

# Think Learn and Perform (TLP) - 2017 Mains



## Full Length Mock

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### GS-IV

#### Instructions

There are 14 questions. All questions are compulsory.  
All questions carry 12.5 marks each.  
The duration for the test is 180 minutes.  
The answers must not exceed 200 words.  
Content is more important than the number of words.  
Calm down, take deep breaths before you start writing your answers.

**SECTION-A**

Q1. (a) The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. Discuss. **(150 words) (10)**

(b) Differentiate between the following: **(200 words) (10)**

- (1) Pride and self esteem
- (2) Objectivity and impartiality
- (3) Honesty and integrity
- (4) Literacy and awareness

Q2. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context:

(a) “You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul.” **(150 words) (10)**

(b) “We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.” **(150 words) (10)**

Q3. (a) “You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control the way you think about all the events. You always have a choice. You can choose to face them with a positive mental attitude.” “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” Substantiate. **(150 words) (10)**

(b) Aptitude without attitude is blind; attitude without aptitude is lame. Illustrate. **(150 words) (10)**

Q4. (a) The public are entitled to have an absolute guarantee of the financial probity and integrity of their elected representatives, their officials and above all of Ministers. They need to know that they are under financial obligations to nobody. Examine in the context of public life in India. **(150 words) (10)**

(b) “When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures of emotion.” How important is this statement for a civil servant? Examine. **(150 words) (10)**

Q5. Given are two statements on accountability. Bring out their significance for a democracy. **(150 words) (10)**

(a) “Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation.”

(b) “Accountability breeds responsibility.”

Q6. Chanakya, one of the most intelligent political strategists of all time offered his advice in the Arthashastra. Here are two Chanakya quotes from this seminal book. Discuss the relevance of the quotes in the present context by taking suitable examples. **(150 words) (10)**

(a) “A person should not be too honest. Straight trees are cut first and honest people are screwed first.”

(b) “Before you start some work, always ask yourself three questions - Why am I doing it, What the results might be and Will I be successful. Only when you think deeply and find satisfactory answers to these questions, go ahead.”

Q7. Is strategic bombing of cities to weed out terrorists ethical? Doesn't it lead to the loss of innocent lives as well? Critically examine. **(150 words) (10)**

Q8. There can be no faith in government if our highest offices are excused from scrutiny - they should be setting the example of transparency. Examine. **(150 words) (10)**

## **SECTION - B**

Q9. You have been given the task of conducting a survey on the problems being faced by the traders and small manufacturers post GST implementation in a small district of Gujarat. You find that there is deep discontent and anger towards GST. You are mobbed by the local businessmen and trade associations and they are threatening to hurt you unless you make address their concerns immediately. You try to explain your inability as a government servant and also make attempts to make them understand the good intentions of the government. However, they seem to agree and even try to destroy the survey papers that you have brought along.

- (a) What would you do to diffuse the volatile situation?
  - (b) What would you tell the mob?
  - (c) Every solution/action that you suggest might have some negatives and positive outcomes. Analyse the consequences of each of your suggested actions. **(250 Words)**
- (20)**

Q10. Few years back, a beggar donated clothes to 11 poor hearing and speech-impaired girls at the Shrimati Kesarbai Kilachand School for the Deaf.

Rich philanthropists have been a more common sight but it was the first time ever that a beggar had walked into the school to share his savings.

On being asked as to why did he give alms to the unfortunate children at the school? he said, "I just need two meals a day and some money to send back to my ailing wife in Rajkot to cure her ulcers and lung infection. Apart from this, whatever I earn I use to buy food for poor, hungry people. Since a long time I wished to do something for girls and I am happy to donate for them".

What does this incident mean to you? Are you inspired in any way? Discuss. **(250 Words)** **(20)**

Q11. One of the scientists working in the R&D laboratory of a major pharmaceutical company discovers that one of the company's bestselling veterinary drugs has the potential to cure a currently incurable liver disease which is prevalent in tribal areas. However, developing a variant of the drug suitable for human being entailed a lot of research and development having a huge expenditure to the extent of Rs. 50

crores. It was unlikely that company would recover the cost as the disease was rampant only in poverty stricken areas having very little market otherwise.

If you were the CEO, then

- (a) Identify the various actions that you could take.
- (b) Evaluate the pros and cons of each of your actions. **(250 words) (20)**

Q12. You are one of three partners in a firm of accountants. Five years ago the firm was appointed as external accountants to a young, successful and fast-growing company, engaged to prepare year end accounts and tax returns. The business had started trading with a handful of employees but now has a workforce of 200, while still remaining below the size of company requiring a statutory audit. Due to your close relationship with the directors of the company (who are its owners) and several of its staff, you become aware that staff purchases of goods manufactured by the company are authorised by production managers, and then processed outside the accounting system. The proceeds from these sales are used to fund the firm's Christmas party.

Do you think there is a compromise on professional ethics in this case? Examine. What is the best course of action in this case? Examine its pros and cons.

**(200 Words) (20)**

Q13. You are a no-nonsense, honest officer. You have been transferred to a remote district to head a department that is notorious for its inefficiency and callousness. You find that the main cause of the poor state of affairs is the indiscipline of a section of employees. They do not work themselves and also disrupt the working of others. You first warned the troublemakers to mend their ways or else face disciplinary action. When the warning had little effect, you issued a show cause notice to the ringleaders. As a retaliatory measure, these troublemakers instigated a woman employee amongst them to file a complaint of sexual harassment against you with the Women's Commission. The Commission promptly seeks your explanation. The matter is also publicized in the media to embarrass you further. Some of the options to handle this situation could be as follows :

- (a) Give your explanation to the Commission and go soft on the disciplinary action.

(b) Ignore the Commission and proceed firmly with the disciplinary action.

(c) Brief your higher-ups, seek directions from them and act accordingly.

Suggest any other possible option(s). Evaluate all of them and suggest the best course of action, giving your reasons for it. **(250 Words) (25)**

Q14. A Public Information Officer has received an application under RTI Act. Having gathered the information, the PIO discovers that the information pertains to some of the decisions taken by him, which were found to be not altogether right. There were other employees also who were party to these decisions. Disclosure of the information is likely to lead to disciplinary action with possibility of punishment against him as well as some of his colleagues. Non-disclosure or part disclosure or camouflaged disclosure of information will result into lesser punishment or no punishment.

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

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

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

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