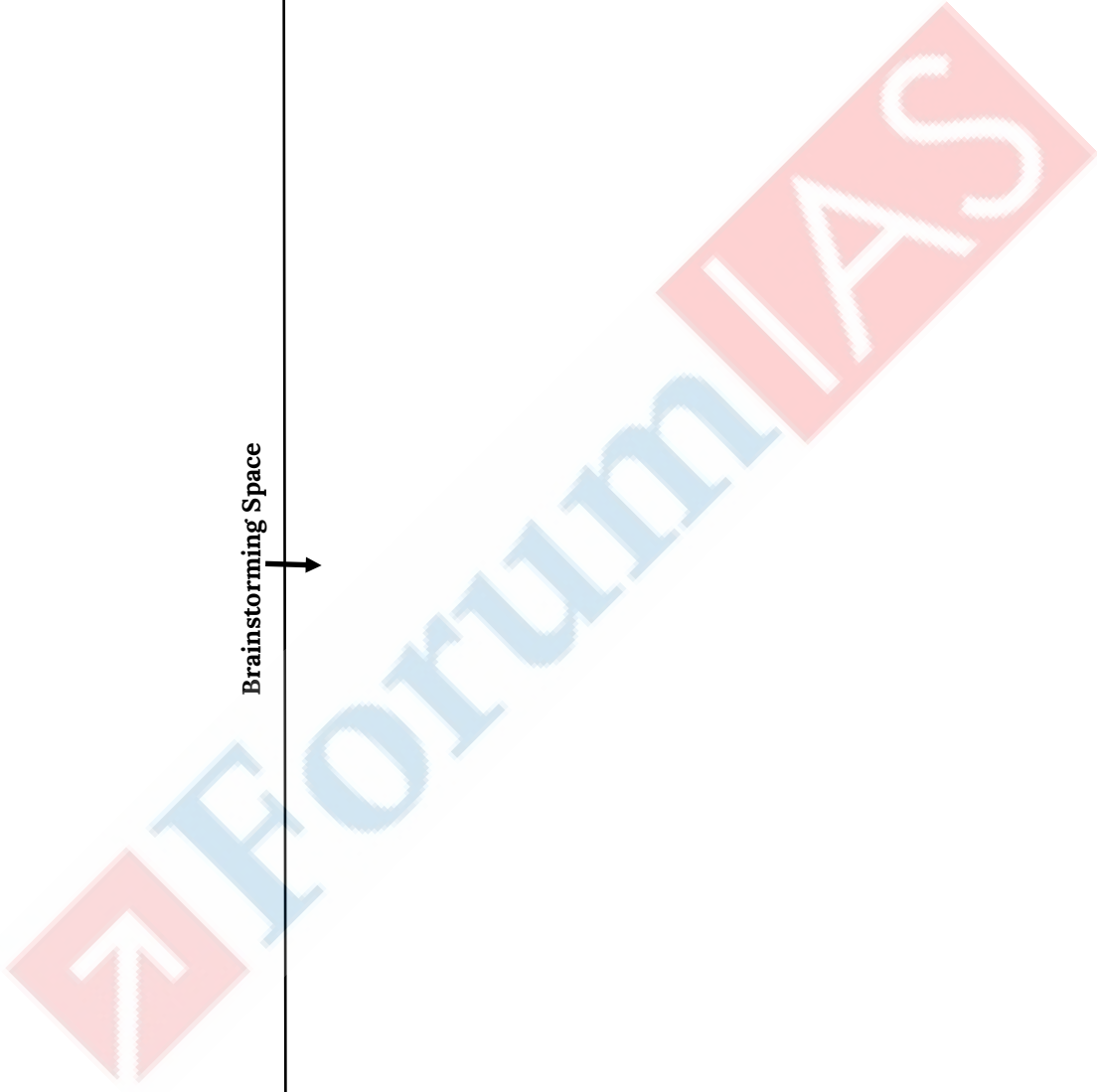
(10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



Q.20) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI) ? Can they be learned? discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

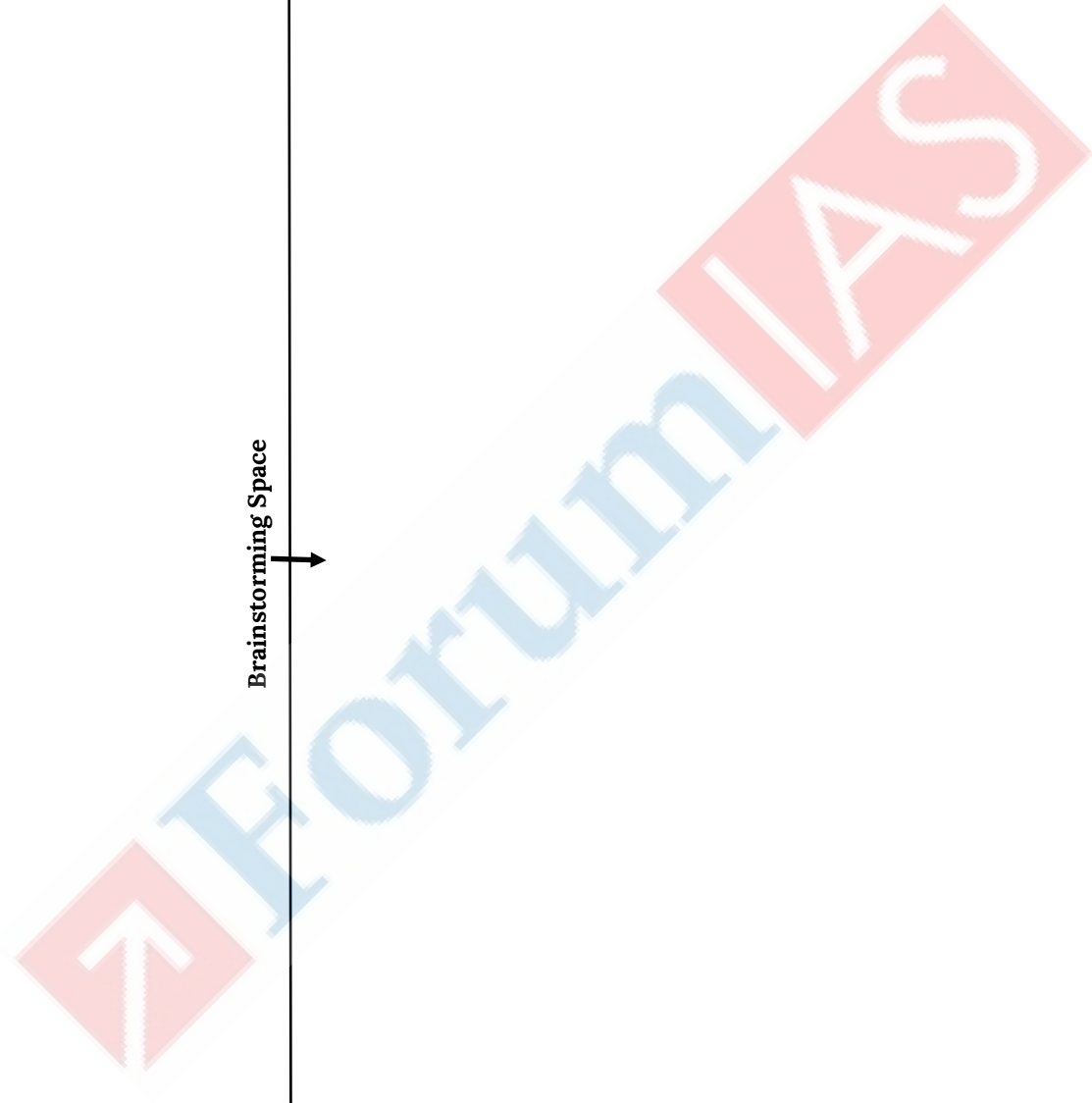


Q.21) "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

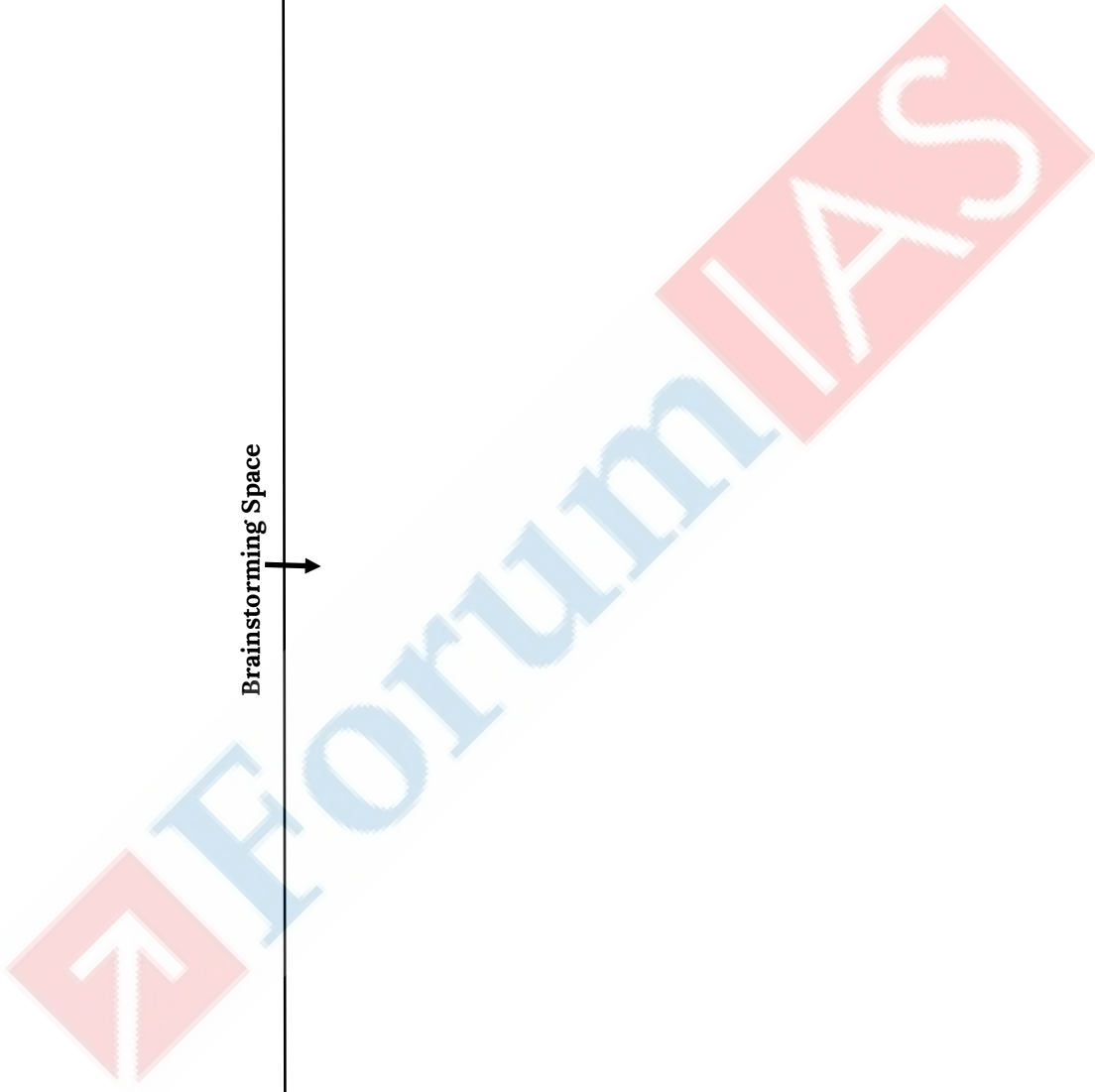
Q.22) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



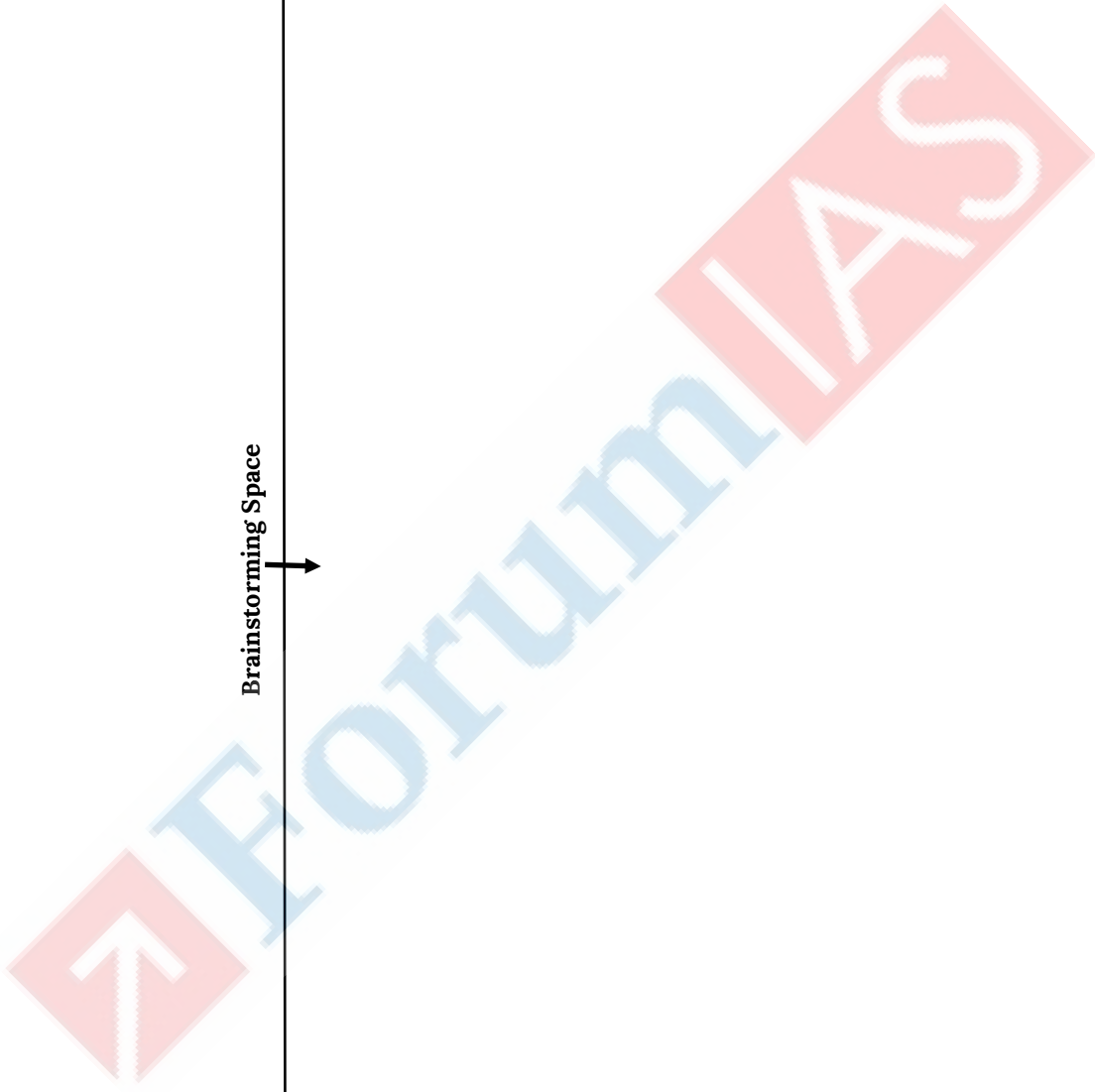
Q.23) What does this quotation mean to you in the present context: Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding? "Mahatma Gandhi. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.24) "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

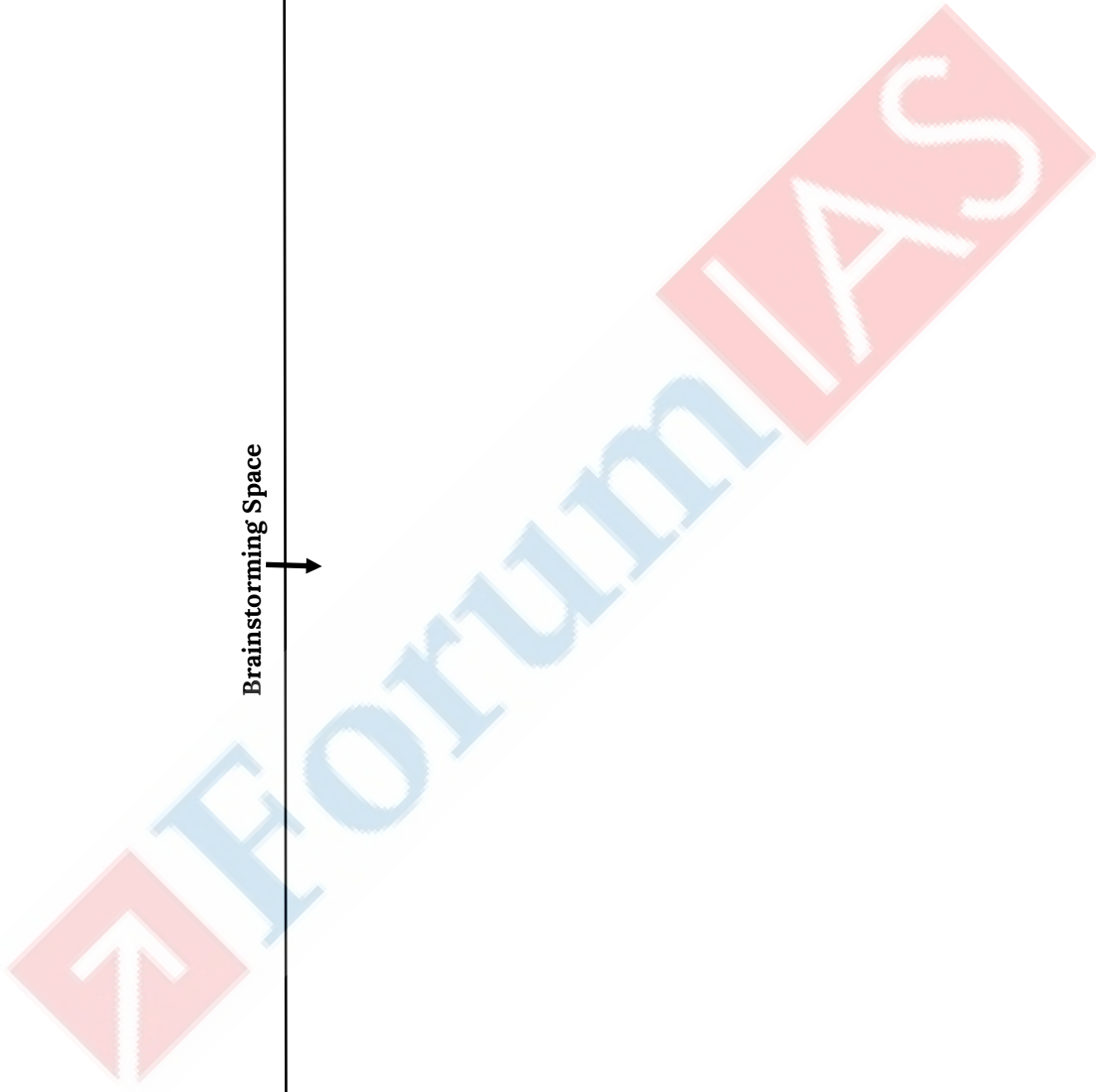
Brainstorming Space





Q.25) How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

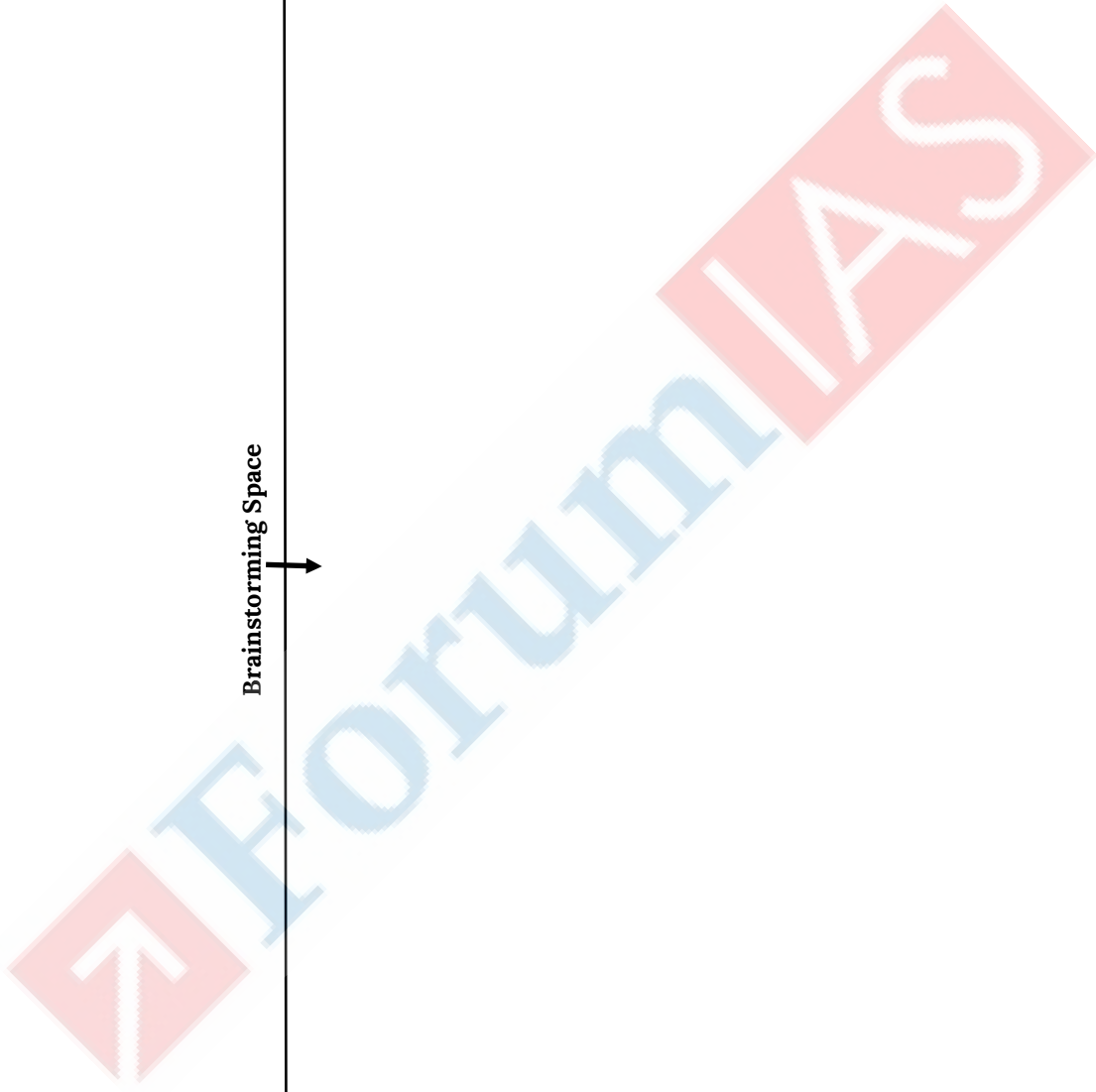
Brainstorming Space





Q.26) Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

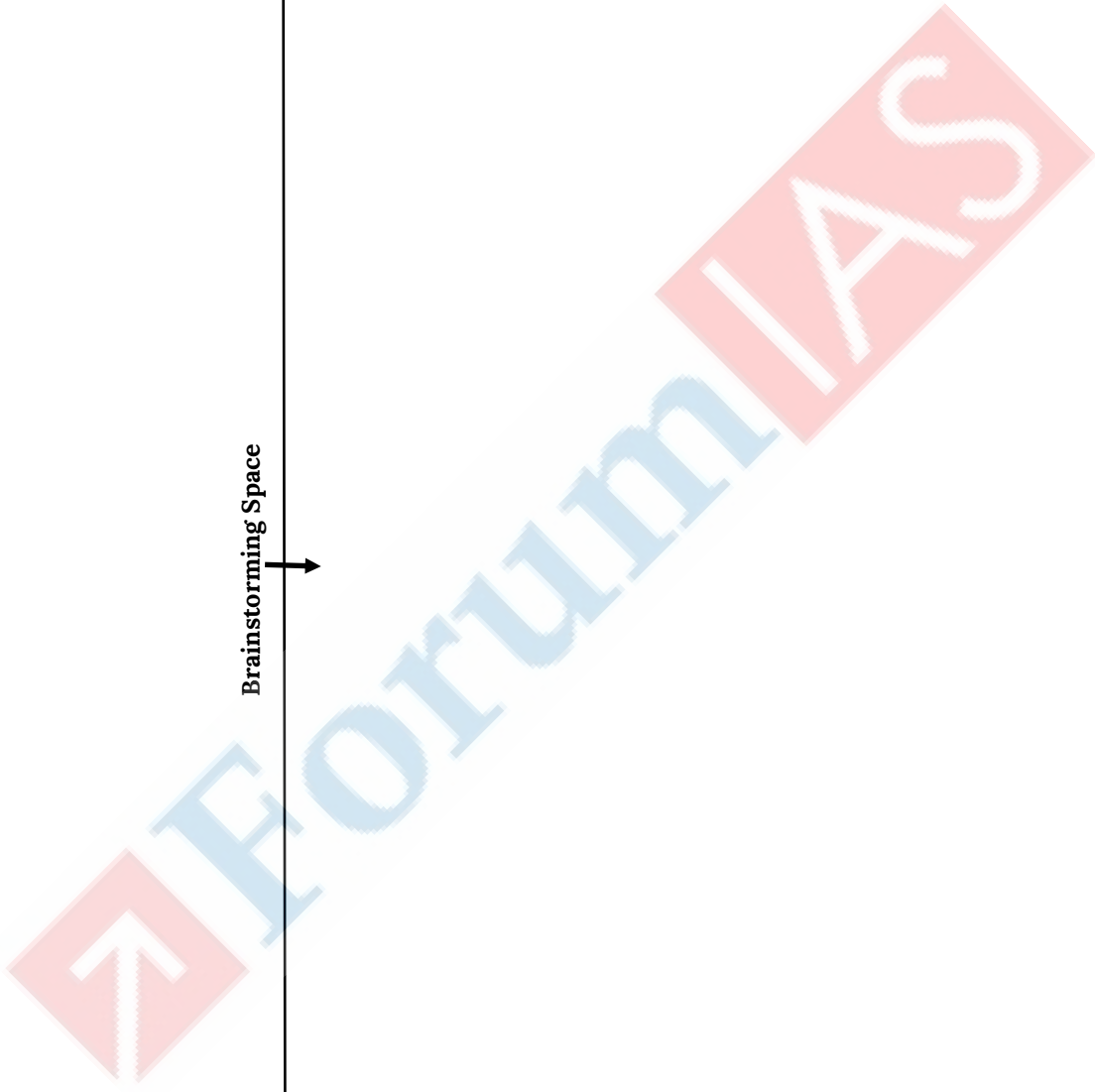
Brainstorming Space



Q.27) All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.

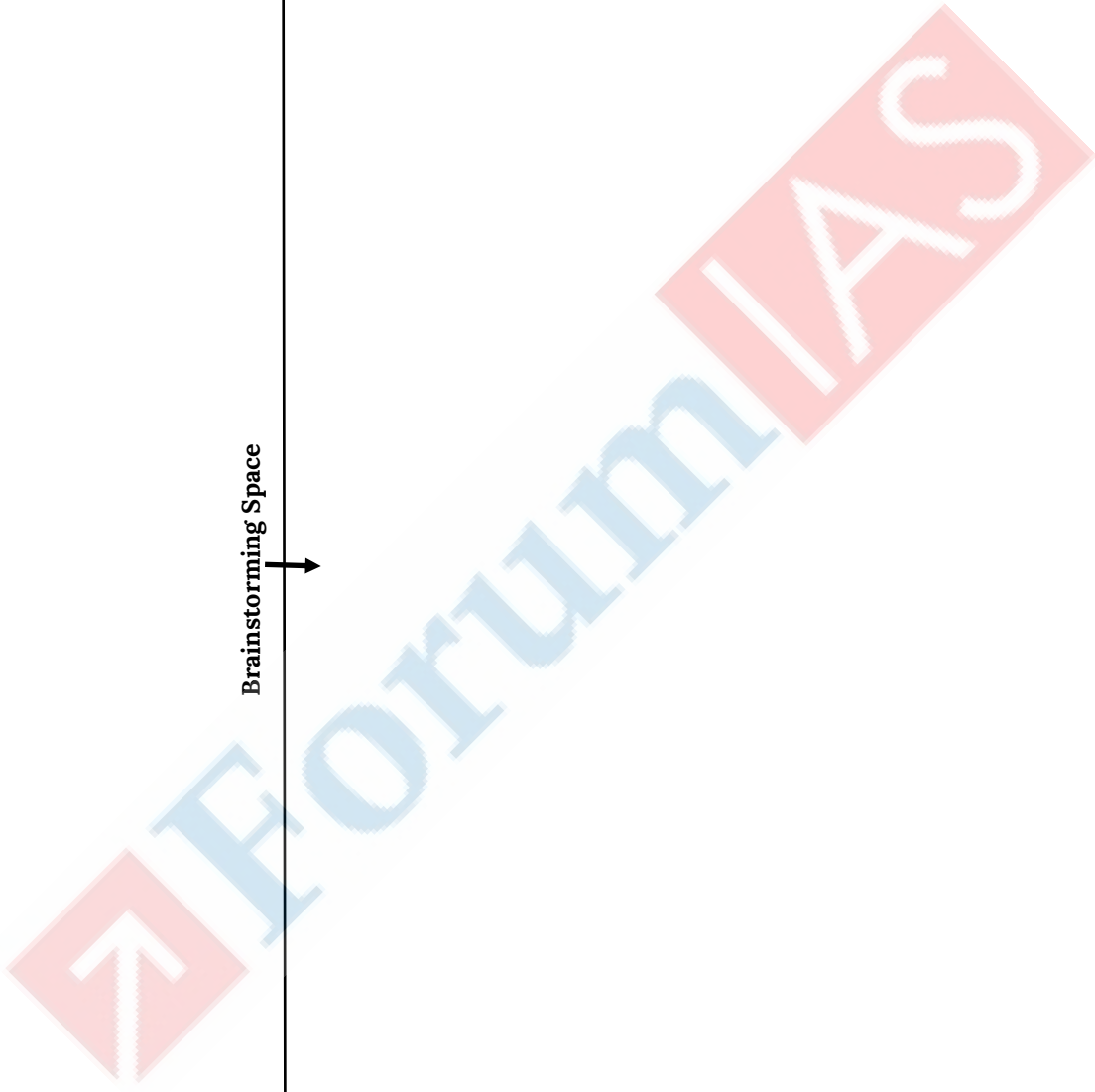
(10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



Q.28) What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?
(10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

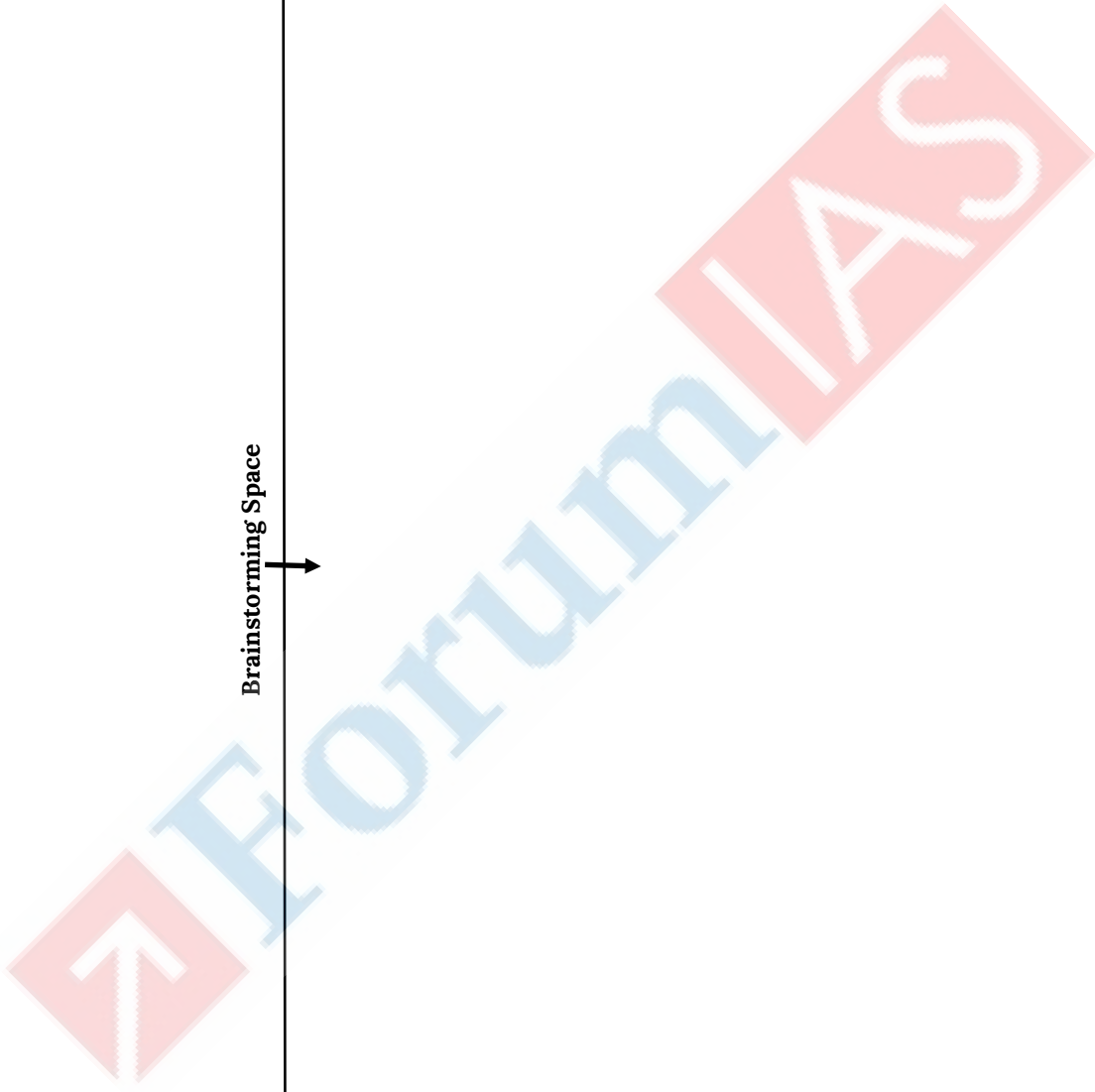
Brainstorming Space



Q.29) What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?

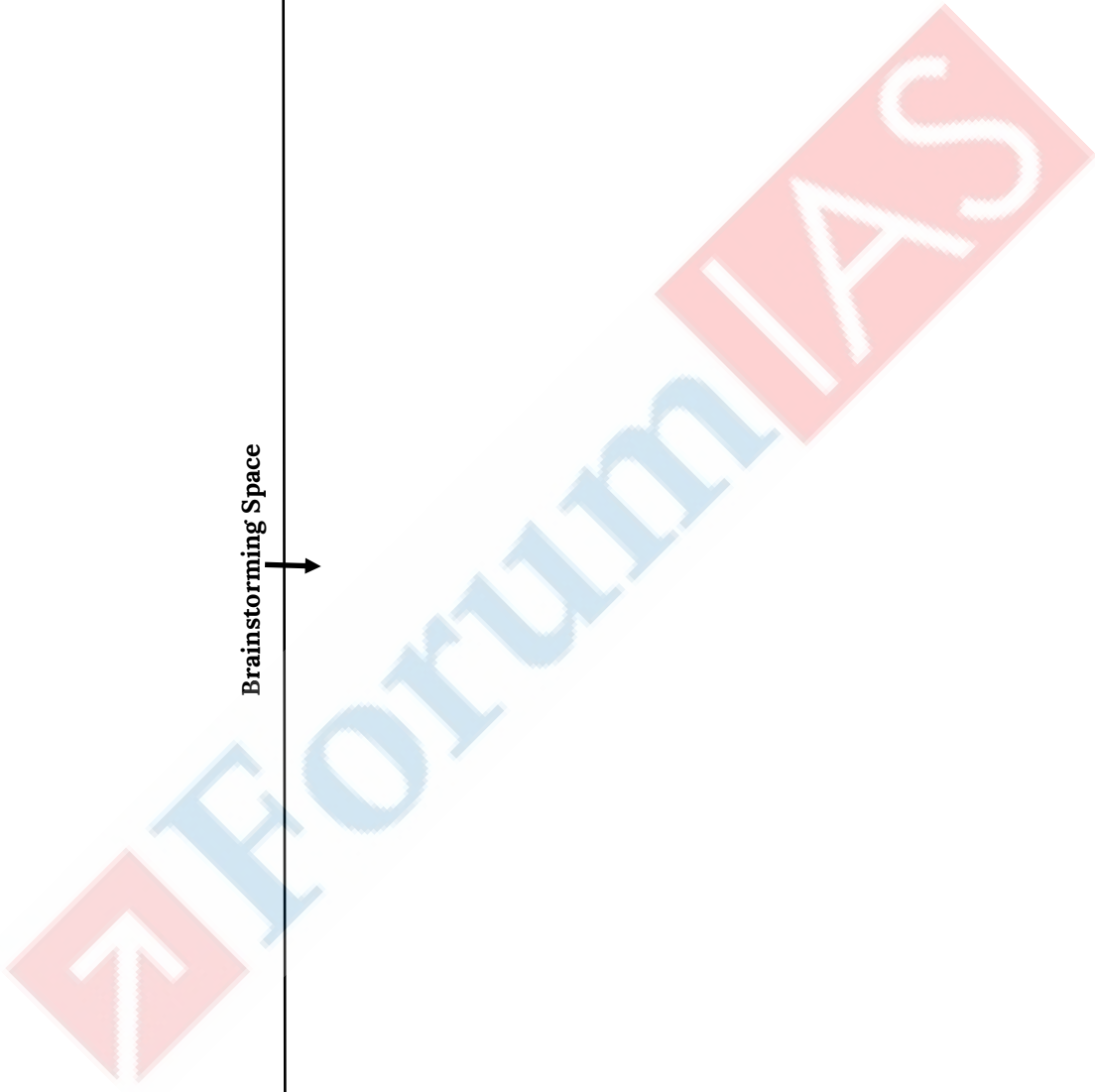
(10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.30) What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.31) Given below are three quotations...

- (a) "Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others." – Swami Vivekananda
- (b) "Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work." – Sardar Patel
- (c) "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) (2024)

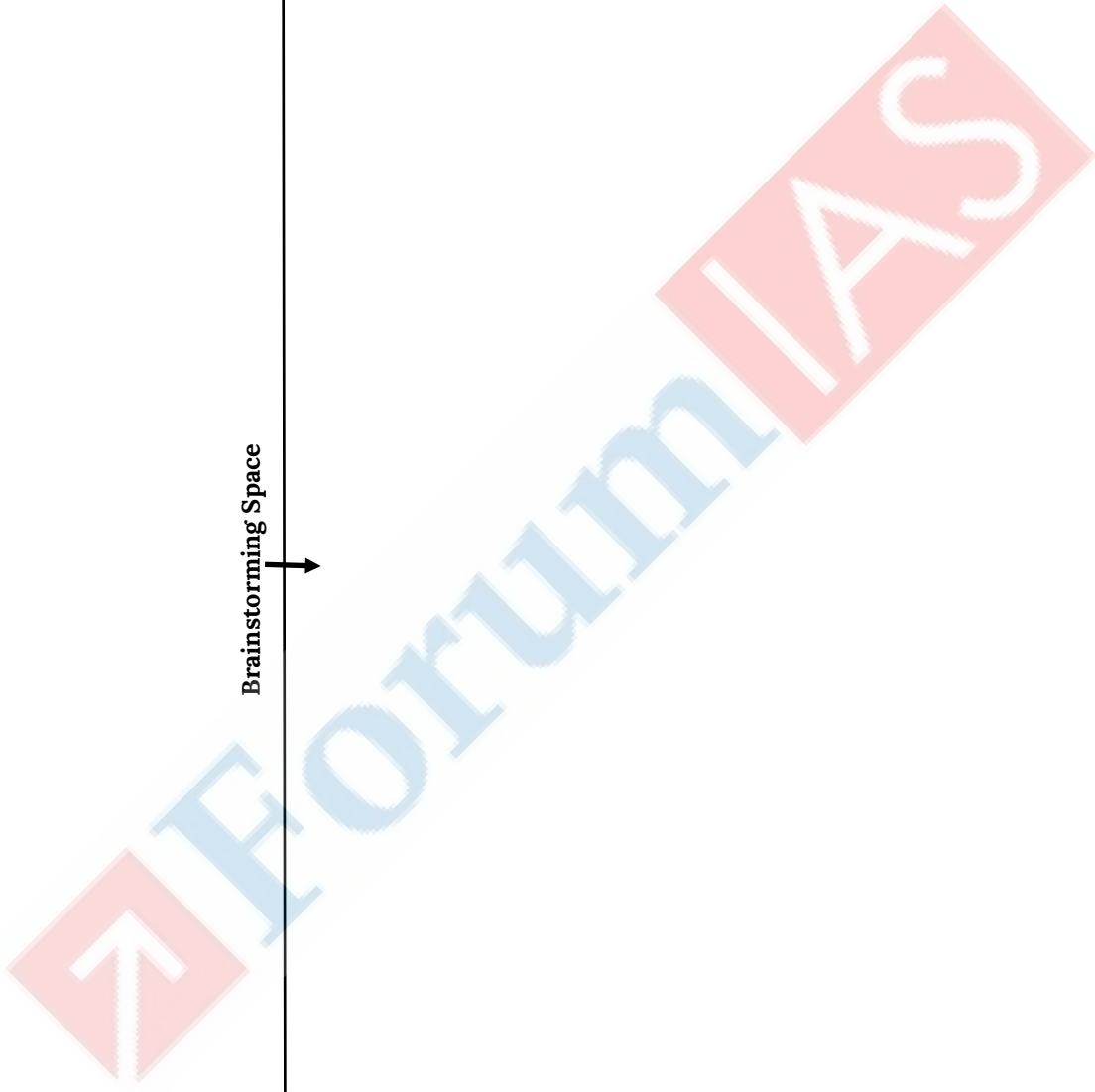
Brainstorming Space

Additional Updates



Q.32) What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



Q.33) Given below are three quotations...

- (a) "The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." – Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves." – Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) "Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle." – Swami Vivekananda

(10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

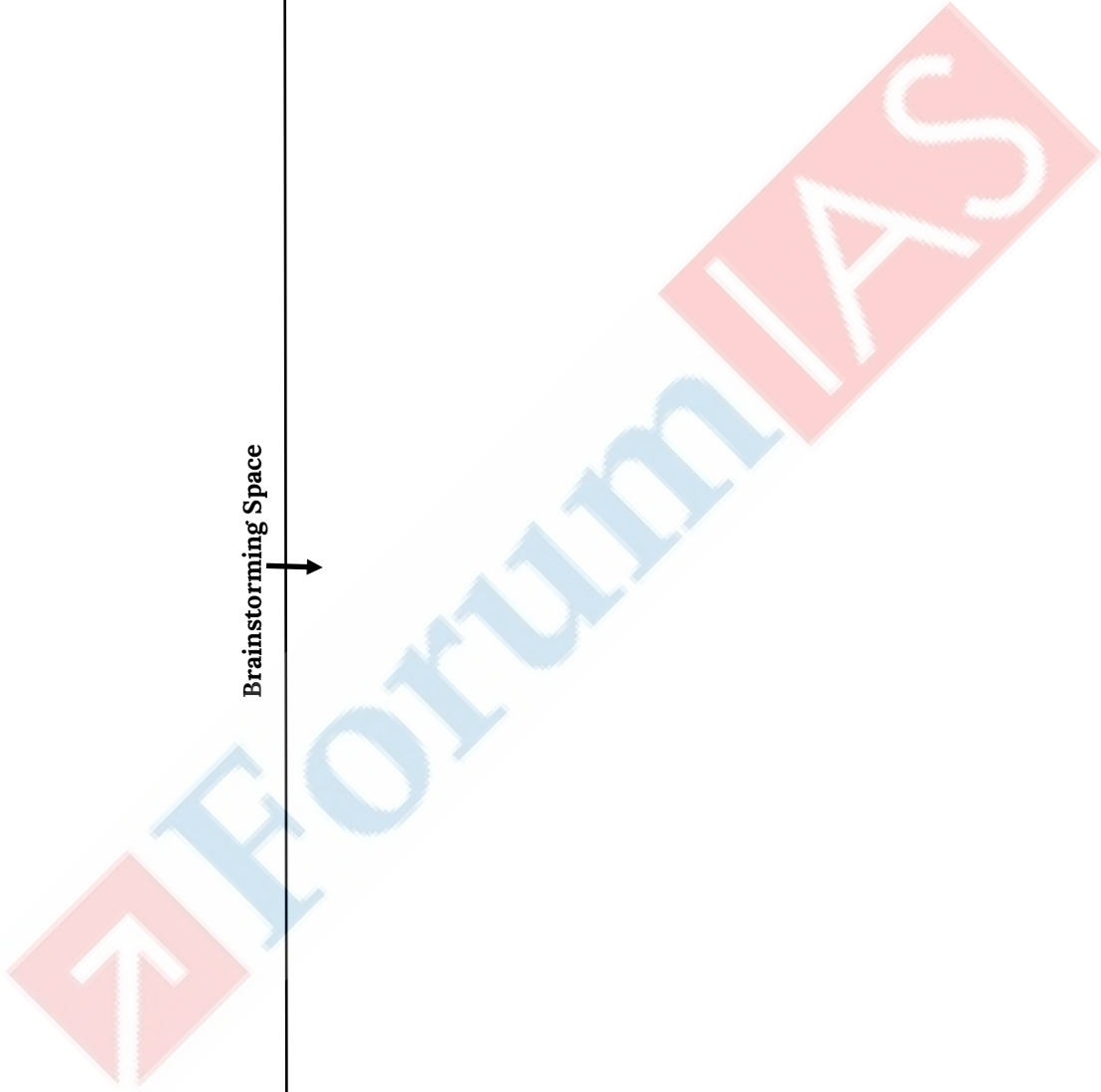
Brainstorming Space



Q.34) Given below are three quotations...

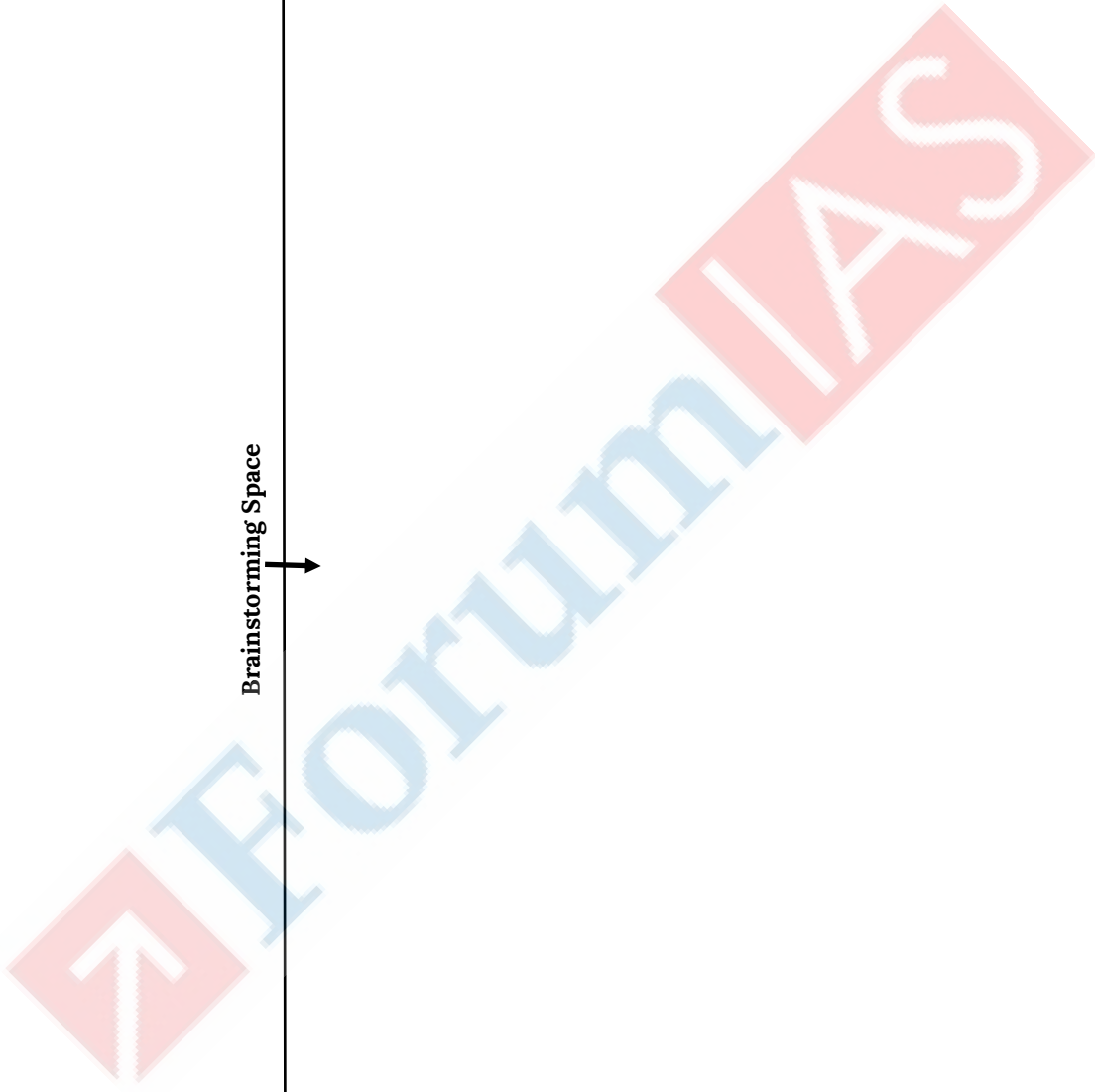
- (a) "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself?" – Thiruvalluvar
- (b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind." – William James
- (c) "The strength of a society lies not in its laudable ideals, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



Q.35) What are the major teachings of Mahavira? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



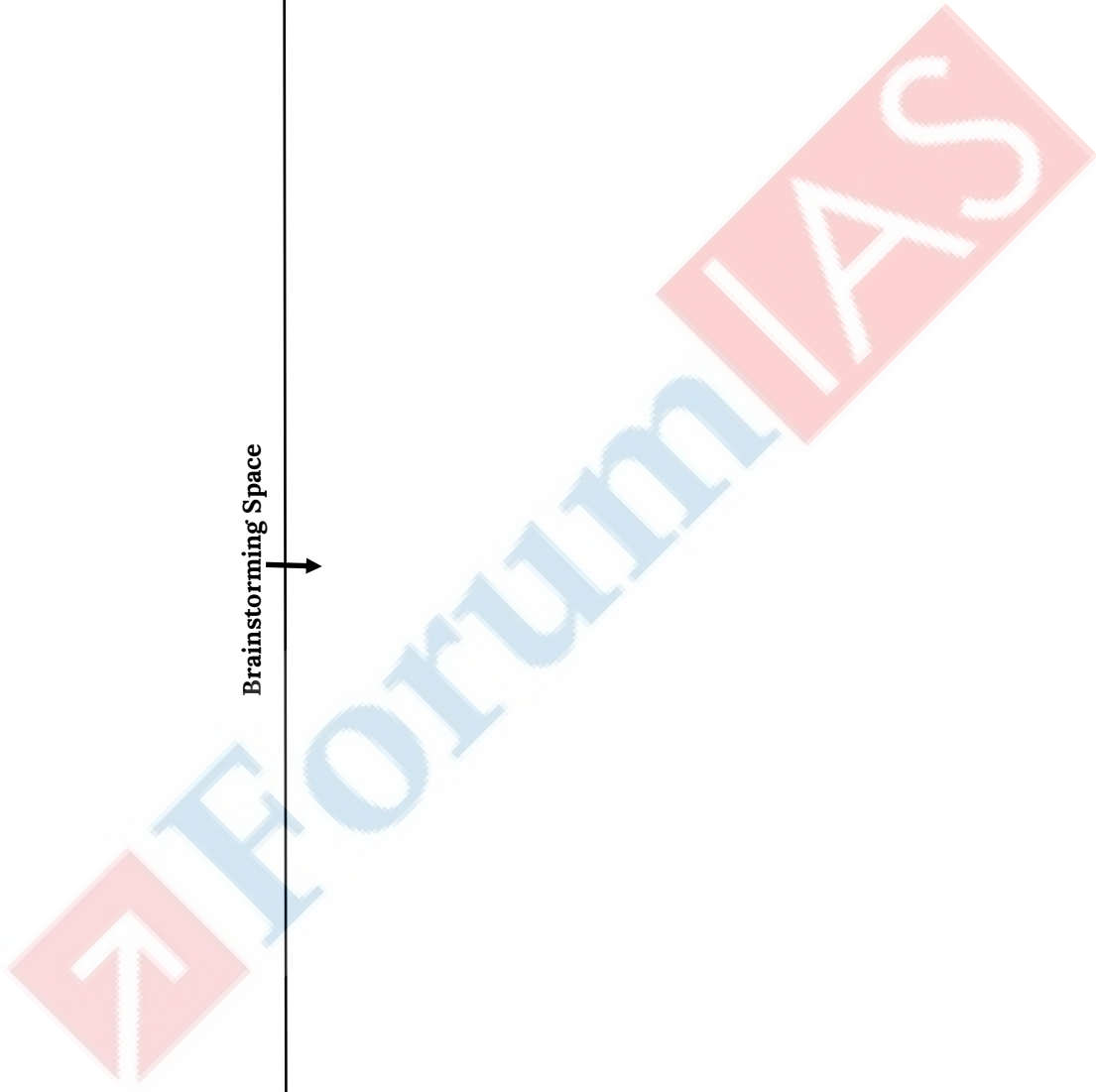
Q.36) What does each of the following quotations mean to you? "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel that there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother and teacher."-APJ Abdul Kalam (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space



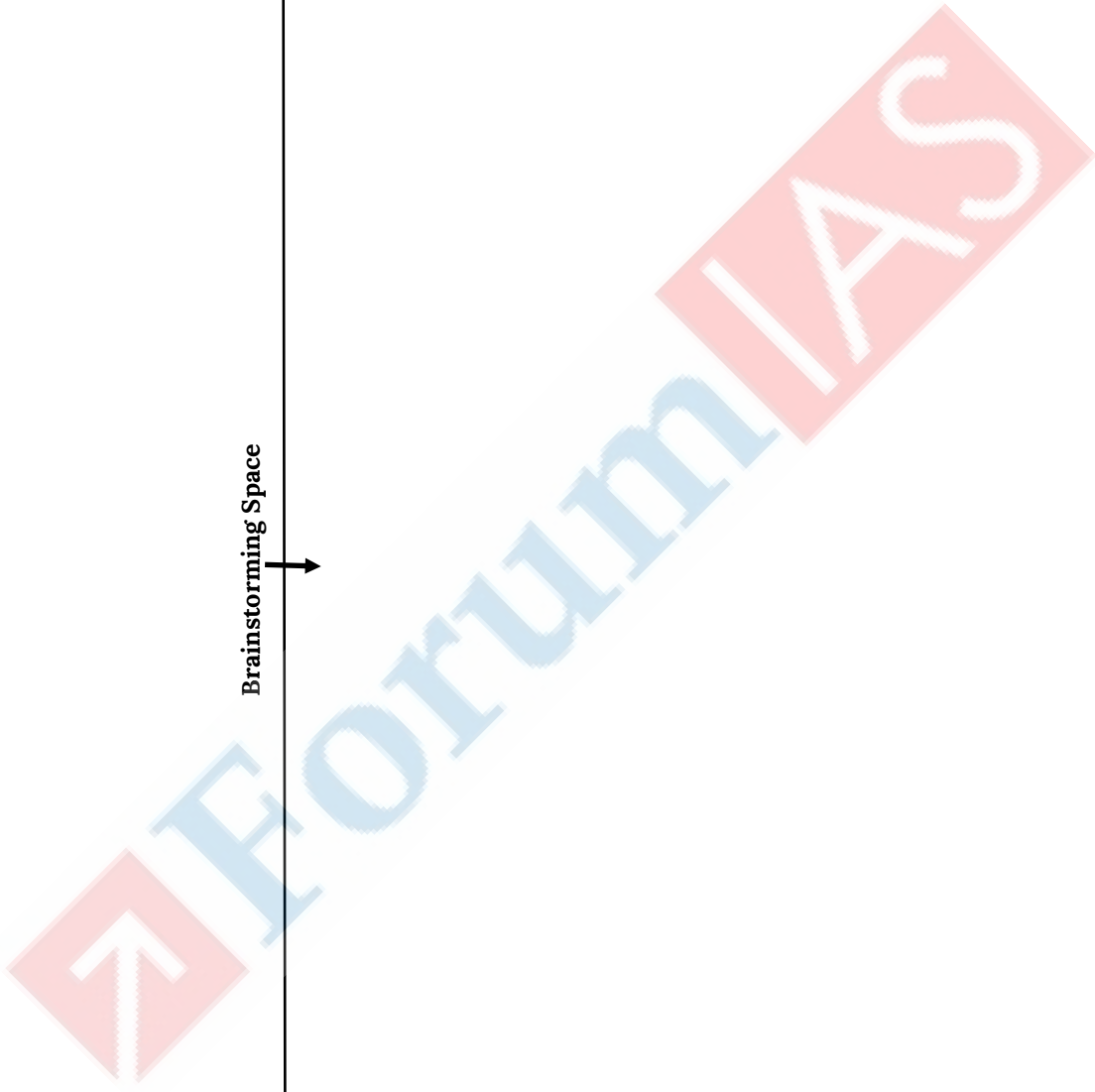
Q.37) What does each of the following quotations mean to you?
Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.”-
Dalai Lama (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space



Q.38) Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later” – Swami Vivekananda (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space

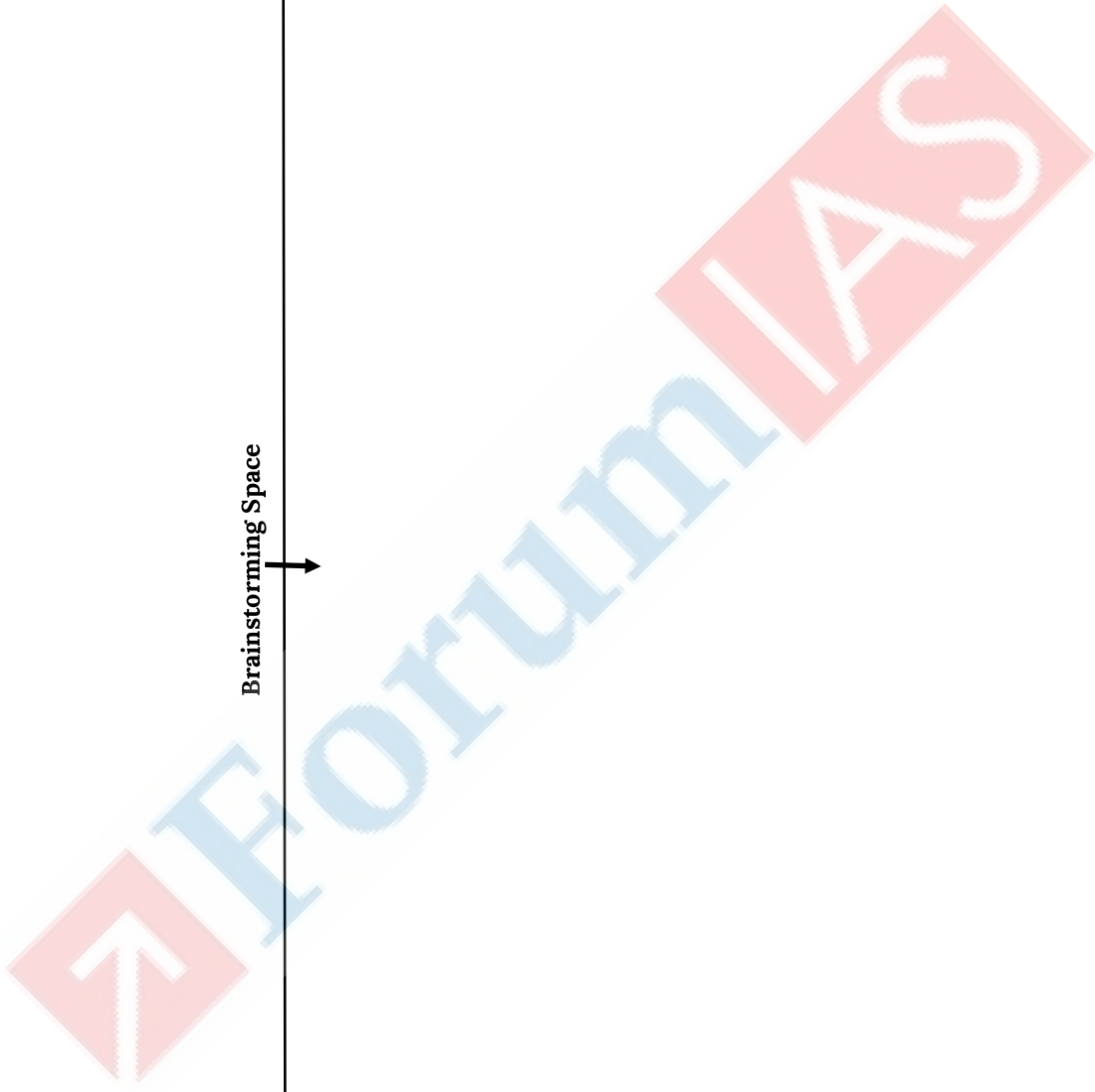


Additional Updates



Q.39) "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves" – Dalai Lama (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

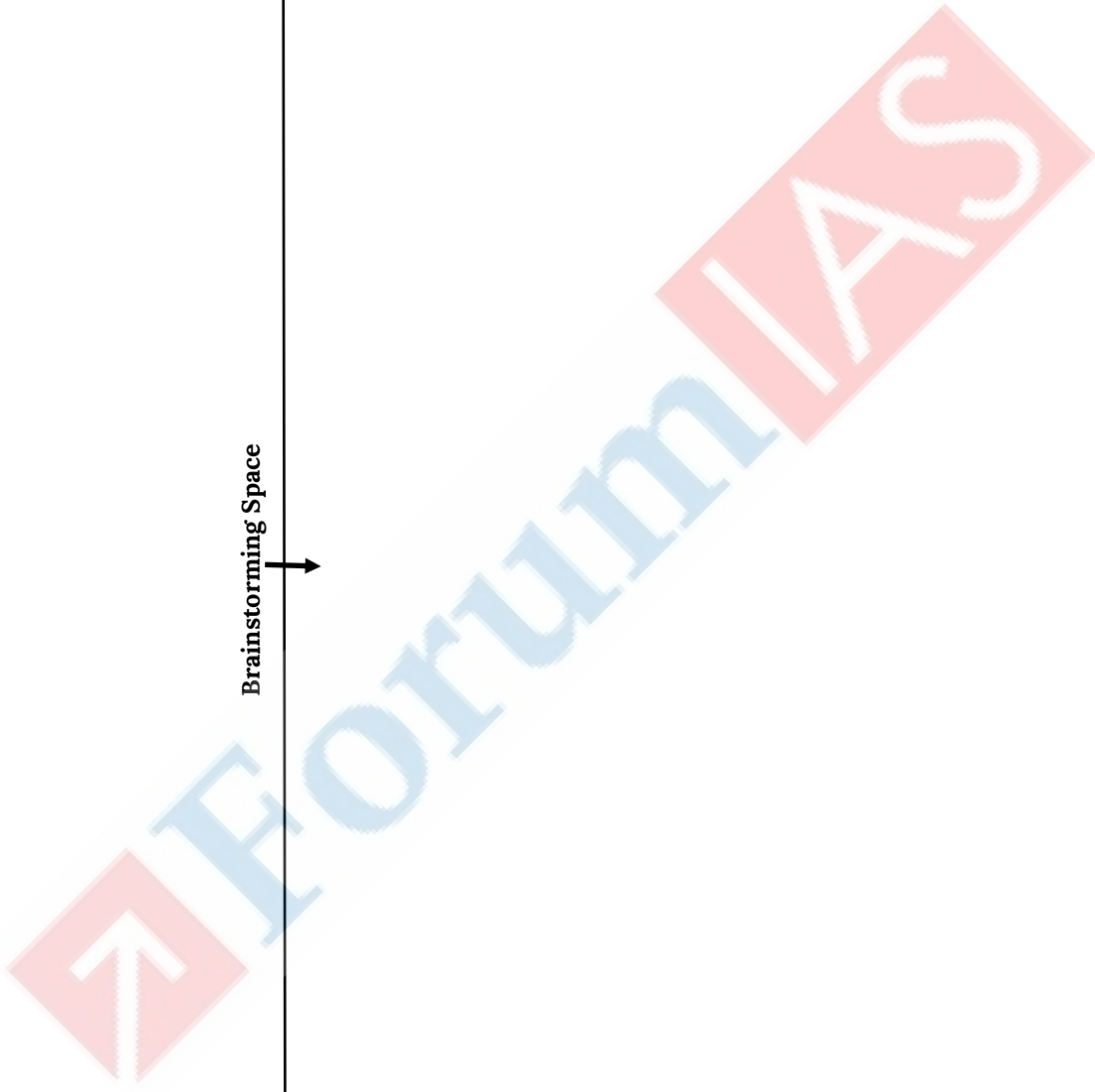
Brainstorming Space





Q.40) "Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that it is better for us all" – Erik Erikson
(10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

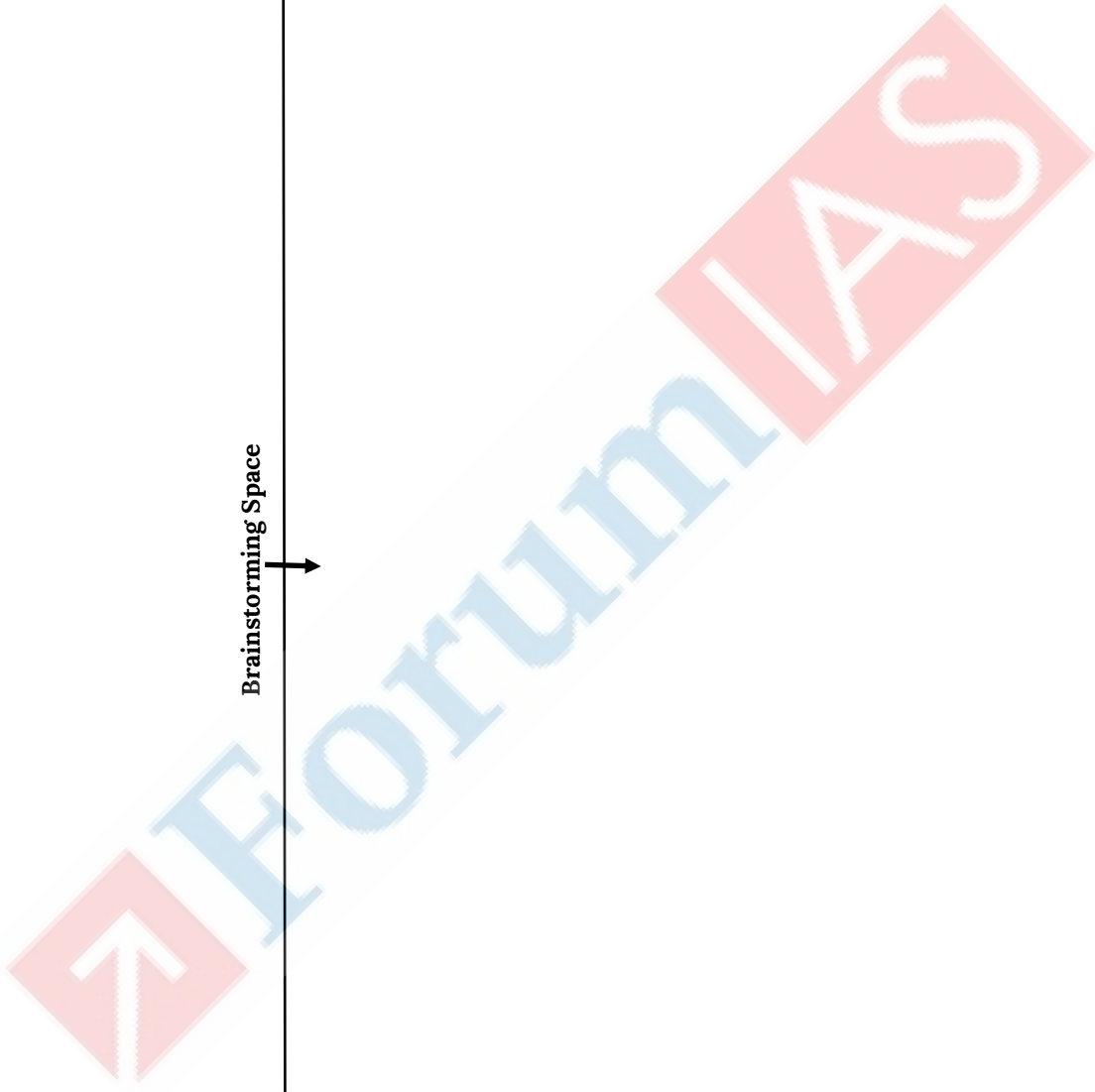
Brainstorming Space





Q.41) What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

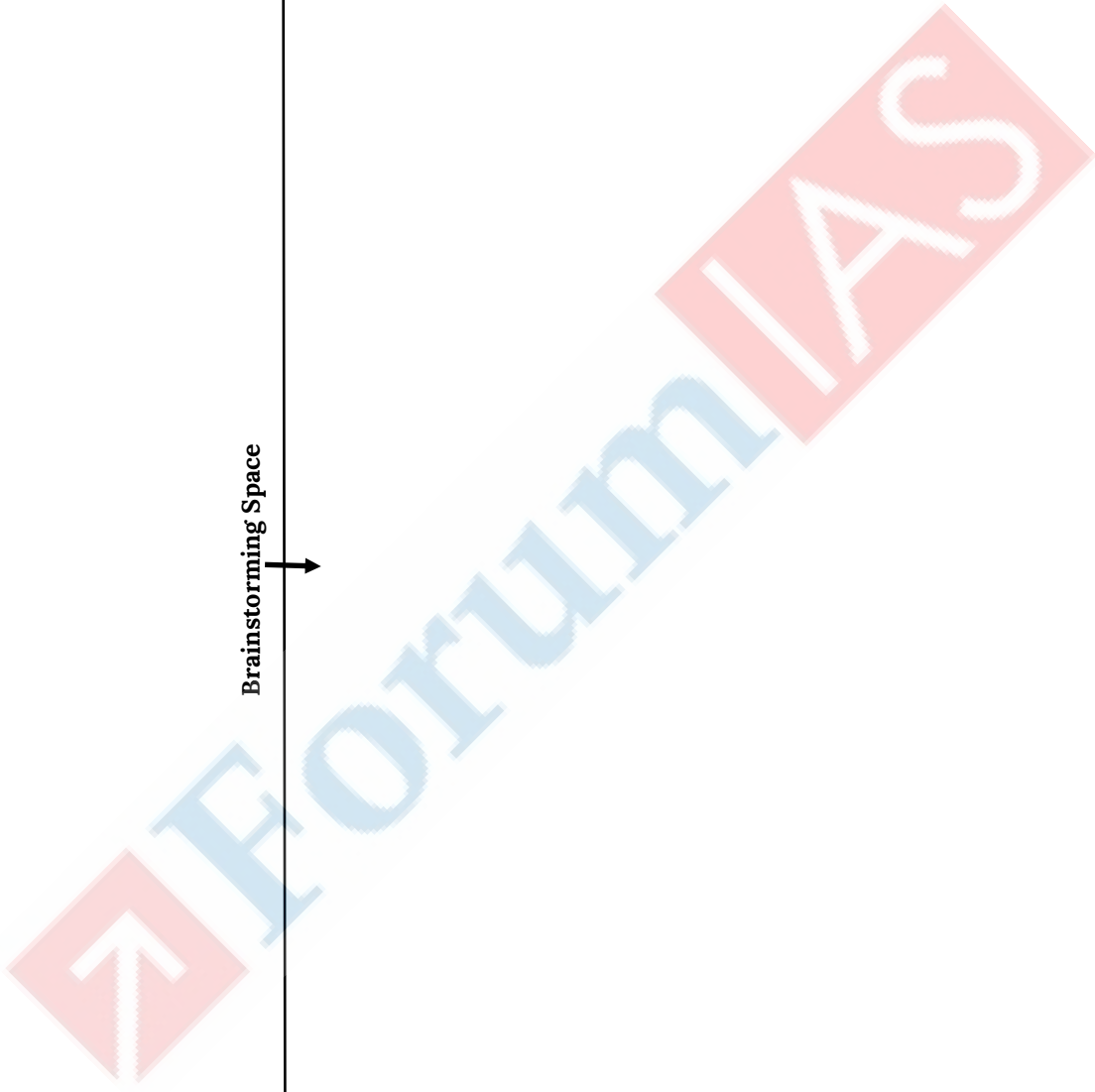
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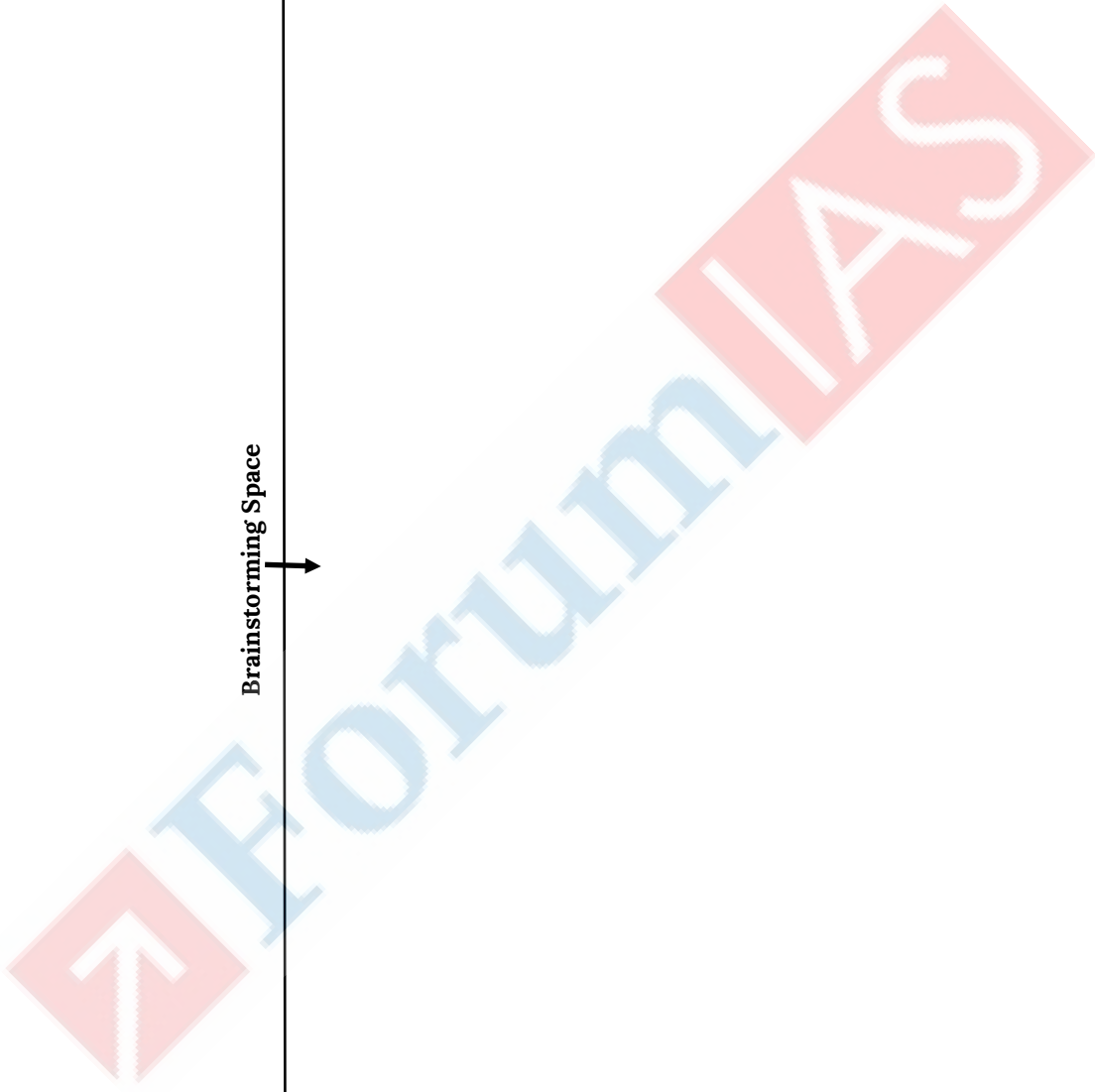
Q.42) What are the main factors responsible for gender responsibility in India ? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



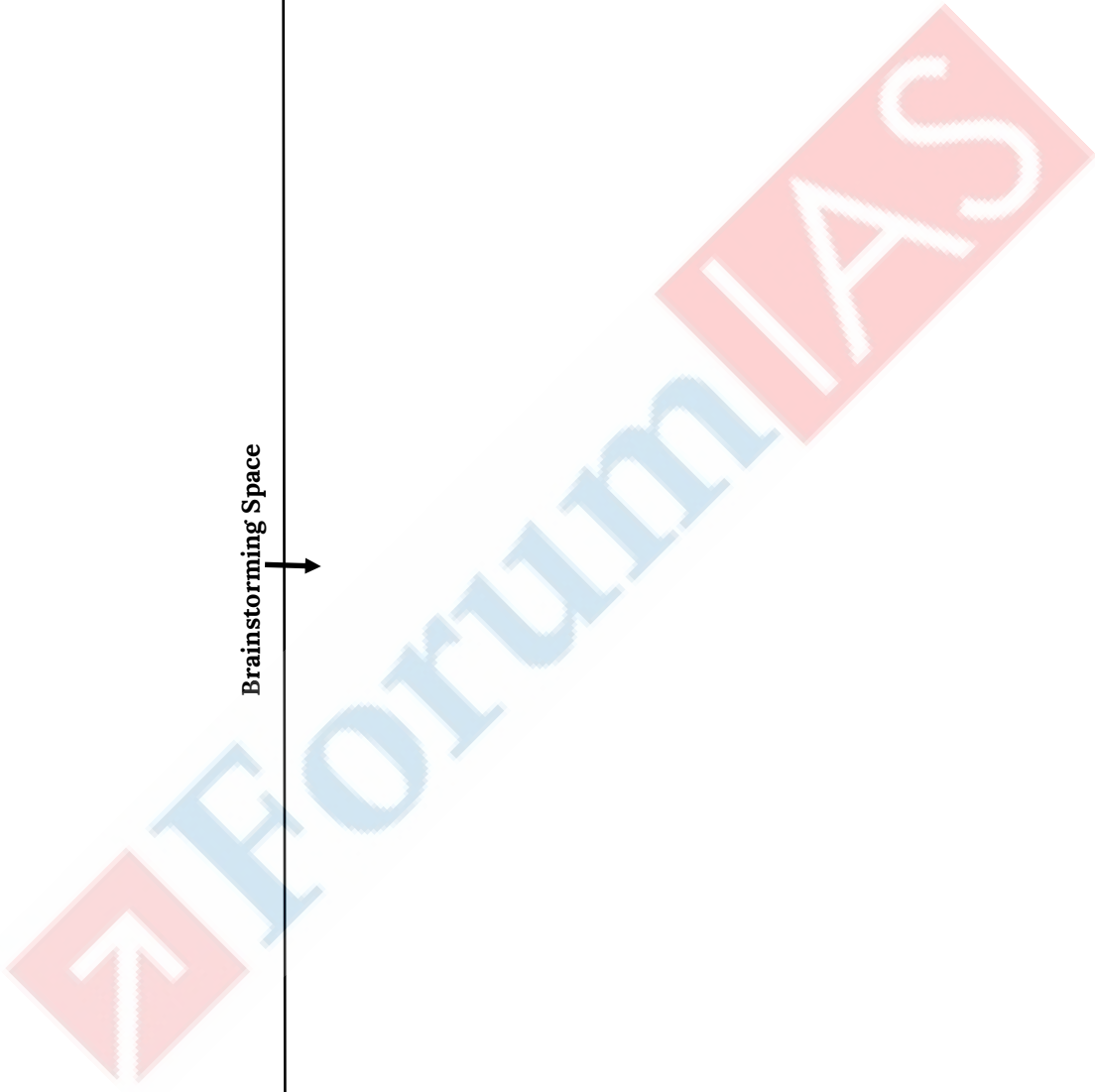
Q.43) "Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand do so. If not fold your hands, bless your brothers and let them go their own way."
- Swami Vivekanand (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.44) "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others ." Mahatma Gandhi
(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

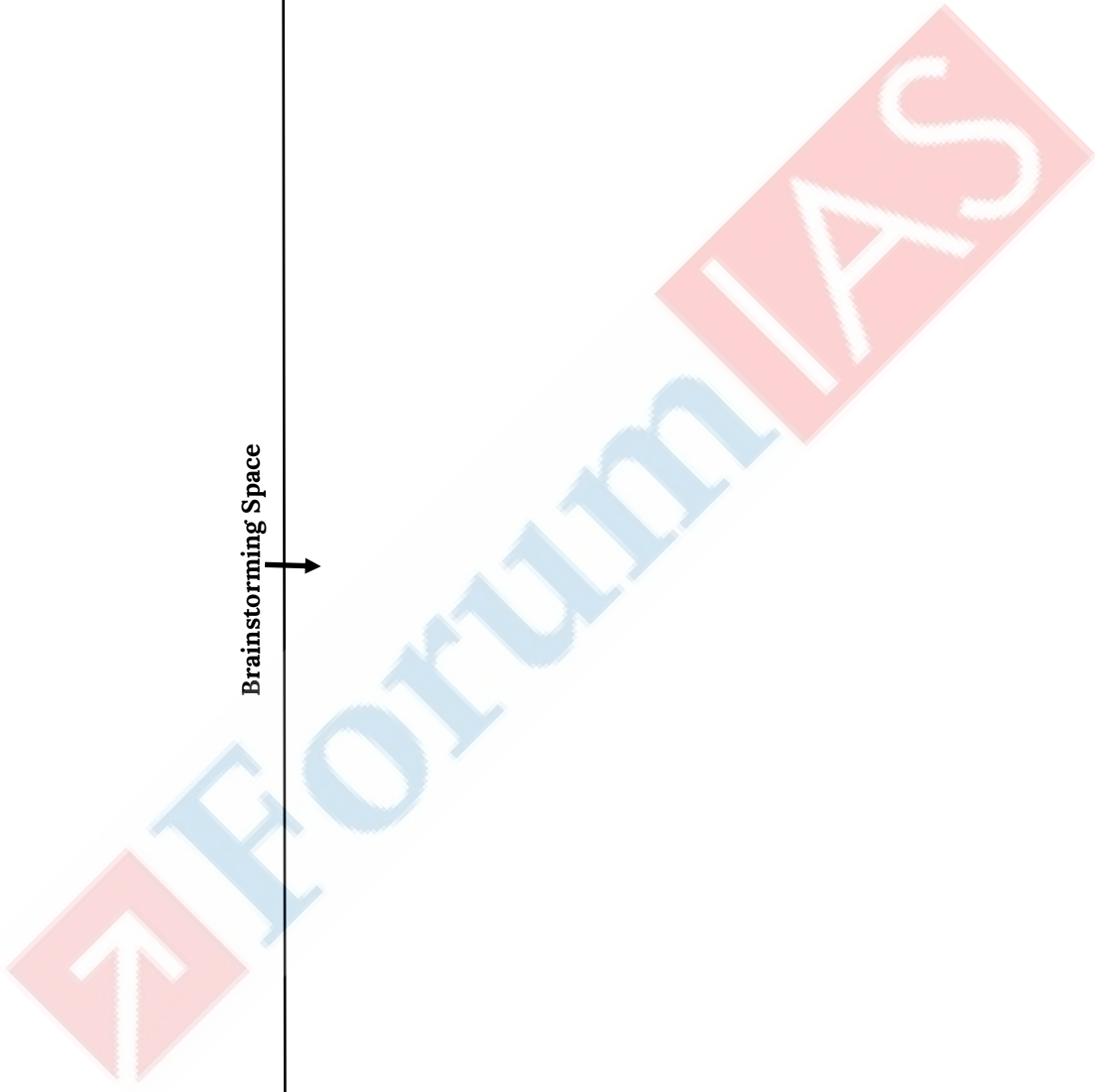
Brainstorming Space





Q.45) "A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true." – Socrates. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

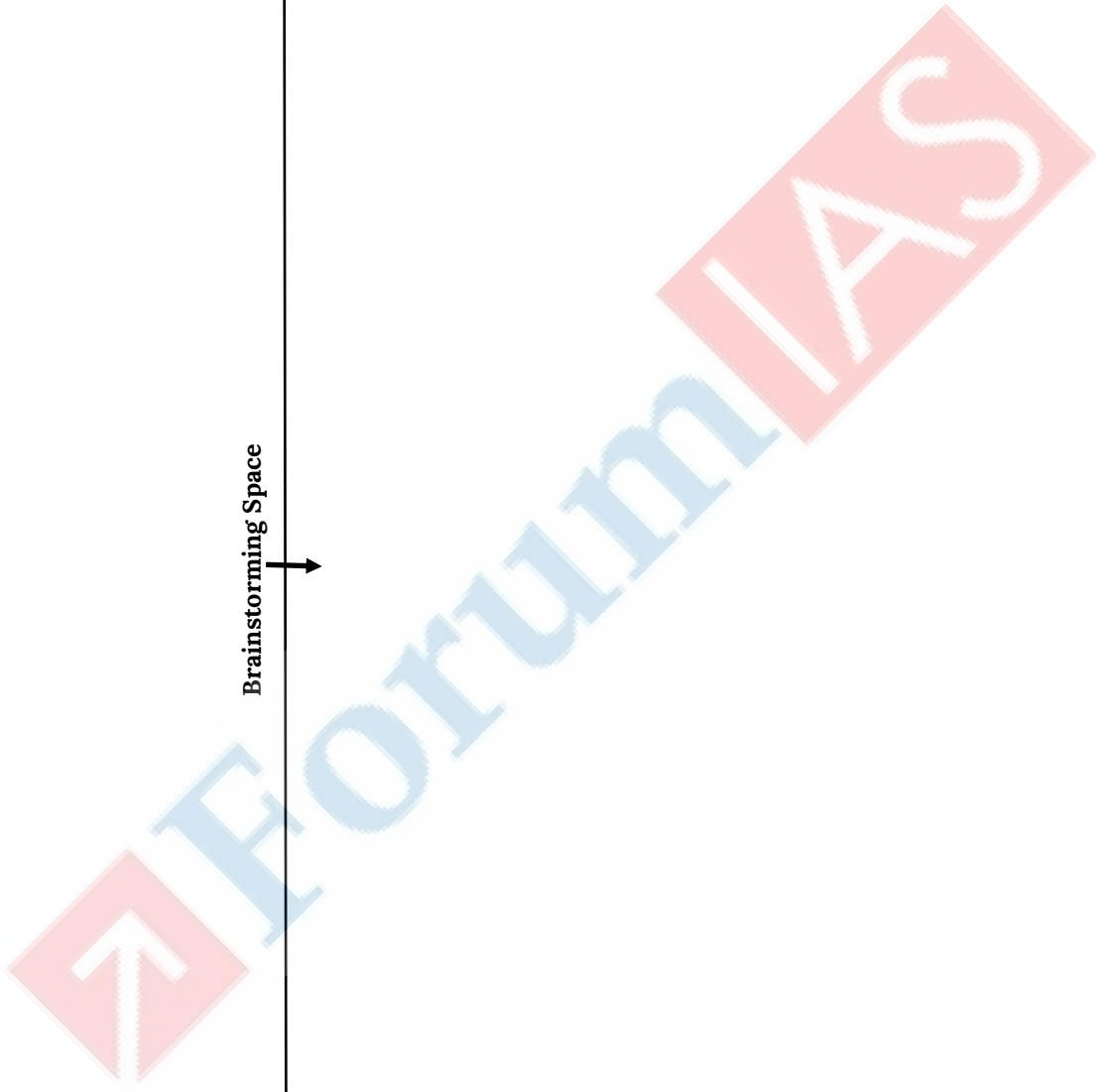


Additional Updates



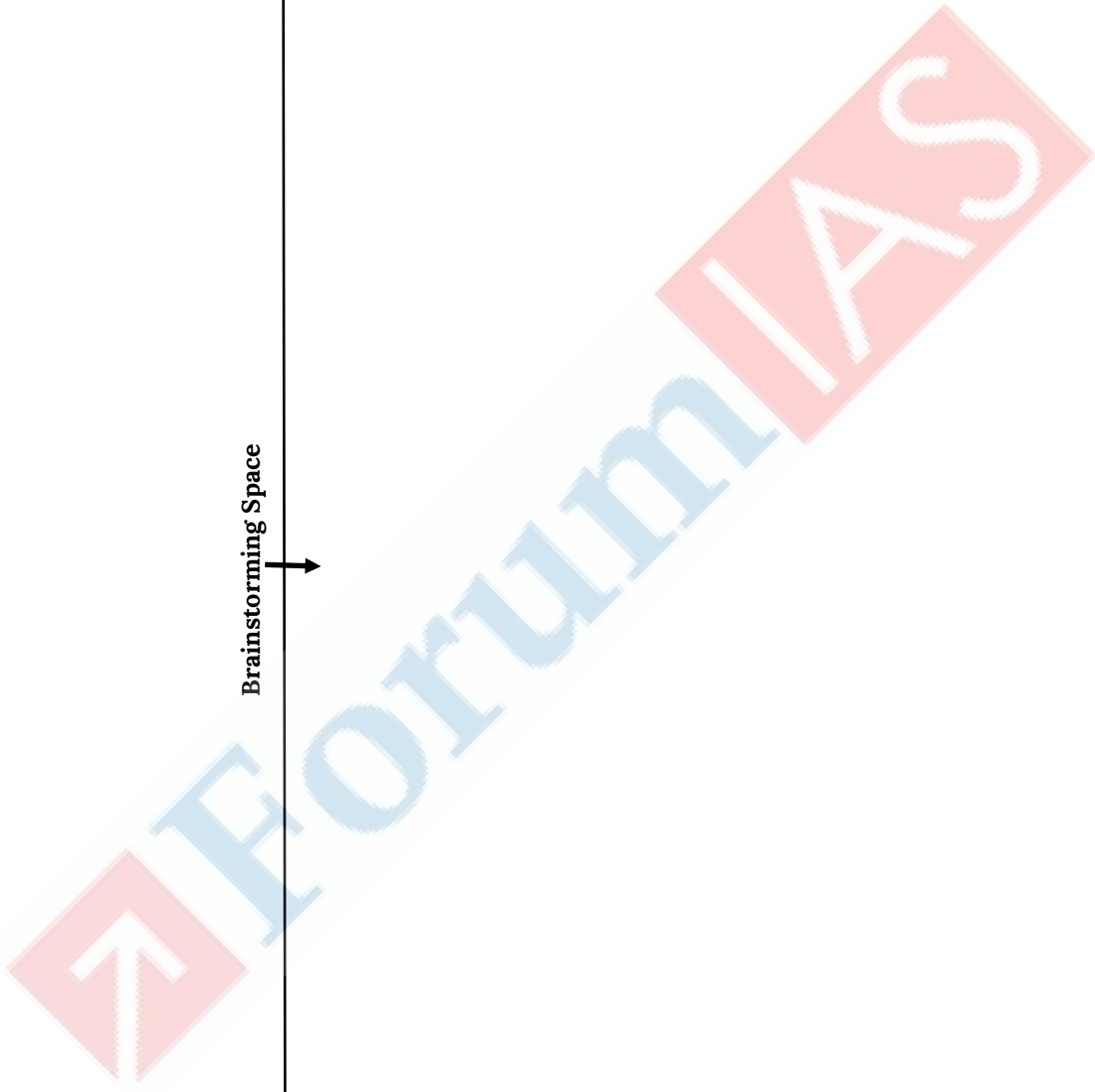
Q.46) "An unexamined life is not worth living". – Socrates
(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



Q.47) "A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes." - M.K. Gandhi
(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



Q.48) "Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world" – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

Q.49) "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space

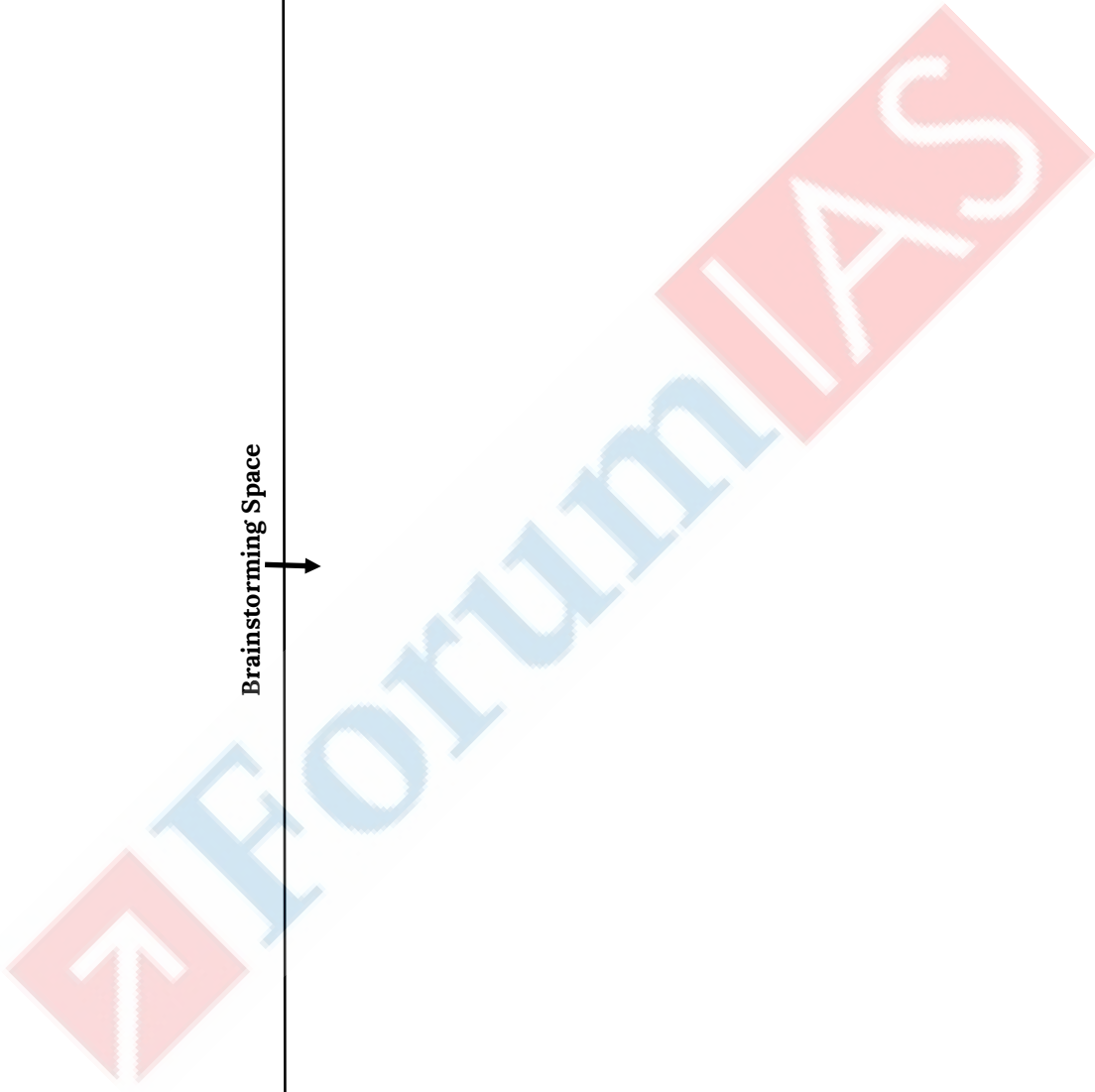
Additional Updates



Q.50) Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

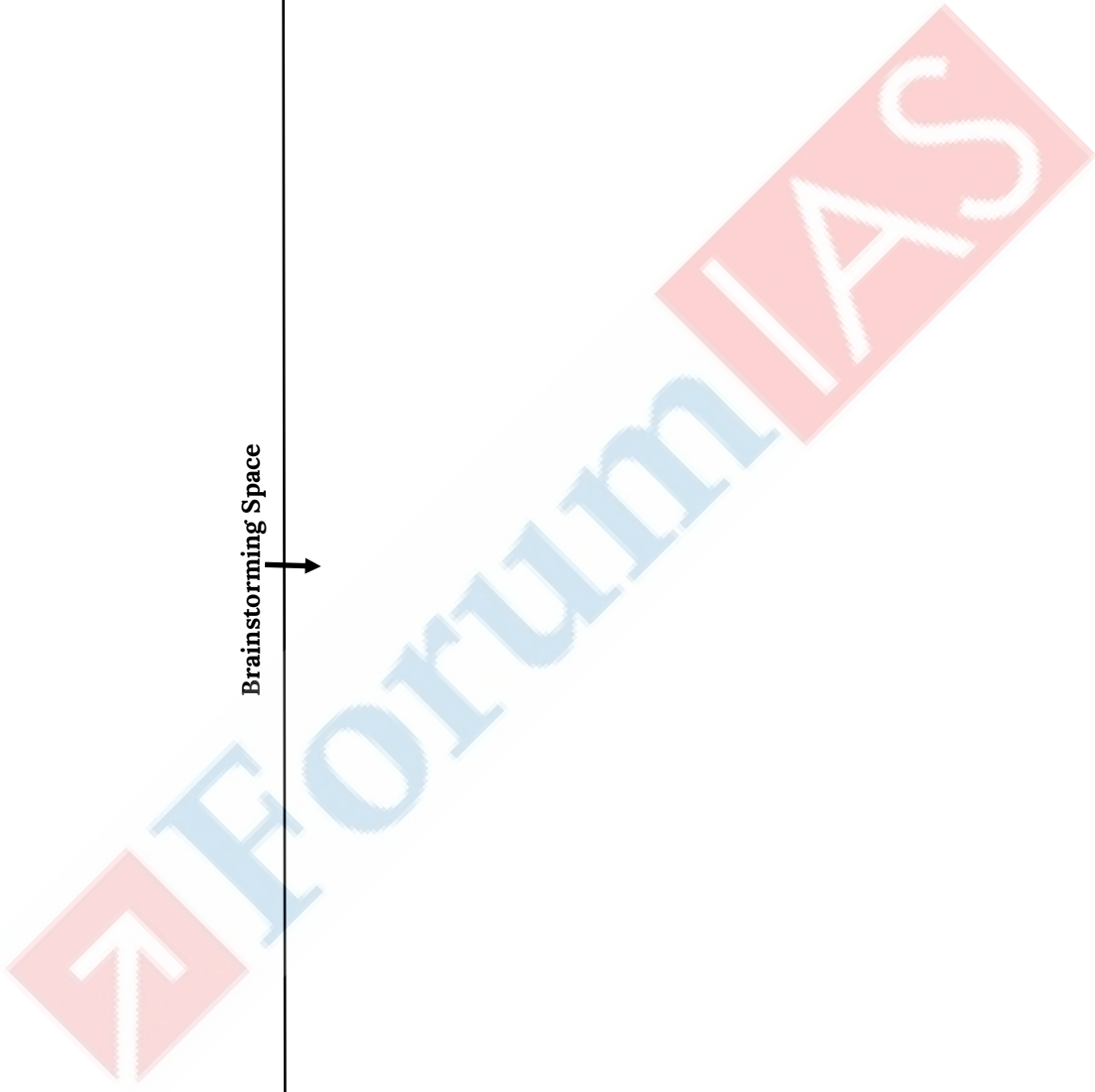
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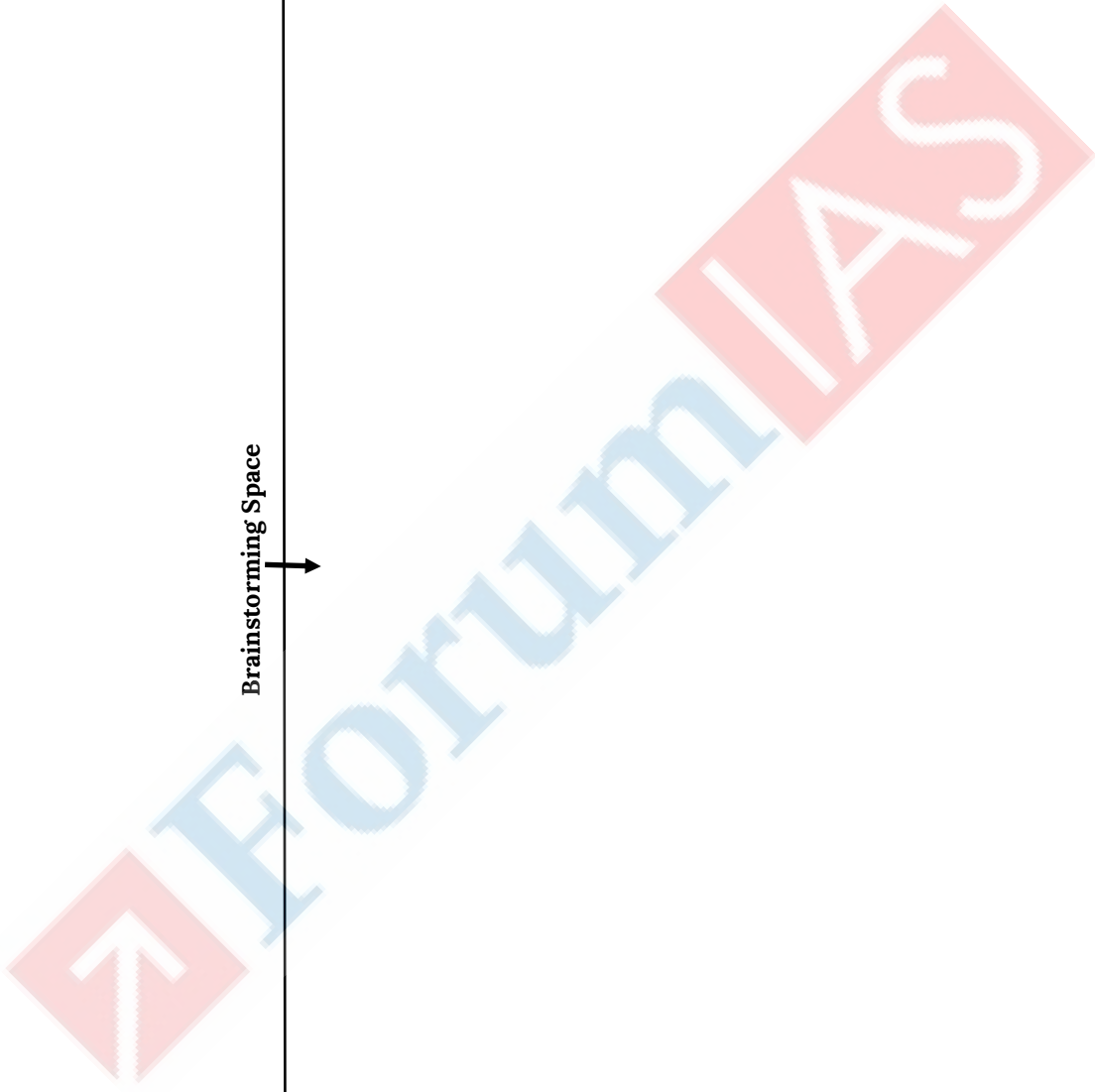
Q.51) Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.52) Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, Administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national Development. Discuss Kautilya's views. (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



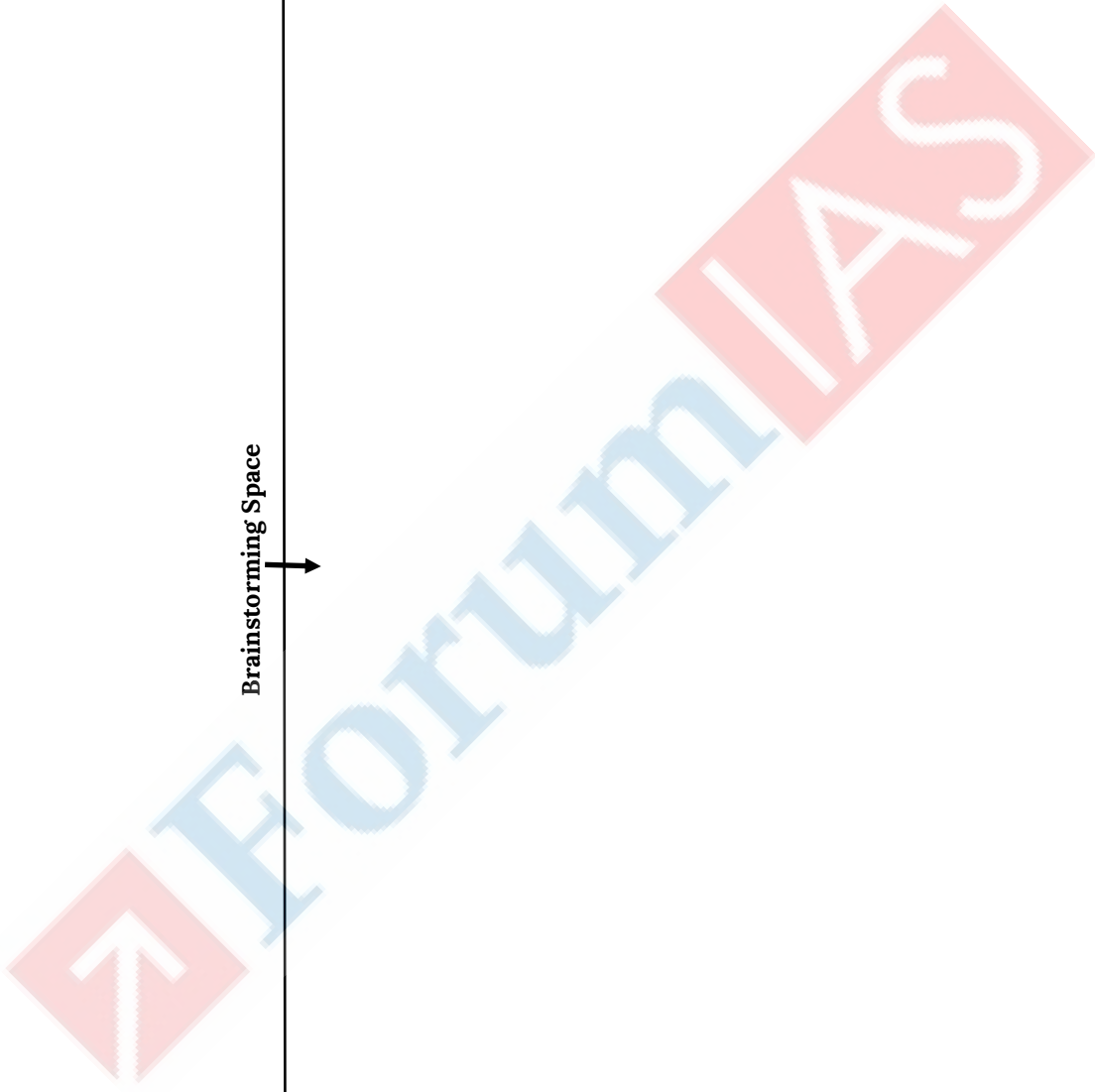
Q.53) Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality. Critically analyse this statement. (15 marks, 250 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.54) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."
(10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

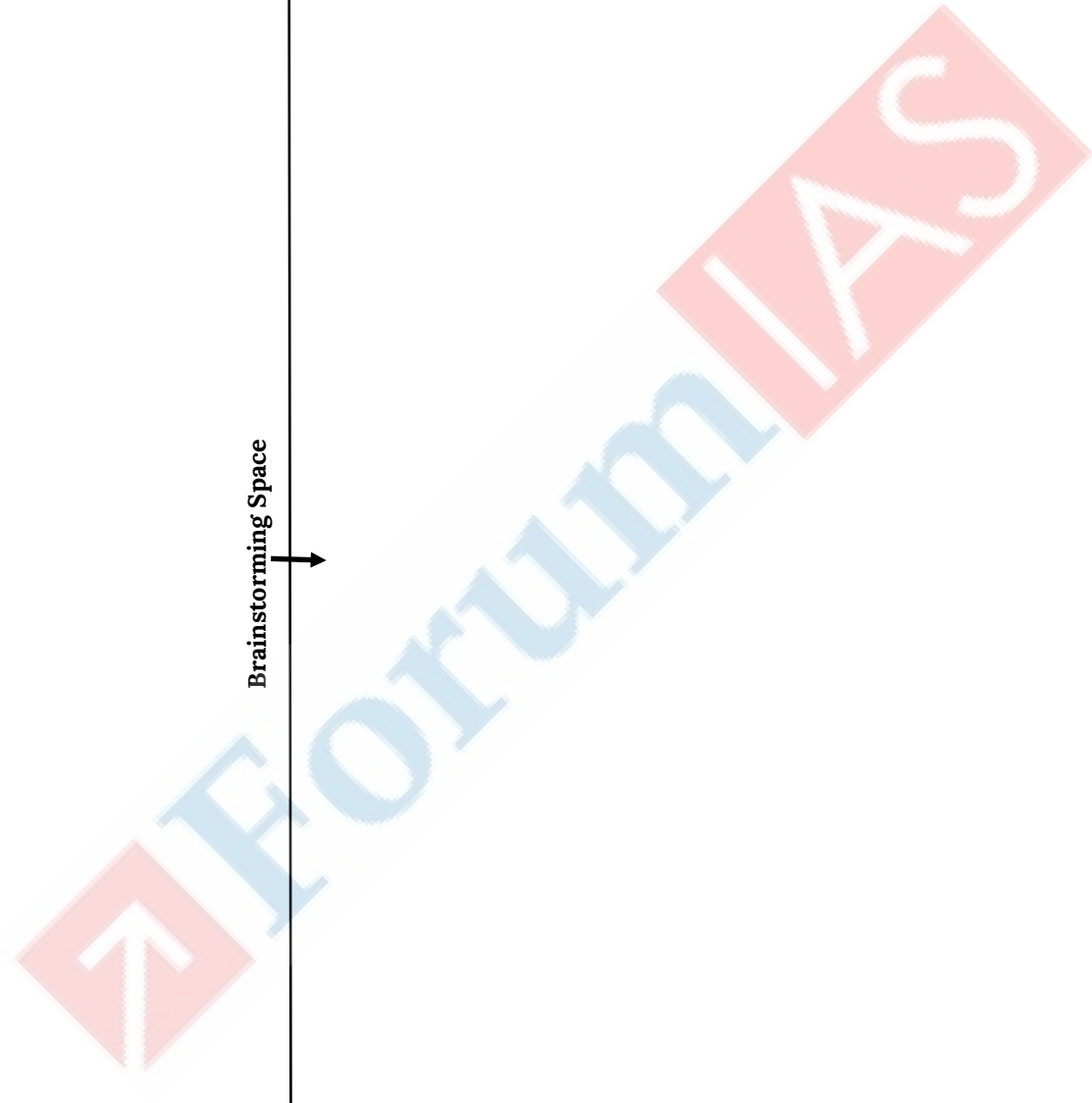
Brainstorming Space



Q.55) We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space

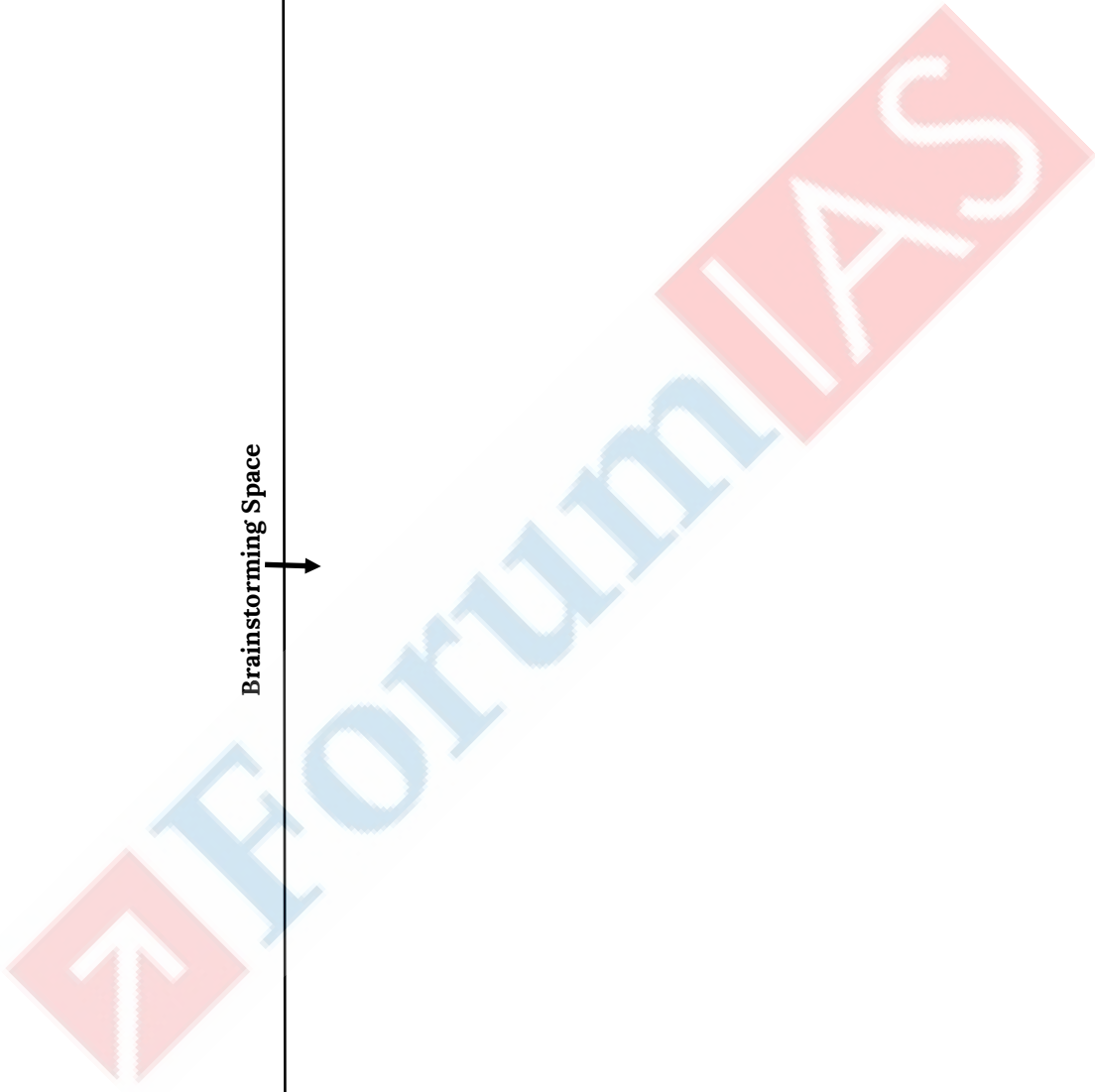


Q.56) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples; describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

Q.57) There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed. Mahatma Gandhi.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

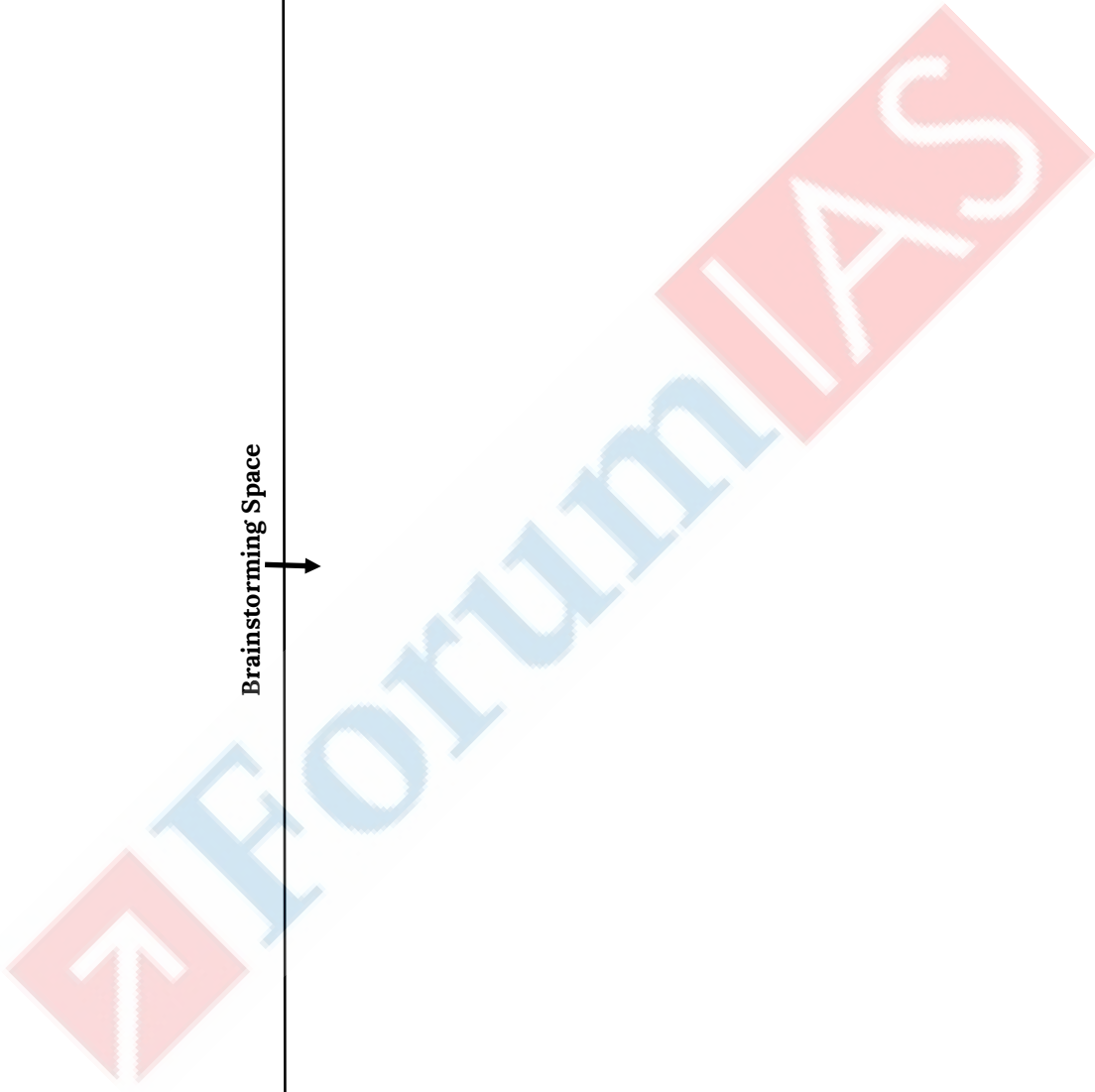
Brainstorming Space





Q.58) Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. –Abraham Lincoln
(10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

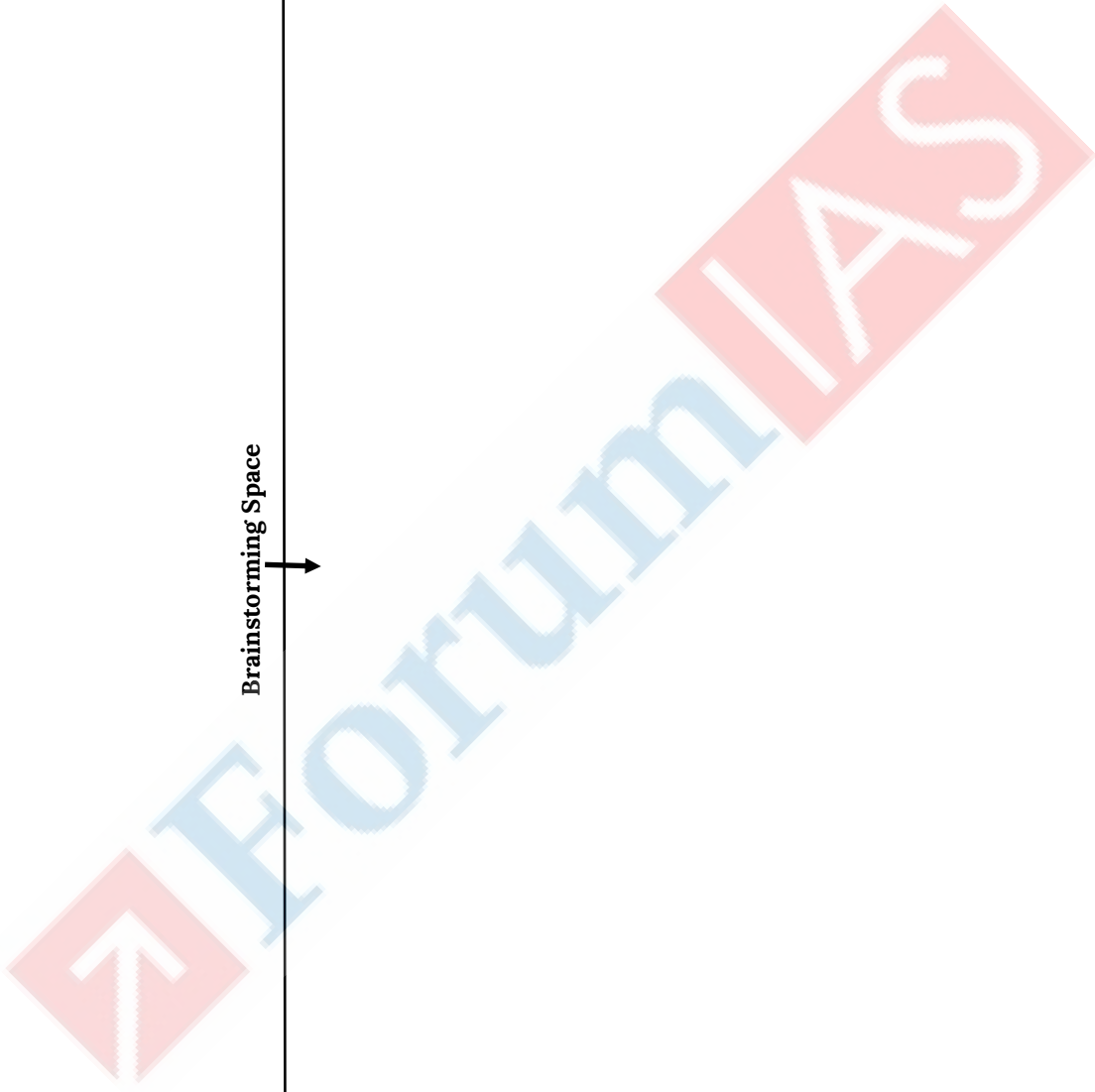
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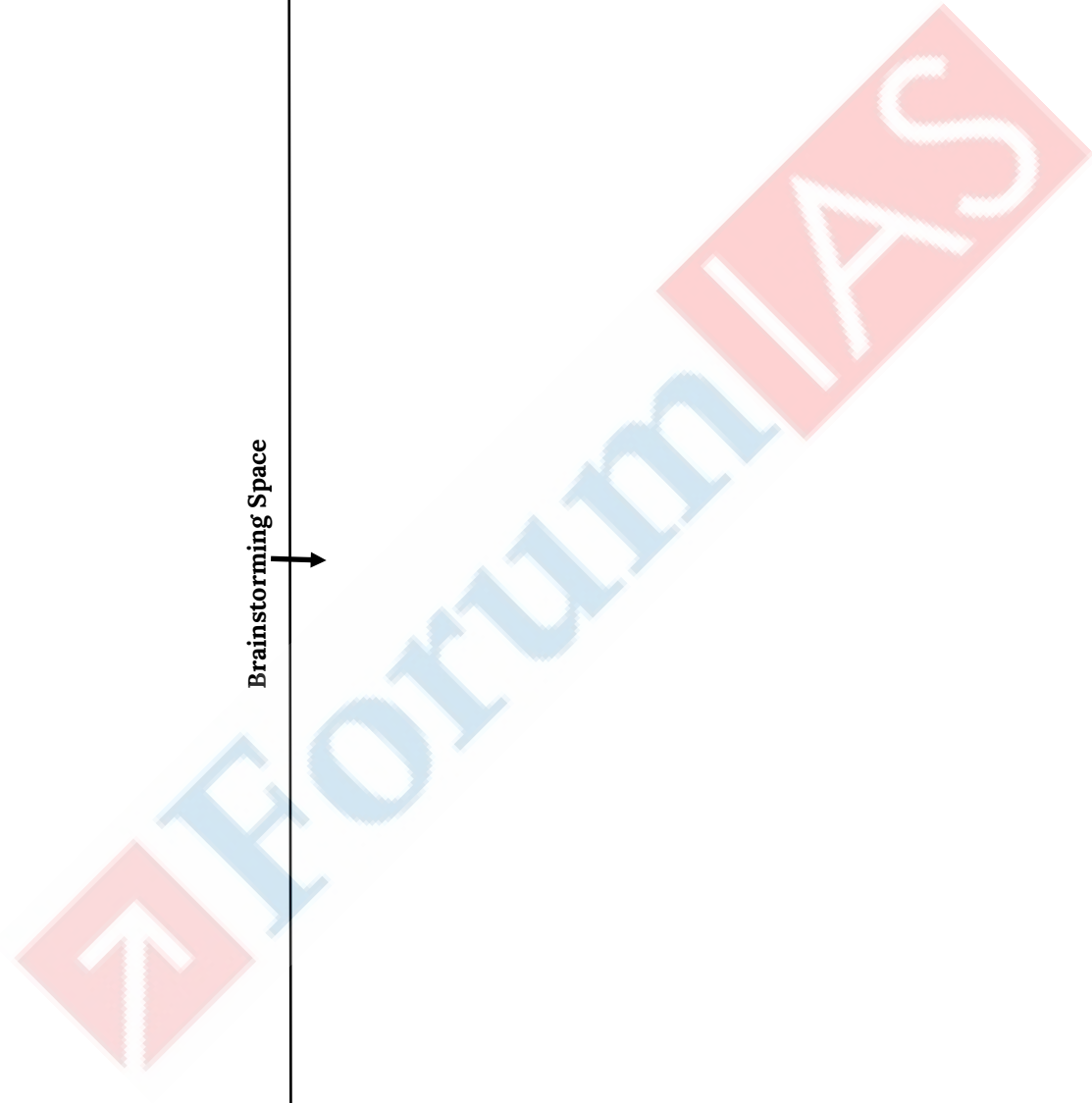
Q.59) I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies. –Aristotle (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.60) Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



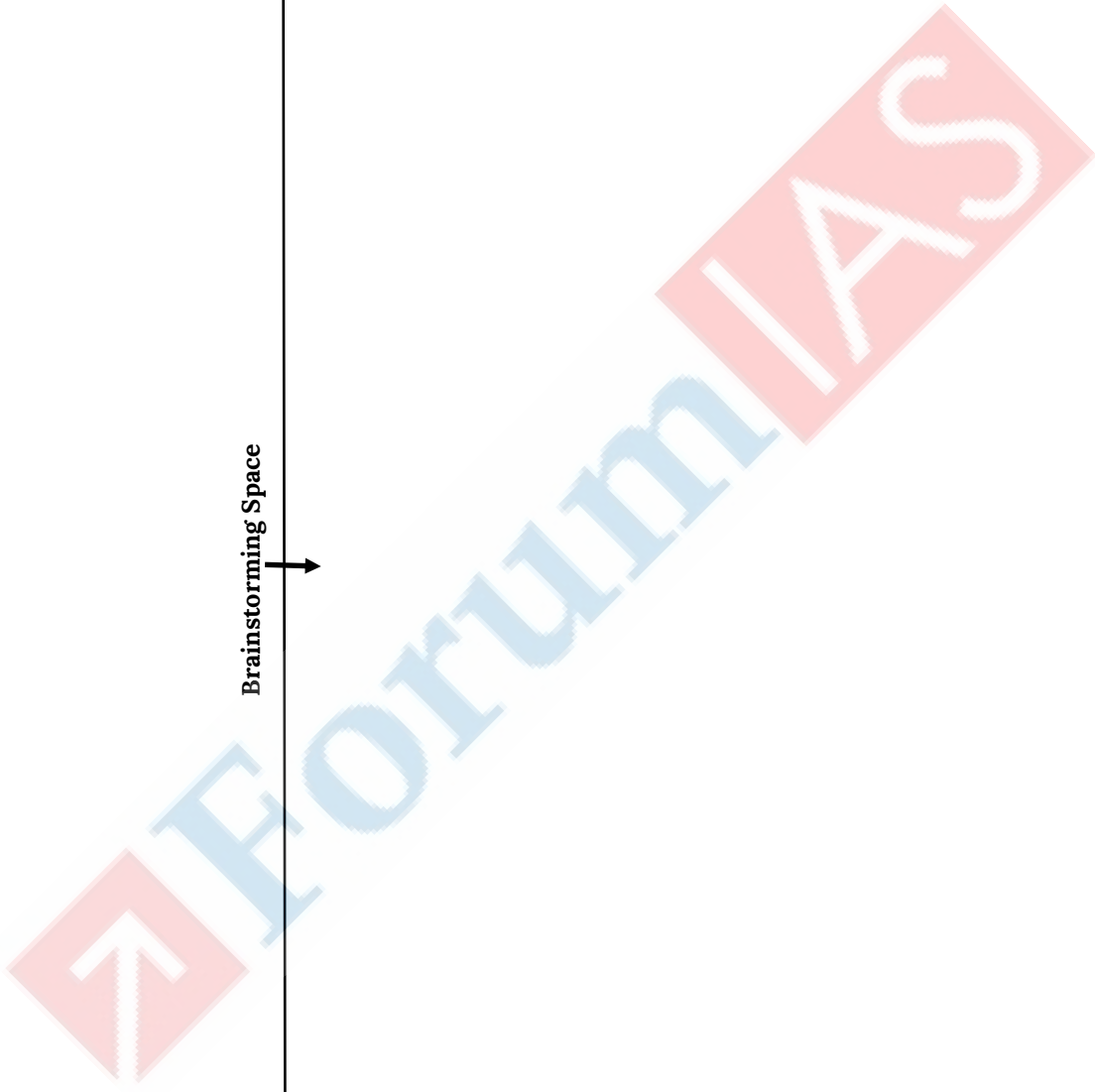
Q.61) "What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills – your EQ – not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(15 marks, 250 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

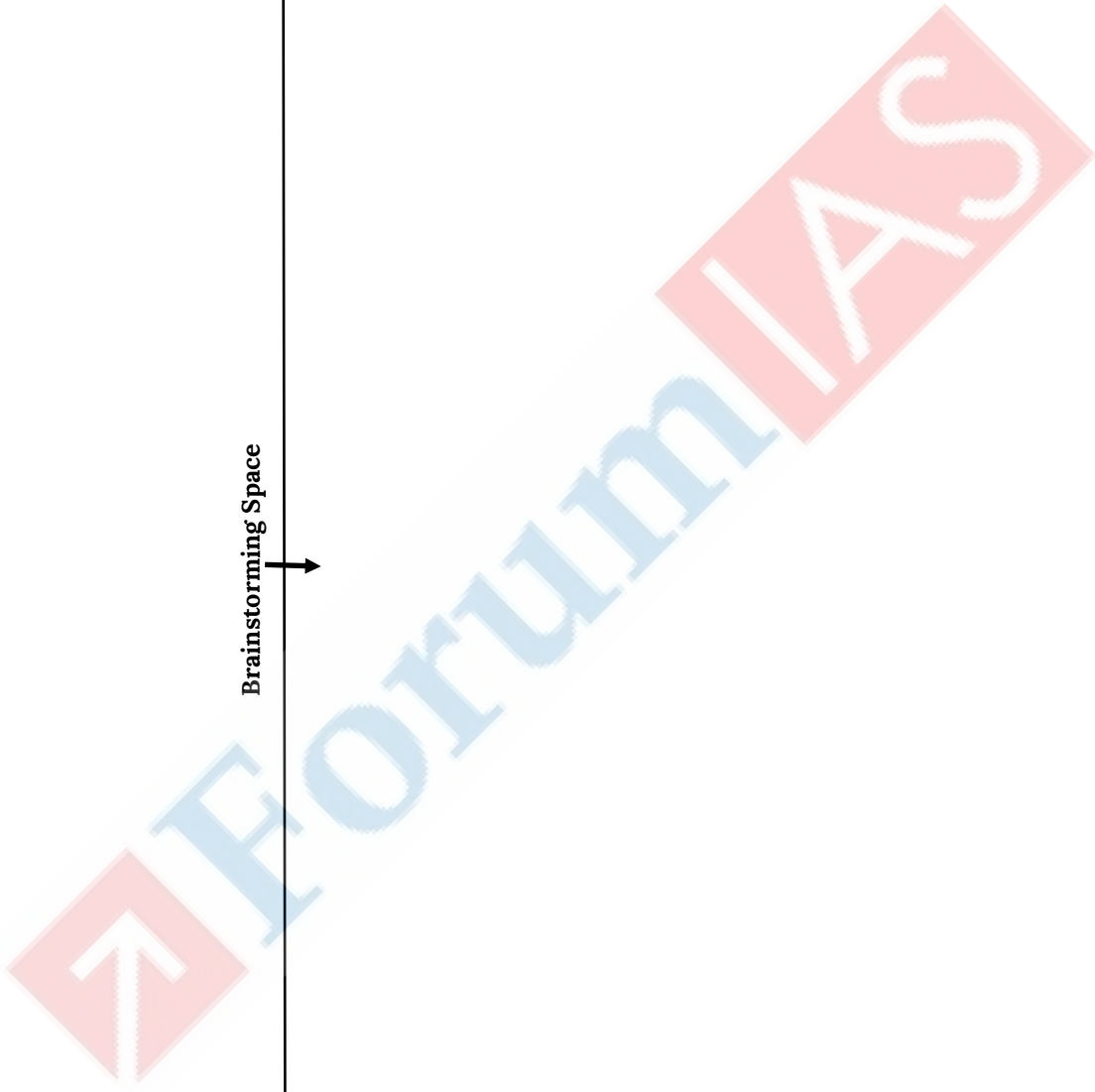
Q.62) "One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life."
Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



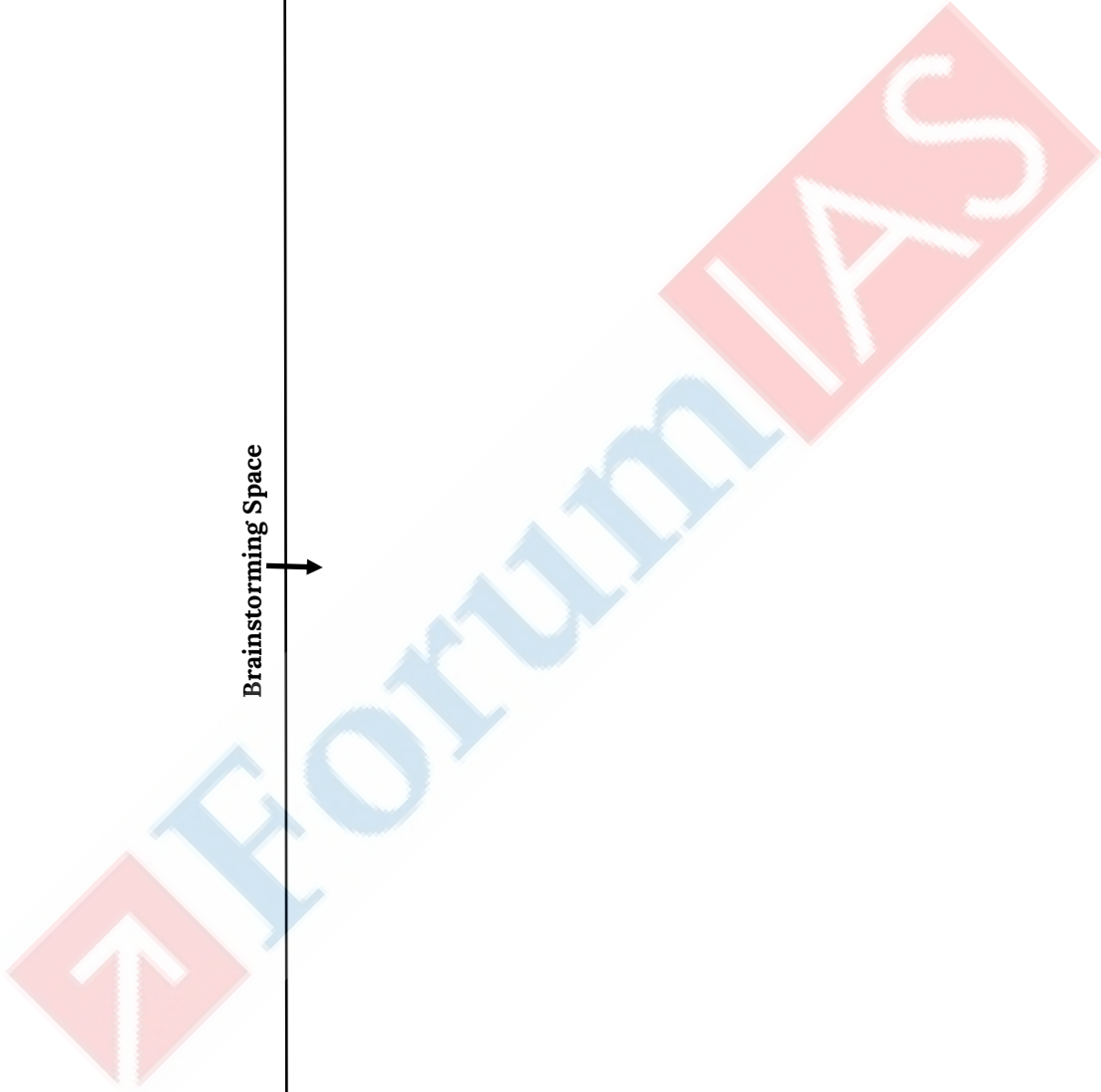
Q.63) Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human beings. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



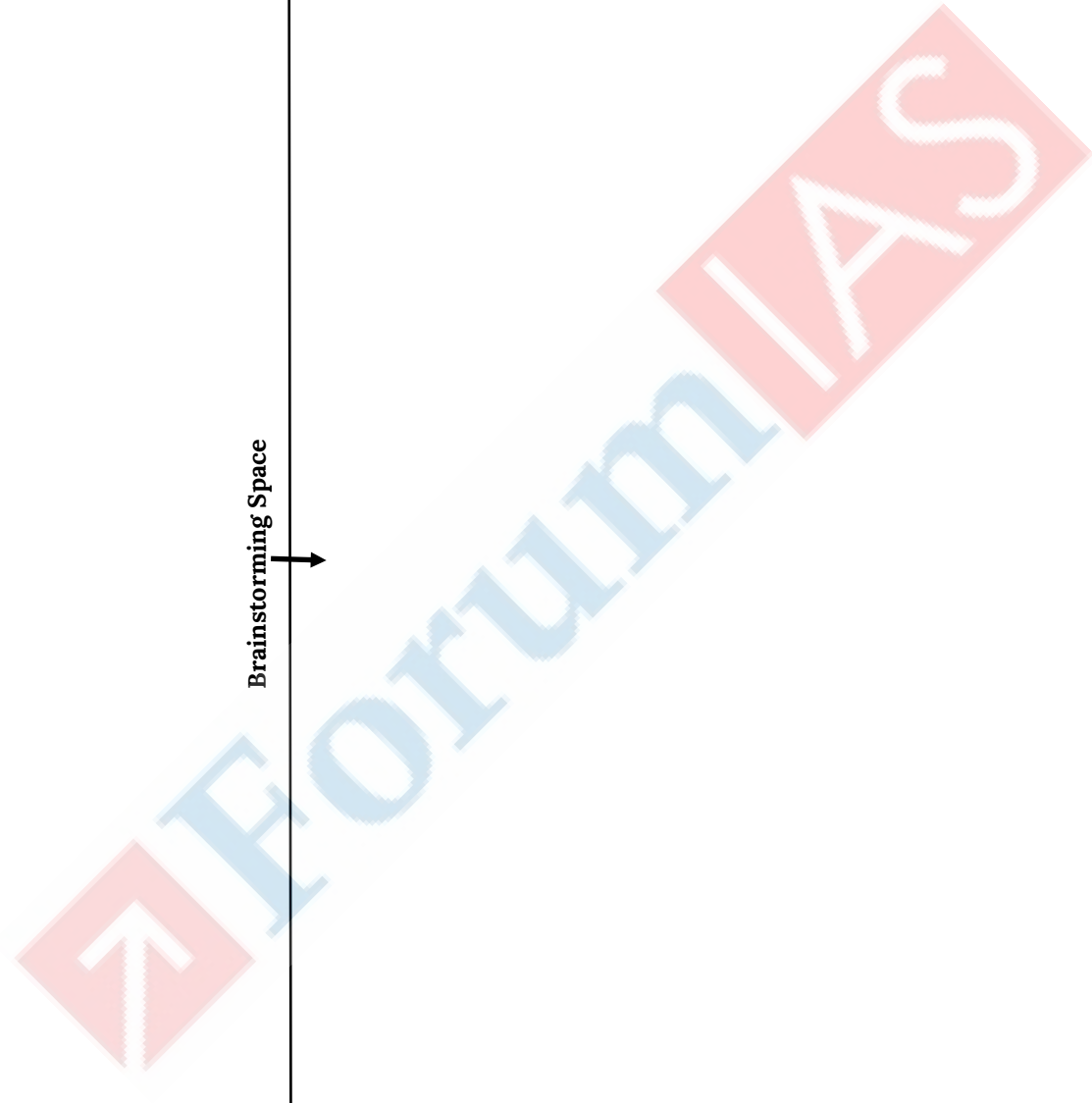
Q.64) A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes a positive attitude in person.?(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.65) Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



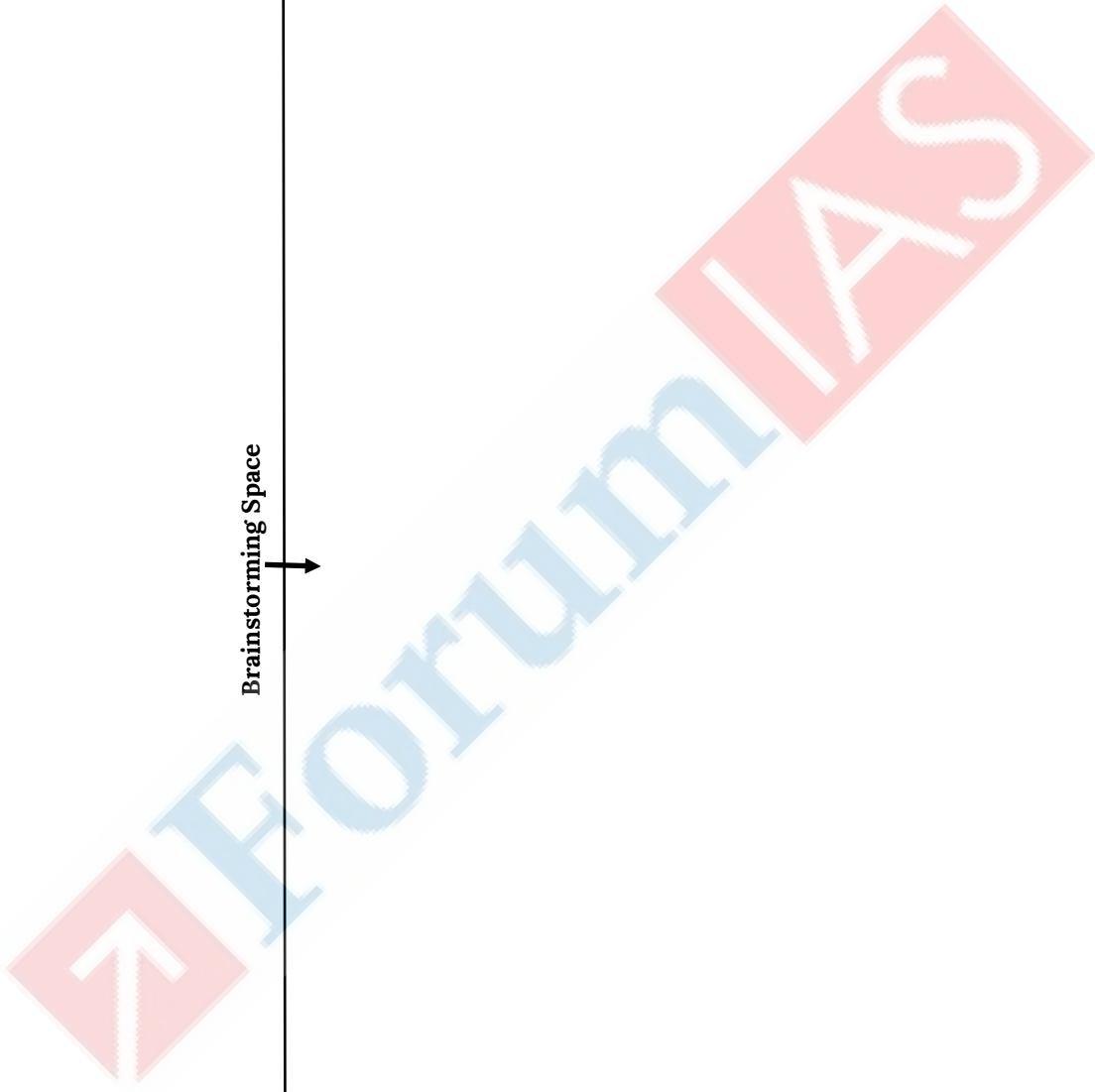
Q.66) In the context of defence services, 'patriotism' demands readiness to even lay down one's life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

Q.67) It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space

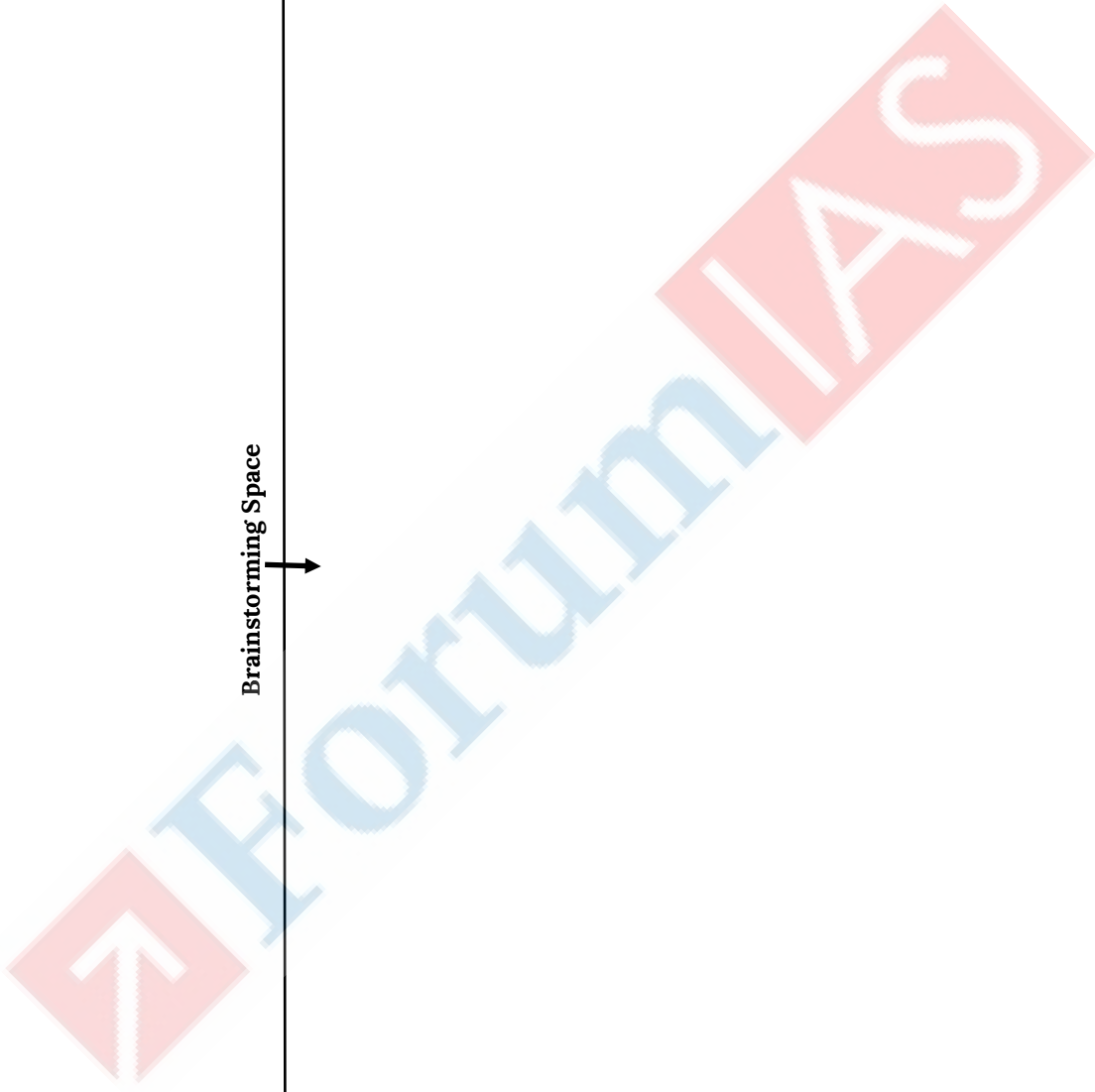


Q.68) “Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social transformation”. Examine the New Education Policy,2020(NEP,2020)in light of the above statement. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

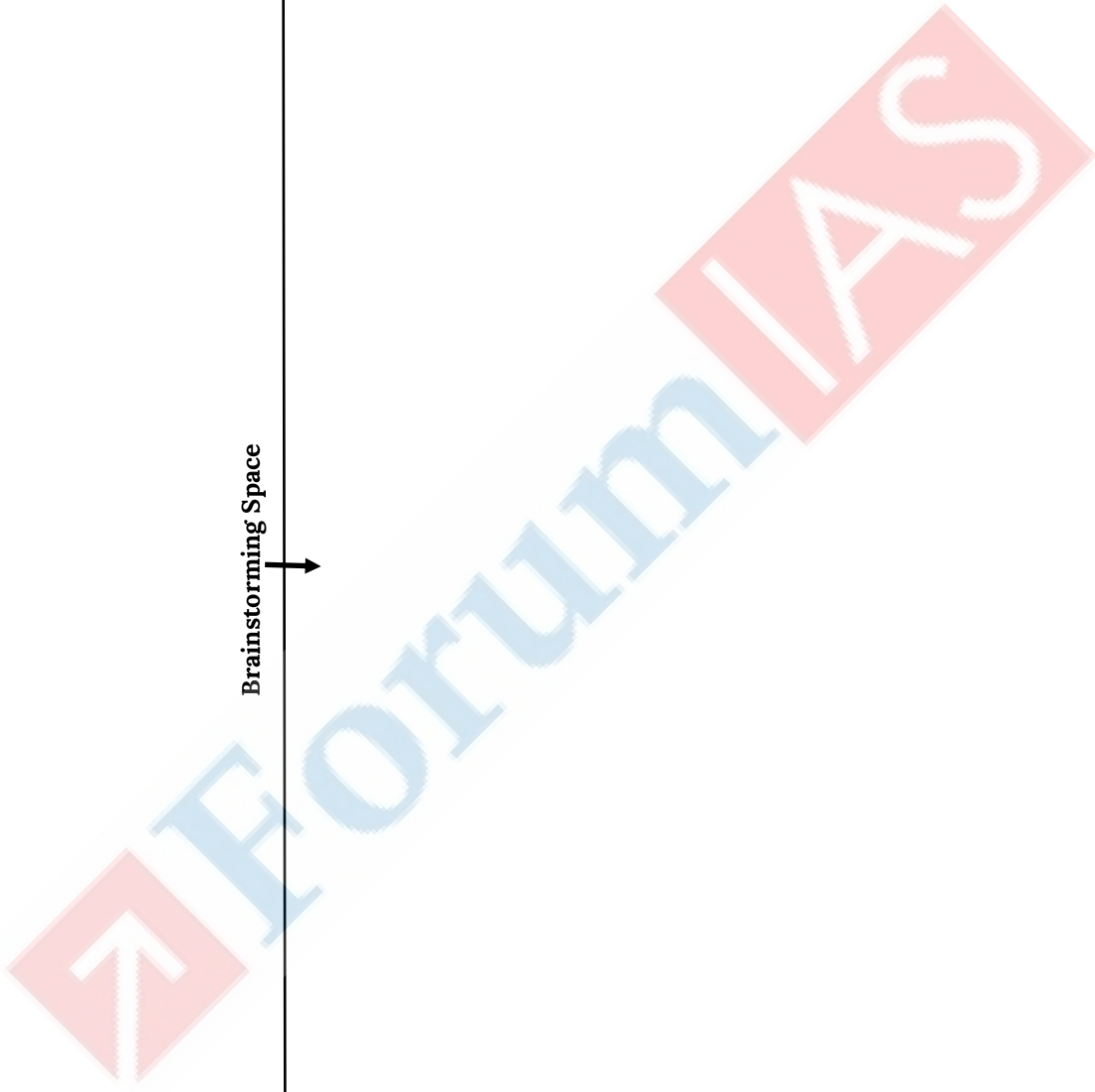
Q.69) 'Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.70) The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are in conflict with traditional values. Discuss.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.71) Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of modern democratic and egalitarian society.

(a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians.

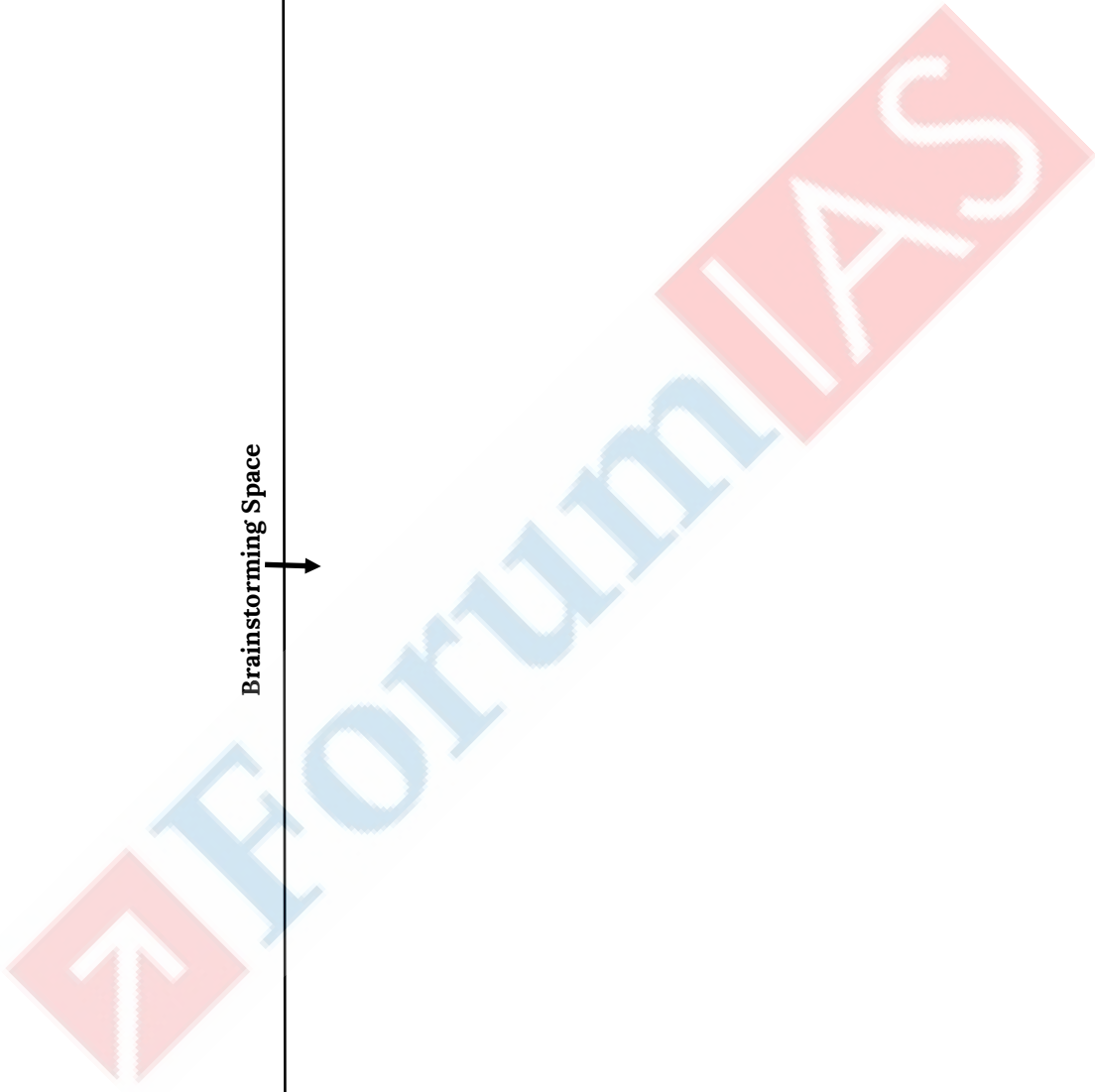
(b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?

(10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space

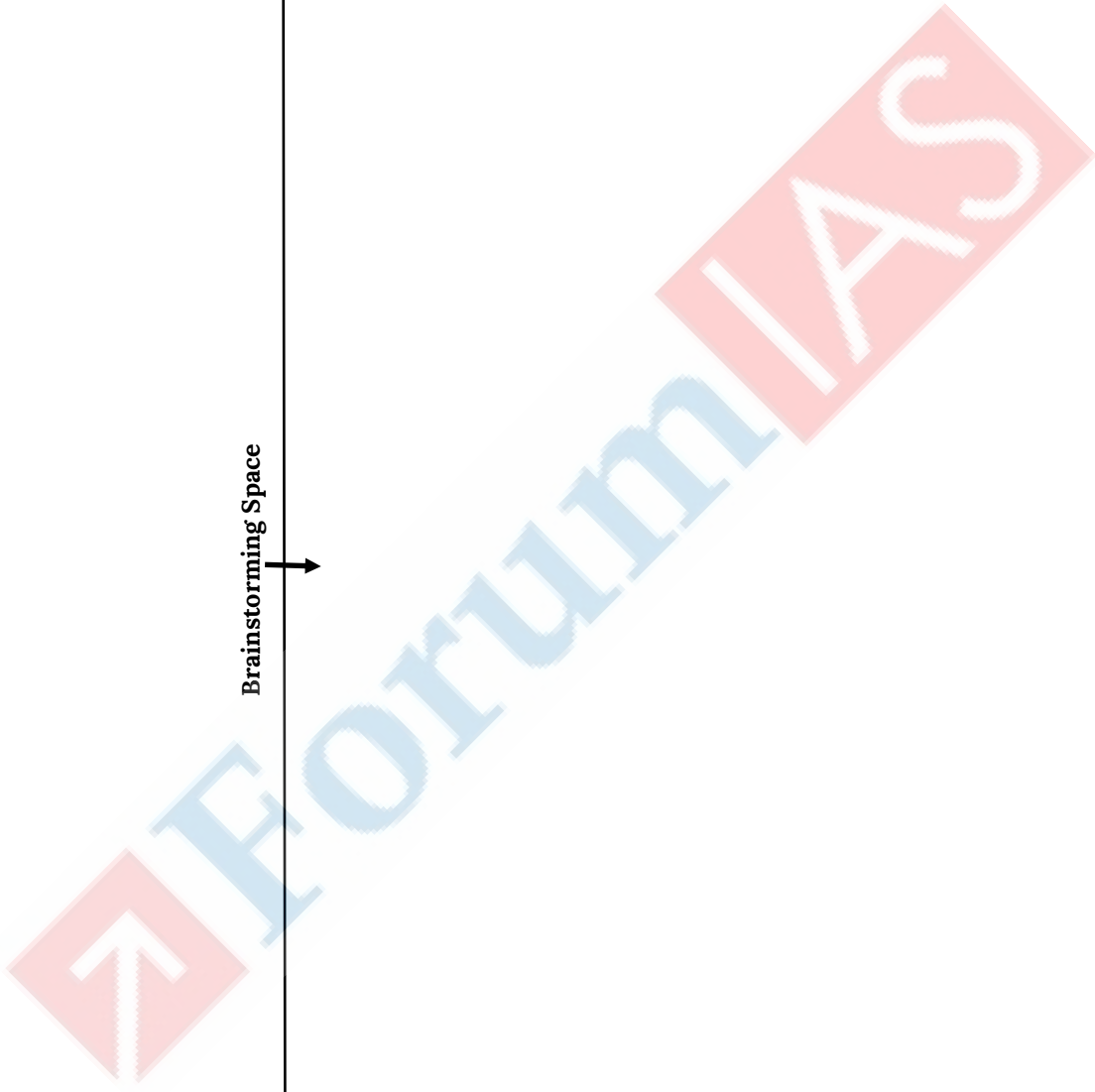
Q.72) Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space



Q.73) The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



Q.74) What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

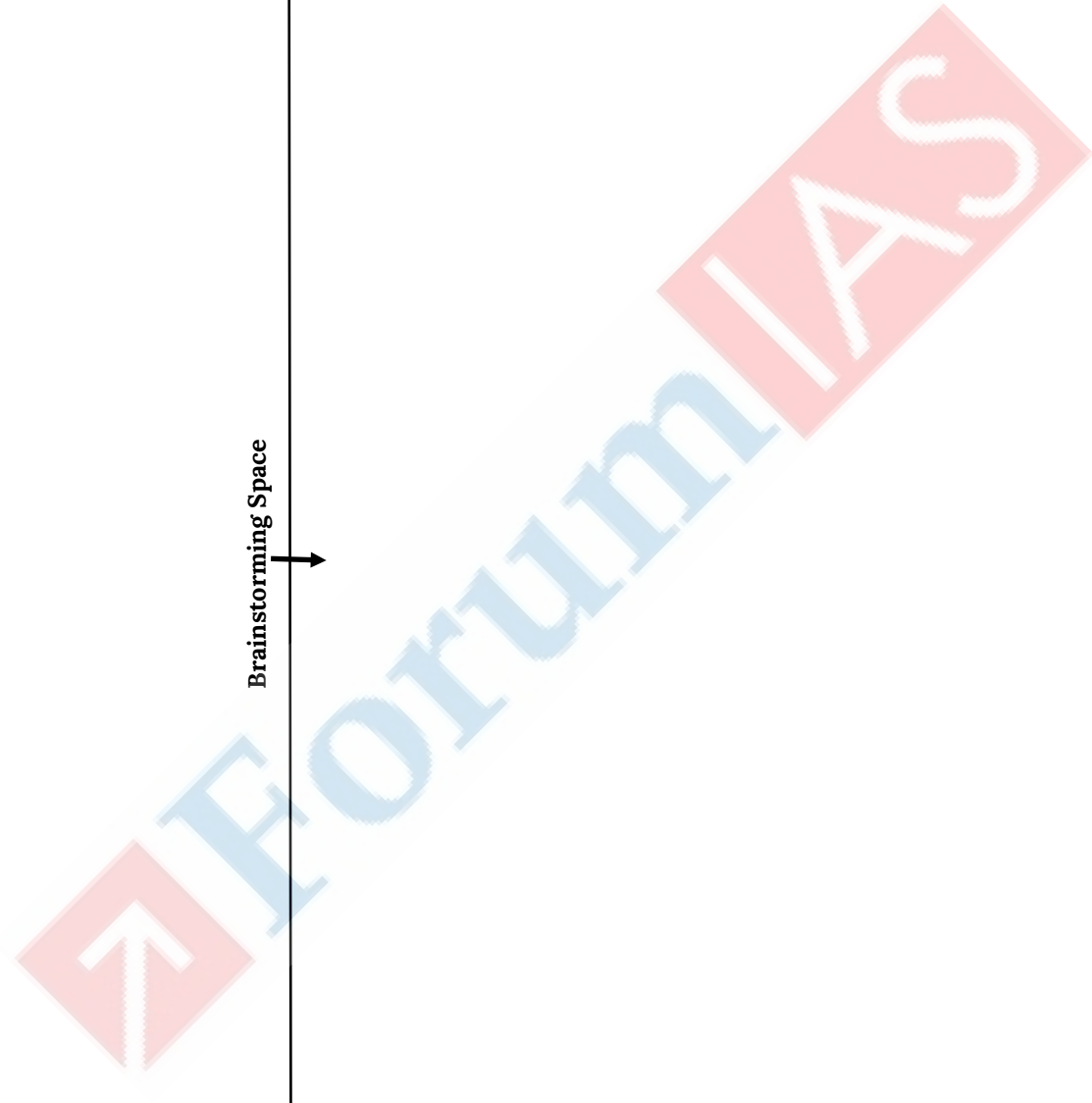
Brainstorming Space

Q.75) We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

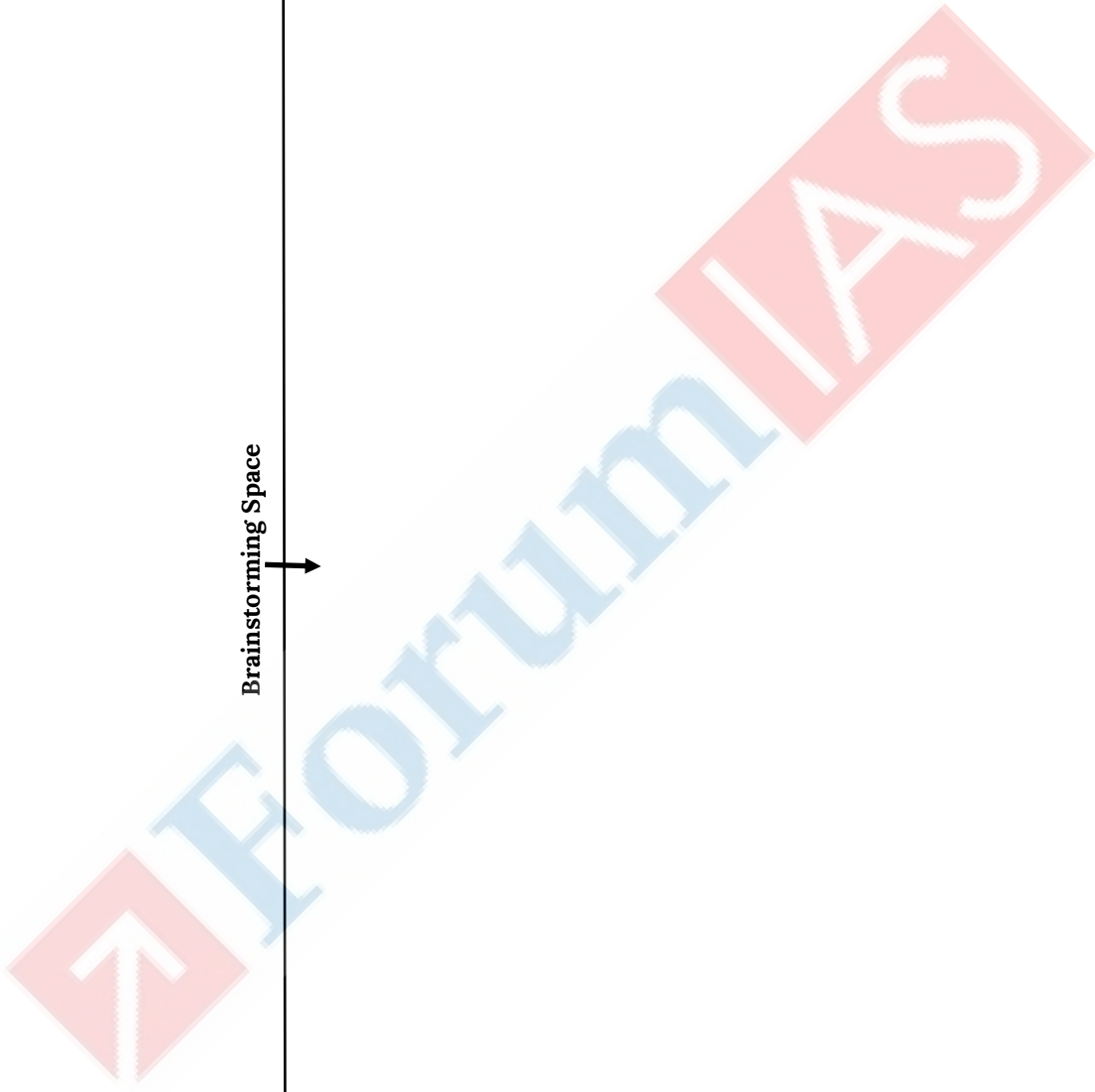
Q.76) How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan? (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



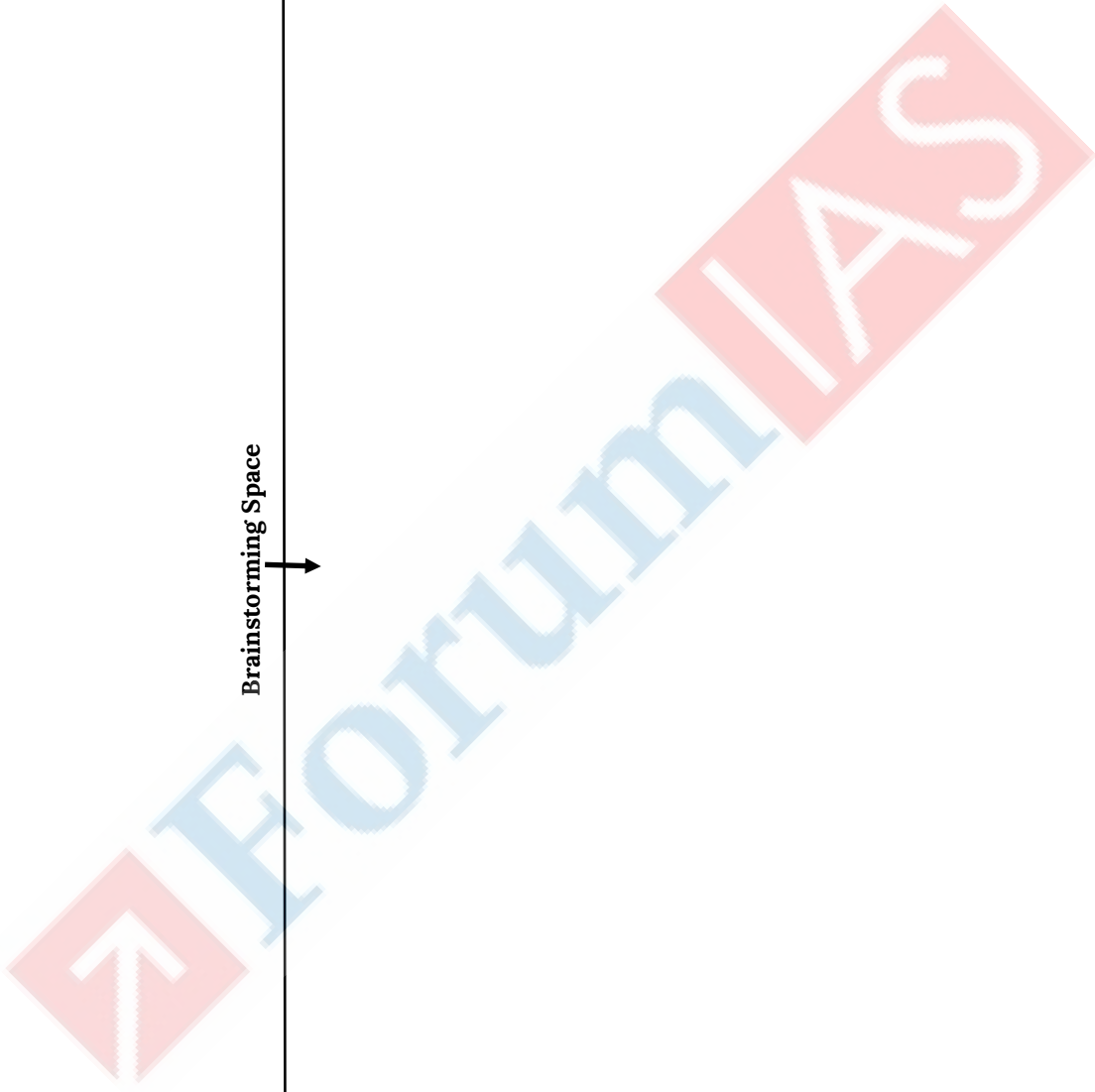
Q.77) Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



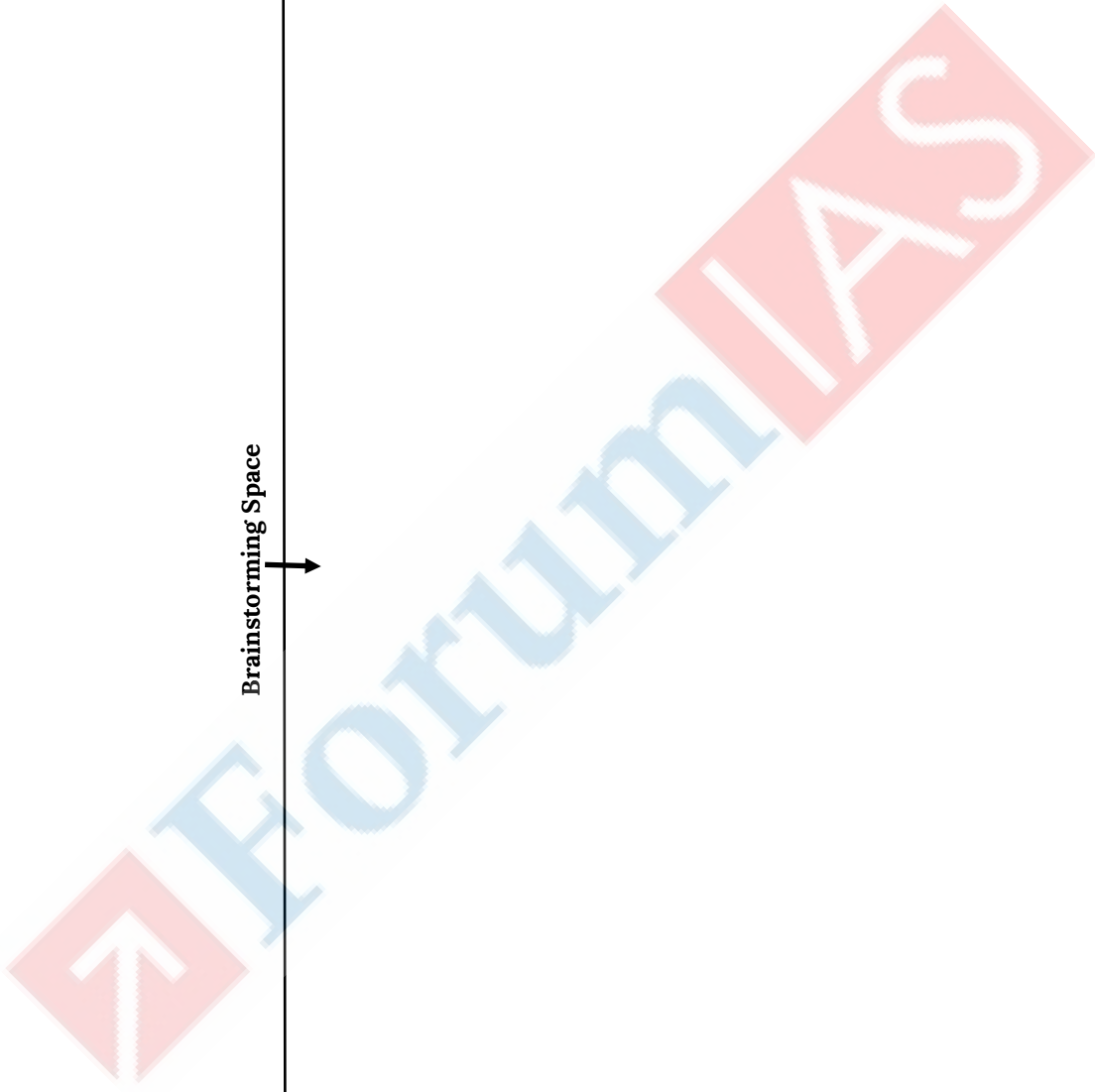
Q.78) Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with a suitable example. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



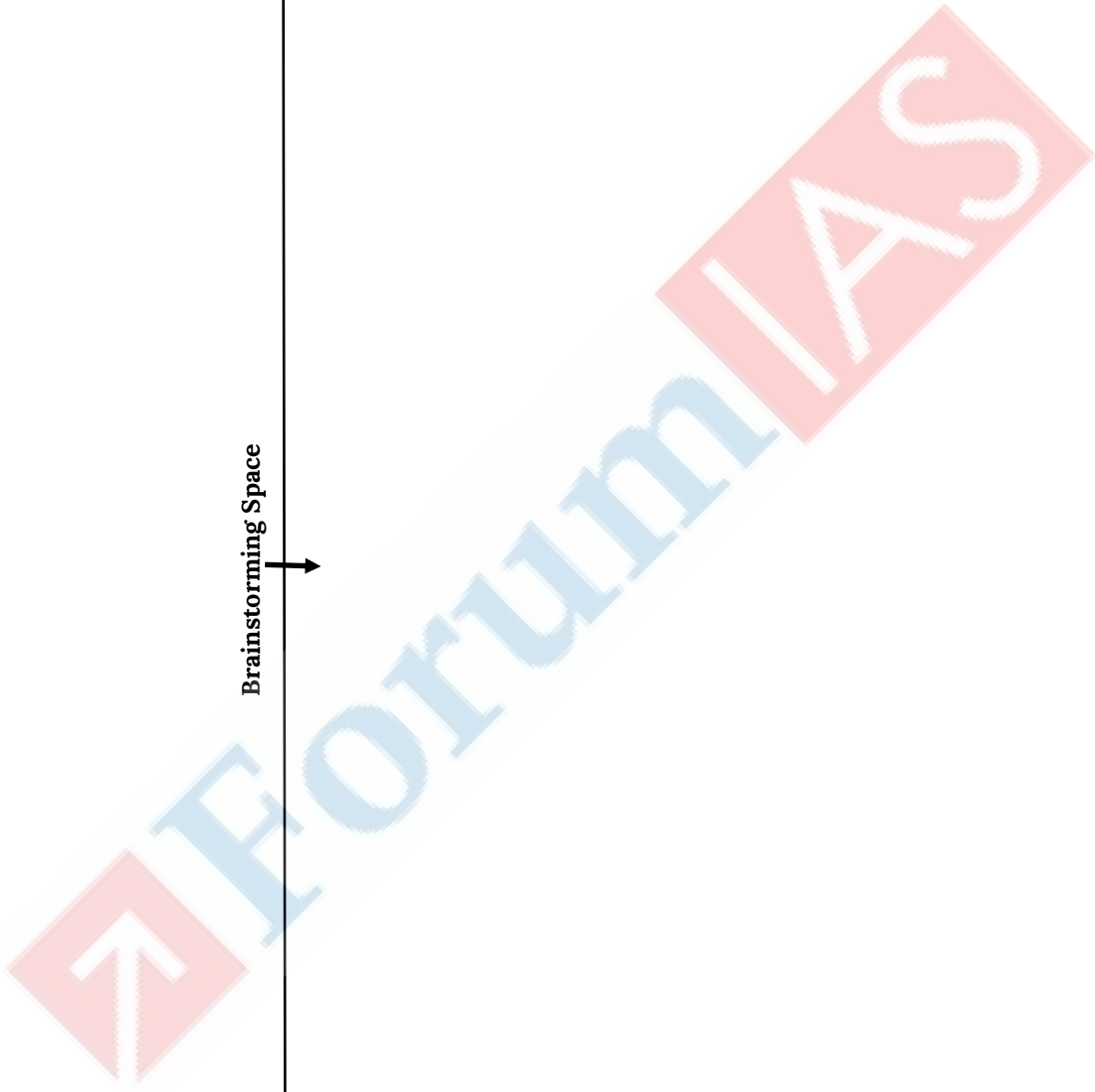
Q.79) Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



Q.80) Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in public servants. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

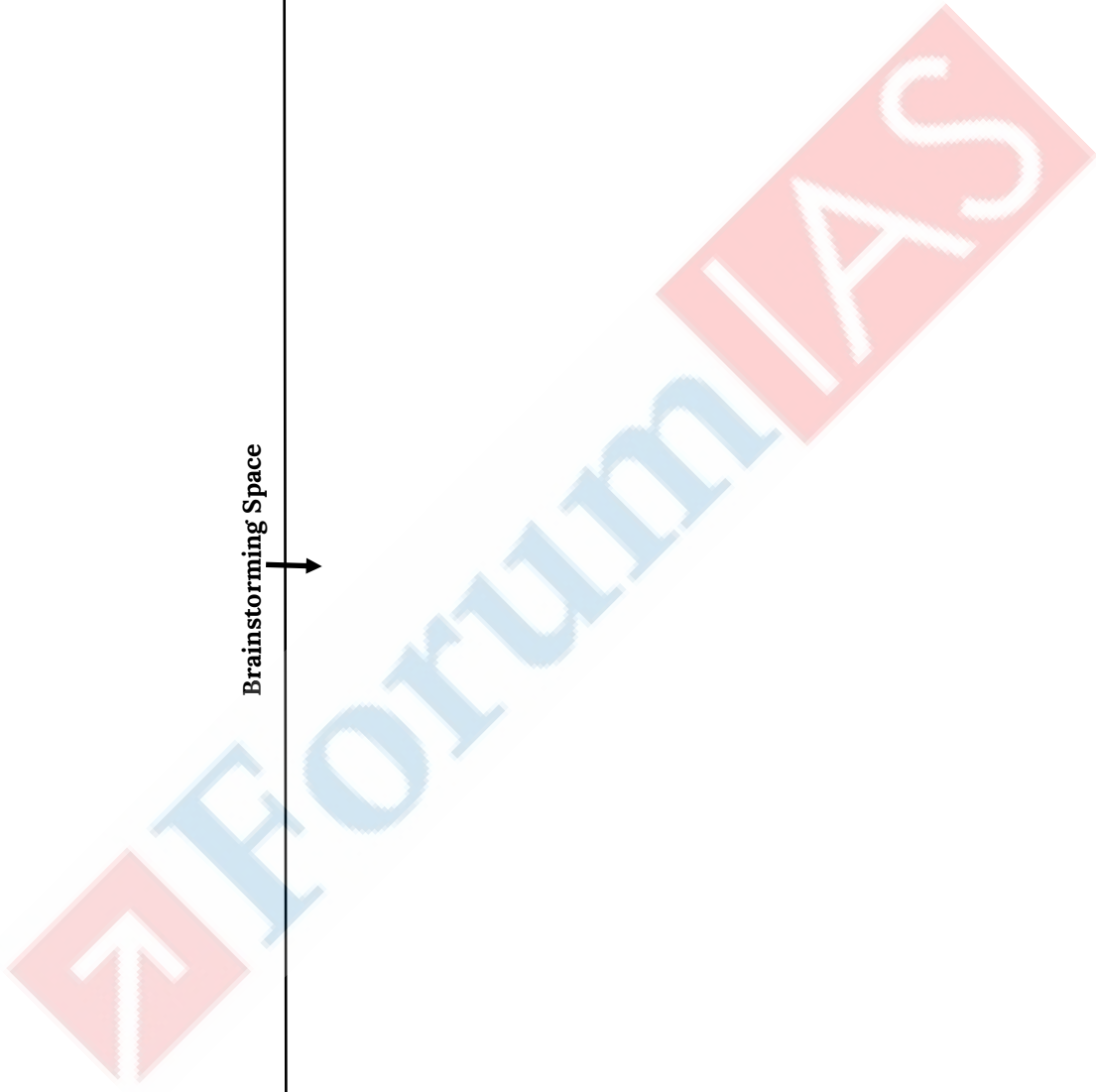
Brainstorming Space



Q.81) "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

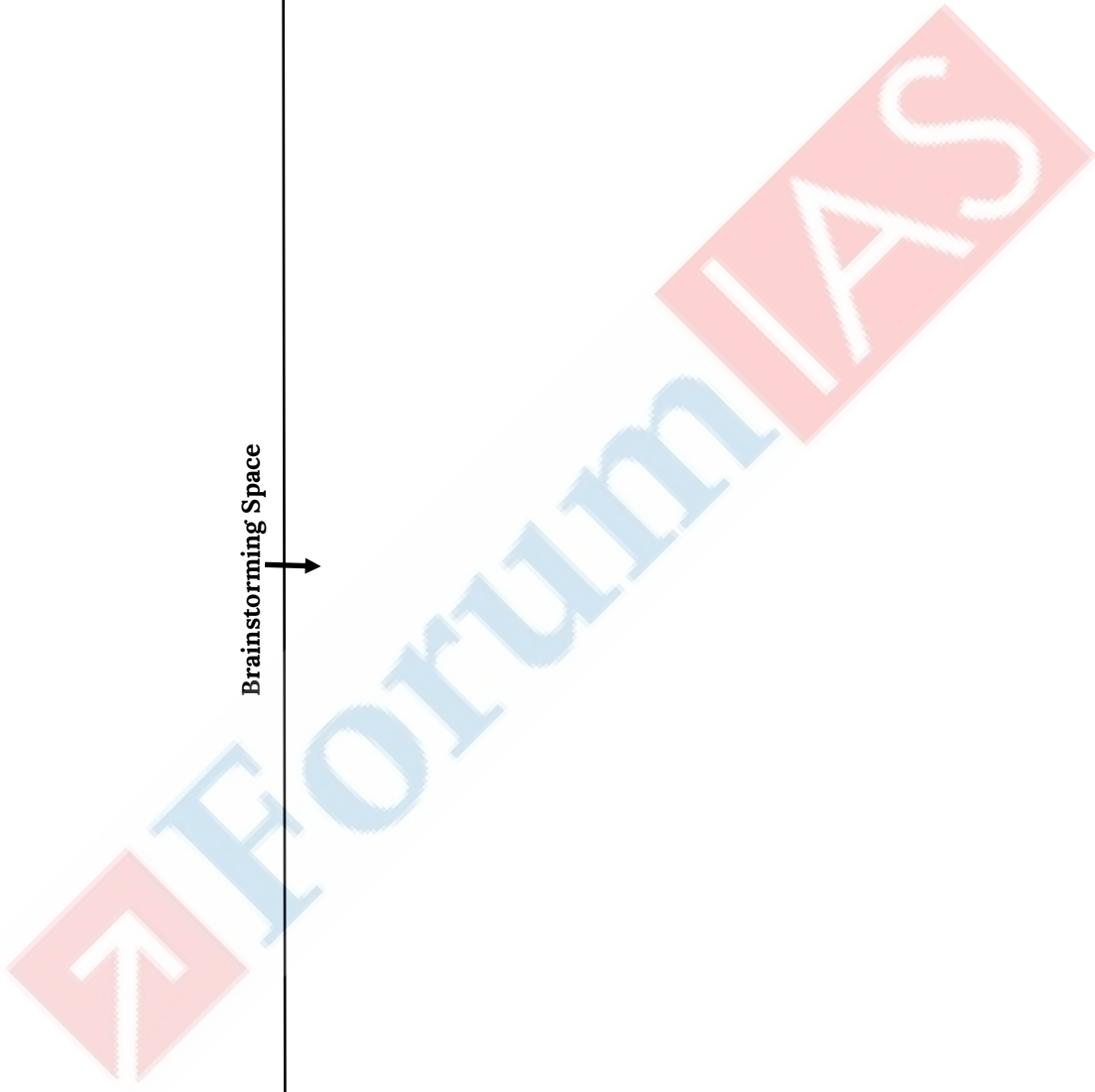
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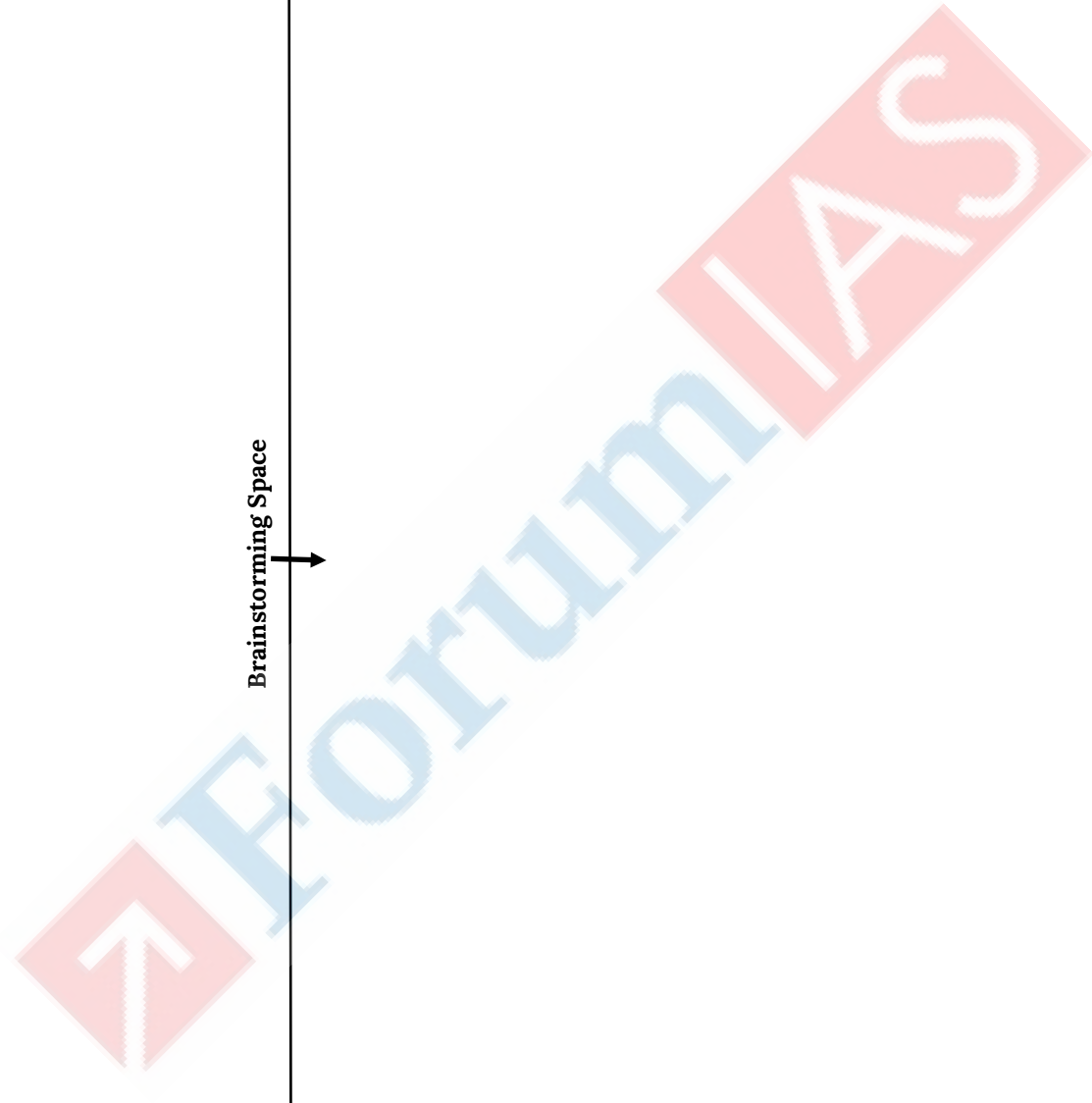
Q.82) What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.83) State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.84) Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service:

- (a) Transparency
- (b) Accountability
- (c) Fairness and justice
- (d) Courage of conviction
- (e) Spirit of service.

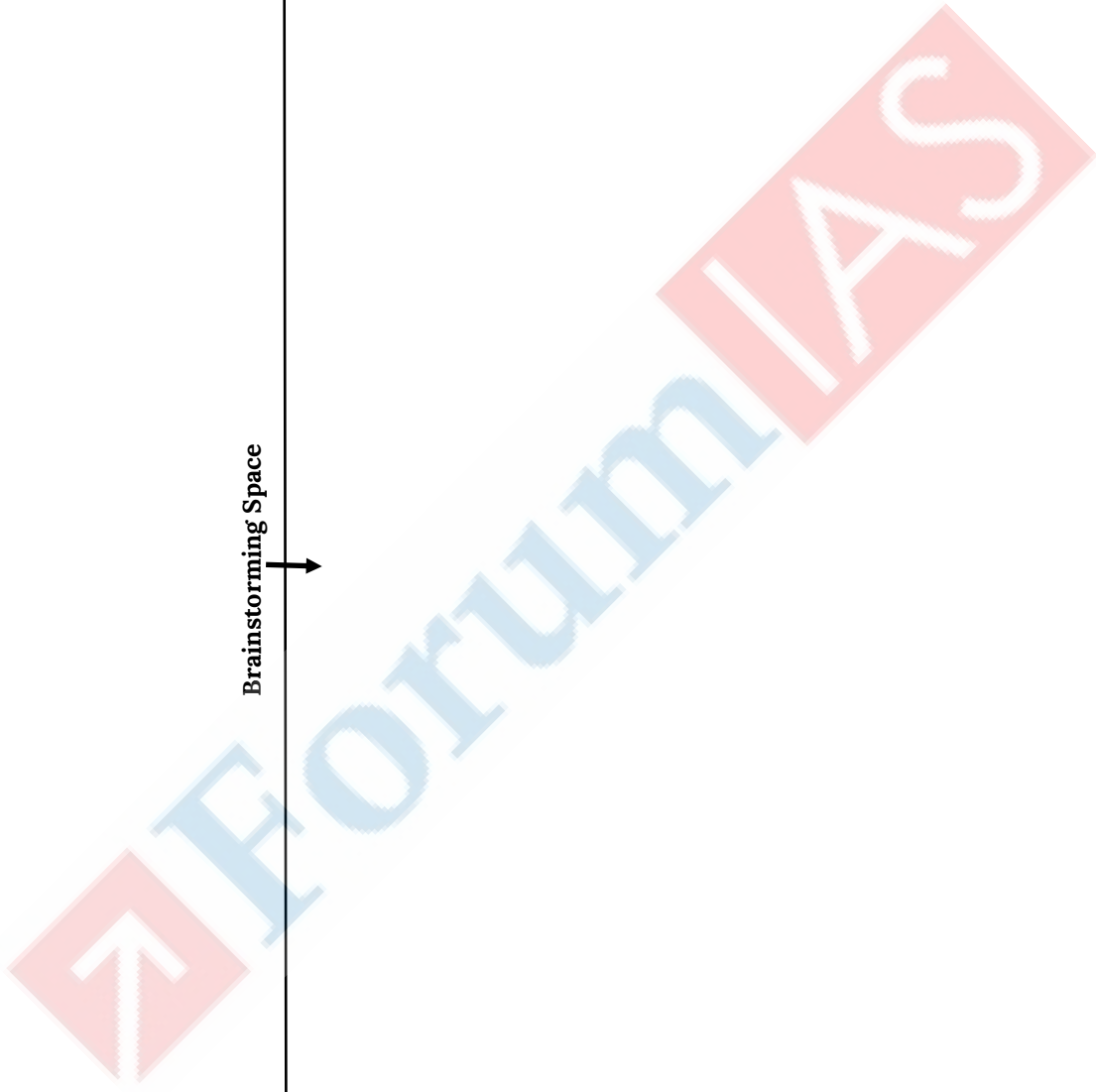
(10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



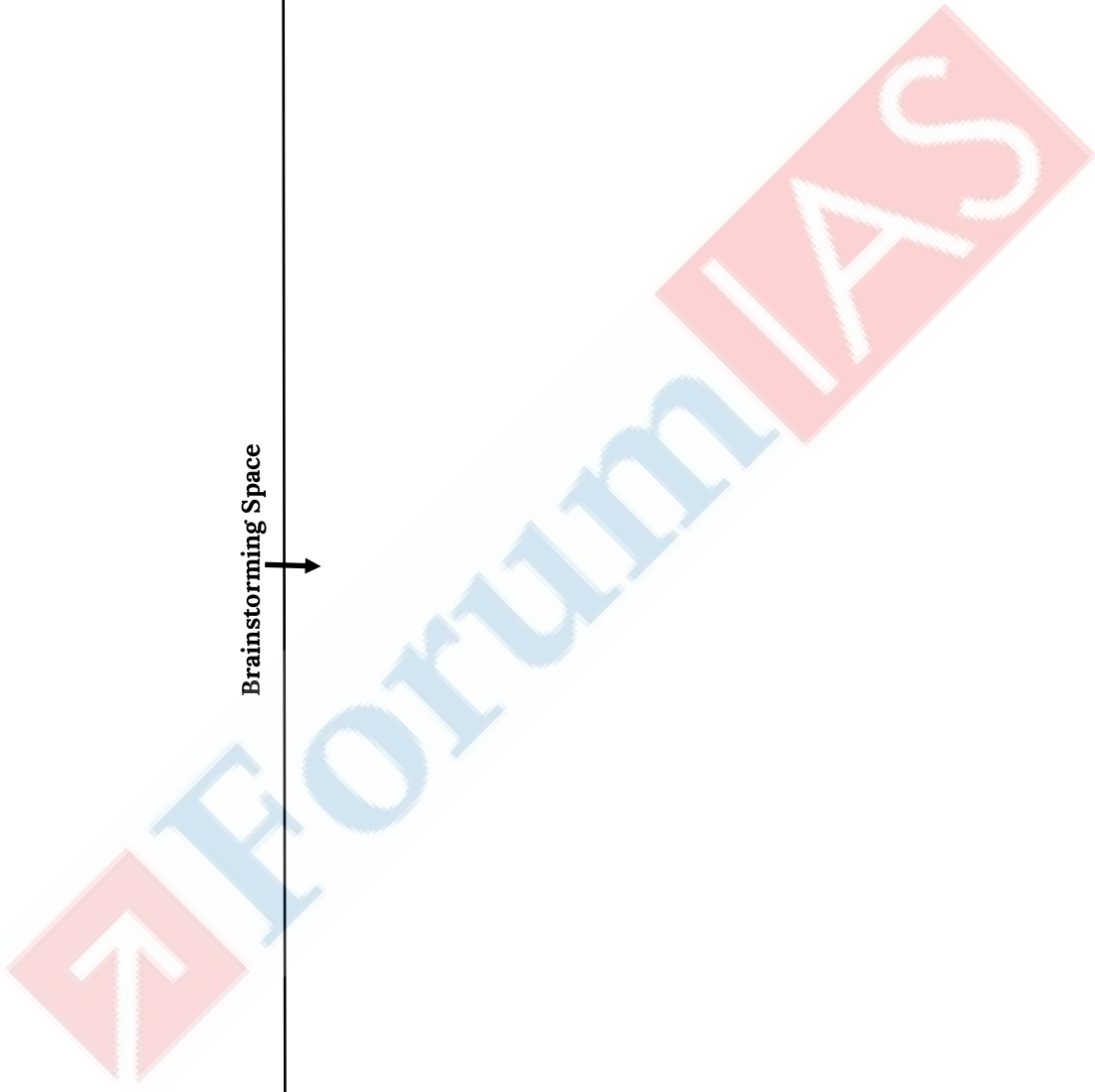
Q.85) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



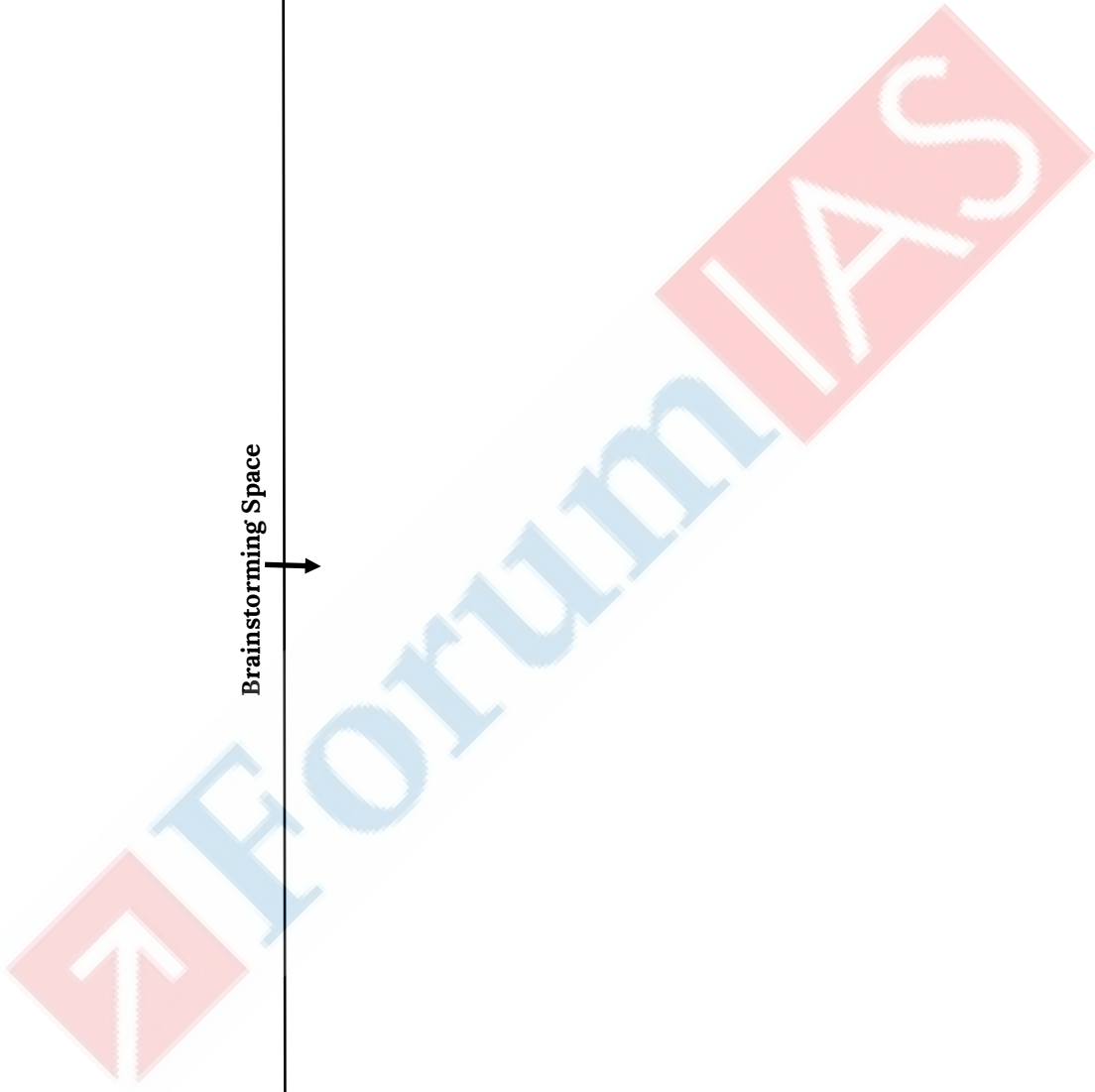
Q.86) Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



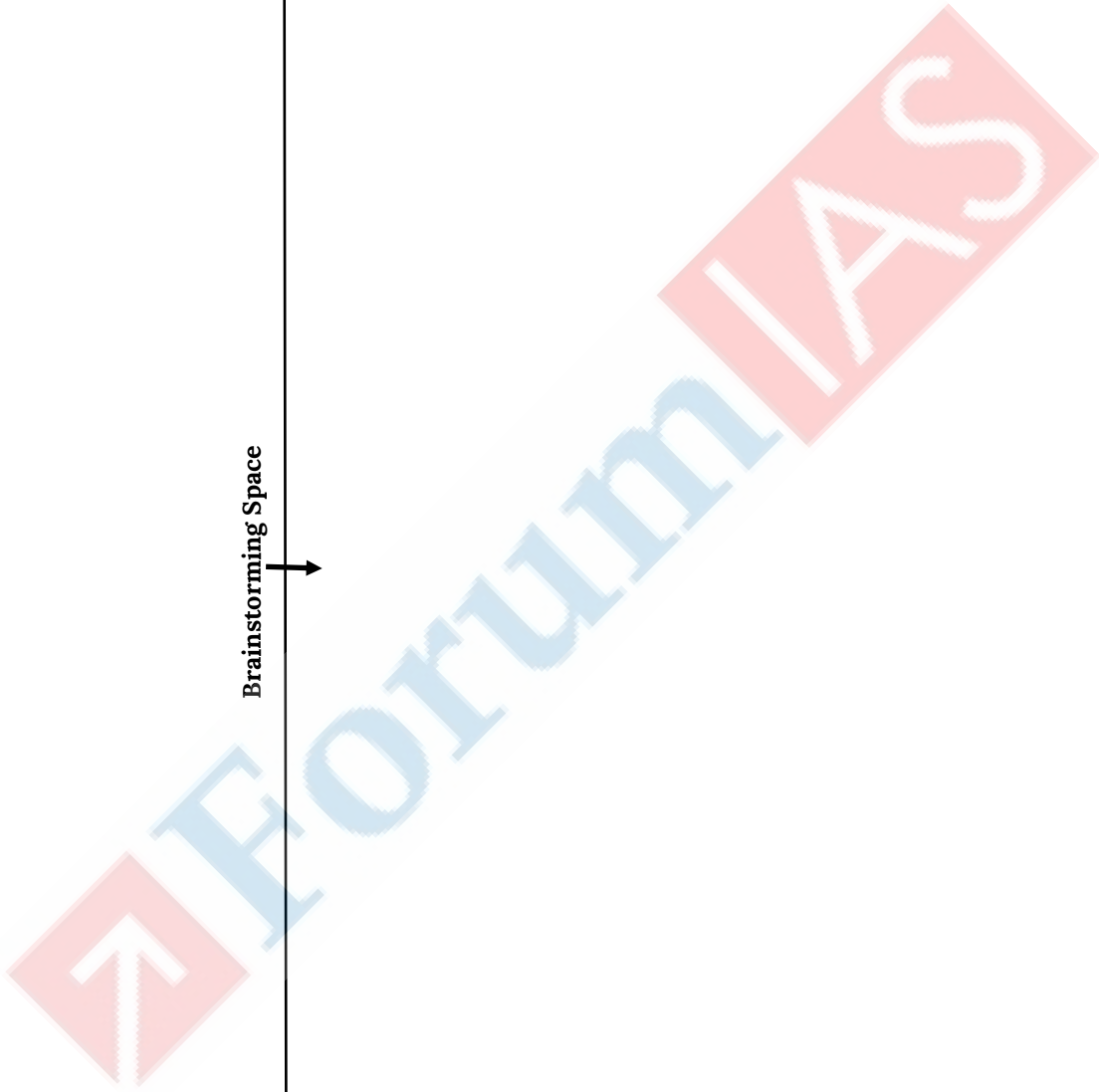
Q.87) Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present daysocio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.88) Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

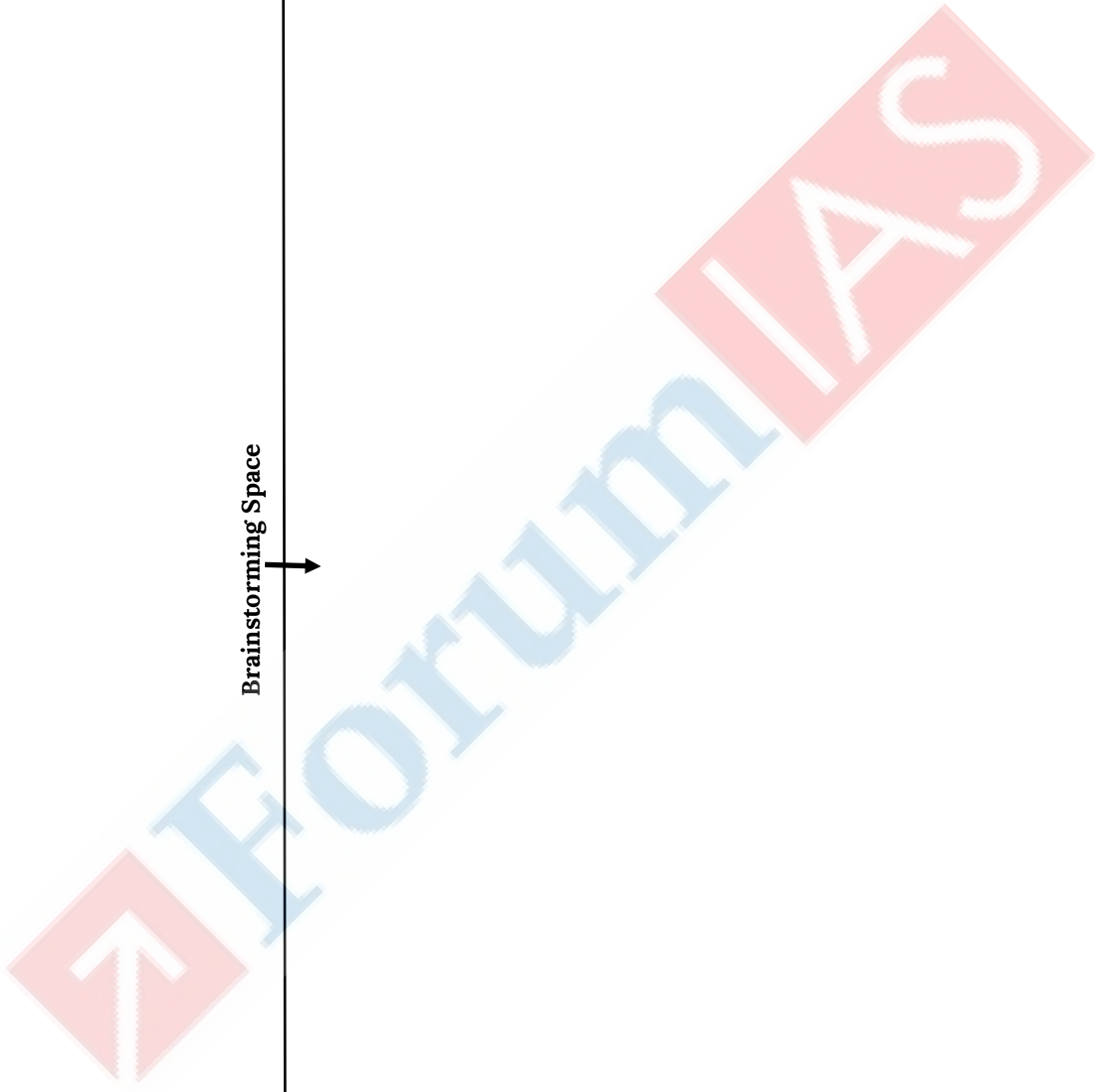
Brainstorming Space



Q.89) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space



Q.90) A mere compliance with law is not enough; the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

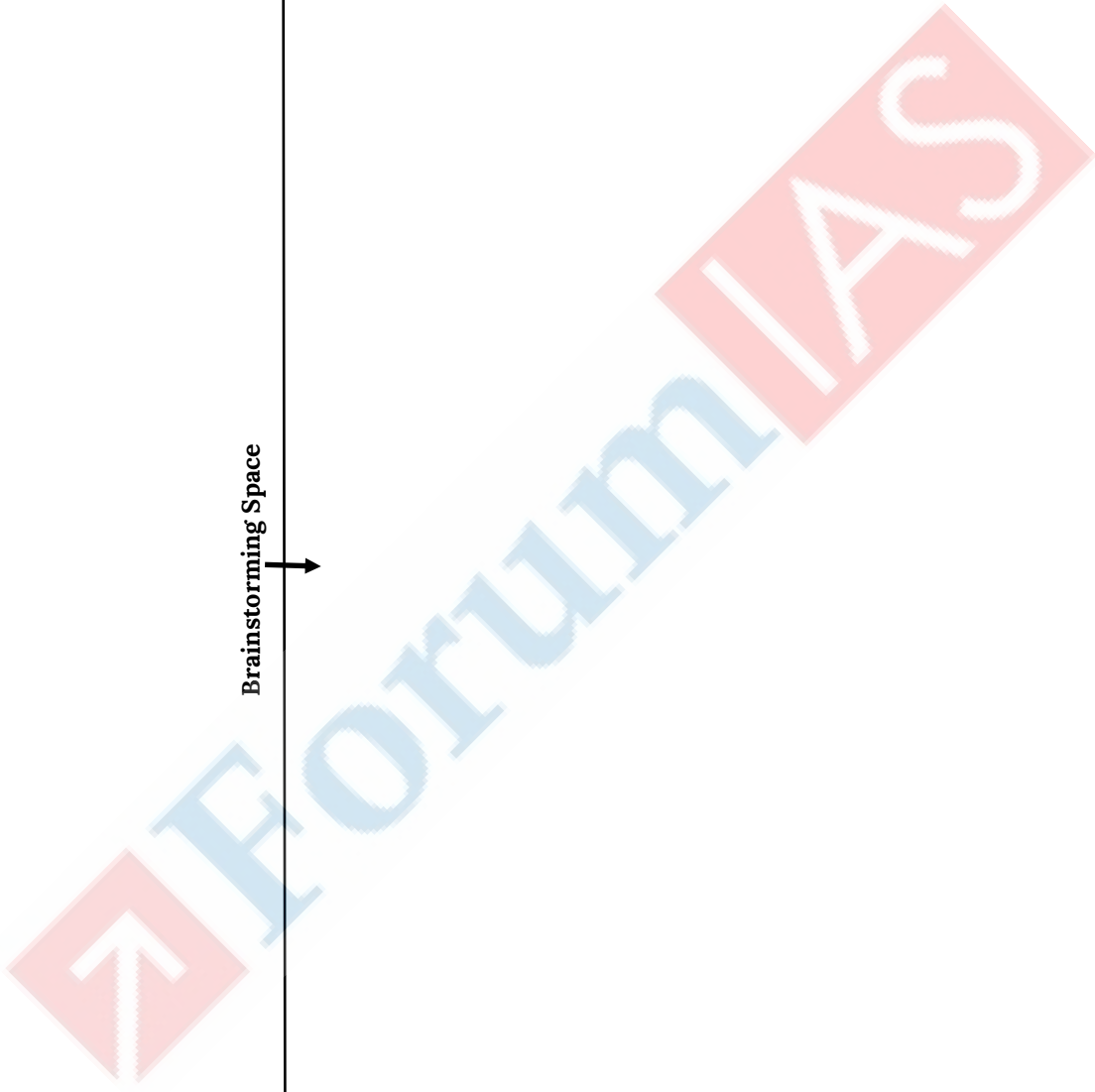
Brainstorming Space

Q.91) Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. A) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits. B) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country? (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space

Q.92) What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



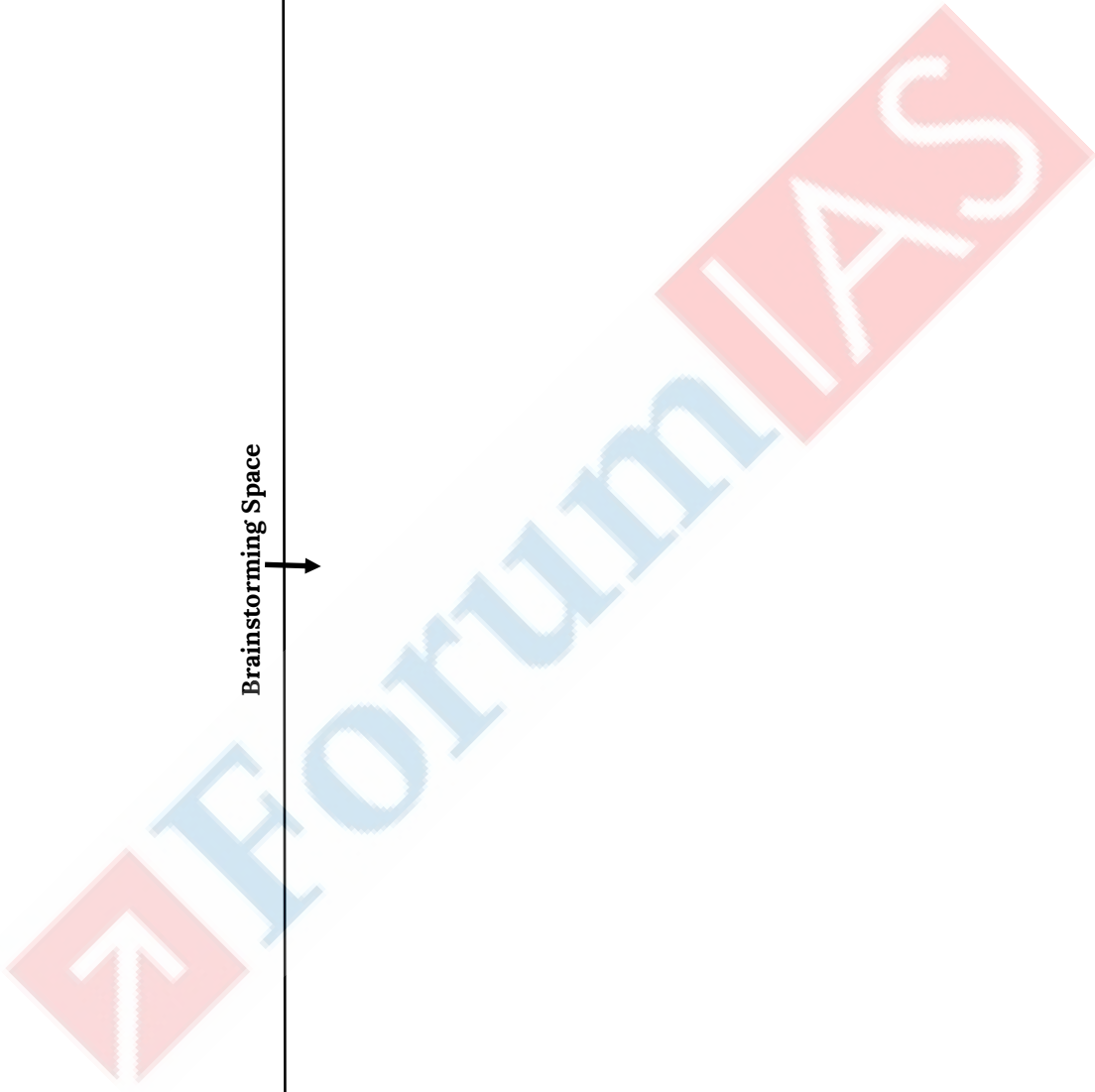
Q.93) Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful. What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context. (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

Q.94) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

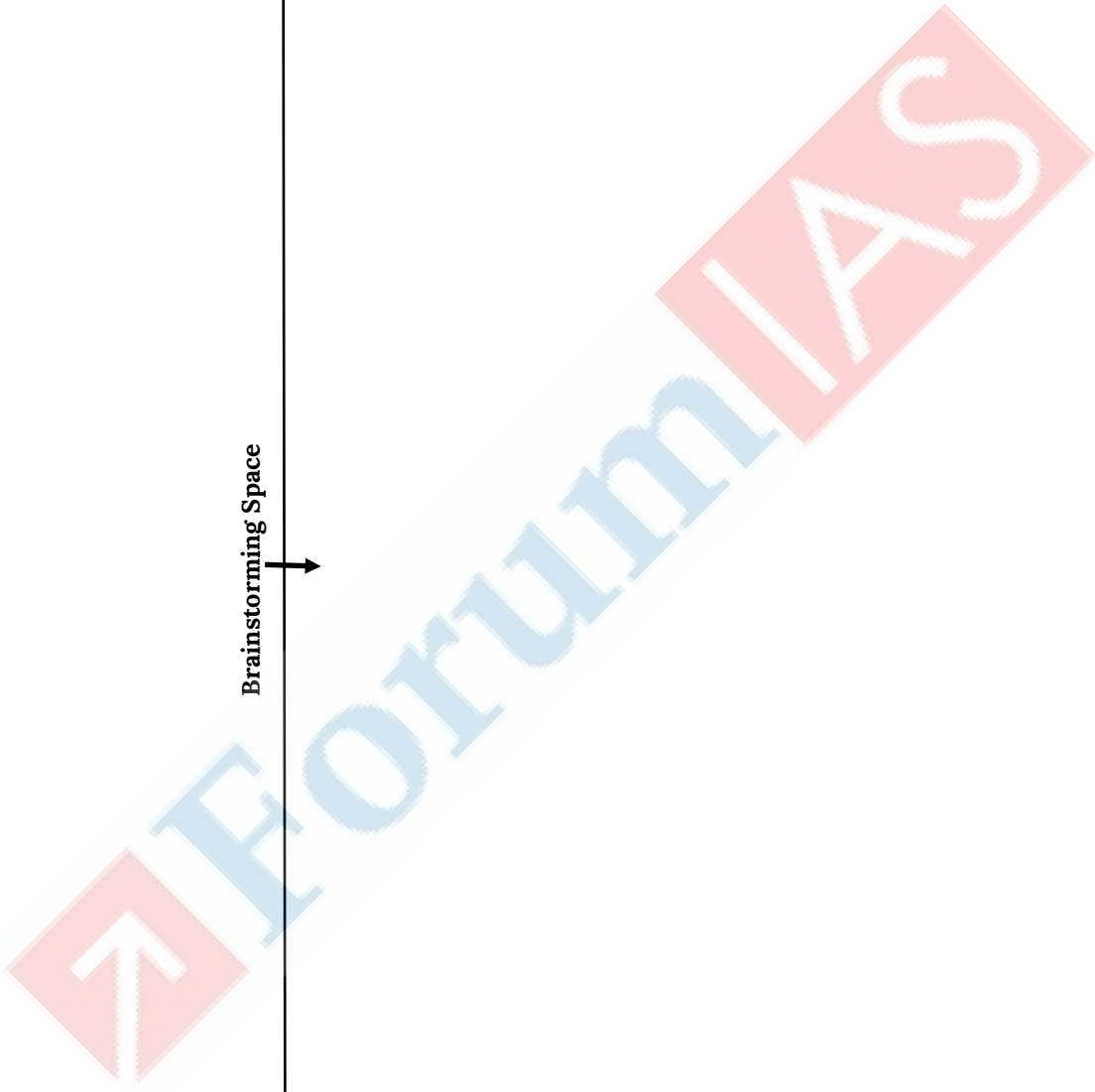
(10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



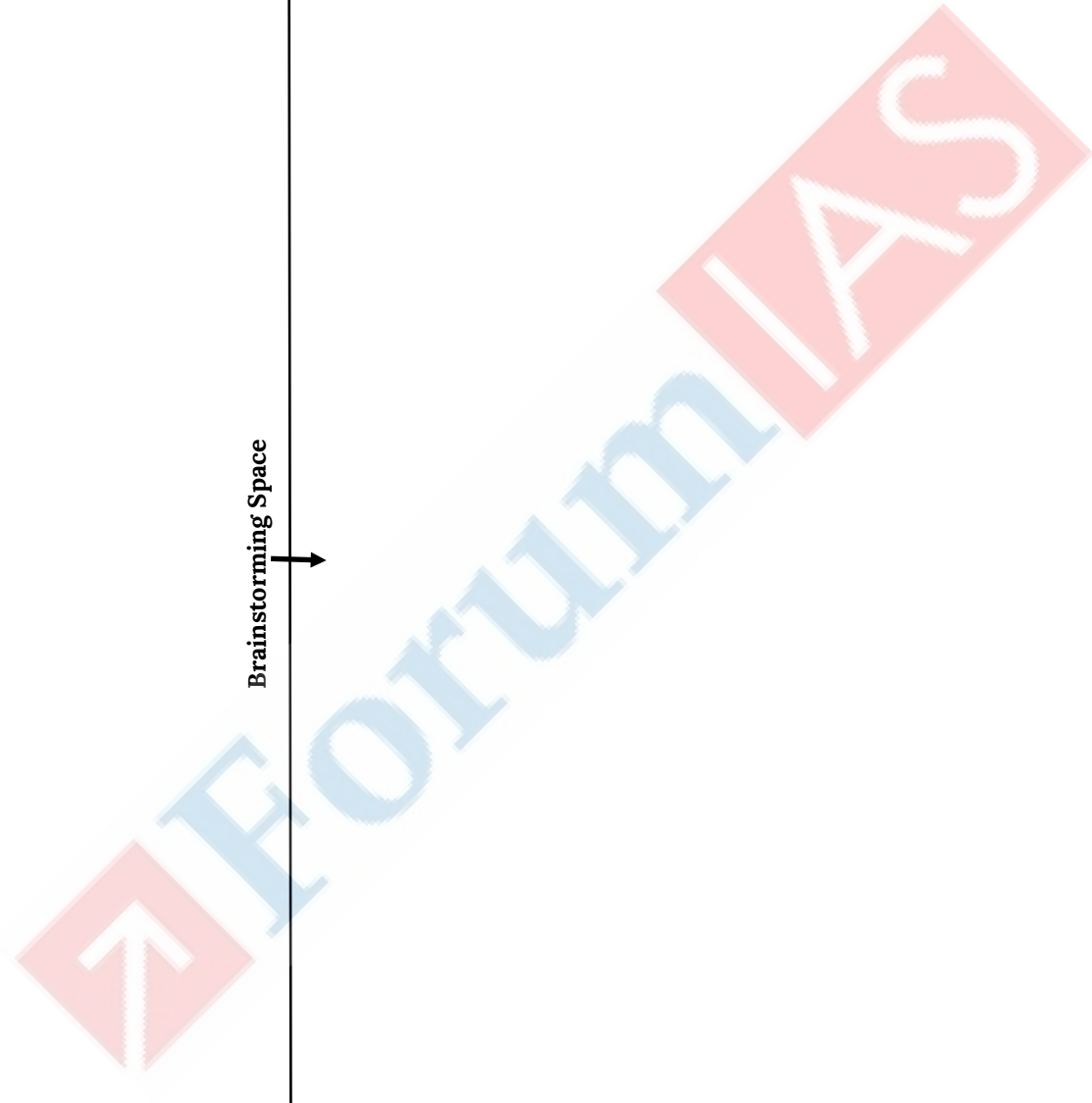
Q.95) What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (5 terms x 3 marks each:
a) Integrity b) Perseverance c) Spirit of service d) Commitment e) Courage of conviction f) Personal opinion
(10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



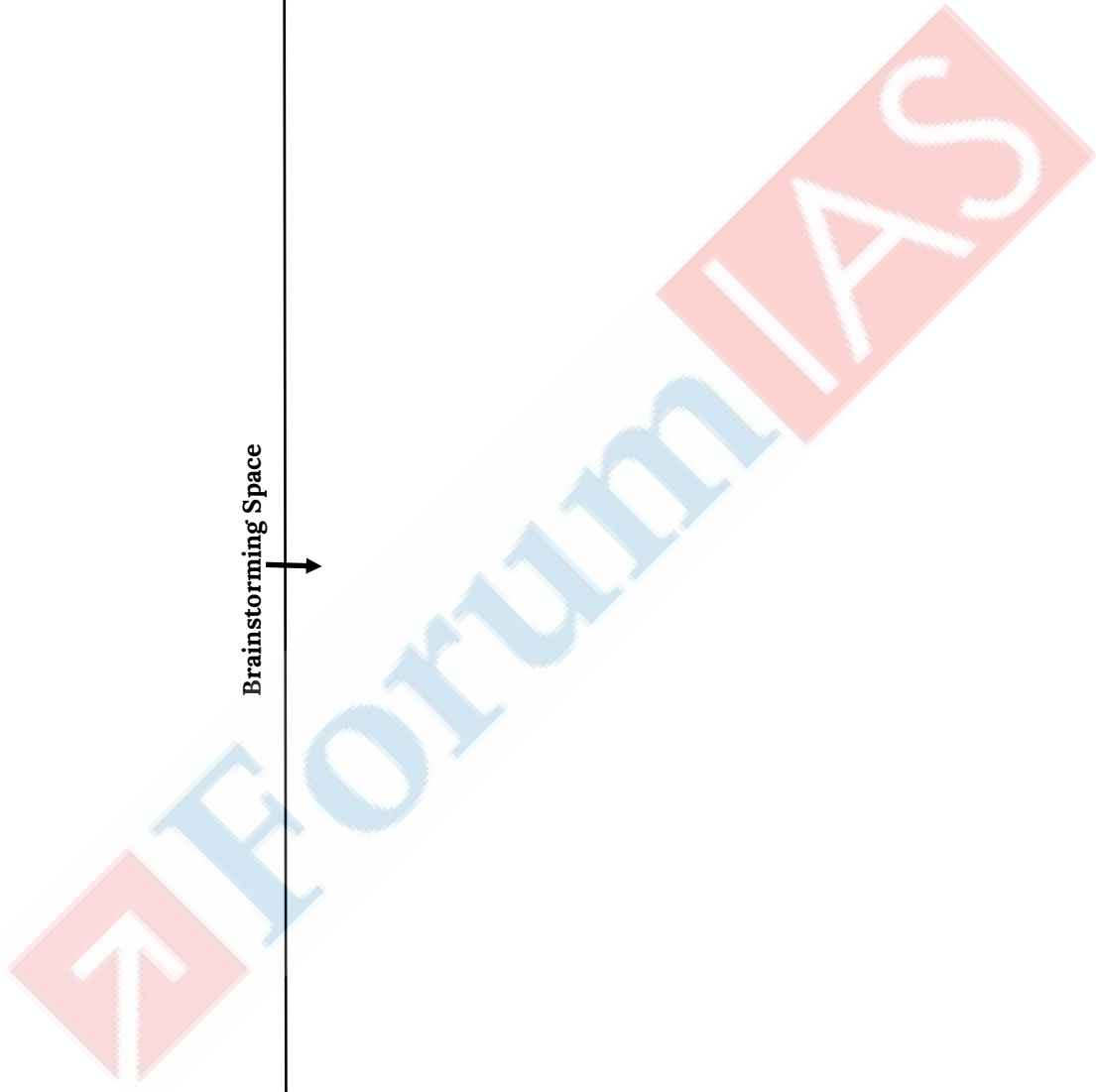
Q.96) Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.97) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



Additional Updates

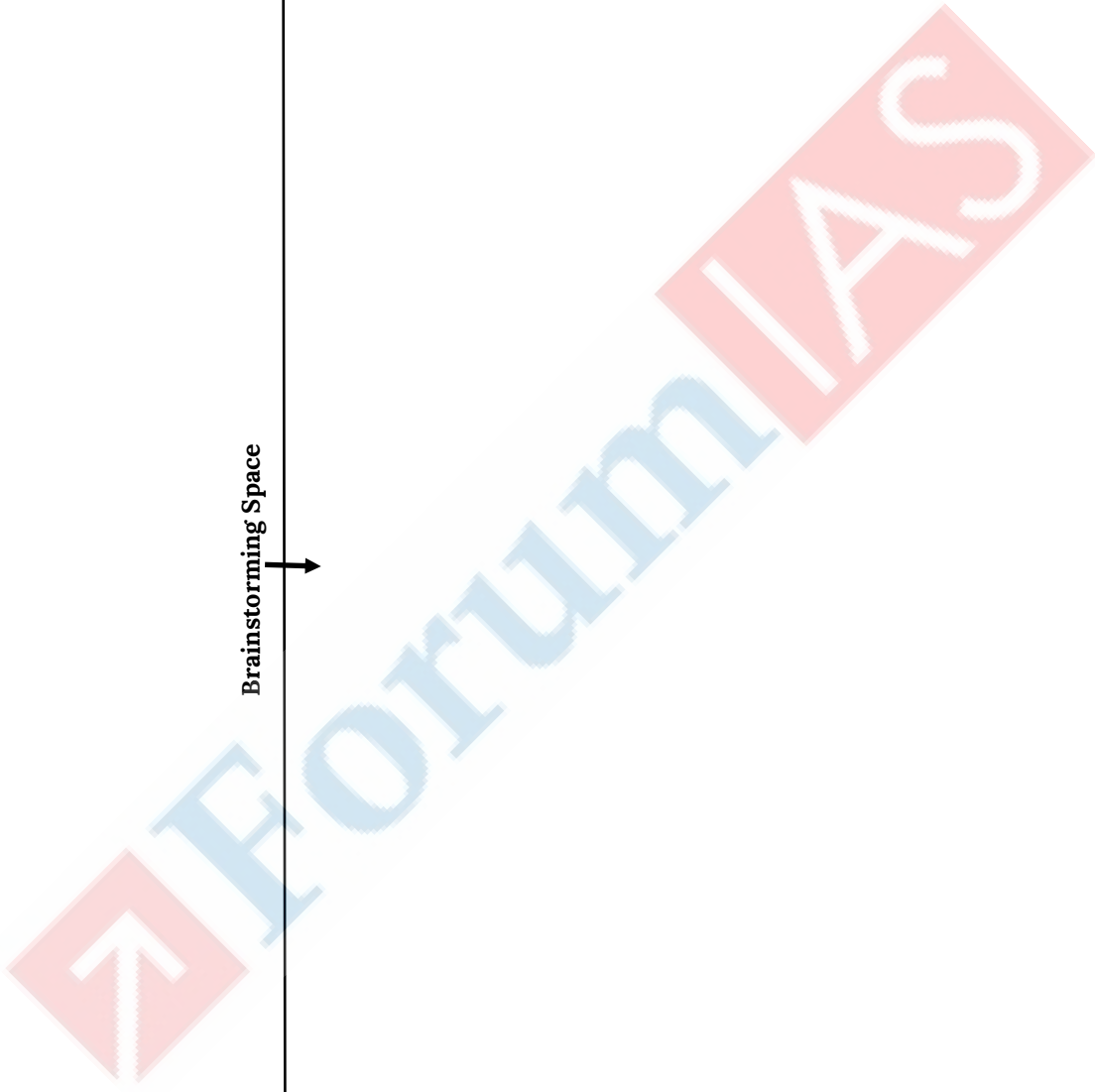


Q.98) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each :

- (i) Constitutional morality
- (ii) Conflict of interest
- (iii) Probity in public life
- (iv) Challenges of digitalization
- (v) Devotion to duty

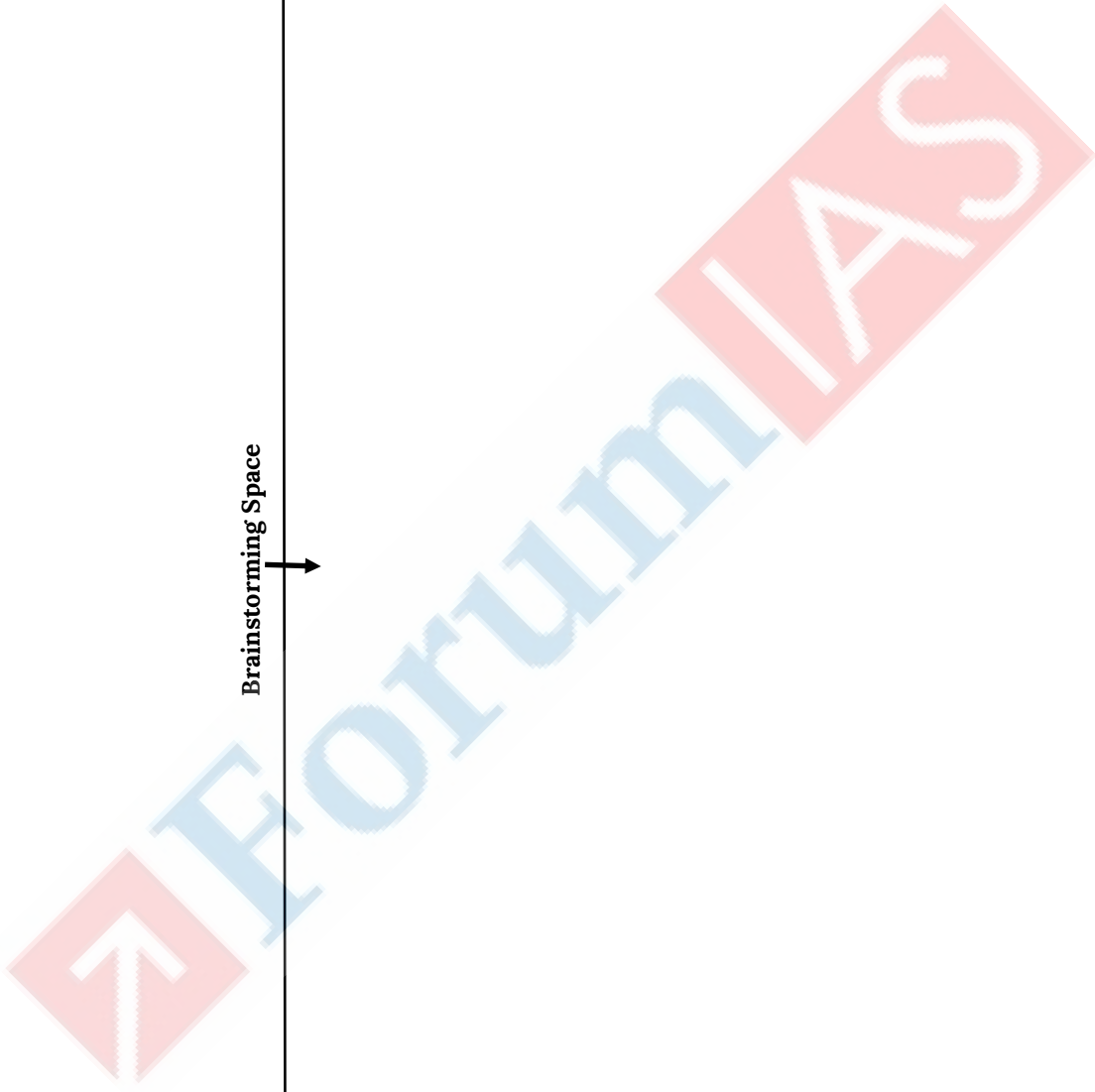
(10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space



Q.99) What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

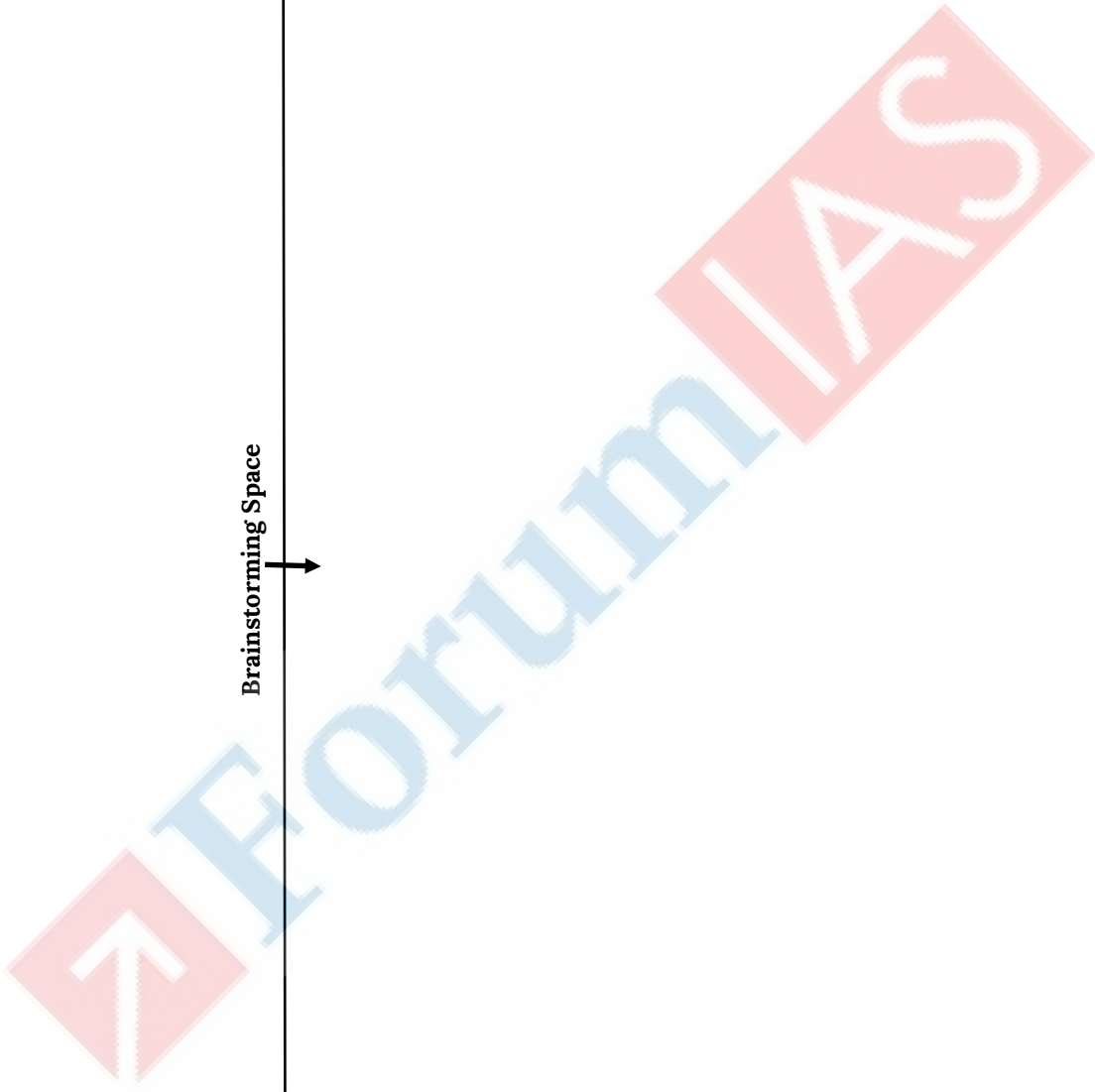
Brainstorming Space





Q.100) What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

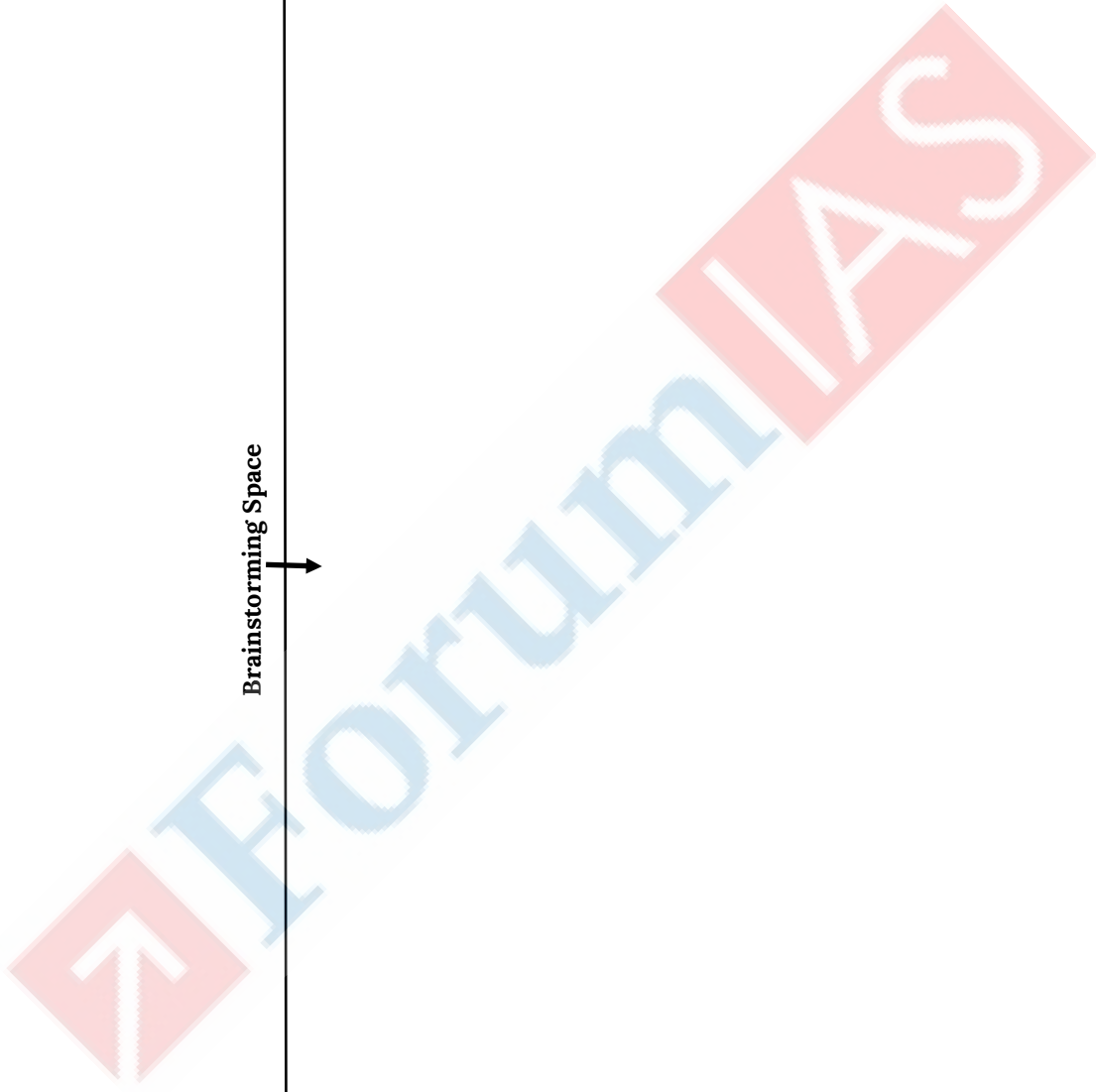




Q.101) What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

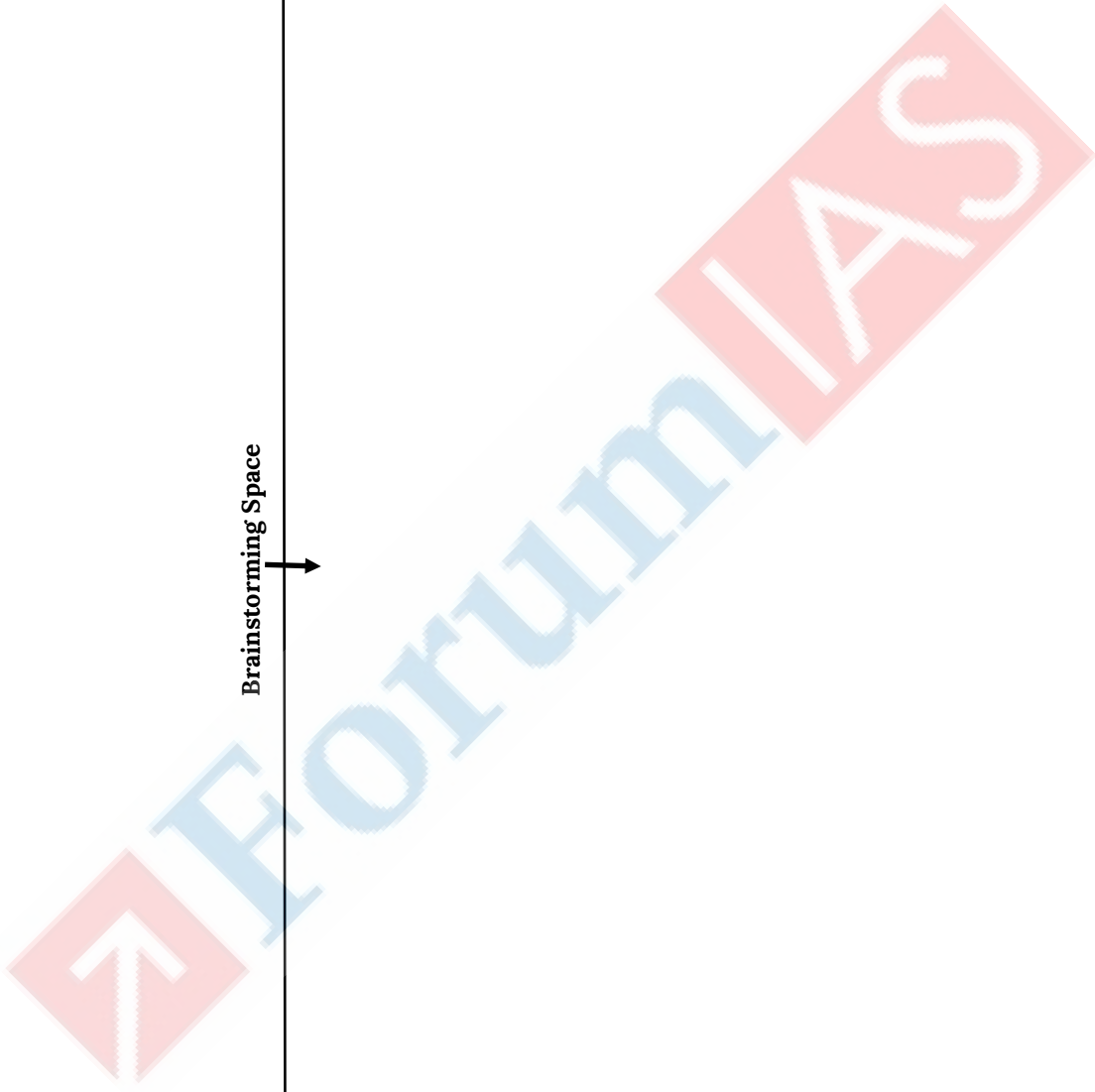
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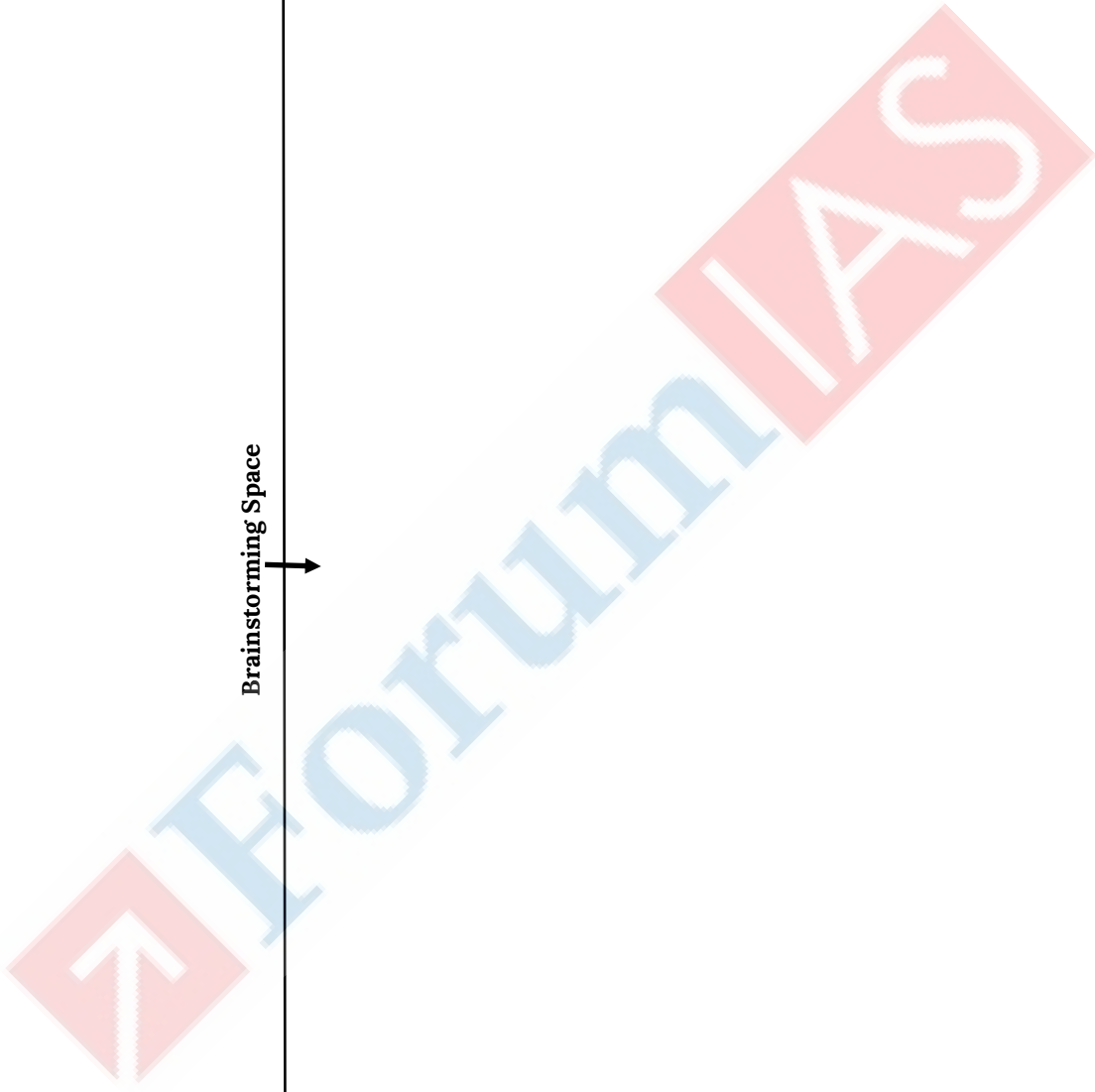
Q.102) What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.103) What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

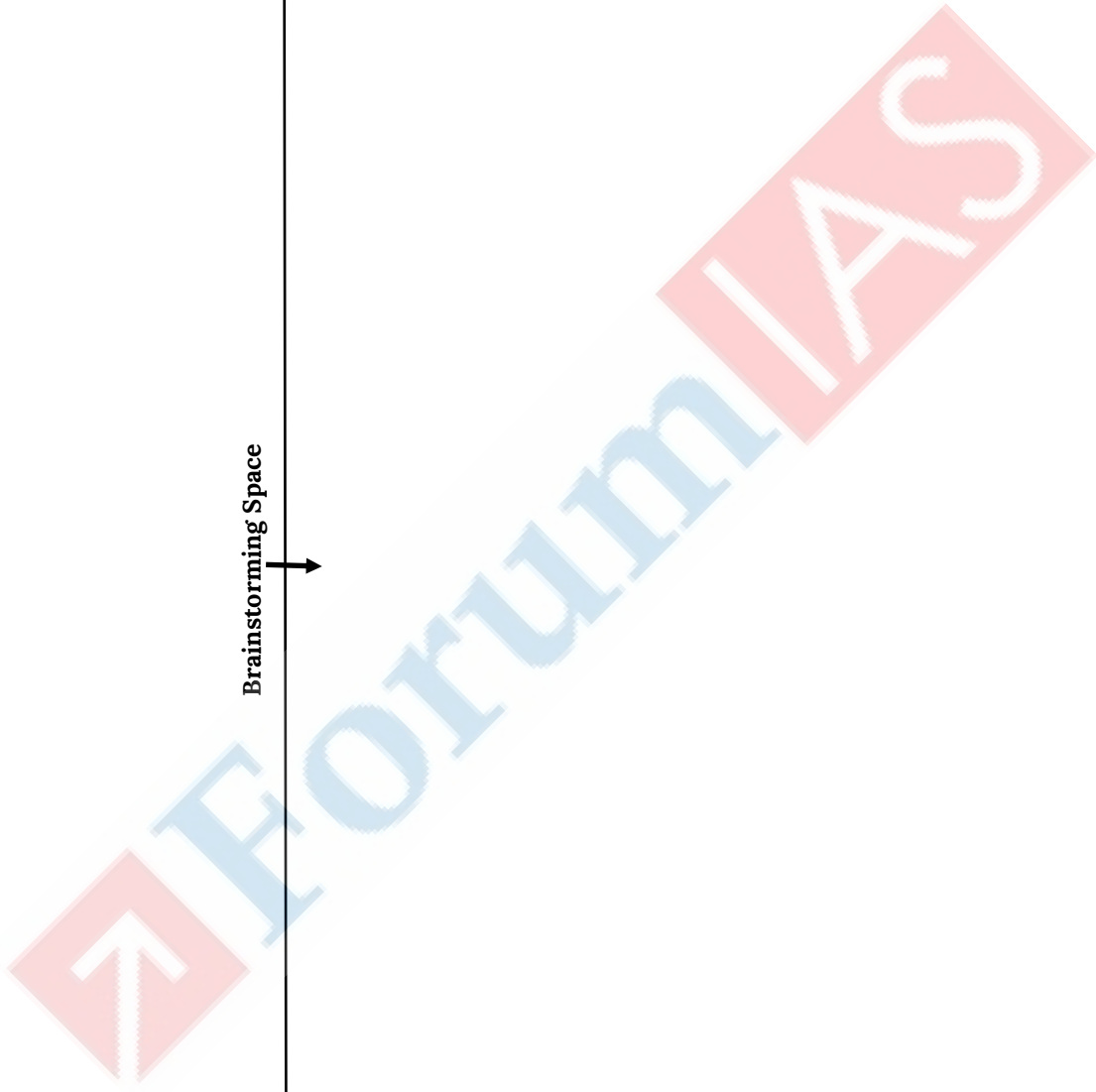
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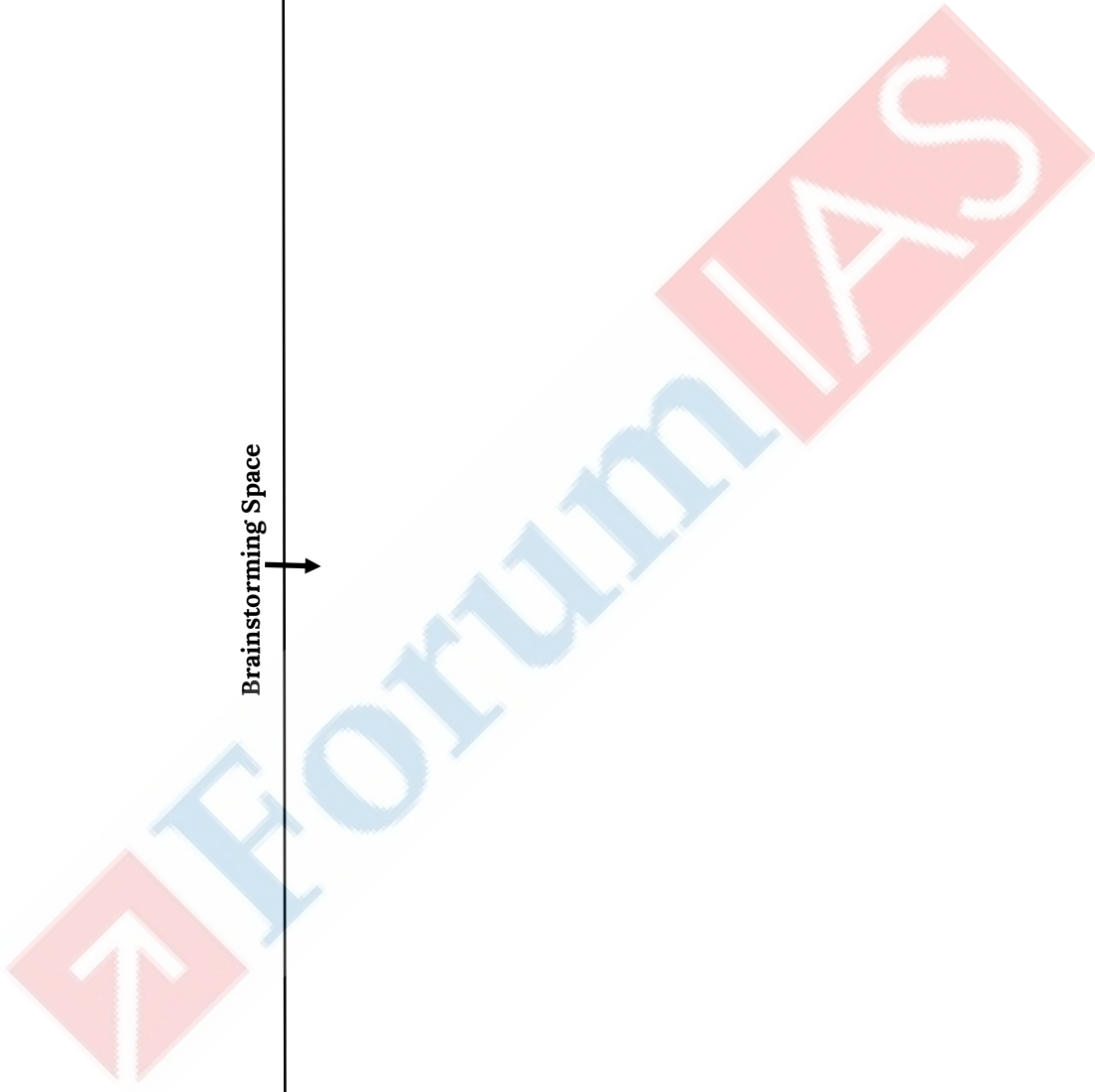
Q.104) What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space



Q.105) The good of an individual is contained in the good of all. What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? (10 marks, 150 words) (2013)

Brainstorming Space



Q.106) "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

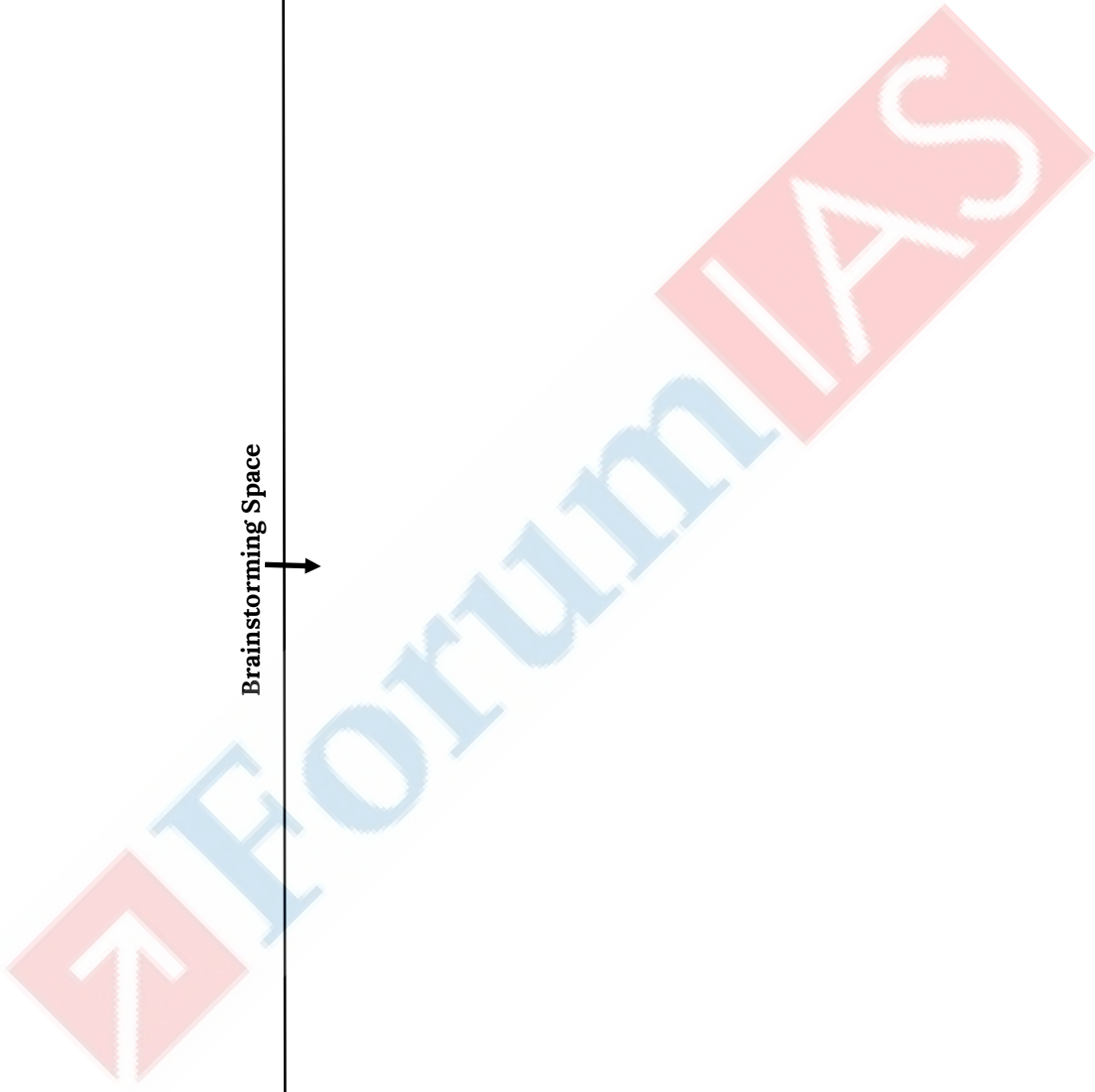
Brainstorming Space

Additional Updates



Q.107) What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

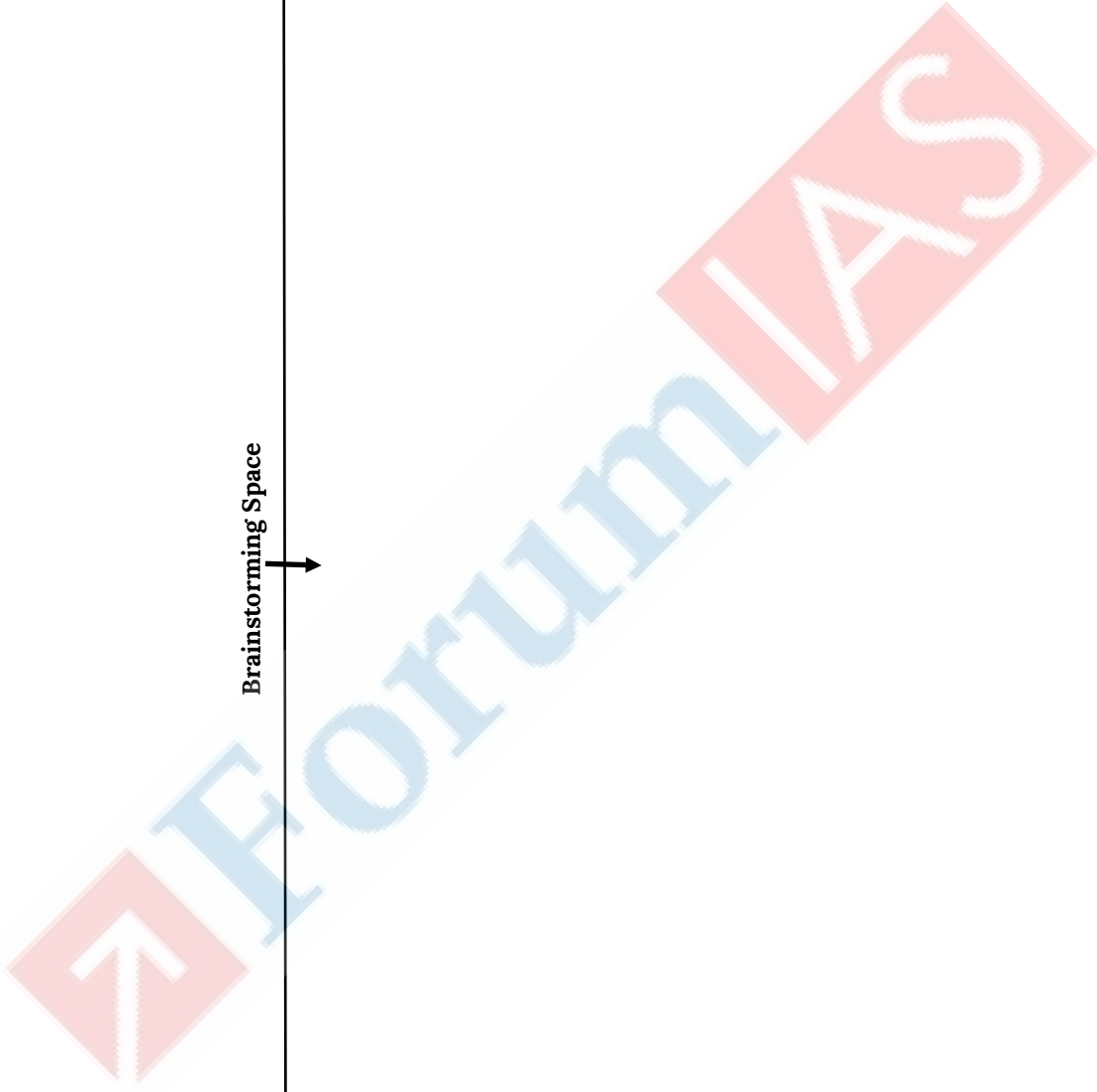


Additional Updates



Q.108) “Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society.” In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society? (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

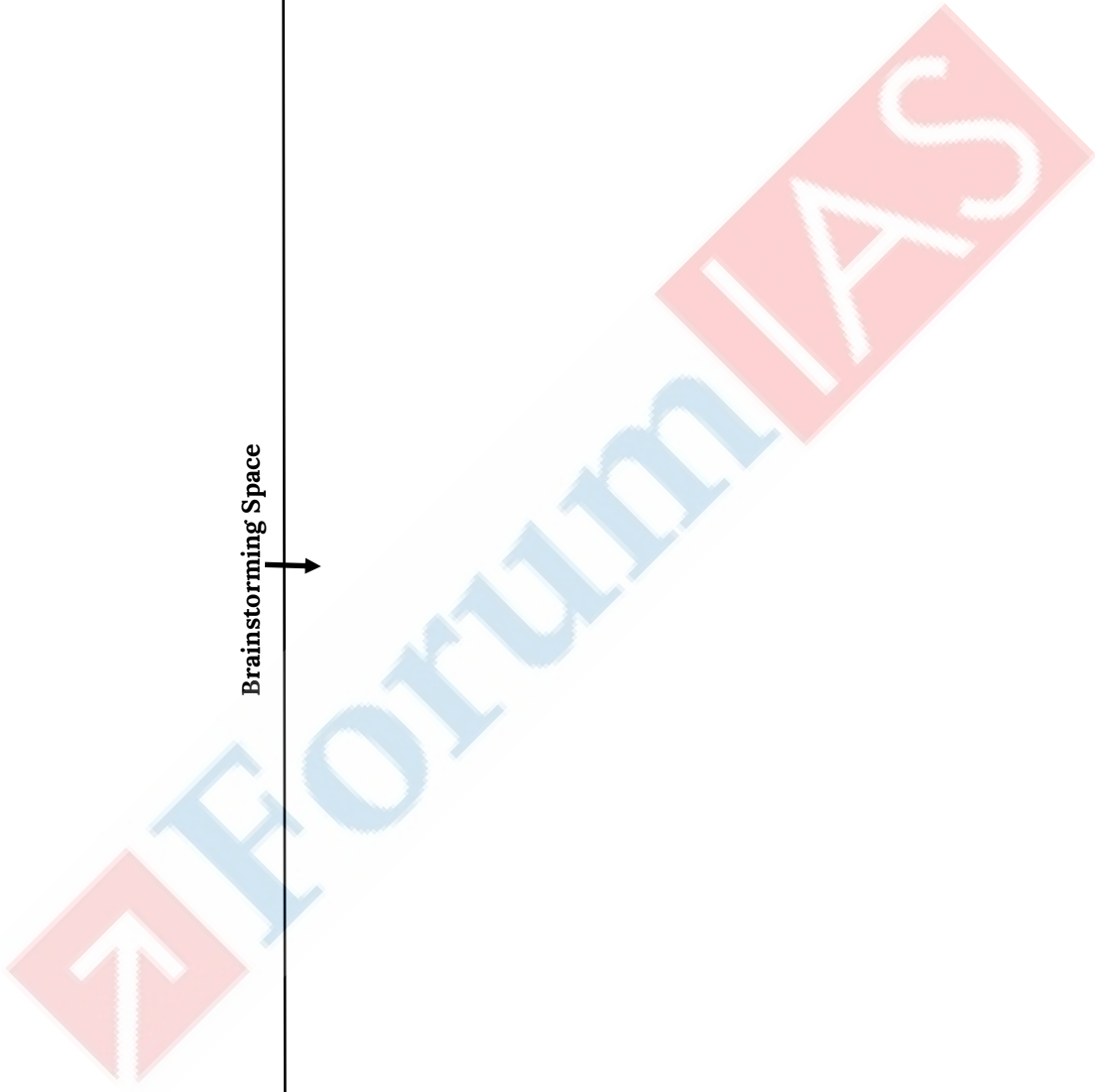


Additional Updates



Q.109) In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

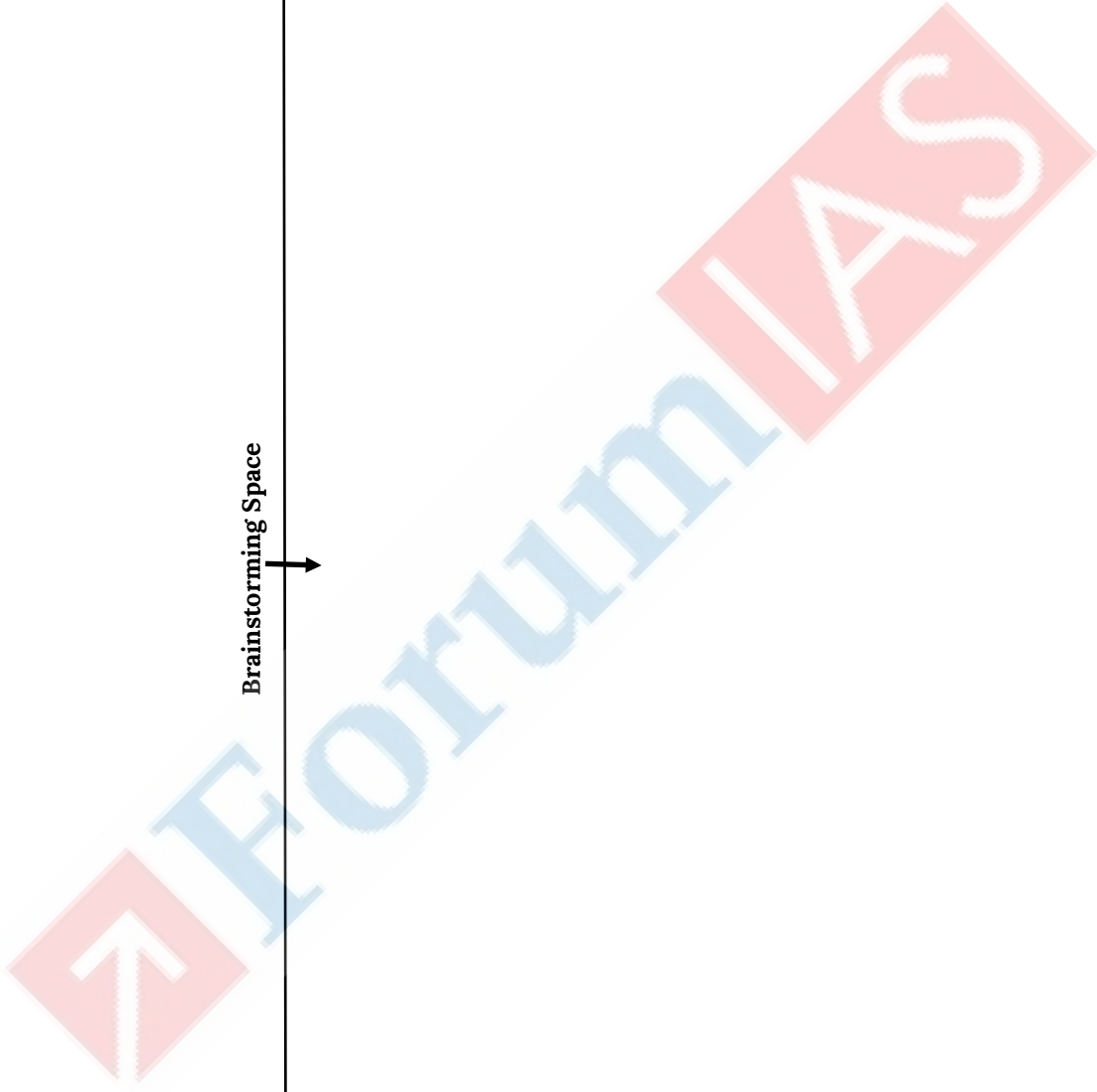


Additional Updates



Q.110) Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

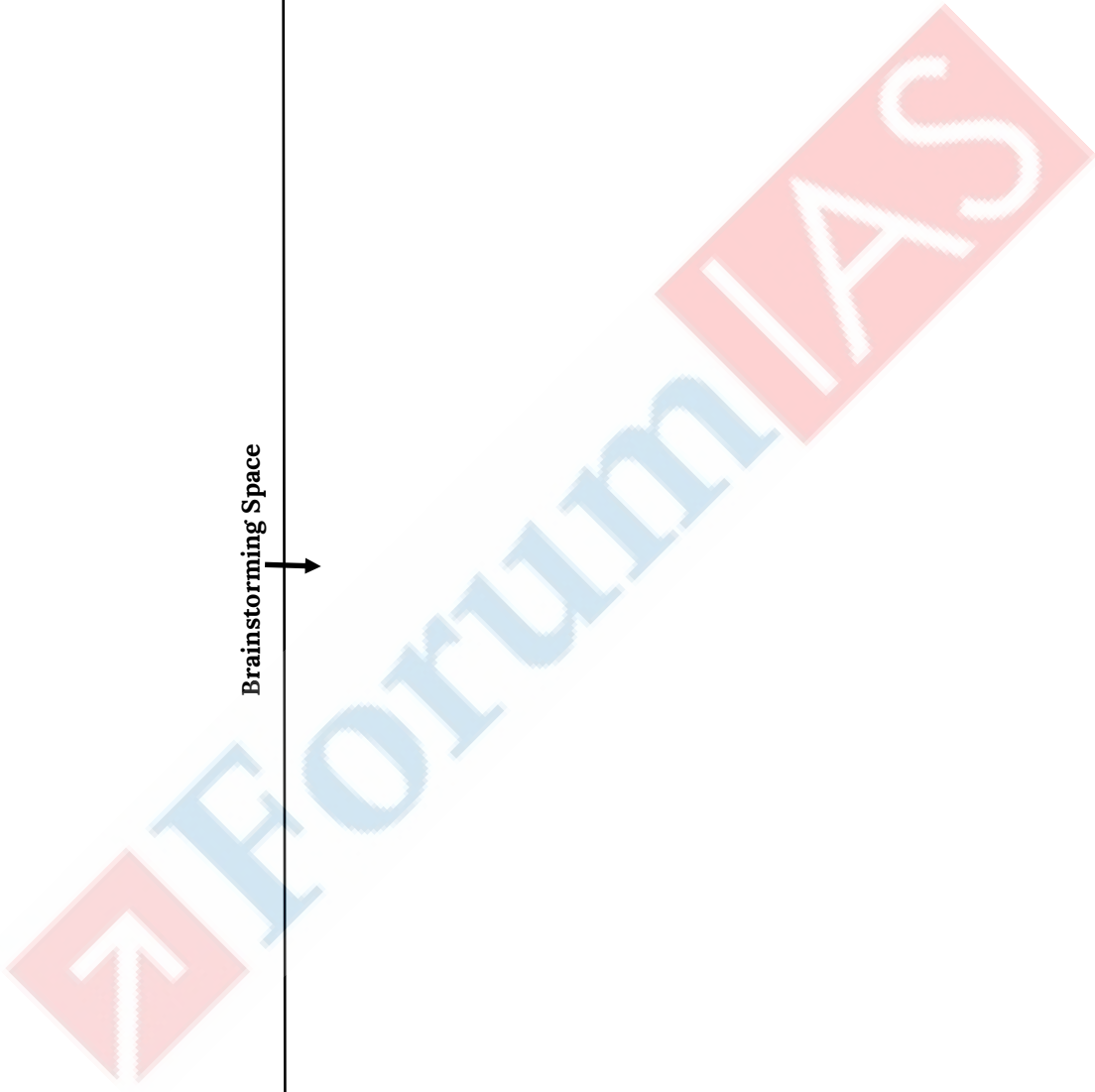


Additional Updates



Q.111) 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space

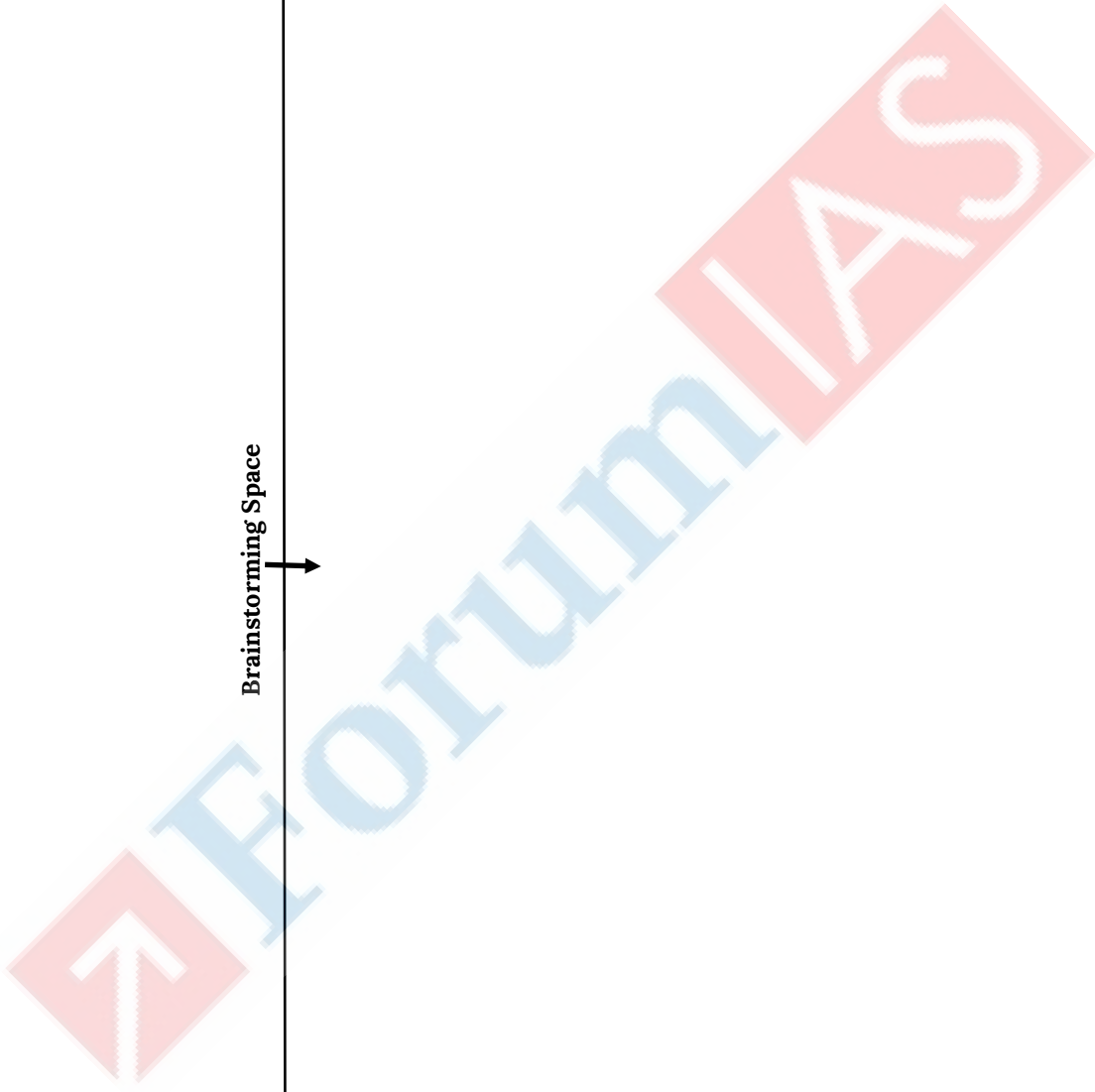


Additional Updates



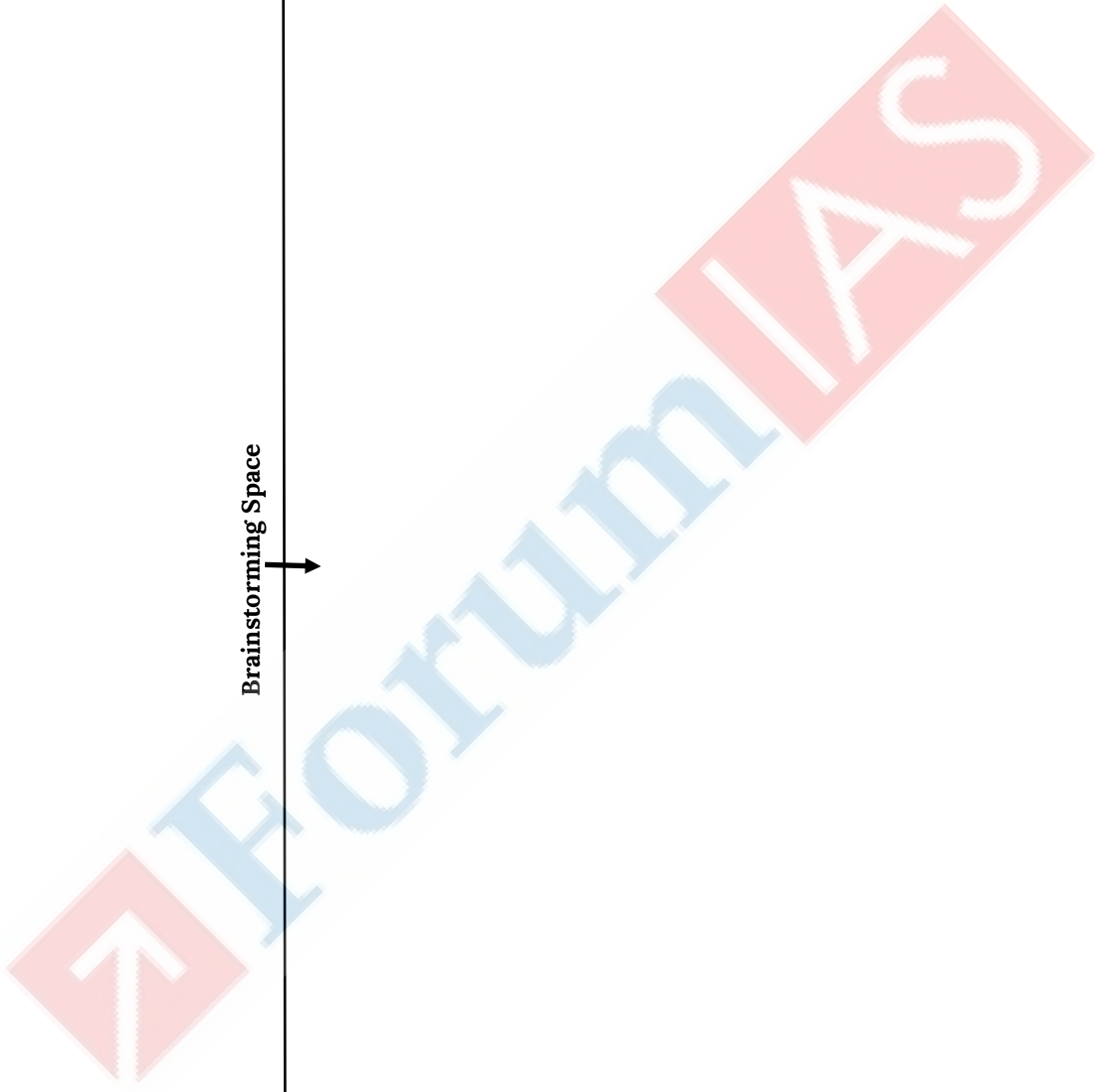
Q.112) Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level? (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



Q.113) 'The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

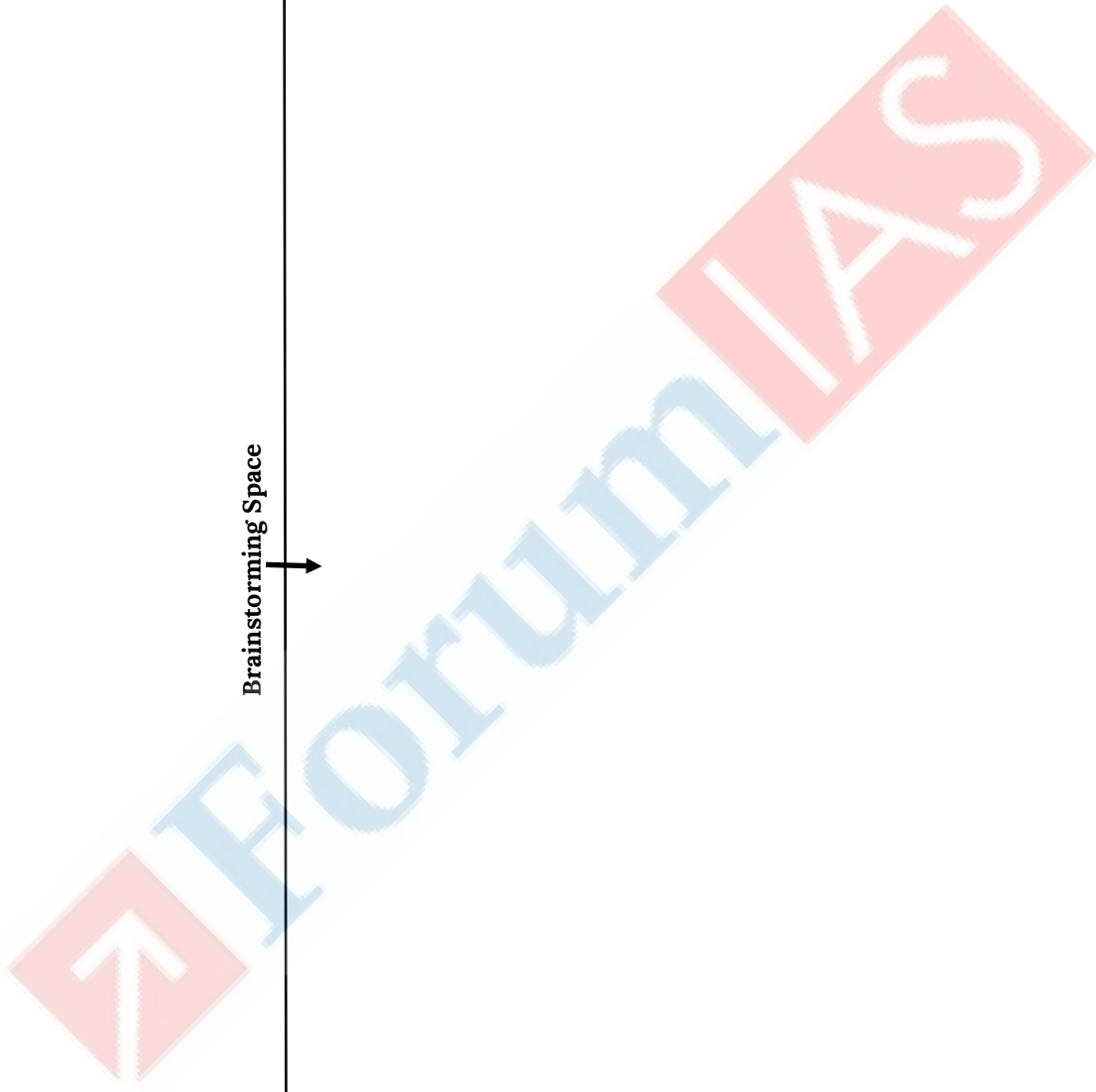
Brainstorming Space





Q.114) “Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and maturity of sense of rule of law.” Examine this statement in the light of the role of civil servants in upholding constitutional morality, promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space

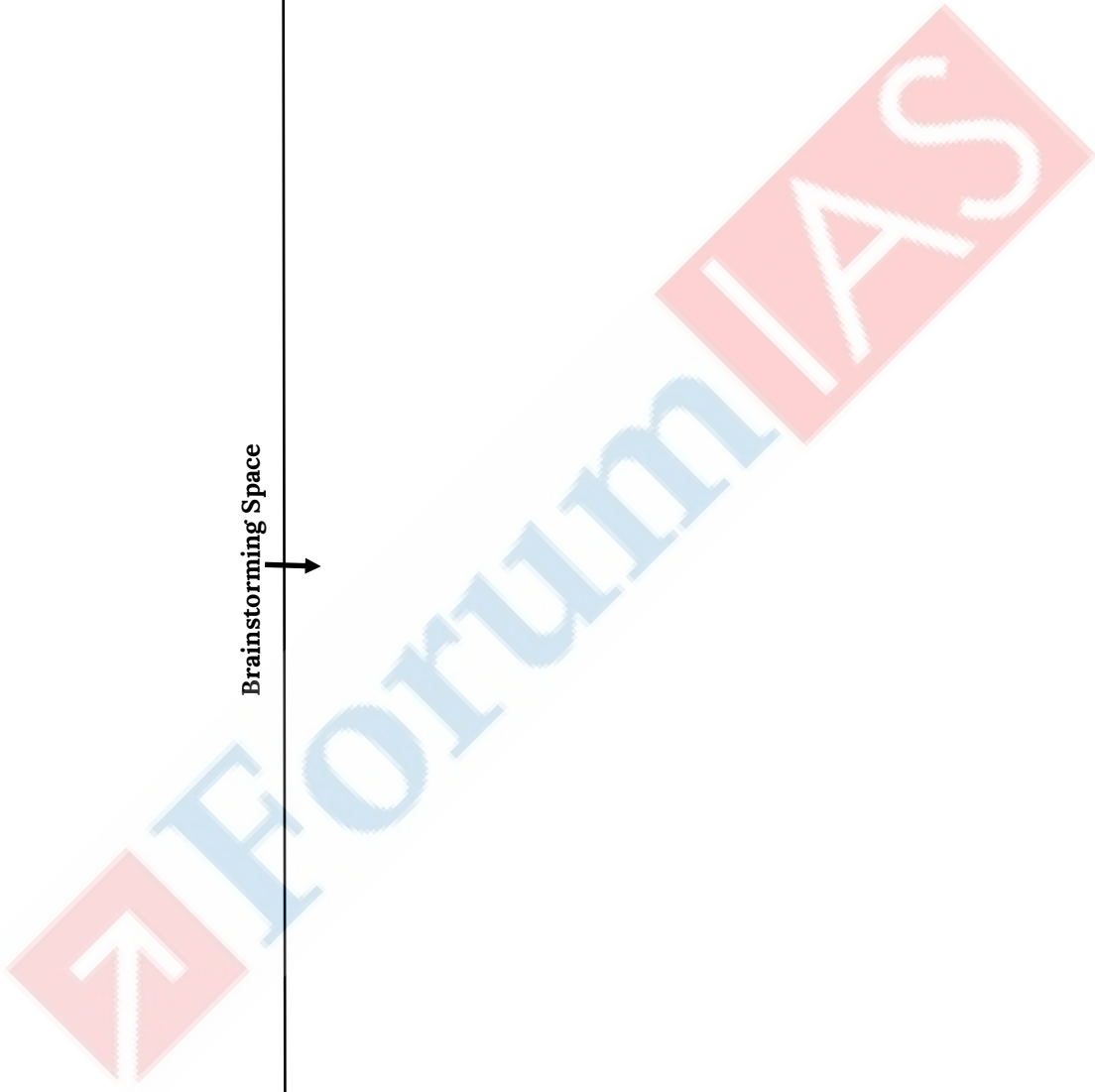


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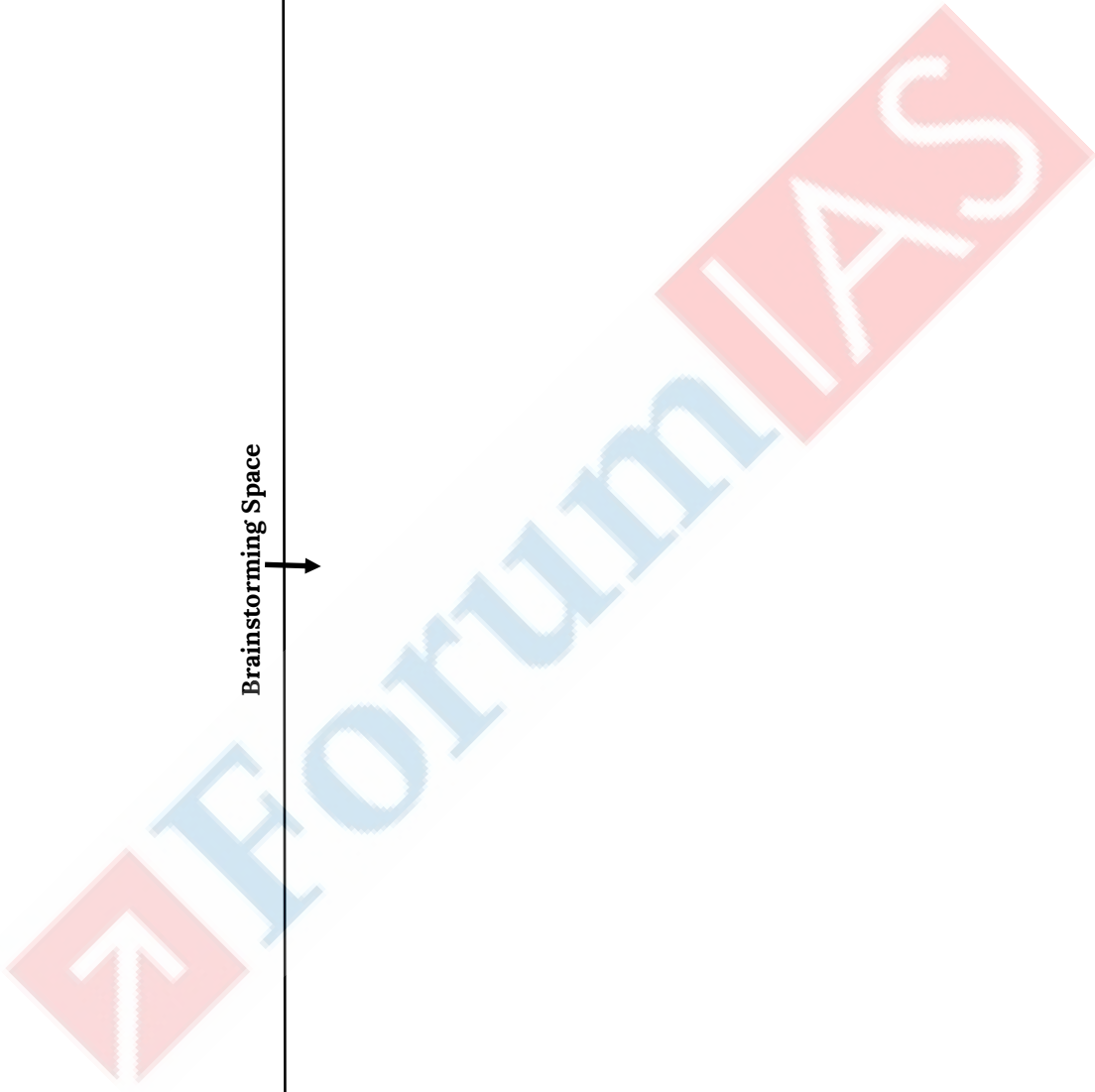
Q.115) “For any kind of social re-engineering by successful implementation of a welfare scheme, a civil servant must rise above personal biases and prejudices to maintain objectivity.” Justify this statement with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



Q.116) To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal?
(10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space

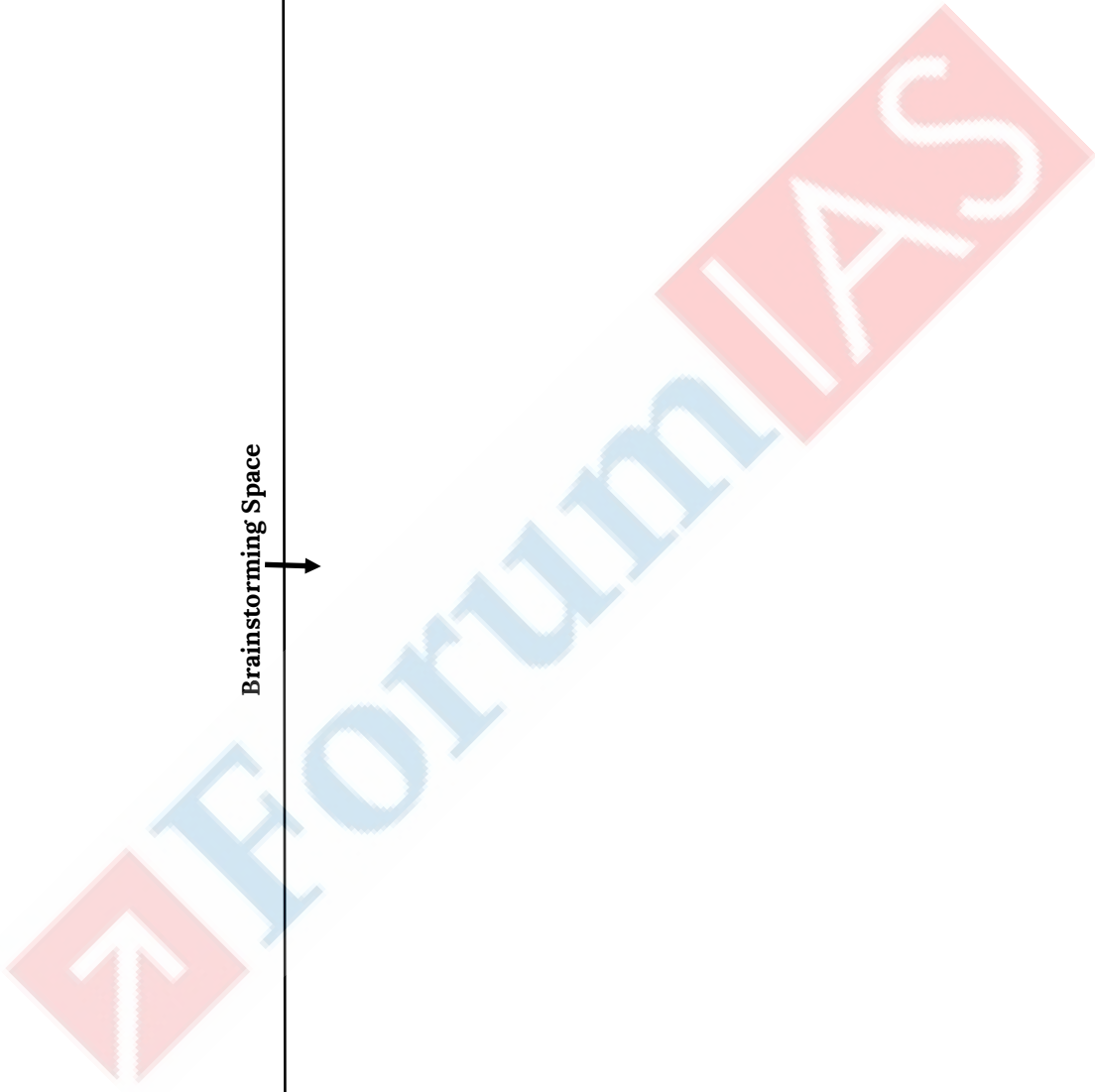




Q.117) It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure values-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your workplace?

(10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



Q.118) What do you understand by the term good governance? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

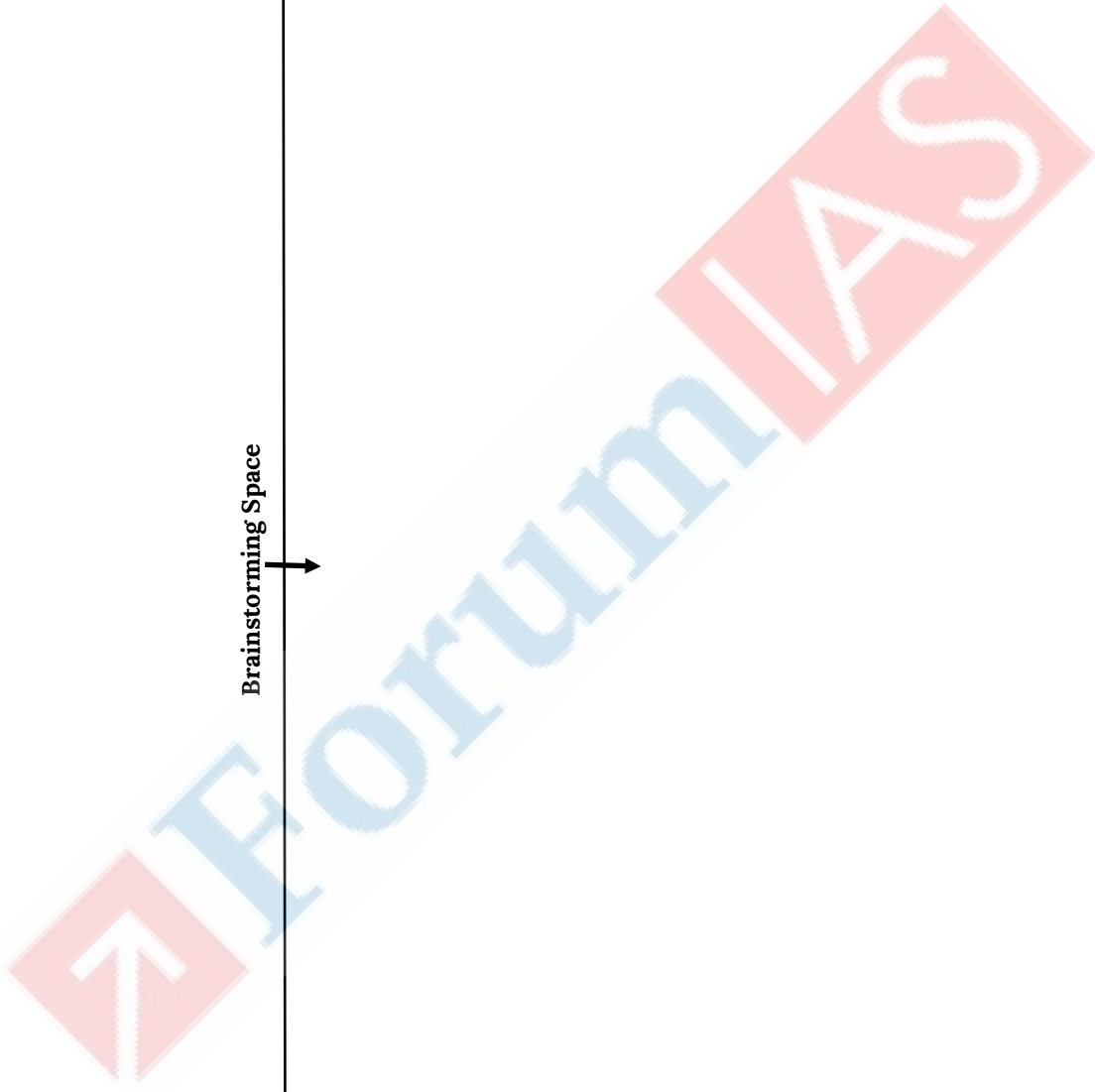
Brainstorming Space

Q.119) Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society. (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space

Q.120) Impact of digital technology as a reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with a suitable example. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

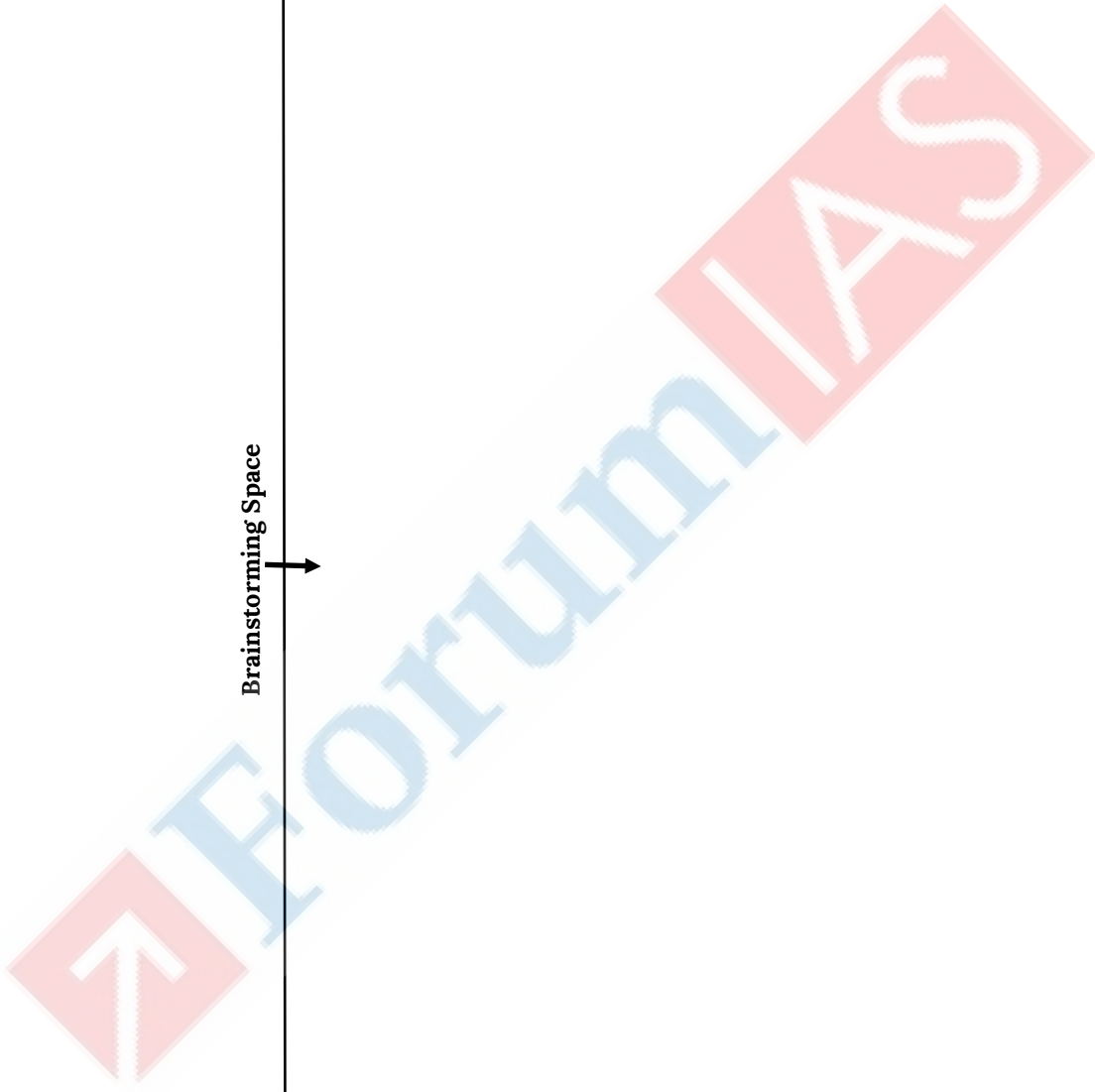
Brainstorming Space





Q.121) An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including the judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate. (10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space

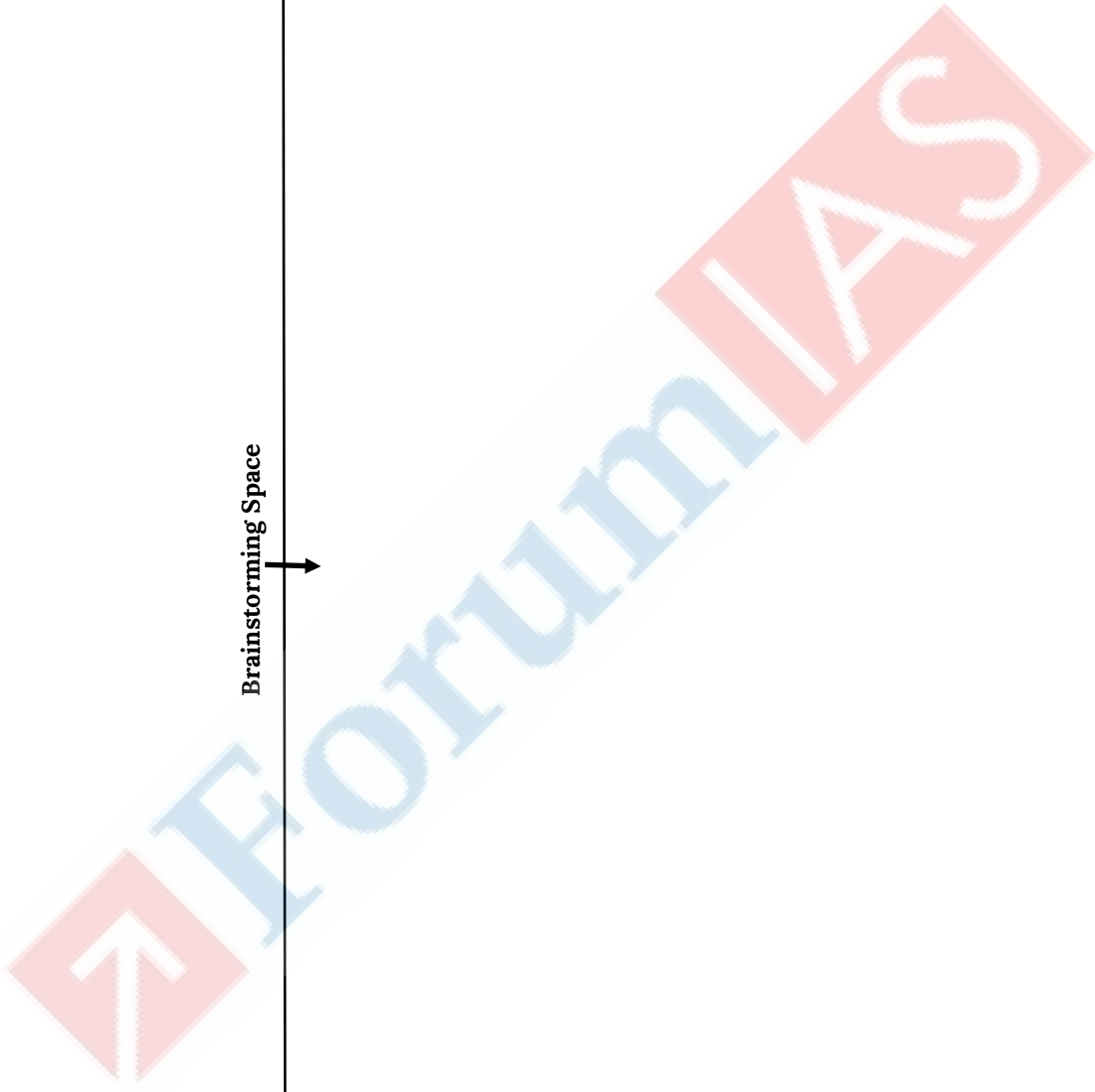


Additional Updates



Q.122) Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

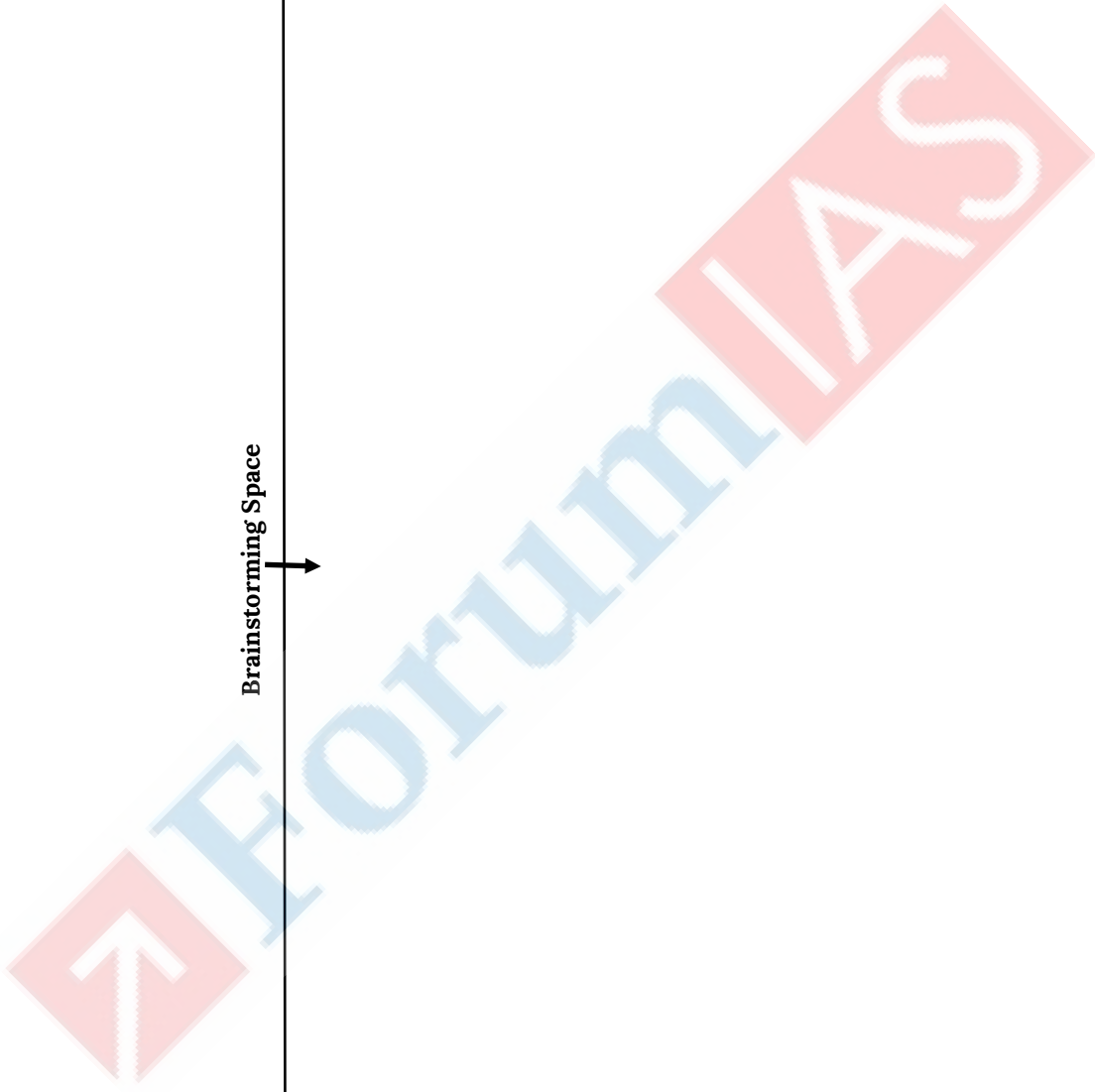


Additional Updates



Q.123) What do these quotations mean to you in the present context: "The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded." Abraham Lincoln. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

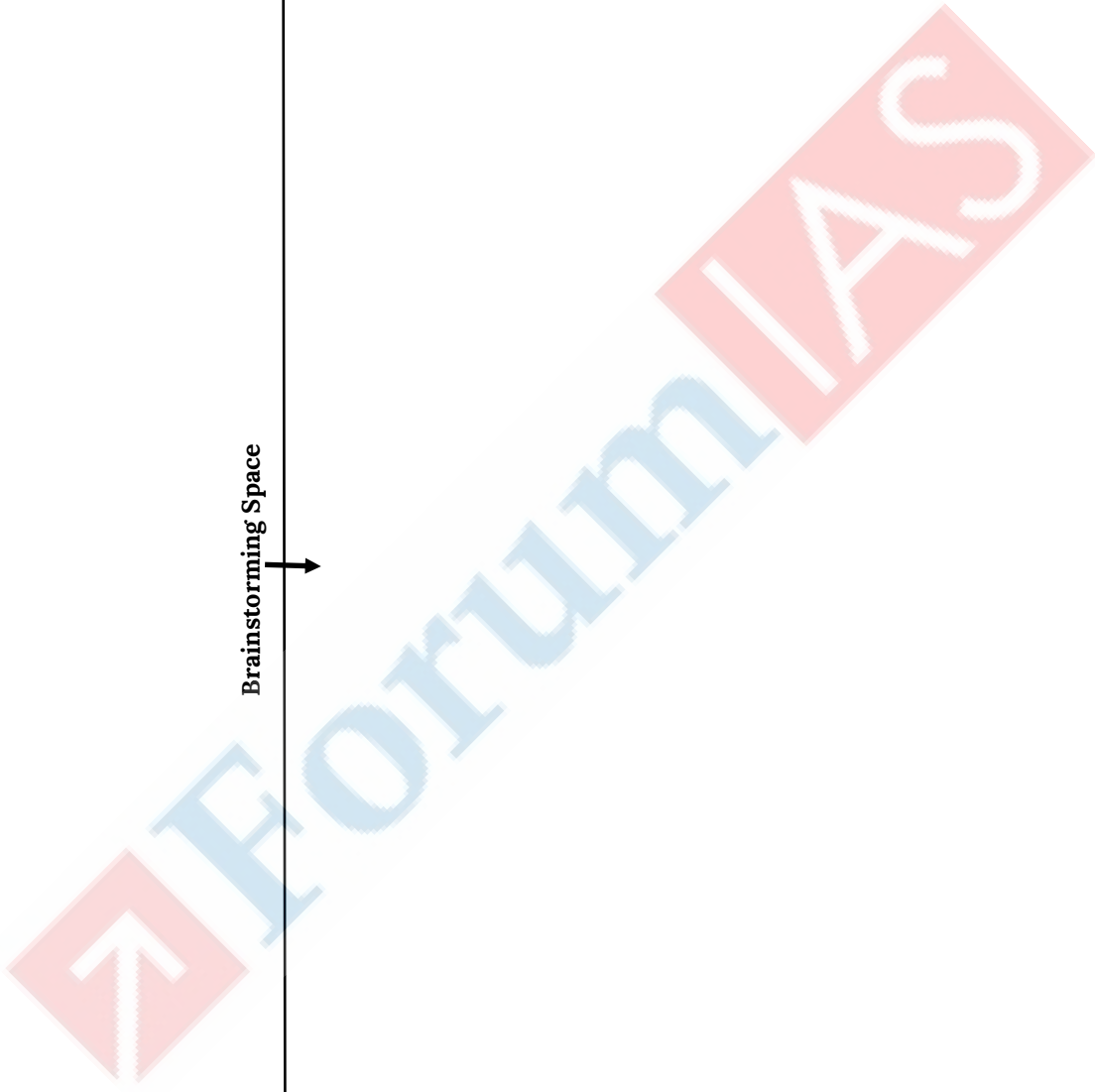
Brainstorming Space





Q.120) Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.121) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space

Q.122) Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is not rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate. (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space

Q.123) Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space

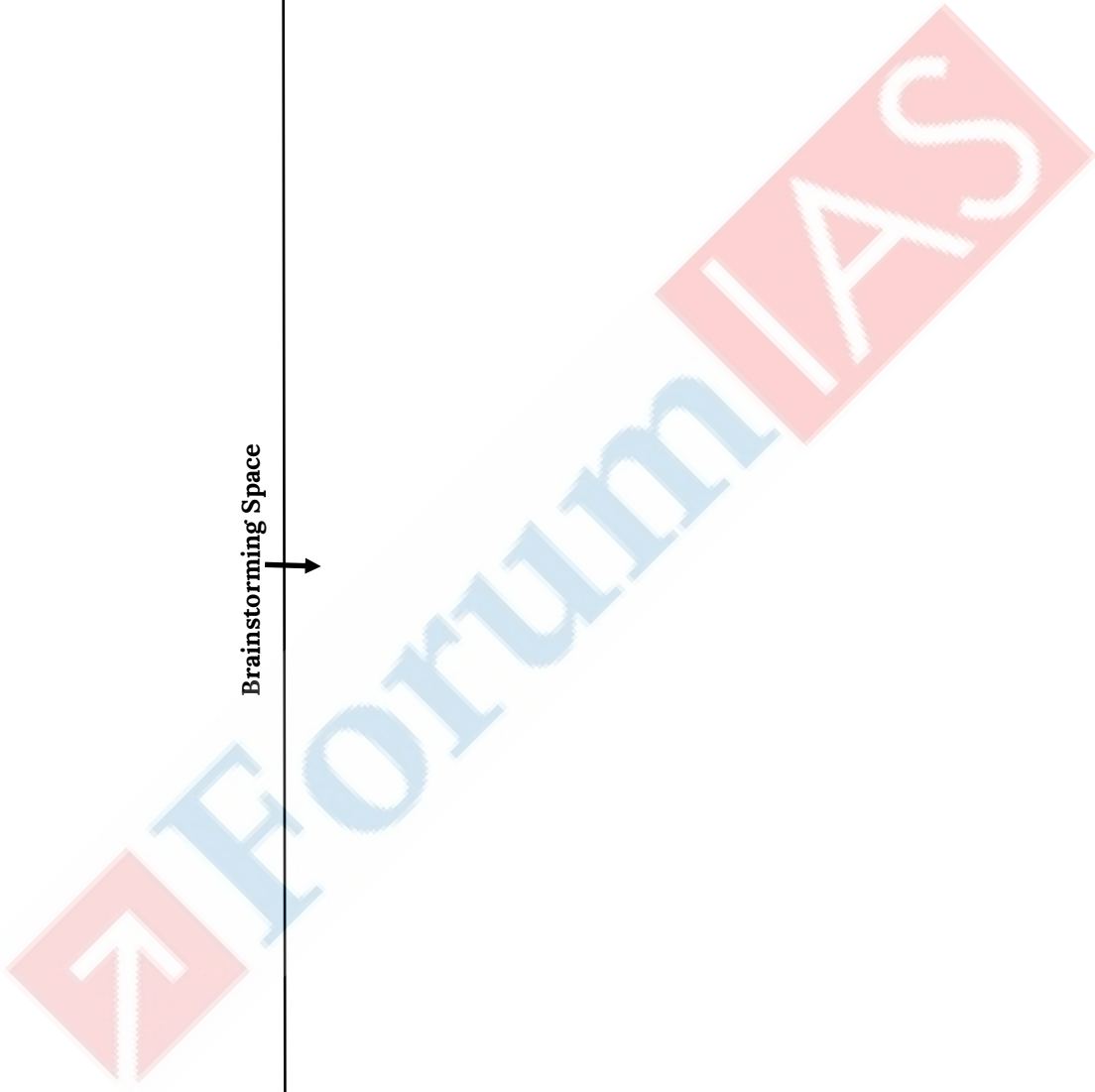
Q.124) The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space

Q.125) Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

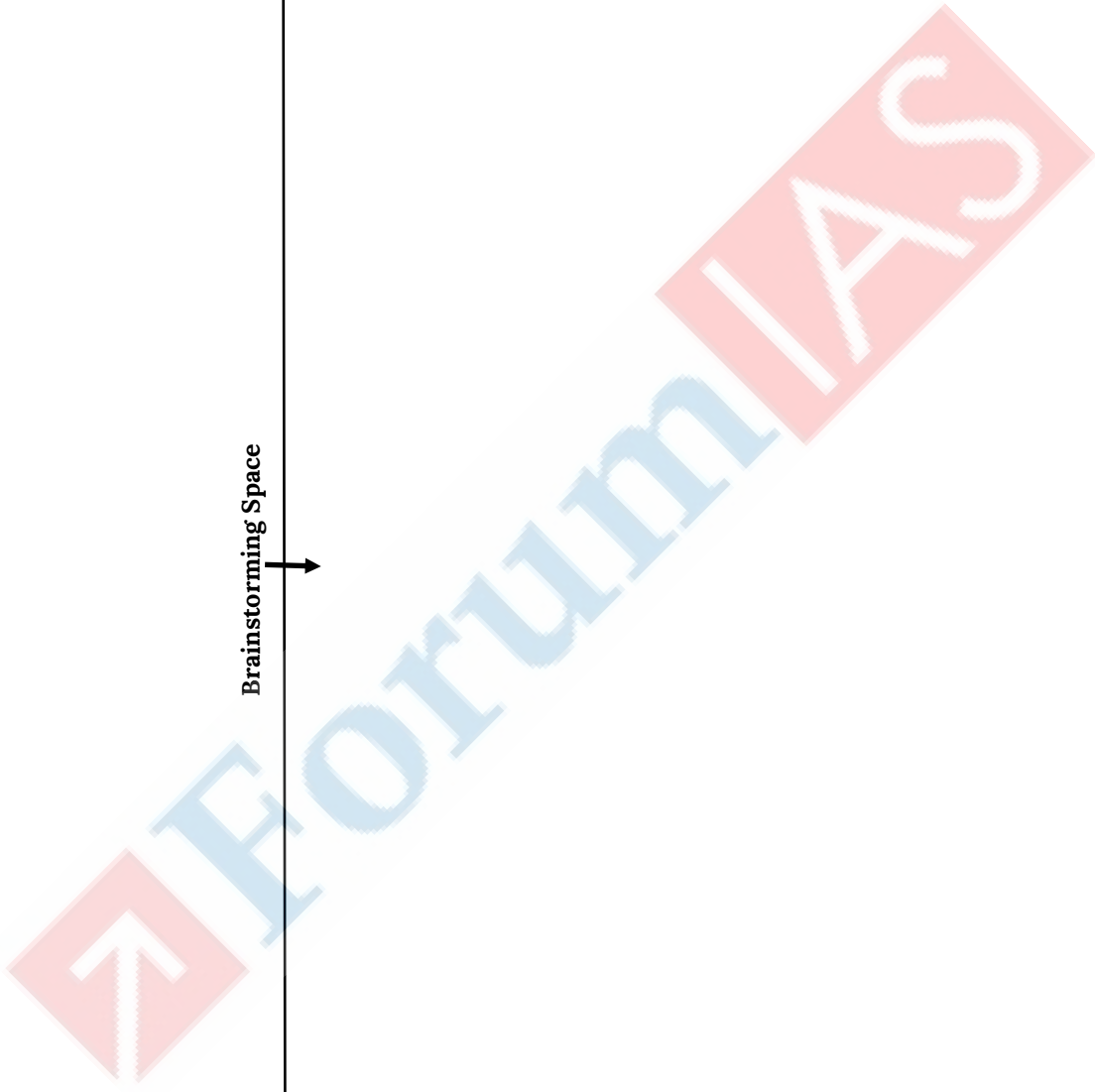
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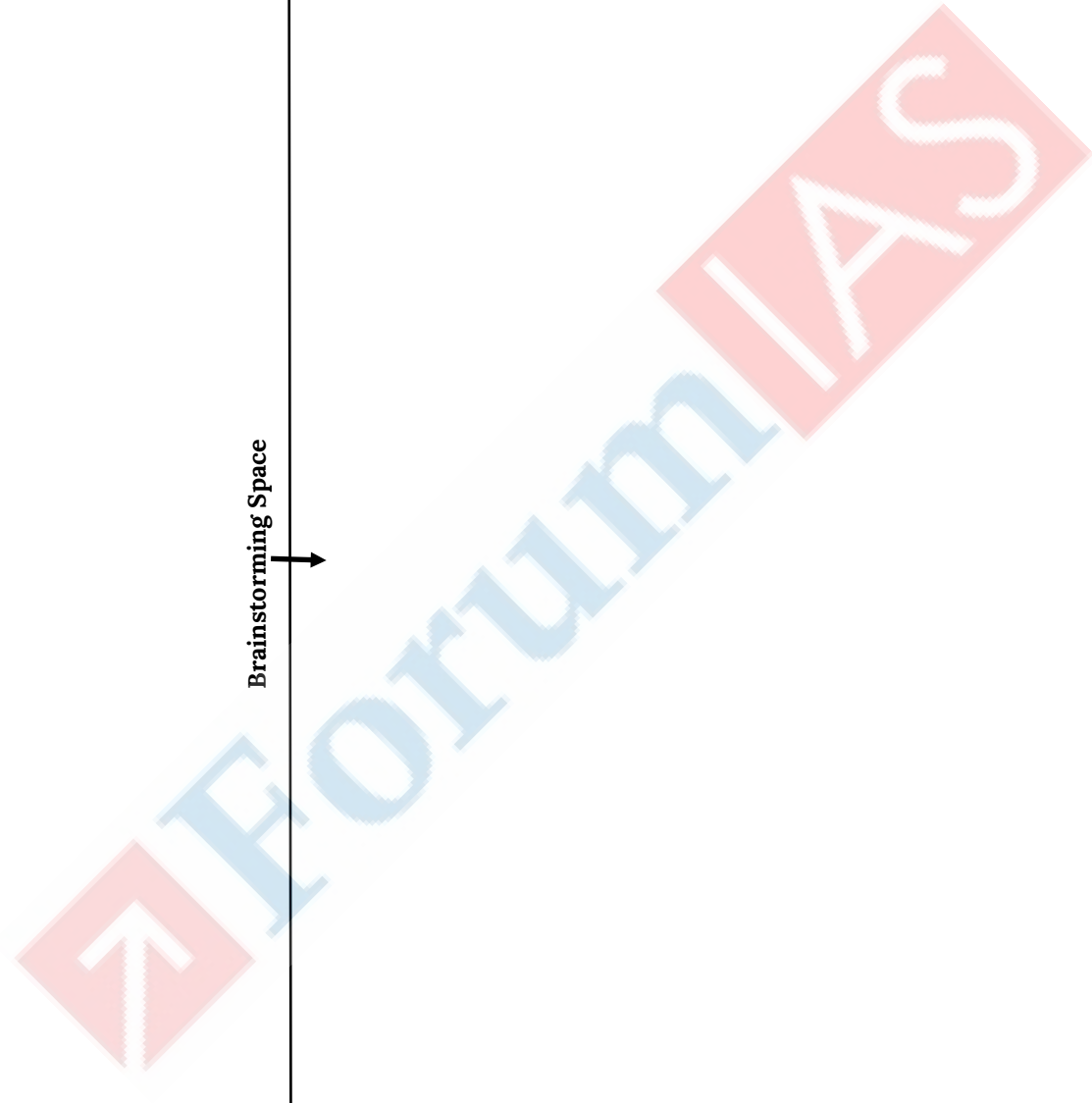
Q.126) Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



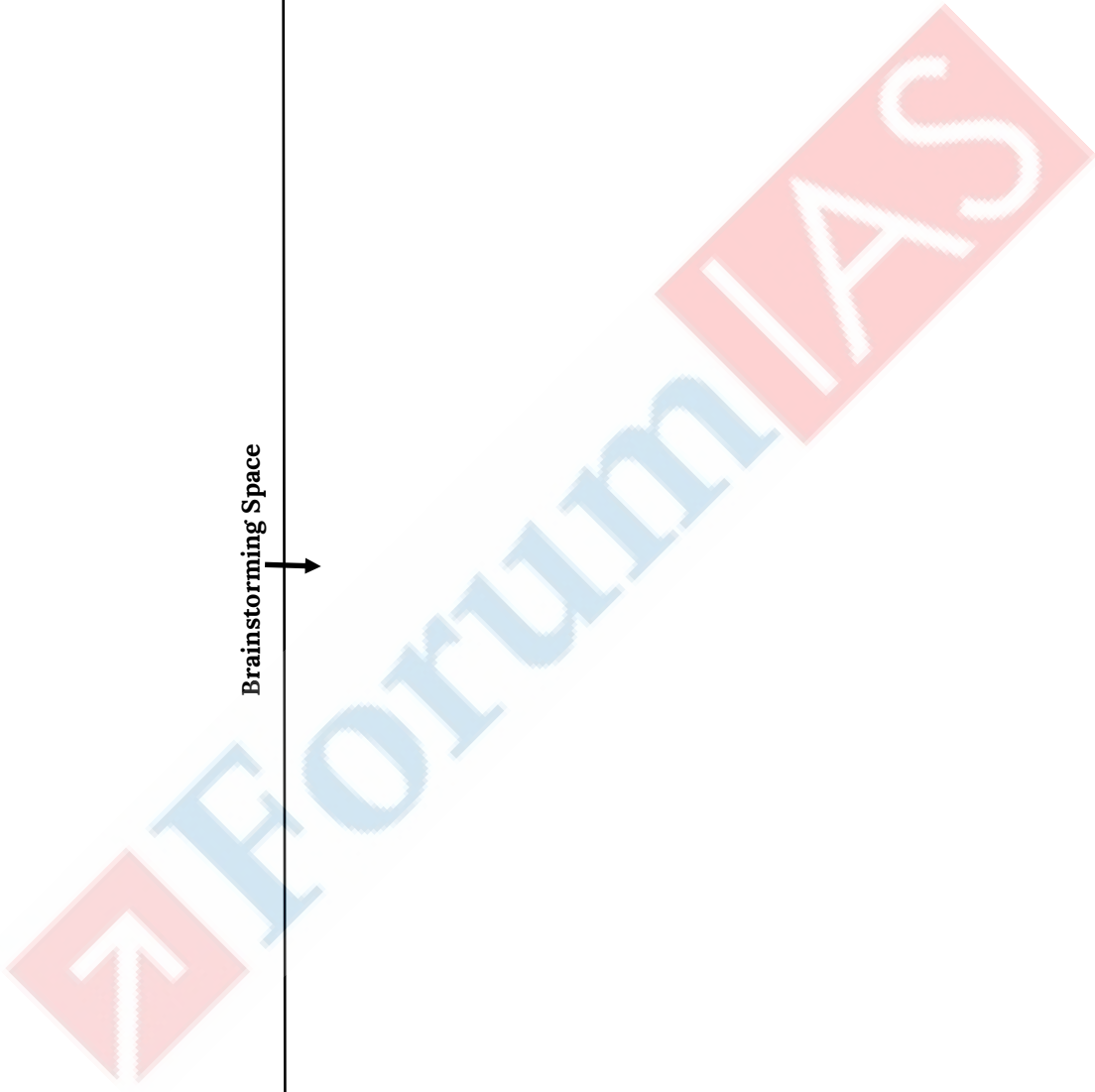
Q.127) Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. (10 marks, 150 words) (2016)

Brainstorming Space



Q.128) "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



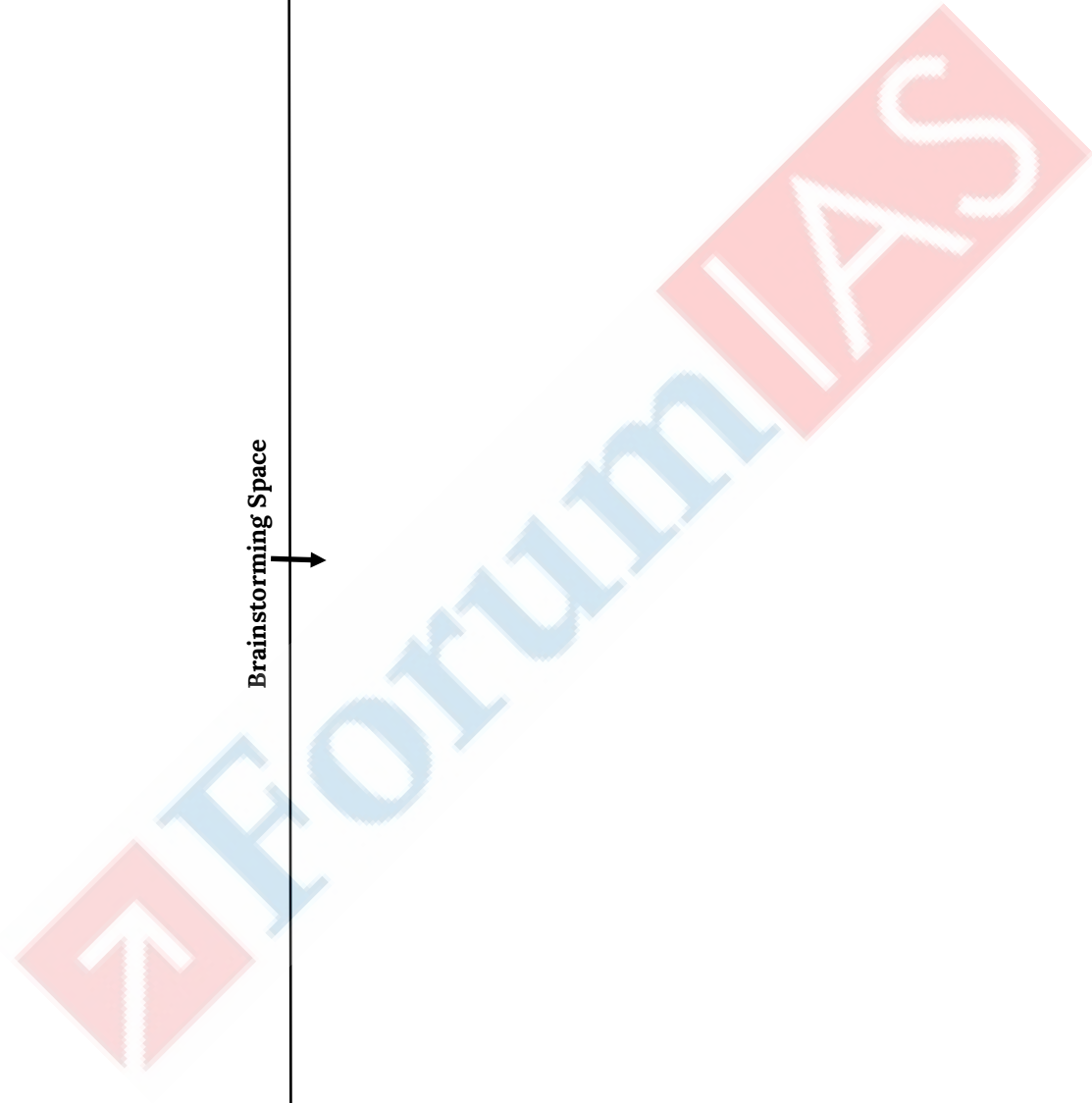
Q.129) Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space

Q.130) What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.131) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, the mother and the teacher." - A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space

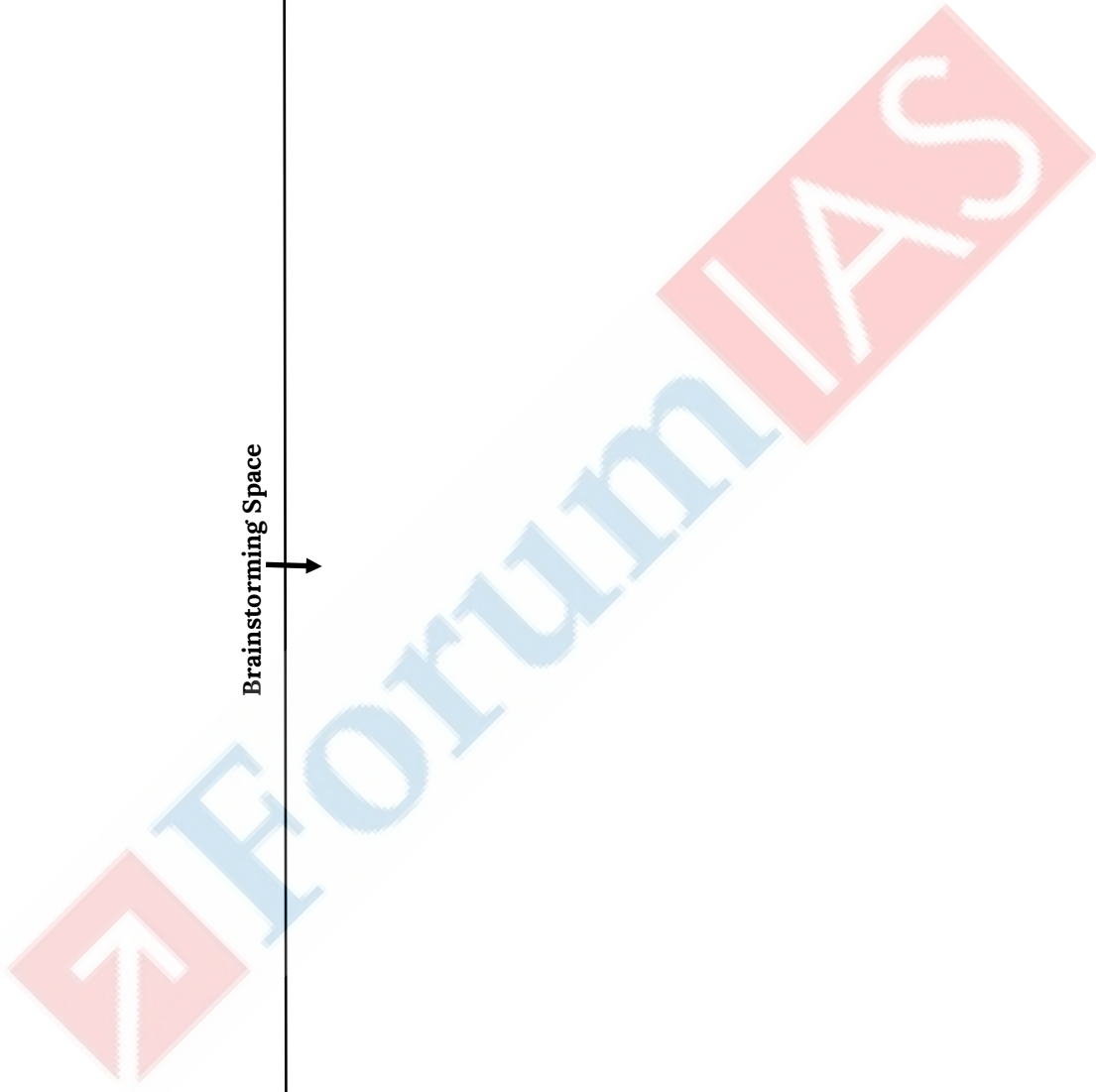
Q.132) It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2014)

Brainstorming Space

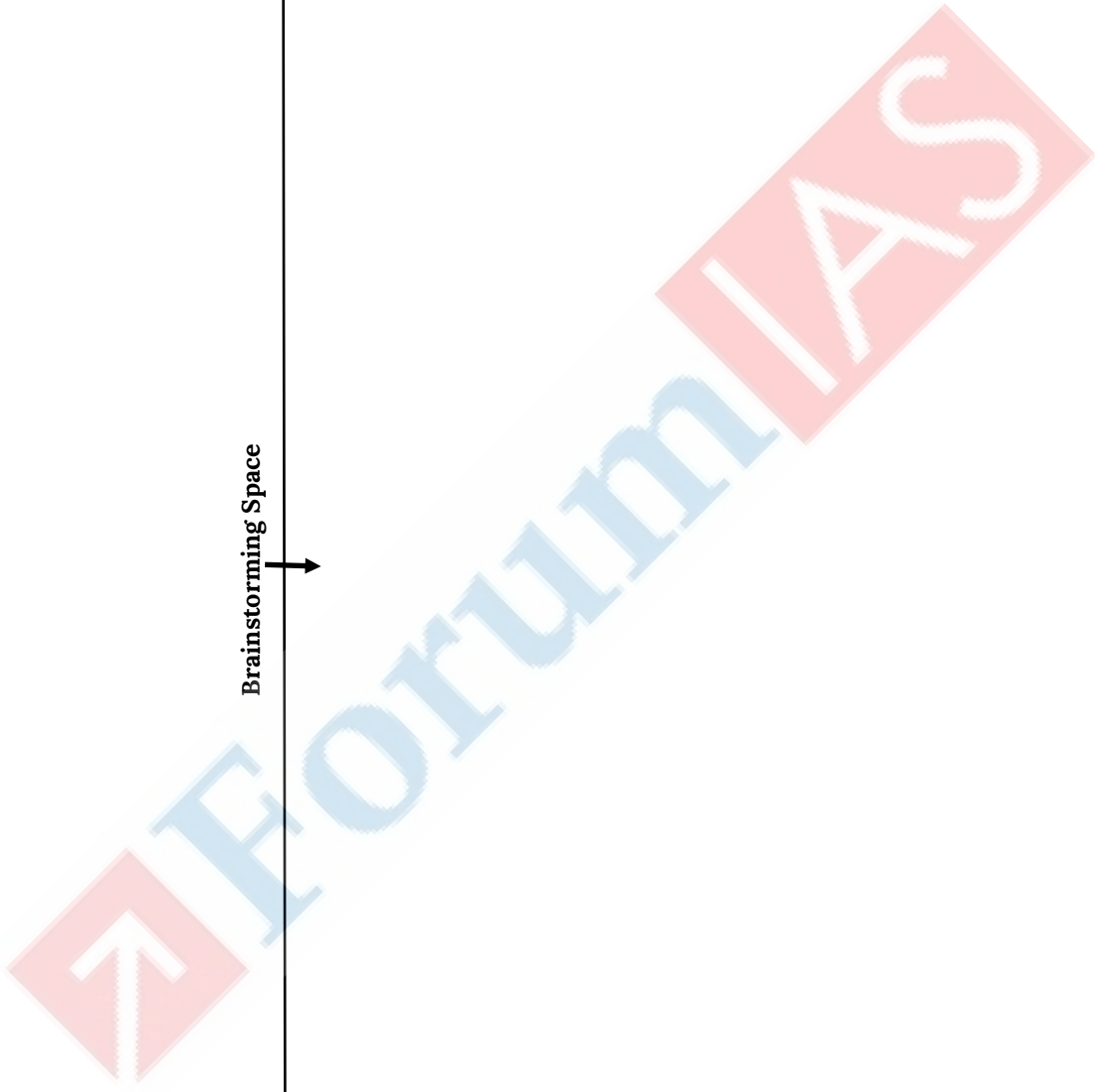
Q.133) There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2019)

Brainstorming Space



Q.134) "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone; it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words) (2018)

Brainstorming Space



Q.135) Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyse this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized. (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space

Q.136) Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. A) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. B) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace. (10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

Brainstorming Space



Q.137) Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space





Q.138) "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face prosecution or human rights violation." Examine the statement with reference to the ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with an open society.

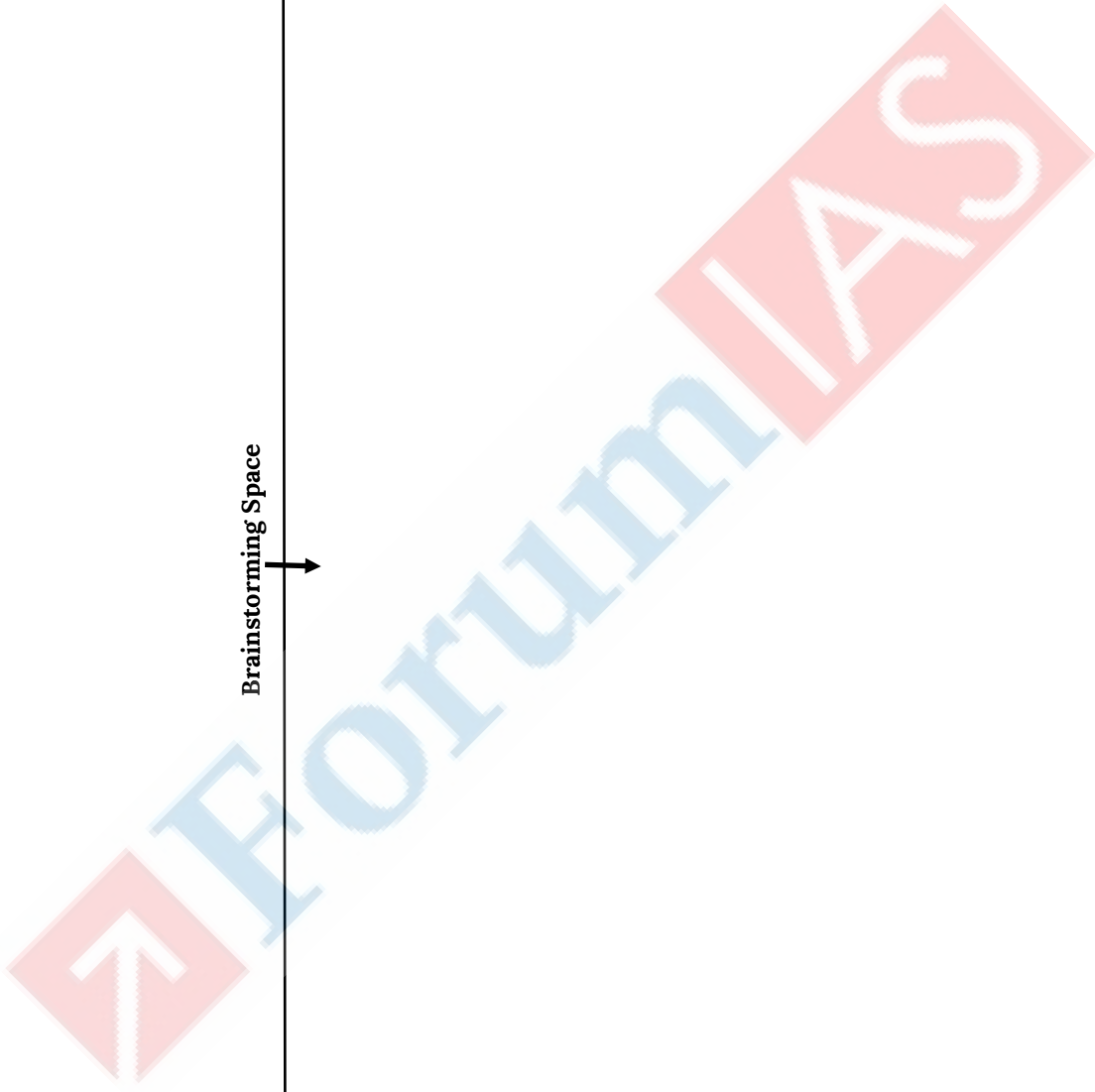
(10 marks, 150 words) (2021)

Brainstorming Space



Q.139) Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power(CNP)viz. human capital, soft power(culture and policies), and social harmony.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

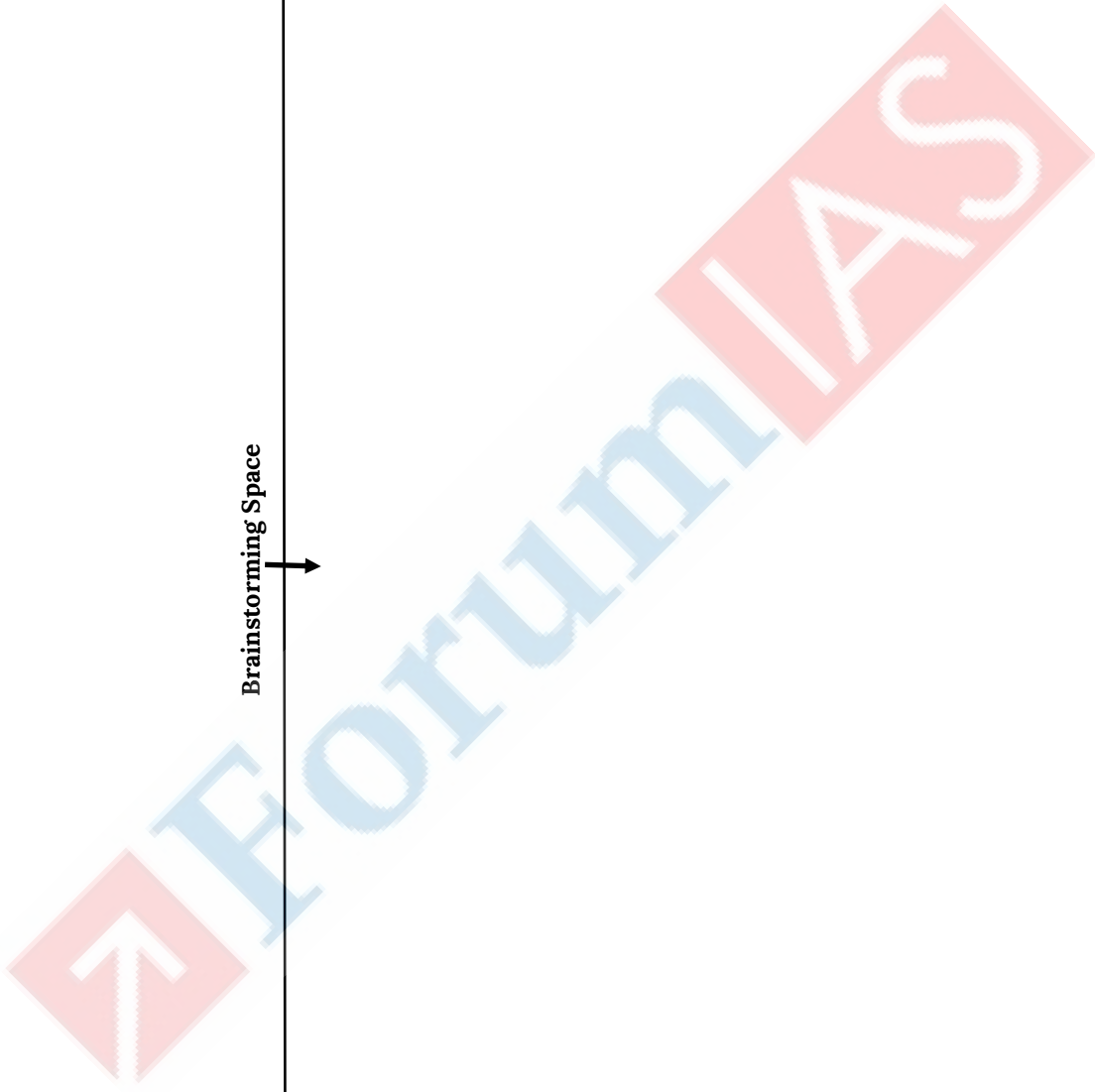
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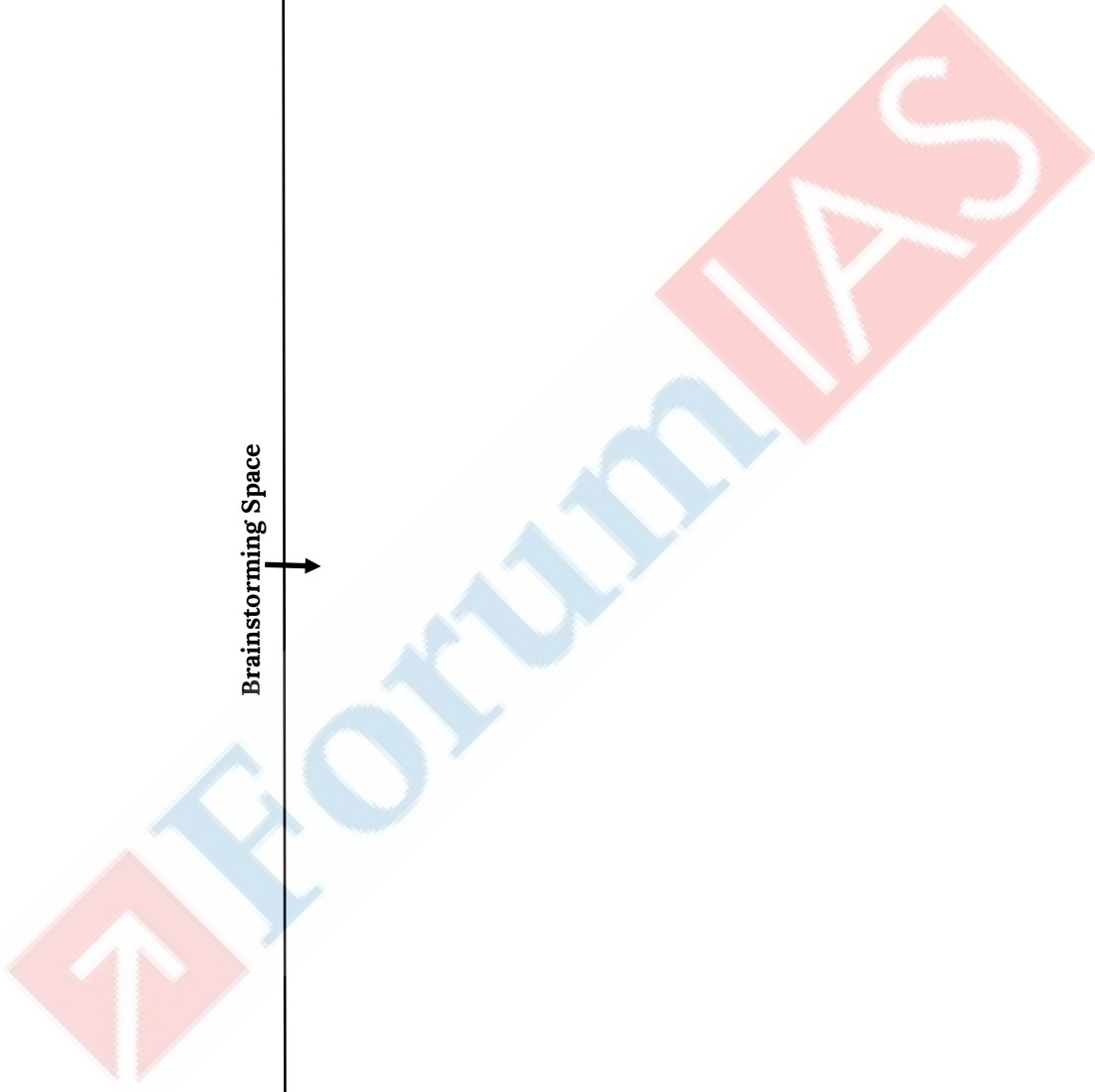
Q.140) 'The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (10 marks, 150 words) (2020)

Brainstorming Space



Q.141) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

Brainstorming Space



Q.142) At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2015)

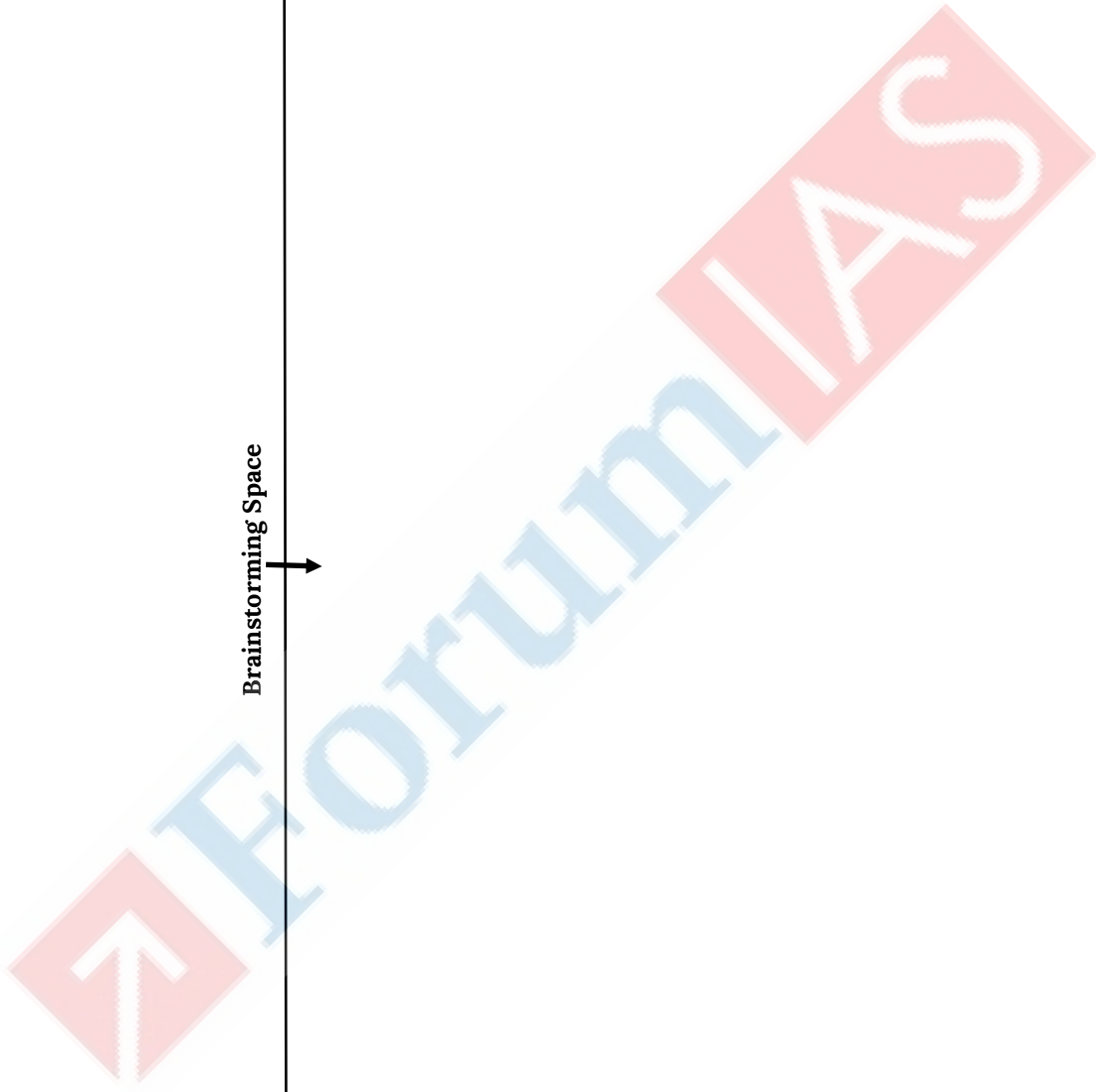
Brainstorming Space



Q.143) 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2023)

Brainstorming Space



Q.144) 2 (a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts?

(10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



Q.145) Carl von Clausewitz states that “war is the continuation of politics by other means.” Critically examine the relevance of this statement in present context of contemporary geo-political conflicts.

Considering the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversial issues of compensation in case of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.

India is an emerging economic power of the world. However, it is still a developing country. In this context, how will you justify the need of an ethical framework for sustainable economic growth of the country?

(10 marks, 150 words) (2025)

Brainstorming Space



Q.146) In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine. (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

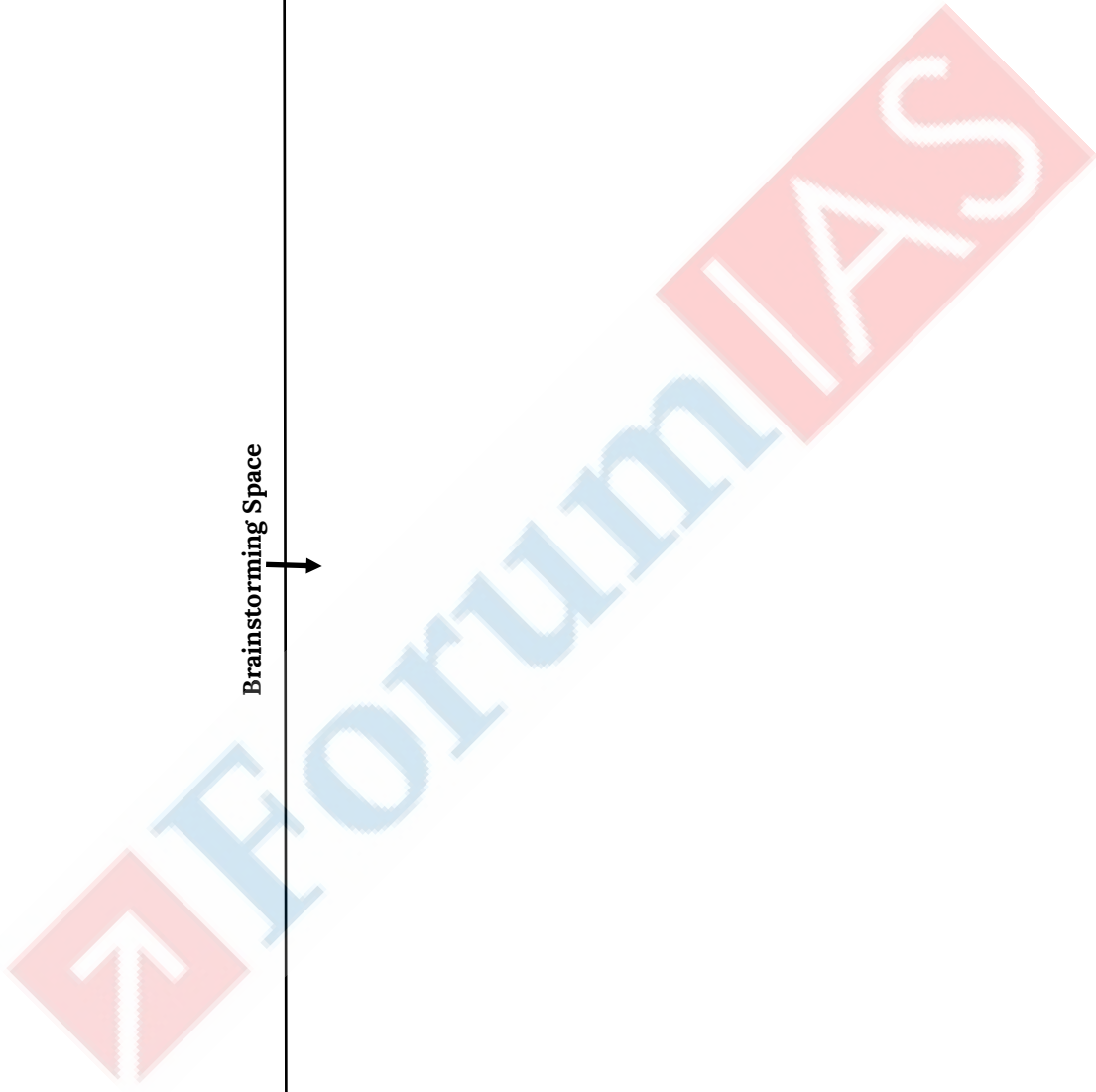
Brainstorming Space

Q.147) Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower? (10 marks, 150 words) (2022)

Brainstorming Space

Q.148) Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

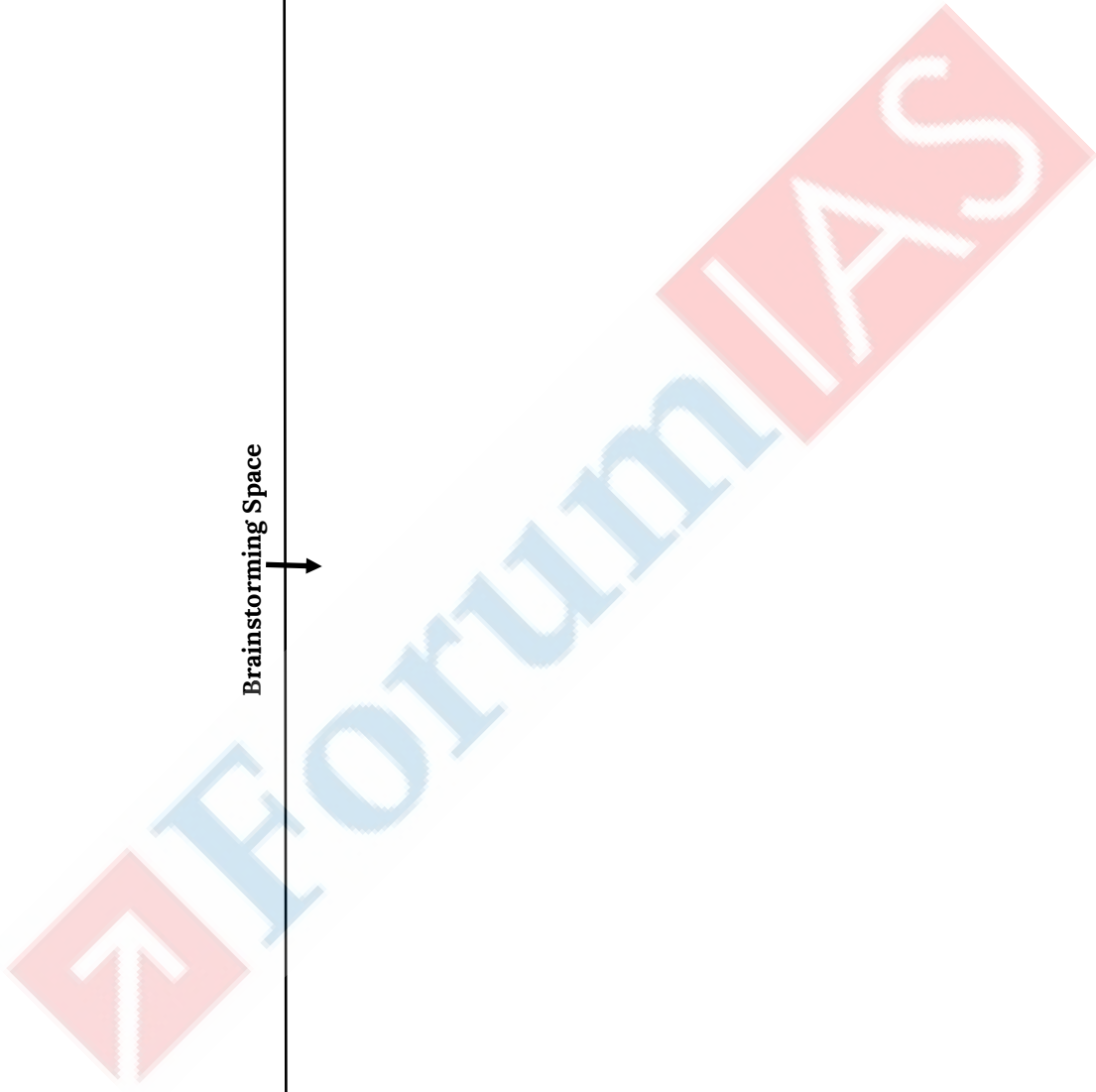
Brainstorming Space





Q.149) Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify.
(10 marks, 150 words) (2017)

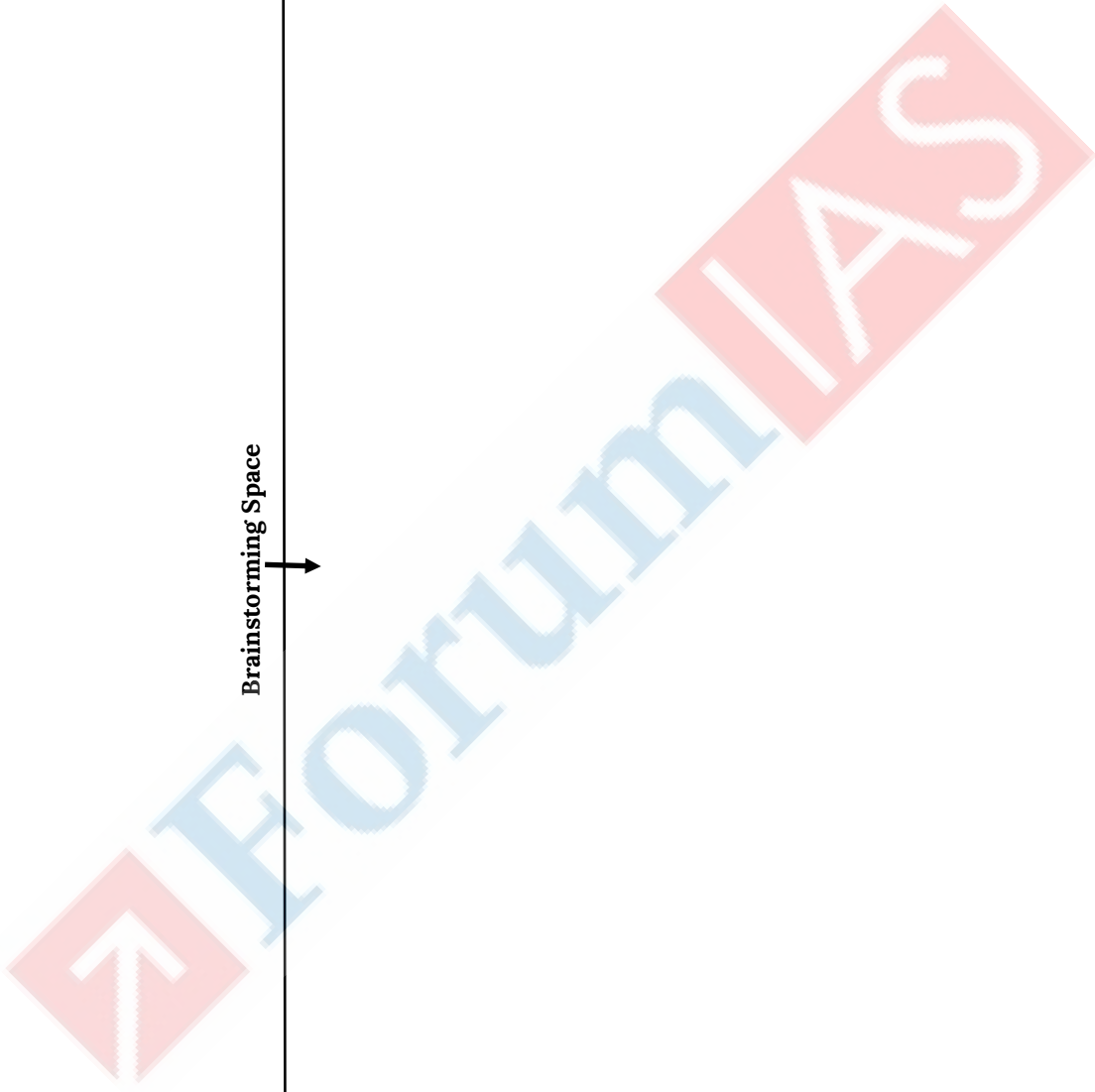
Brainstorming Space



Q.150) 4 (a) “The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today’s context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice.” Examine the above statement with suitable examples.

(10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

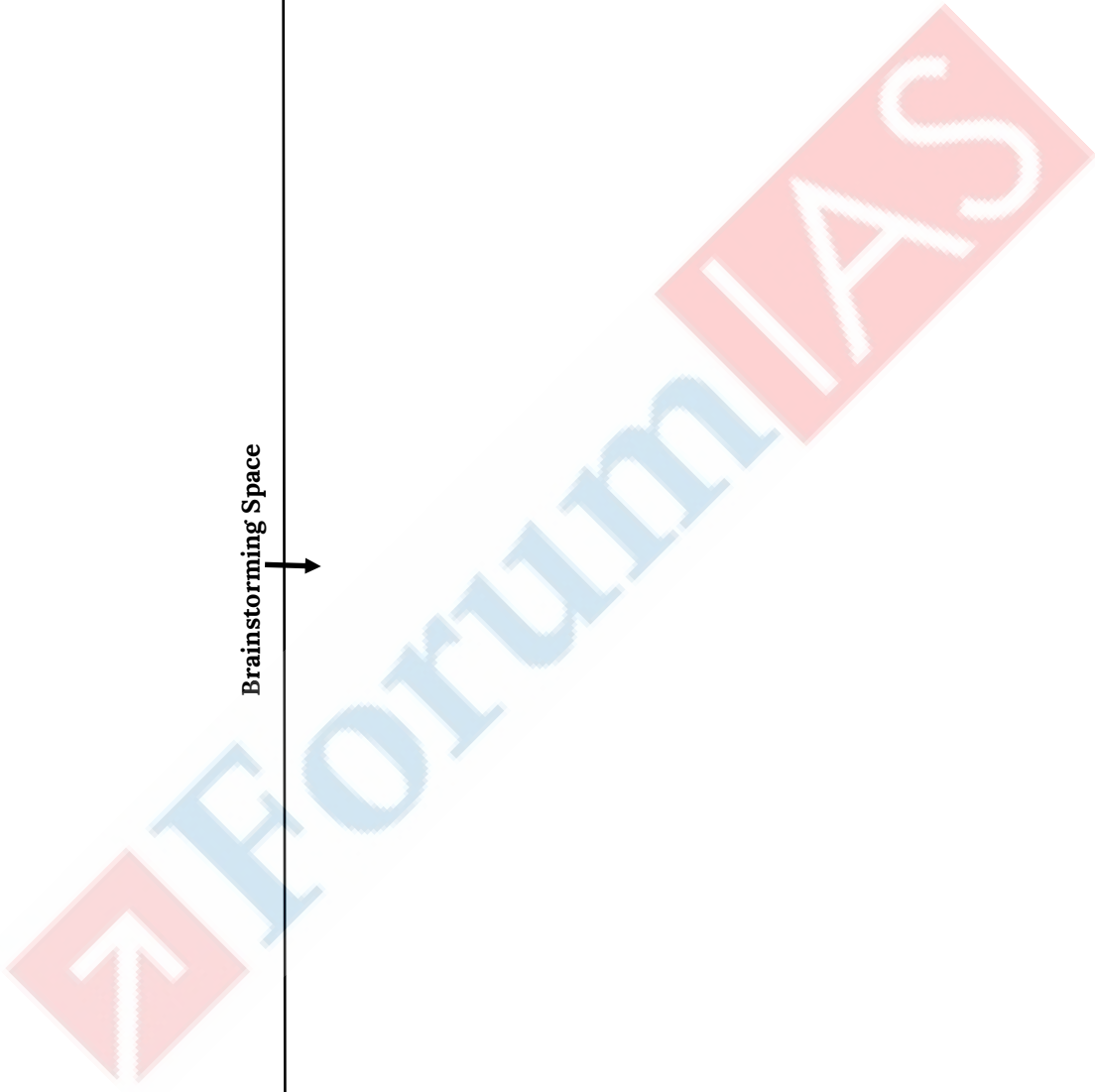
Brainstorming Space





Q.151) "Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent." Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space



Q.152) The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system. (10 marks, 150 words) (2024)

Brainstorming Space