



Connect to Conquer (C2C)

IASbaba's offline mentorship programme

Test 8

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.

Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

Instructions

There are 14 questions. All questions are compulsory.

Questions 1 to 10 carry 10 marks each, 11 to 14 carry 15 marks each.

The duration for the test is 120 minutes.

The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 markers and 250 for 15 markers.

Content is more important than the number of words.

Calm down, take deep breaths before you start writing your answers.

1. Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions. Comment.
2. Adopting the right attitude can convert a negative stress into a positive one. Do you agree? Illustrate.
3. What shapes the attitude of an individual? Examine. Is it possible to impart right attitude through training? Illustrate.
4. Why is tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections considered an important virtue even in a system governed by laws and statutes that treat everyone equally? Comment.
5. It is well known that remuneration in the civil services is not at par with the private sector. In such a scenario, how can a civil servant demonstrate dedication to public service?
6. By taking suitable examples, differentiate between the terms 'impartiality' 'non-partisanship' and 'objectivity'. Why are these virtues considered essential for a civil servant.
7. The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Do you agree? Substantiate.
8. "If your emotional abilities aren't in hand, if you don't have self-awareness, if you are not able to manage your distressing emotions, if you can't have empathy and have effective relationships, then no matter how smart you are, you are not going to get very far". Comment.
9. When dealing with people, a civil servant must remember he/she is not dealing with creatures of logic, but with creatures of emotion. Do you agree? Substantiate.
10. The essential difference between emotion and reason is that emotion leads to action while reason leads to conclusions.

11. The role of opposition in a democracy is crucial. A strong and vocal opposition imparts vibrancy and dynamism to the polity and also brings about accountability in the system. However, the role of opposition also entails ethical dilemmas. What does an opposition do if it knows that an initiative launched by the Government is actually good and can be fruitful for the country? Should an opposition support the initiative or oppose it just for the sake of it? Supporting the move of the Government would mean endorsement of the views of the party in power whereas opposing it would undermine the genuine interests of common citizens. Can there be a way out of this dilemma? In such a situation, what should prevail, ethics or politics? Critically analyse.

12. You have authored a fictional book in which the characters and events belong to the 17th century. Even though your book is a work of fiction, by coincidence one of its characters bears resemblance to a 17th century king. The king is deeply respected or rather worshipped by the people of a dominant upper caste. In your book, the king has been shown in poor light and his followers are deeply offended and demand that the book be withdrawn from the market. You issued clarifications regarding the fictionality of the book but the protestors are not listening to any of your arguments. In some places, the protestors have started to vandalise the bookstores selling the copies of your book.

Deep within, you feel sad that even in a democratic country promising freedom of speech and expression, your creativity is being sacrificed on the altar of intolerance and irrationality. However, you decide to withdraw the book and pulp it in front of the protestors to stop the violence abated by the protestors.

Now answer the following questions:

- (i) Was your decision to withdraw the book justified?
- (ii) Won't your decision embolden such fringe elements?
- (iii) What other steps could have been taken by you?

13. You are posted as the block development officer in a district. Menstruation is a taboo in one of the villages of the district and people hardly talk about it. In fact, menstruating women aren't even allowed to enter temples and are forced to sleep on the floor. Women use clothes as they can't afford sanitary napkins or are too shy to buy it from the general store. When a renowned NGO attempted to spread awareness towards hygiene during menstruation by talking to the local women, the villagers created ruckus and forced the representatives of the NGO to leave. Further attempts by the NGO to approach the women was thwarted by the Gram Panchayat. The women of the village have been warned by their family members to stay away from such discussions and maintain their dignity.

The NGO brings the issue to your notice and asks for your support. Now answer the following questions:

- (i) What in your opinion is the main reason behind villagers protesting?
- (ii) What steps would you take to address the issue?

14. You are posted as the District Magistrate in a hill district of a North Indian state. The locals have an age old tradition of sacrificing animals during the month of harvest. They celebrate the sacrificial ceremony with great zeal and vigour. However, the Supreme Court has just banned the practice of animal sacrifice after a PIL was filed against the practice by an international NGO. Yet the locals are adamant at following their revered tradition and are even ready to get arrested and face legal consequences. In fact a group of young people from the locality has threatened to commit mass suicide if the administration attempts to interfere in their tradition. The situation appears to be out of control and journalists from all over the country have gathered in your district to witness the unfolding of events there.

What would be your response in this situation? Examine all the alternatives that you have at your disposal. Also discuss their pros and cons. Which alternative will you choose finally? Why?
