



Connect to Conquer (C2C)

IASbaba's offline mentorship programme

Test 4

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

- Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

Instructions

There are 14 questions. All questions are compulsory.

Marks and word limit have been indicated against the question.

The duration for the test is 180 minutes.

Content is more important than the number of words.

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

SECTION-A

Q1. (a) Ethics are less a goal than a pathway, less a destination than a trip, less an inoculation than a process. Comment. **(150 words) (10)**

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

- (i) Ethics and values
- (ii) Honesty and integrity
- (iii) Self respect and ego
- (iv) Morals and principles

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

(a) “Morality cannot be legislated, but behaviour can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.” **(150 words) (10)**

(b) “The only immorality is not to do what one has to do when one has to do it.” **(150 words) (10)**

Q3. (a) Are social influence and persuasion more potent tools to bring about behavioural change? Examine with the help of suitable examples. **(150 words) (10)**

(b) Can values be classified as ‘good’ or ‘bad’? Critically examine. **(150 words) (10)**

Q4. (a) What are the various dimensions of ethics? If everything has been spelt out by law, why should an administrator be ethical? Explain. **(150 words) (10)**

(b) An educational system isn’t worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but doesn’t teach them how to make a life. **(150 words) (10)**

Q5. Given below are two statements. Bring out their significance in the present societal context. **(150 words) (10)**

(a) “We must prepare our children for tomorrow with the family values of our grandparents.”

(b) “You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

Q6. What we call as 'ethical dilemma' in professional or personal life is nothing more than a clash of values. Elucidate. **(150 words) (10)**

Q7. Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions. Do you agree? Substantiate. **(150 words) (10)**

Q8. Examine the functionality of right attitude in discharging duties by a civil servant. How does lack of requisite attitude affect performance of a civil servant? Discuss. **(150 words) (10)**

SECTION – B

Q9. Your home state just witnessed a bitterly fought election. The main contending parties competed tooth and nail to come to power. The election campaign saw rival politicians make serious allegations against each other. Money and muscle power played prominent roles in the election. However, the results surprised the electorate as the final count of votes suggested a hung assembly. In this scenario, the party having the least number of seats became the most powerful player in the political dynamics of the state. It negotiated a grand bargain with the second placed party and decided to form an alliance to deny the single largest party a chance to form the government. In return, the chair of the Chief Minister would go to the leader of that party.

While this alliance took place, you started wondering whether what was happening was ethical. The parties which were so bitterly opposed to each other had now come together to form the government. Even the single largest party made many attempts to induce defections and make the elected MLAs of the opposition parties change loyalties in order to have a shot at forming the government, but to no avail. The dance of democracy had taken an ugly turn as no party in reality had the absolute mandate to govern. The tendency to cling to power had blinded the political parties and all of them had tried everything possible to come to power.

Now, on the basis of your reading of the preceding two paragraphs, answer the following questions:

- (a) Can politics be all about power? If no, then what would remain as the driving force for someone to enter politics?
- (b) Is it ethical for elected representatives to shift loyalties after getting elected?
- (c) Had you been the leader of the second largest party, would your conscience have allowed you to enter into an alliance to form the government? **(250 Words) (20)**

Q10. As an agent of the secret service of the armed forces, you have the responsibility of spying over the enemies and pass on vital strategic information to the government of your country. You have been trained and nurtured in a manner that you won't even hesitate to kill an innocent person if he/ she becomes an obstacle in your duty even unknowingly. For you, your country comes first and you regard your duty as the foremost service one can render to one's motherland.

On one occasion, you intercept a message that the enemy country is planning to bomb the pilgrimage base camps stationed at various locations in the bordering state. In fact, troops have been mobilised to give effect to the plan and it is a matter of hours that heavy bombings would start. It is not even possible to launch a counter offensive at such a short notice as major battalions of the army have already been sent to provide relief in the flood hit areas of the country. Waiting for the army to take command would mean severe loss of lives in the base camps.

When your commanding officer comes to know about the scenario, he chalks out a plan and deputed you to give shape to it. However, you are shocked to know his plans. In order to avoid the bombings, he wants you to immediately bomb a school in the enemy territory which lies in close proximity to the border. By doing this, the attention of the enemy would get diverted to the school and they might divert their troops to the school for immediate relief. This would buy some time for the armed forces of your country and they would be able to evacuate the base camps and also take positions to retaliate in case of eventual bombings.

What options do you have in this situation. Which one would you choose and why? Examine the pros and cons of each of the alternatives. **(250 Words) (20)**

Q11. You have just been posted as the SP of a district known for its rich mineral resources. However, the abundance of natural resources also invites illicit trade and associated crimes. On the very first day of your induction, you are told by your superiors that the local mining mafia is really powerful there and you must be careful in your dealings with them. As disturbing the scenario in the district might be, you are more perturbed by the fact that no one seems to come up with a solution. You start getting the sense that the wrongdoings of the mining mafia largely go unnoticed as many senior bureaucrats and politicians are hand in gloves with them. The mafia enjoys heavy clout in the political circles as they are the prime source of electoral funding for the political parties. Similarly, bureaucrats enjoy their cut in the money that is extorted by the mafia from various stakeholders. Government regulations and institutional control don't seem to exist in your district. Environmental norms are flouted, innocent and honest people are targeted if they don't comply and crime is on the rise as the nexus of lawlessness and money power breeds criminals.

Being the determined officer you are, you start tightening the noose around the mafia. You start streamlining the systems hitherto kept in abeyance by your predecessors. You start a consultation process with the local landholders whose rights have been compromised to get a close view of the ground reality. You get to know that the youth in your district is largely jobless and gets infatuated by the money on offer by the mafia and take to criminal activities easily. Hardly any of the miners possess a valid license to operate and yet mining activities continue unabated. Immediately, you start a closure drive on the illegal mines and within a week, only licensed and authorised mine operators are running the mines in your district. You also convince the youth to stay away from criminal activities and rather participate constructively in the drive launched by the police to make the district a safer and better place. The local newspapers are praising your courage and dedication. There doesn't seem to be a problem and you start wondering- why was it so difficult in the past?

However, within a week, you and your family start receiving death threats from the mafia. Calls start pouring in from senior bureaucrats and politicians to turn a blind eye to the situation in your district. In fact, your office stops receiving the monthly allowance to maintain the police force. You are forced to spend from your pocket to fund the diesel that goes into

patrolling the disturbed areas of your district. The situation turns worse when your salary is stopped for a frivolous reason. All of a sudden, you find yourself alone. Everyone is against you- the colleagues in the department, the political masters and of course the mafia. You start thinking about the safety of your family and send them to your parents in your home state. All your good work has been rewarded with threats and fear.

Now, answer the following questions:

- (a) Does there remain any motivation for you to work for the betterment of the society?
- (b) Don't you think such things happen in reality? How do you suggest one deals with it?
- (c) Can a person single handily change a system? Critically analyse. **(250 words) (20)**

Q12. You belong to a traditional middle class family. Both your father and mother are teachers in a government school and keep Indian values in high esteem. They have ensured that you achieve the best education possible and therefore made you go to the most advanced and expensive schools of the city. With the limited salary and resources, they put you in the best college of Delhi. They have always believed that while values can be taught at home, best of the knowledge can be imparted in the best educational institutions only. With this belief, they made you learn the values of honesty, truthfulness and modesty at home while you learnt science, history, literature and economics in the school and college.

But little did they know that knowledge can change one's values. You have come to realise that life isn't a fair playing field. While your parents taught you that truth always prevailed, history gave you a lesson that clout and power can lead to victory. While they taught you to remain honest even during adversities, political science created a perception that there is nothing wrong in being an opportunist. While you learnt to have faith in God, science debunked the idea of a cosmic supernatural power that created life and rather put forth the theories like big bang and evolution. In a nutshell, all the values taught by your parents seem to have been contradicted or diluted by your knowledge. You have realised that practical life is vastly different from an ideal conceptualisation of a value driven life.

The contradictions have created some problems for you. Many a times, you feel that the expectations of your parents aren't really practical. However, you don't want to confront them as they have suffered a lot for giving you a quality life and you don't want to hurt them. But at the same time you also want to make them understand that certain decisions can't be taken only on the basis of one's absolute conception of right and wrong. Your parents are uncompromising about their values whereas you have an outlook that espouses balance.

Now, on the basis of your reading of the preceding two paragraphs, answer the following questions:

- (a) Is it true that values taught by the family and those acquired through knowledge gained in schools and colleges often contradict each other? Critically analyse.
- (b) Don't you feel the very contradictions created by such values create a generation gap? Examine with the help of suitable examples.
- (c) How would you reconcile the differences in opinion with your parents created by such contradictions? **(200 Words) (20)**

Q13. It is said that a doctor performs the noblest profession. Doctors are considered God by many in different parts of the world. You were always attracted to this profession and wanted to become the best doctor in your area so that you also could save lives and feel good about it. You were lucky that your parents supported your aspirations. With their support and your hard work, you cracked the medical entrance examination, attended one of the most reputed medical colleges in the country and finally became a doctor. You joined a government hospital and it was nothing less than dream come true for you. You were ready to serve the people with all those life saving skills that you had learnt in the college. Meanwhile, you got married to a beautiful girl and had two lovely kids with her.

Work- life balance was going smooth until one day, the news of a new viral strain spreading in the southern most coastal state of the country broke out. The strain was so severe that even many doctors and nurses had succumbed to the infection and died. The situation had become so worse that no doctor was ready to treat the dying patients.

This troubled you a lot and you felt that the time had come to serve the people in the truest sense. You decided that you would visit the state and render your services to the ailing patients. However, your parents, wife and children are strictly against this decision. They fear that even you would get affected by the virus. You tried to convince them by telling them that the foremost duty of a doctor was to save lives no matter what and if you didn't go, the guilt of turning your back towards the needy would haunt you forever. But your family members aren't ready to let you go. After all, you are the sole breadwinner and caretaker of the family. How can they simply let you be in danger? They love you so much and can't afford to lose you.

Now, you were in a complex situation that demanded a reasoned yet moral action from you. What would you have done in this situation? Examine the alternatives available to you and comment on the pros and cons of each one of them. Also, which alternative you would have chosen and why? **(250 Words) (25)**

Q14. You firmly believe in the idea of women equality and have always vouched for their equal rights and freedom. You also have a younger sister who is working in a reputed IT firm. You have always supported and inspired her to do well in life and become a successful independent woman. After you get married, pressure starts mounting over your parents that they get their only daughter married to a suitable boy. The search starts and finally your family shortlists three options. You are given the task by your parents to interact with the families zeroed in for your sister's marriage and take a decision. Let us name these families as F1, F2 and F3. You readily agree to do it for your beloved younger sister.

During your interaction with the prospective grooms and their family, you observed the following:

- Even though F1 family don't want any dowry or gifts, they are quite conservative in their outlook. They have demanded that after marriage, your younger sister must quit her job and start staying with them. Moreover, they want her to be traditional and obedient. She must also learn how to cook and clean. The boy is a banker and supports the demands of

his family. He believes that Indian traditions must be deeply embedded in the personality and traits of an Indian girl.

- The F2 family are highly rich and educated and think that their daughter in law should continue her job. In fact, they want your younger sister to learn driving, swimming and dancing also. The boy is really handsome and works in a big MNC as its regional marketing head and is equally open minded. He doesn't even hesitate to share his past life and wants honesty and transparency to mark the ensuing relationship. However, the family wants a lavish wedding reception and for that they are demanding Rupees 40 Lakh from your family. You and your father do have that amount of money in your bank accounts.
- The F3 family belong to the middle class. They don't support the practice of dowry and are even happy with your sister's job. They are even ready to share the expenditure of marriage. You really have a good feeling about this family. However, upon meeting the boy, you find that he is dark skinned unlike your beautiful and fair sister. You immediately know that they won't look good as a couple.

Your parents are getting restless about the marriage of your sister as she is already 28 and they want her to marry before its too late. They are forcing you to take a decision soon.

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) Which family would be the most suitable for your sister? Also give reasons for choosing them over others.
- (b) Is it even required for your sister to get married at this age? Critically examine.
- (c) How will you convince your parents that marriage doesn't complete a person but only adds a companion in his/ her journey of life? Discuss. **(250 Words) (25)**
