

# **GS SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S TEST COPY**

### **SRISHTI MISHRA**

### **AIR 95**

### **CSE 2023**

### **ETHICS**



**8448496262**



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UPSC

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Q1)

Spiritualism refers to a form of  
religiosity that honours the spirit and  
involves deep inward thinking and the  
ability of self-reflection.

more clarity in  
needed. Elaborate

An enlightened leader needs to be  
spiritually sound:-

a) To be self-reflective - capable of  
assessing one's own actions and  
changing for the better.

b) self-satisfaction & self-contentment -  
an unhappy or unsatisfied leader  
is unstable.

c) Ability to look beyond one's outer  
body and into their followers'  
deeper qualities & potential.

d) Influence behaviour by calling  
to the ethical & moral conscience  
of individuals.

Discuss the role of  
spirituality in leading  
a team. How an  
enlightened leader would  
lead his team differently.



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Spirituality is often the birth  
parent of good virtues & values.

① Gandhi was a spiritual man,  
ready to learn from the Gita, Bible  
& Quran. He used non-violent means  
to win independence.

② Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
had strong faith in his morals &  
the 'power of the universe' and went  
on to contribute to India's glory.

Good  
examples  
but

Nevertheless, Spirituality alone is not the solution. It must be coupled  
with :-

- a) moral conscience
- b) integrity ✓
- c) meaningful action.

we try to  
relate values  
like wisdom etc  
with spirituality.

34

Spirituality can birth a leader's  
mind but the leader must work  
hard to create a true impact.



Q.2

Civil Servants are people empowered to bring about good governance to the grassroots in a democracy. For inclusive & balanced development in India, tolerance & compassion are key.

### INDIA'S SOCIAL CONSTRUCT

- ① Social Stratification - hierarchy of and power and unequal access to resources.
- ② Alienation - of some groups  
eg. minorities, tribal groups, PVTGs.
- ③ Communal / Regional clashes - inequality and conflict further poverty and stunt growth.

Thus, inequality and isolation (ghettoization) leads to uninclusive growth.



## Need for Tolerance + Compassion

Explain the  
terms tolerance  
& compassion  
briefly.

- ① Give space to the voiceless
- ② Hear grievances in an open-  
minded & holistic manner.
- ③ Appreciate diversity and understand  
the challenges of coexistence.
- ④ Drive away conflict with  
cooperation
- \* a listening ear, and
- \* a helping hand

Explain  
how these  
points  
are associated  
with  
tolerance  
& compassion.

2h

Civil servants are the ray of  
hope in a conflict-prone country.  
Though growth is ~~important~~, tolerance  
& ~~compassion~~ can ensure it is  
inclusive & balanced while ensuring  
SDG 10 - ~~minimize~~ inequalities.



Q3 -

A social sin is a socially construed "wrong", not necessarily legally recognized as a crime but socially defined as immoral and usually met with isolation, disapproval, even ostracism.

Examples of social sins

also does it mean  
acts personal sins that  
effects <sup>over</sup> around us

- ① Exogamy :- marrying outside of one's caste / class / ~~tribe~~ / religion.
- ② Caste mobility :- claiming to be a higher caste than what one was born in.

To abstain from social sins, we must follow:

- ① norms of society
- ② Morally/ethically prescribed conduct
- ③ Unwritten rules of behaviour.

Page

rational decision making,

awareness of sins etc



## Consequence of Failing to Abstain from Social Sin :-

① Disapproval from society; could  
result in

- a) isolation
- b) boycott by family, friends, etc.
- c) ostracism from society

② Consequences:-

- a) Economic - loss of job
- b) Political - loss of support or  
even basic rights
- c) Familial - difficult life for  
children due to loss of  
contact.

inequality  
social  
work  
coll

Social sins are built into societies  
as a means of ensuring continuity.  
Thus, consequences of committing one  
are heavy.

2 1/2



Q4.

Public and private morality  
are related but distinct :-

### Private Morality

- \* Followed at an individual / personal or familial level.
- \* Driven by one's own moral conscience
- \* Can influence one's own life and progeny's moral compass.
- \* more flexible, allow leeway
- \* The need to be correct at a moral level.
- eg: stealing is wrong,  
lying is wrong  
All people are equal,  
no matter what religion.

### Public Morality

- \* Followed at a 'macro' or societal level.
- \* Driven by societal ethos, unwritten norms, expectations and social roles.
- \* Affects society's stability and continuity
- \* more rigid, extreme scrutiny
- \* The need to be correct in society's view
- eg: political and religious agenda - public adherence to one's caste/class.

4000 explanation!



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इस  
मार्ग  
में  
लिखना  
होगा।

When people choose a political life:-

① They become responsible for  
social stability

② They come under public scrutiny

③ They are seen as examples of one's  
caste/class/religion

④ They are expected to remain true  
to their identity.

etc!

Thus, public morality becomes a  
subconscious way of acting when  
someone chooses a political life  
& sometimes even overtakes one's  
private moral principles.

3½



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Q5:-

Explain  
normative  
ethics  
briefly.

Normative Ethics refers to ethics as the way it should ideally be. It can be divided into 2 broad categories :-

## Deontological Ethics

- ① One should carry out an action if it is one's duty.
- ② Consequences or results of action should be ignored.
- ③ Example :- Lord Krishna told Arjuna that he must go to war because he has a duty to fight as a Kshatriya.

## Teleological Ethics

- ① One should carry out an action if the consequences of such an action are desired.
- ② Duties should be ignored.
- ③ Example :- Although killing someone is an amoral action, killing a serial killer is good because it saves many future lives.





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## Deontological Ethics Challenges :-

① Who defines the duties of individuals in a society?

② One's caste duty vs one's duty as a human.

eg: Kshatriya dharma vs. Sanatana Dharma

③ Blindly following duty can lead to anarchy if leadership is corrupted.

## Teleological Ethics Challenges

① Individual approach - who decides which consequence is acceptable?

② Trolley Problem : what is better - kill one person vs kill 5 people.

③ Subjective

Thus, both theories must work hand in hand to preserve humanity & social continuity.



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Q.

The Constitution of India, under Article 19 - right to freedom of speech & expression, provides for media/press freedom as well. ✓

Media - the 4th Pillar of Democracy

- ① media is a space for expression of civil society's needs. ✓ space for debates, discussions etc!
- ② media is a means to be a whistle-blower against corrupt officers/politicians.
- ③ media helps create awareness amongst citizens of
  - their rights
  - their entitlements
  - their duties
  - the functioning of the government
- ④ media is a tool through which India practices its right to know.
- ⑤ feedback mechanism to leadership.



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The post-truth is a threat to this  
idea as it:-

Explain what you understand  
with post truth.

- ① crushes reality.
- ② does not let the truth reach the  
citizens.
- ③ Involves an element of censorship
- ④ keeps citizens in the dark,  
denying right to know.

Review

Any intervention with media  
often raises a storm, fighting for  
democracy. A free and open media  
is an indicator of a good democracy.

2½



Q.7

Ethics are the moral rules that influence human thought, behaviour and action.

### IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS IN LIFE

#### ① Socio-cultural life

- a) Ethics ensure social stability
- b) Enhance cooperation and peaceful coexistence.
- c) Ensure safety and security within societies
- d) Encourage fraternity and goodwill

#### ② Economic life

- a) Encourage socially beneficial activities like Corporate Social Responsibility CSR in businesses.
- b) Ruthless profit making is discouraged, compassionate growth encouraged.

Discuss role of ethics in developing rational thinking, credibility, building etc!



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c) Economic slowdown does not leave people helpless. Ethics ensures humane treatment and mutual respect.

## ③ Political life

a) Ethical use of political power ensures reduced corruption, good governance and a drive to create social impact.

b) Responsible, representative institutions with focus on equality & inclusivity.

In modern times ethics have ensured humane conduct despite rise in consumerism and materialism.

eg: Vaccine Maitri — despatch of vaccines to nations in need.

NGOs — Greenpeace, Amnesty International working for environmental / social / human rights.

Ethics are the backbone of an individual & society.

DISCUSS  
the challenges  
to ethics  
in modern  
times.

(13)



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प्रश्न.

Religion has been called the "opium of the masses." Something that keeps people happy and oblivious to hardship. At the same time religion has been the source of endless wars.

Religion as

(A moral compass)

① most religions preach peace, happiness and stability.

② Compassion and empathy are central themes.

eg: turn the other cheek when struck (Bible)

Forgive & forget, etc.

③ Rationality & Practicality remain intact.

eg: 8 Fold Path, Buddhism

(A call to violence)

① Fundamentalism leads to a moral blindness.

② A social wrong (eg. murder) is considered right in religion.

③ Perspective change & delusion - the desire of rewards in heaven.

④ Rationality is crushed.

eg: Jihad, Islam



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morality is partially intrinsic & partially a social construct.

④ Since worshipper's morality is shaped by religious leader / religious propaganda, he/she cannot necessarily be blamed for actions.

⑤ Illiterate, uneducated youth are easy to lead astray especially under the influence of charismatic leaders.

Thus, the worshipper is only partially at fault while the true culprits are those willingly and consciously preaching violence in the name of religion.

Religious violence stems from religious laws and preferences overpowering & shadowing common sense morality. Compassion, tolerance and cooperation can help stem the same.

Discuss

how religion

misinterpreted to justify violence

3 1/2



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09

Child labour is prohibited by Article 23 of the Indian Constitution.  
In addition the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act provides for the Right to Education for every child of 6-14 years.

Highlight the prevalence of child labour

However, Child Labour Continues to Prevail

① Agricultural requirements - labour is required in fields, children come in handy when season demands manual labour.

② Financial Needs - Socio-economic conditions force children into early work to earn for their families and provide subsistence.

③ Inadequate Law & Implementation :- laws in the country are inadequately implemented, criminals spared.



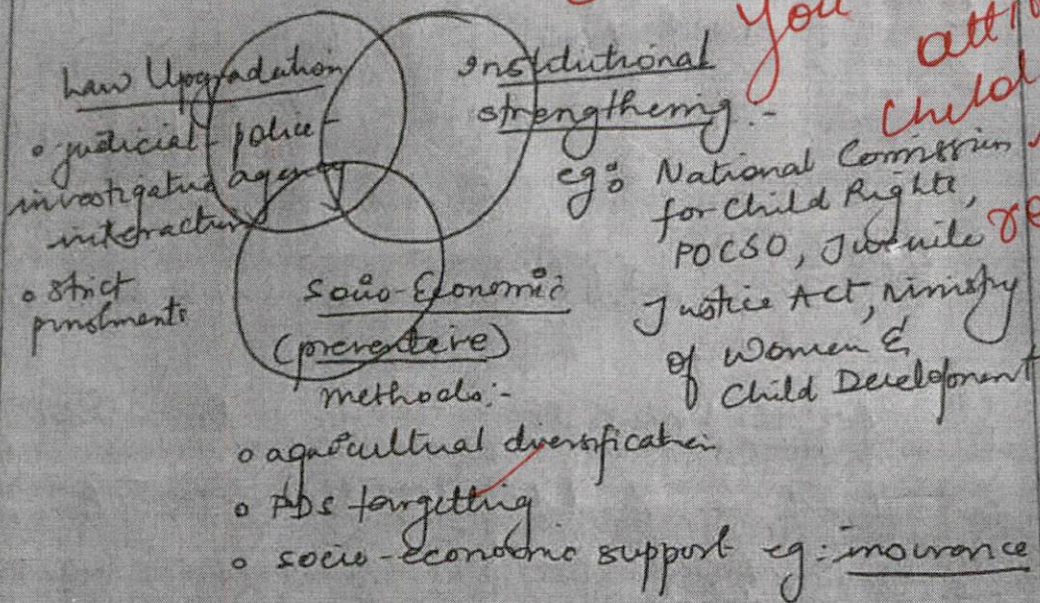
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Way Forward :-

To eradicate child labour, a 3-pronged approach is required :-



Also don't you think our attitude towards child labour is equally responsible?

Children are the future of the nation.

A burdened childhood leaves children tired and hurt. Child labour must thus be quickly curbed.

3h



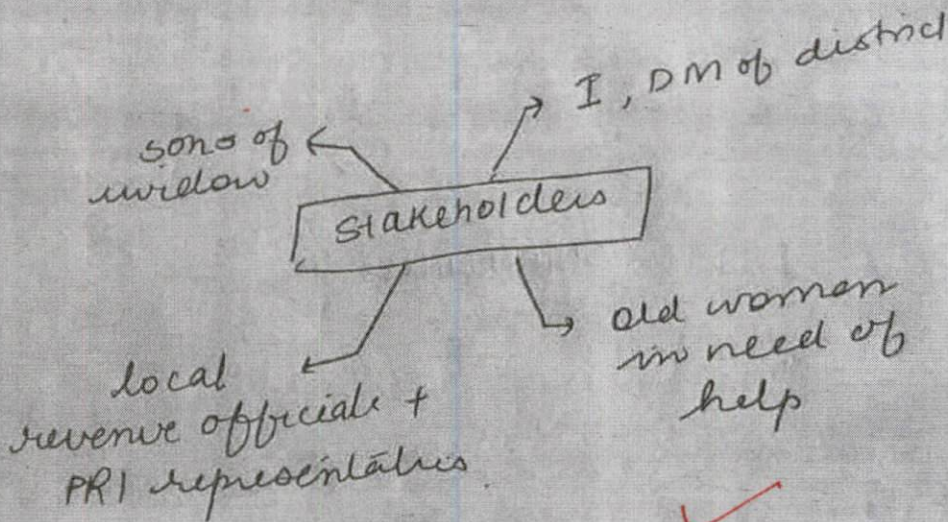
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Q10:-



Ethical Dilemmas:-

- ① official duty vs. moral duty
- ② political interference vs. personal interest

The situation demands addressing the concerns of the widow while ensuring such a case does not recur. I have the following options.



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(A) Case 1:- Ignore the widow's demands

Merits:-

- since local officials have also ignored her, I will be let off the hook.
- I will continue to stay on good terms with PRI elects, maintain power politics of the village.

Demerits:-

- widow's life endangered.
- widow denied justice.
- Encourages some anti-social act of kicking their mother out.

conscience?

(B) Case 2:- Confronting PRI officials <sup>and</sup> publicly, meeting widow's needs personally.

Merits:-

- widow gets justice.
- PRI elects and corrupt officials publicly shamed.



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Dilemmas:-

- Personal expenses going into widow's upkeep - financial pressure
- tussle with local politics and image destroyed - can bring job into question, my future jeopardized

③ Case 3:- Question sons and reminds them of their legal duty + moral duty to the widow, provide widow with tools to harness government scheme benefits meant for senior citizens, speak primality to PRI elects and officials regarding geriatric care in the district.

This (Case 3) will ensure demands & concerns of all stakeholders are addressed ensuring political peace and enhancing governance with focus on geriatric care in my district.

Discuss  
the legal  
rights that  
the family  
has in this  
care.

8

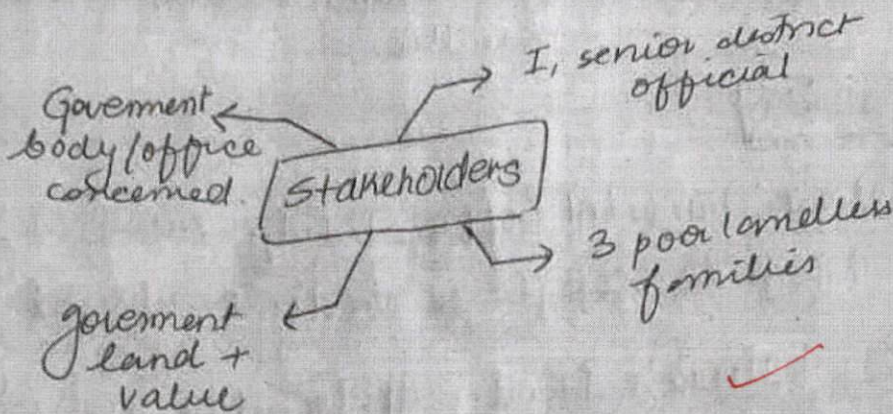


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Q11:



Ethical Dilemmas involved :-

- ① Official duty (to follow orders)  
vs moral duty (to family's livelihood)
- ② Personal interest vs Societal interest
- ③ Duty vs Consequence (deontology  
vs teleology - crisis of conscience)

In this situation, I have 3 options before me as a senior district official.



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Case (A) :- Follow government orders, uproot families

wrong force etc!

## Merits

- ① Governmental (official) duty satisfied, I will be seen as an obedient subordinate
- ② Valuable land will be put to best use - with economic returns that may benefit the district in the long run.

## Demerits

- ① Poor families will lose livelihood, pushed back into cycle of poverty.
- ② I will be seen as merciless by my district people. right to life, dignity etc!

Case (B) :- Rescind government orders and support poor families.

## Merits

- ① I will have fulfilled my moral duty as civil servant to society.



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② Families ensured security of livelihood

## Demerits

① Government order denial results in government action - my job may be transferred.

② Government land's value lost for generation.

Case (C):- Rehabilitation of Families to new place within district.

This will be my choice of action:-

① ensure government order are followed - official duty fulfilled, while unlocking valuable land.

② ensure moral duty is followed :- livelihood unaffected, well compensated.

③ ensure oversight over the 3 families & offer adequate support.

As a district official I am responsible to both my seniors and my citizens.

Would you use schemes such as PM Awaaz Yojana etc

8h



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Q12

Q12) As the Public Information Officer of a party recently declared a Public Authority, I have many responsibilities.

Possible FAQs of People :-

- ① What is the administrative functioning of the party?
- ② How far has the party delivered on its promises?
- ③ Where and how are the funds being allocated, in what works and in what time periods?

As PIO, I will :-

① make a section for proactive disclosure of party information on the website, under Section 4 of ~~RTI~~ RTI Act 2005.

② I will address RTI applications ~~on~~ in a timely manner.

appoint APJOs,  
complete digitization  
etc!



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लिखने से  
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- (b) I will enhance participations of people through:-
- a) Citizen's Charter Initiative
  - b) organizing open discussion forums (online & offline).
  - c) Using social media as a platform for citizen centric ideation of solutions to state problems and
  - d) Create a grievance redressal form and office to address demands of citizens and enhance policy formulation.

c) The criteria of selection of candidates and allotment of party tickets is primarily based on the procedures provided by

① the Constitution :- age to contest elections (MLA/MP) and citizenship requirement.

② the Election Representation of the People's Act :- registration as an election, etc.

Other details are decided by parties within their private discussions and cannot be officially disclosed because they

But don't  
you think  
parties might  
object discussing  
such information?



are not necessary for public knowledge or  
required for better delivery of services & also  
include some personal query that is not  
addressed by the PIO. ✓

(d) An M.P.'s particular opinion within  
Parliament is a matter of ✓

① Right to Freedom of Speech &  
Expression provided Constitutionally to  
the M.P. and cannot be brought  
under scrutiny according to Privilege  
of a Parliamentarian. ✓

② Personal opinion of the M.P. - which  
is a private matter and which is  
not necessary to disclose under RTI  
Act 2005. ✓

Don't  
you know

The Right to Information Act 2005

is the heart of citizen-centric governance  
in India and must be enhanced  
as a tool of good governance according  
to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Reforms  
Commission Report. ✓

18