



Model Answers UPSC- 2025

CS MENTORS – ias academy | SCO 13-14-15, 3rd Floor, Sector-34A, Chandigarh.

Contact: (+91) 8822299444.

Website: www.theecsmentors.com

General Model for Writing GS Mains Answers

Step 1: Decode the Question

1. Identify the command word

- *Discuss*: Explain both sides, give examples.
- *Examine*: Analyze in detail with evidence.
- *Elucidate*: Clarify meaning with explanation and examples.
- *Comment*: Express analytical opinion, supported by facts.
- *Critically analyze*: Discuss pros and cons with judgment.

2. Identify key terms – underline important concepts (e.g., “sustainable growth”, “tribal development”, “Harappan architecture”).

3. Check the scope – is it conceptual, factual, analytical, or mixed?

Step 2: Structure Your Answer

For 150-word answers (10 marks)

- 1. Introduction (1–2 sentences)** – Define or contextualize.
- 2. Body (3–4 sentences / 2–3 points)** – Key features, causes, impacts, examples.
- 3. Conclusion (1–2 sentences)** – Forward-looking / evaluative / significance.

For 250-word answers (15 marks)

- 1. Introduction (2–3 sentences)** – Set context, define, or state relevance.
- 2. Body (3–4 paragraphs / 5–6 points)**
 - Paragraph/points can include:
 - Causes / features / trends
 - Examples / case studies

- Government policies / schemes / thinkers
- Data / statistics (if relevant)

3. **Conclusion (2–3 sentences)** – Judgment, significance, or recommendation.

Step 3: Value Addition

- **Examples** – Current events, historical, local, or international examples.
- **Data / Statistics** – Census, NITI Aayog, UN reports, IPCC, etc.
- **Thinkers / Theories** – Sociologists, economists, philosophers, or constitutional provisions.
- **Diagrams / Maps** – Quick sketches of locations, flowcharts, or processes.
- **Micro-examples** – Specific local project, initiative, or case study.

Step 4: Writing Tips

1. **Clarity over length** – Stick to word limit.
2. **Balanced answer** – Avoid biased or one-sided explanation.
3. **Paragraphing** – Helps examiner read easily.
4. **Linkages** – Connect intro → body → conclusion logically.
5. **Terminology** – Use precise terms relevant to the subject.

Step 5: Quick Checklist Before Submission

- Have you answered all parts of the question?
- Did you provide examples/data where possible?
- Is your answer structured with intro, body, conclusion?
- Did you maintain neutral, analytical tone?

UPSC Model Answers GS-IV

1(a). 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.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The digital age has transformed communication through instantaneous, borderless social media interactions. While it has democratised information and empowered citizens, it also presents several complex ethical dilemmas affecting individuals, society, and institutions.

Body:

- **Privacy concerns:** Unchecked data collection, tracking, and profiling compromise user autonomy.
- **Misinformation and fake news:** Viral spread of unverified content distorts public opinion and threatens democratic processes.
- **Hate speech and online harassment:** Anonymity enables trolling, cyberbullying, and targeted abuse.
- **Echo chambers:** Algorithm-driven content creates ideological silos, reducing critical thinking.
- **Manipulation and addictive design:** Algorithms exploit human psychology, affecting mental health and productivity.
- **Digital divide:** Unequal access widens social inequalities in representation and participation.

- **Commercial influence:** Influencer marketing and hidden advertisements blur boundaries of transparency and fairness.

Conclusion:

Addressing these ethical dilemmas requires stronger digital literacy, responsible platform design, regulatory safeguards, and conscious user behaviour to create a safe and trustworthy online environment.

1(b). “Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law.” Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servant highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Constitutional morality refers to the ethical commitment to uphold the core values of the Constitution—justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity—beyond mere legal compliance. It is cultivated through civic education and respect for the rule of law.

Body

For public servants, constitutional morality ensures that power is exercised within constitutional limits and guided by democratic values. It prevents arbitrariness, majoritarian impulses, and personal biases from influencing decisions. By internalising values such as impartiality, dignity

of individuals, and accountability, public officials act as custodians of citizens' rights rather than wielders of authority.

Constitutional morality promotes good governance by fostering transparency, fairness, and inclusiveness in public administration. It empowers civil servants to resist unlawful political pressures, uphold due process, and prioritise public interest. It also strengthens accountability, as adherence to constitutional values demands justification of actions and openness to scrutiny.

Conclusion:

Thus, constitutional morality equips public servants with an ethical compass to uphold democratic governance, protect individual rights, and reinforce citizens' trust in the state.

**Every day counts! Don't wait,
Start your Success journey now**

Courses Available

IAS (UPSC) | **HCS** (Haryana) | **HPAS** (Himachal)
PCS (Punjab) | Allied Services & **Naib Tehsildar**

20-25 Students Small Batches | Offline/Live Classes | Affordable Fee



CS MENTORS - IAS Academy | SCO 13-14-15, 3rd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

CALL/WHATSAPP: 88222 99444

2(a). Carl von Clausewitz once said, “War is a diplomacy by other means.” Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Clausewitz’s assertion implies that war is an extension of political objectives, pursued when traditional diplomacy fails. In today’s interconnected world, this idea remains relevant but requires nuanced interpretation.

Body

Contemporary geopolitical conflicts continue to reflect political aims—territorial assertion, regime change, power projection or securing resources—echoing Clausewitz’s logic. Examples include Russia–Ukraine conflict, tensions in West Asia, or militarised strategies in the Indo-Pacific. However, modern warfare has evolved: hybrid warfare, cyber-attacks, economic sanctions, information warfare and proxy conflicts blur the line between war and diplomacy. Moreover, the catastrophic humanitarian impact of modern weapons, global economic interdependence, nuclear deterrence and norms of international law constrain the acceptability of war as a diplomatic tool. Diplomacy and multilateralism increasingly aim to prevent escalation rather than justify war.

Conclusion:

Thus, while political motives still drive conflicts, war can no longer be

viewed merely as an alternate diplomatic instrument but as a last resort in a world demanding cooperative security.

2(b). Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Development in border regions is vital for national security and socio-economic needs. However, granting environmental clearance in ecologically fragile zones creates significant ethical dilemmas.

Body

- **Security vs sustainability:** Ensuring military infrastructure may conflict with protecting biodiversity, forests, and watersheds.
- **Irreversible ecological damage:** Roads, tunnels, dams, and military facilities risk landslides, habitat loss, and climate vulnerability.
- **Speedy clearances:** Pressure for fast approvals may bypass due diligence, violating procedural ethics and scientific integrity.
- **Rights of local communities:** Tribal and hill communities may lose land or livelihoods without proper consultation or compensation.
- **Transparency issues:** Restricted information citing “security concerns” can reduce accountability.
- **Inter-generational equity:** Short-term strategic gains may jeopardise

long-term ecological stability and disaster resilience.

- **Conflict of expert opinion:** Divergent assessments between security agencies and environmental scientists complicate ethical decision-making.

Conclusion:

A balanced, evidence-based approach—integrating security needs with ecological safeguards—is essential to ensure ethical, sustainable, and strategically sound development.

3. Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

3(a). **“Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself.” – Thiruvalluvar**

(150 words)

Introduction:

Thiruvalluvar's statement highlights the power of inner composure and emotional discipline in overcoming adversity. It suggests that one's attitude towards hardship determines their ability to deal with it effectively.

Body

In the present context, this quotation emphasises the value of calmness and mental resilience. Modern life is full of uncertainties—economic stress, social pressures, and fast-paced technological change. People who remain composed during difficulties are better able to think clearly,

make rational decisions, and prevent problems from worsening. Emotional stability itself becomes a tool to dissolve or minimize challenges. This idea also applies to public leadership, disaster management, and conflict resolution, where panic can magnify crises while steady minds can restore order. By maintaining equanimity, individuals “trouble trouble,” meaning they weaken the impact of adversity through their inner strength.

Conclusion:

Ultimately, Thiruvalluvar inspires us to cultivate calmness and self-mastery, turning challenges into opportunities for growth and wisdom.

3(b). “A human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes.” – William James (150 words)

Introduction:

William James, the father of modern psychology, underscores the transformative power of mindset. He suggests that attitudes shape experiences, behaviour, and ultimately the course of one's life.

Body

In today's world, this idea is highly relevant. People face rapid change, competition, and constant pressures, but a positive and proactive attitude can help them adapt and progress. James implies that individuals are not solely defined by circumstances; rather, their interpretations, beliefs, and responses determine their success and well-being. A growth mindset enables learning from failure, resilience during setbacks, and openness to opportunities. In public life and administration, the right attitude—empathy, accountability, and service orientation—can significantly

improve governance and citizen trust. This quotation also aligns with modern ideas of cognitive-behavioural psychology, which establish that thoughts influence actions and outcomes.

Conclusion:

Thus, by cultivating constructive attitudes, individuals can reshape their lives, enhance their potential, and contribute more meaningfully to society.

3(c). “The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people.” – Swami Vivekananda (150 words)**Introduction:**

Swami Vivekananda emphasises that laws alone cannot sustain a society; the ethical character of its citizens forms its true foundation. Moral values are deeper and more enduring than external rules.

Body

In the present context, this insight is especially significant. Laws can regulate behaviour but cannot ensure integrity, compassion, or responsibility. A society thrives when individuals voluntarily uphold honesty, respect, and fairness. Issues such as corruption, communal disharmony, environmental degradation, and civic indiscipline persist not because of weak laws, but because of moral lapses. Public institutions function effectively only when citizens and officials act ethically. Social harmony, trust, and cooperation emerge from internalised values, not

coercive regulations. Thus, cultivating moral education, civic sense, and shared ethical standards is crucial for a peaceful and progressive nation.

Conclusion:

Vivekananda's message reminds us that true nation-building begins with nurturing moral citizens, for a society rooted in ethical conduct remains strong even in the face of challenges.

4(a). "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Social re-engineering through welfare schemes requires civil servants to make decisions that affect millions. To ensure fairness and effectiveness, they must combine rational analysis with an ethical value system.

Body

Reason and critical thinking enable civil servants to diagnose root causes of social problems, design efficient schemes, and avoid biases. For instance, while implementing the Public Distribution System, using data analytics to identify genuine beneficiaries prevents leakages and ensures equity. Ethical reasoning ensures that decisions respect dignity and

rights—such as prioritising vulnerable groups in disaster relief, or ensuring transparency in MGNREGA wage payments. In schemes like Swachh Bharat or Ayushman Bharat, officials must balance resource constraints with compassion, ensuring that the poorest genuinely benefit. Addressing ethical dilemmas—like land acquisition versus rehabilitation—requires rational evaluation of impacts while upholding justice and fairness.

Conclusion:

Thus, combining reason with ethics empowers civil servants to implement welfare schemes fairly, inclusively, and sustainably, strengthening public trust and social transformation.

4(b). What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Introduction:

Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, taught a path of spiritual discipline grounded in non-violence, self-restraint, and compassion. His teachings hold profound relevance even today.

Body

Major teachings:

- **Ahimsa (Non-violence):** Avoiding harm through thoughts, words, and actions.
- **Aparigraha (Non-possessiveness):** Limiting material desires to reduce attachment.

- **Satya (Truthfulness):** Commitment to honesty and transparency.
- **Asteya (Non-stealing):** Respecting others' rights and property.
- **Brahmacharya (Self-discipline):** Control over impulses and ethical conduct.
- **Anekantavada (Multiplicity of viewpoints):** Acceptance of diverse perspectives.

Relevance today:

- Promotes peace and reduces violence in a polarised world.
- Encourages sustainable living and responsible consumption.
- Strengthens integrity in public and corporate life.
- Reduces corruption by fostering self-control and truthfulness.
- Supports dialogue and tolerance in diverse societies through Anekantavada.
- Enhances mental well-being through simplicity and non-attachment.

Conclusion:

Mahavir's teachings offer a timeless ethical framework for personal growth, social harmony, and sustainable living in the modern world.

5(a). "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.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

The statement underscores the idea that true perfection or fulfilment arises from sincere dedication to one's duty. For a civil servant, duty is not merely a task but a commitment to public welfare and constitutional values.

Body

A civil servant who performs duties with responsibility develops clarity of purpose, integrity, and self-discipline. This sense of responsibility ensures that decisions are guided by public interest, fairness, and empathy. Fulfilling duties—such as ensuring timely service delivery, protecting vulnerable groups, or maintaining transparency—creates positive social impact, which in turn generates personal satisfaction and moral fulfilment. When a civil servant sees improvements in people's lives due to their actions, it nurtures a deep sense of achievement. Dedication to duty also builds trust, reputation, and professional excellence, shaping a purposeful career. Thus, perfection lies not in rewards or recognition but in the inner contentment derived from ethical and responsible conduct.

Conclusion:

Therefore, unwavering devotion to duty enables civil servants to realise both societal transformation and personal fulfilment, embodying the highest ideals of public service.

5(b). 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?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

Holistic development requires civil servants to go beyond regulatory control and actively facilitate inclusive growth. This shift demands innovative, participatory, and people-centric approaches.

Body

- **Promote participatory governance:** Engage communities, local leaders, SHGs, and NGOs in planning and monitoring.
- **Strengthen convergence:** Coordinate multiple schemes (health, education, livelihoods) for integrated development.
- **Digital empowerment:** Use e-governance, data analytics, and grievance platforms to enhance transparency and efficiency.
- **Capacity building:** Train frontline staff and empower local institutions like PRIs for better service delivery.
- **Ease of Doing Business:** Simplify procedures, reduce red tape, and support entrepreneurship and startups.
- **Inclusive policy design:** Prioritise vulnerable groups with targeted interventions.
- **Encourage innovation:** Pilot area-specific solutions such as solar micro-grids or climate-resilient agriculture.

- **Responsive administration:** Ensure timely grievance redressal and citizen-friendly behaviour.

Conclusion:

By adopting these enabling measures, civil servants can drive sustainable, inclusive, and citizen-centric development rather than merely enforcing regulations.

**Every day counts! Don't wait,
Start your Success journey now**

Courses Available

IAS (UPSC) | **HCS** (Haryana) | **HPAS** (Himachal)
PCS (Punjab) | Allied Services & **Naib Tehsildar**

20-25 Students Small Batches | Offline/Live Classes | Affordable Fee



CS MENTORS - IAS Academy | SCO 13-14-15, 3rd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

CALL/WHATSAPP: 88222 99444

6(a). It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

A code of ethics provides guiding principles that shape the behaviour, decisions, and culture of an organisation. To make it effective, it must be supported by practical systems and leadership commitment.

Body

- **Clear code of ethics:** Draft concise, context-specific ethical principles focusing on integrity, transparency, and service orientation.
- **Ethics training:** Conduct regular workshops on ethical decision-making, conflict of interest, and professional conduct.
- **Leadership by example:** Senior officials must demonstrate ethical behaviour to set organisational norms.
- **Robust internal controls:** Establish checks such as segregation of duties, audit trails, and transparent procurement processes.
- **Whistle-blower protection:** Create secure, confidential channels for reporting misconduct.
- **Performance-linked ethics:** Include ethical behaviour as a criterion in performance appraisals.
- **Open communication:** Encourage discussions on ethical dilemmas and clarify doubts through an ethics helpline.
- **Monitoring and review:** Conduct periodic ethics audits to ensure compliance.

Conclusion:

Adopting these measures fosters trust, reduces misconduct, and builds an ethical, accountable, and performance-driven work culture.

6(b). India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Introduction:

As India aspires to become the world's third-largest economy, efficient utilisation of public funds is crucial. Leakages, under-utilisation, and misallocation weaken developmental outcomes and undermine fiscal credibility.

Body

- **Strengthen outcome-based budgeting:** Link fund release to measurable outputs and outcomes.
- **Real-time monitoring:** Use digital dashboards, geotagging, DBT, and IT-enabled audits for transparency.
- **Capacity building:** Train local officials to improve planning, financial management, and utilisation.
- **Strict internal and external audits:** Ensure timely CAG audit compliance and social audits for schemes like MGNREGA.
- **Reduce bureaucratic delays:** Simplify approvals, enhance coordination, and ensure timely release of funds.
- **Zero tolerance for corruption:** Enforce accountability laws, vigilance

mechanisms, and penalties for misappropriation.

- **Community participation:** Involve PRIs, SHGs, and civil society in monitoring project implementation.
- **Public disclosure:** Mandate proactive publication of fund flows and utilisation reports.

Conclusion:

With transparent systems and strict accountability, India can curb leakages, optimise public spending, and accelerate its journey towards becoming the third-largest global economy.

**Every day counts! Don't wait,
Start your Success journey now**

Courses Available

IAS (UPSC) | **HCS** (Haryana) | **HPAS** (Himachal)
PCS (Punjab) | Allied Services & **Naib Tehsildar**

20-25 Students Small Batches | Offline/Live Classes | Affordable Fee



CS MENTORS - IAS Academy | SCO 13-14-15, 3rd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

CALL/WHATSAPP: 88222 99444

Section- B (Case Studies)

7. Case Study

Vijay was Deputy Commissioner of remote district of Hilly Northern State of the country for the last two years. In the month of August heavy rains lashed the complete state followed by cloud burst in the upper reaches of the said district. The damage was very heavy in the complete state especially in the affected district. The complete road network and telecommunication were disrupted and the buildings were damaged extensively. People's houses have been destroyed and they were forced to stay in open. More than 200 people have been killed and about 5000 were badly injured. The Civil Administration under Vijay got activated and started conducting rescue and relief operations. Temporary shelter camps and hospitals were established to provide shelter and medical facilities to the homeless and injured people. Helicopter services were pressed in, for evacuating sick and old people from remote areas. Vijay got a message from his hometown in Kerala that his mother was seriously sick. After two days Vijay received the unfortunate message that his mother has expired. Vijay has no close relative except one elder sister who was US citizen and staying there for last several years. In the meantime, the situation in the affected district deteriorated further due to resumption of heavy rains after a gap of five days. At the same time, continuous messages were coming on his mobile from his hometown to reach at the earliest for performing last rites of his mother.

(a) What are the options available with Vijay?

(b) What are the ethical dilemma being faced by Vijay?

(c) **Critically evaluate and examine each of these options identified by Vijay.**

(d) **Which of the options, do you think, would be most appropriate for Vijay to adopt and why?**

(Answer in 250 words) 20 Marks

Introduction:

Vijay faces an emotionally distressing situation where his personal duty towards his deceased mother clashes with his professional responsibility to lead disaster management operations. This creates a classic ethical dilemma of role conflict and prioritisation.

(a) Options available with Vijay

1. Leave immediately for Kerala to perform last rites.
2. Stay in the district and continue leading rescue–relief operations.
3. Seek temporary deputation of a senior officer from neighbouring district and then leave.
4. Coordinate operations remotely while travelling home.
5. Delay departure until the situation stabilises and then go.

(b) Ethical dilemmas faced by Vijay

- **Personal vs professional duty:** As a son, he must perform rites; as DC, he must save lives.
- **Emotional distress vs administrative responsibility.**
- **Cultural obligation vs constitutional duty.**
- **Risk of public criticism vs guilt of not being present for last rites.**

(c) Critical evaluation of each option

Leaving immediately fulfils personal and cultural responsibilities, but at the cost of leadership during a life-threatening crisis. It may disrupt coordination, reduce morale, and endanger more lives. Staying in the district ensures uninterrupted crisis management, aligns with constitutional values, and helps protect thousands. But Vijay suffers personal trauma and social criticism. Temporarily handing over charge to a competent senior officer balances both duties but may still weaken command during a worsening disaster. Remote coordination while travelling will be impractical due to network disruptions and the need for on-ground supervision. Waiting until partial stabilisation allows him to ensure critical operations function while still fulfilling filial duties, albeit with delay.

(d) Most appropriate option:

The ethically preferable option is to **remain in the district until the situation stabilises enough to delegate responsibilities**, then proceed to Kerala. As the administrative head during an emergency, his presence directly affects the survival and well-being of thousands. By ensuring continuity of relief work and then attending the rites, he upholds both human values and public duty in a balanced, responsible manner.

8. Case Study

In line with the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Indian Constitution, the government has a constitutional obligation to ensure basic needs – “*Roti, Kapda aur Makan (Food, Clothes and Shelter)*” – for the under-privileged. Pursuing this mandate, the district administration proposed clearing a portion of forest land to develop housing for the homeless and economically weaker sections of the society.

The proposed land, however, is an ecologically sensitive zone densely populated with age-old trees, medicinal plants and vital biodiversity. Besides, these forests help to regulate micro-climate and rainfalls; provide habitat for wildlife, support soil fertility and prevent land/soil erosion and sustain livelihoods of tribal and nomadic communities.

In spite of the ecological and social costs, the administration argues in favour of the said proposal by highlighting that this very initiative would provide housing to human rights as a critical welfare priority. Besides it, it fulfils the government's duty to uplift and empower the poor through inclusive housing development. Further, these forest areas have become unsafe due to wild-animal threats and recurring human-wild life conflicts. Lastly, clearing forest-zones may help to curb anti-social elements allegedly using these areas as hideouts, thereby enhancing law and order.

(a) Can deforestation be ethically justified in the pursuit of social welfare objectives like, housing for the homeless?

(b) **What are the socio-economic, administrative and ethical challenges in balancing environmental conservation with human development?**

(c) **What substantial alternatives or policy interventions can be proposed to ensure that both environmental integrity and human dignity are protected?**

(Answer in 250 words) 20 **Marks**

Introduction:

The situation presents a conflict between two constitutional goals—social justice (housing for the poor) and environmental protection (Article 48A). Balancing human dignity with ecological integrity forms the core ethical dilemma.

(a) Can deforestation be ethically justified for social welfare?

Deforestation in such a fragile, biodiversity-rich zone **cannot be ethically justified** unless it is the *last resort*. Cutting forests would cause irreversible ecological damage, climate vulnerability, loss of livelihoods of tribal communities and long-term harm to society. While housing is essential, welfare cannot be pursued through actions that undermine the rights of future generations or violate environmental justice. Hence, ethically, this proposal fails tests of sustainability, proportionality and intergenerational equity.

(b) Challenges in balancing conservation with human development

- **Socio-economic:** Housing shortages, poverty, displacement of tribal communities, loss of traditional livelihoods.

- **Administrative:** Pressure to meet targets, limited land availability, coordination issues with forest departments, delays in alternative site identification.
- **Ethical:** Intergenerational equity, rights of indigenous communities, long-term climate impacts, conflict between welfare and sustainability, misuse of “development” as justification for ecological harm.

(c) Substantial alternatives and policy interventions

A balanced solution requires innovative and sustainable planning. The administration can identify **non-forest government land**, degraded land, or brownfield sites for housing. Vertical housing and in-situ slum redevelopment can reduce land pressure. For tribal areas, community-based eco-housing and habitat improvement schemes may work better. Instead of clearing forests, **forest buffers, fencing, and coexistence measures** can reduce human-wildlife conflicts. Strict surveillance and eco-sensitive policing can address law-and-order concerns. Policies such as compensatory afforestation, mandatory environmental impact assessments, and community consultations ensure transparency and fairness.

Conclusion:

Sustainable development demands that poverty alleviation and environmental protection move together. With thoughtful alternatives, both human dignity and ecological balance can be safeguarded.

9. Case Study

Subash is Secretary, PWD in the State Government. He is a senior officer, known for his competence, integrity and dedication to work. He enjoys the trust and confidence of Minister Incharge of PWD and Programme Implementation. As a part of his job profile, he is responsible for policy formulation, execution of projects relating to infrastructure initiatives in the State. Besides, he oversees the technical and administrative aspects relating to planning, designing and construction etc.

Subash's Minister is an important Minister in the state and significant growth in urban infrastructure development and road network has been registered during his tenure. He is very keen for launching of ambitious road construction project in the near future.

Subash is in regular touch with the Minister and is working various modalities of road construction project. Regular meetings, interactions and presentations are made by him to the Minister before a formal public announcement of the project is made by the Minister. Subash's only son Vikas is in real estate business. His son from his own sources is aware that a mega road project is on the anvil and announcement in this regard is expected anytime. He is very keen to know from his father the exact location of the upcoming project. He knows that there would be quantum jump in the prices of land at the proposed location. Buying land at this stage at cheaper prices would pay him rich dividends. He is pleading with him (his father) day in and day out to share him location of the proposed project. He assured him that he would handle the matter discreetly as it

would not attract any adverse notice as he in the normal course, keeps on buying land as a part of his business. He feels pressurised because of constant pleadings by his son.

Another significant aspect of the matter pertained to the extra/undue interest in the above project by the Minister PWD. His nephew was also having big infrastructure project company. In fact, the Minister has also introduced his nephew to him and indicated to him to take care of his nephew's business interest in the forthcoming project. The Minister encouraged him to act fast in the matter as early announcement and execution of mega road project would enhance his status in the party and public life.

In the above backdrop, Subash is in a fix as to the future course of action.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the case.

(b) Critically examine the options available to Subash in the above situation.

(c) Which of the above would be most appropriate and why?

(Answer in 250 words) 20 Marks

Introduction:

Subash faces a classic conflict-of-interest situation involving misuse of insider information, political pressure, and integrity in public office. His decisions will determine both administrative fairness and public trust.

(a) Ethical issues involved

- **Conflict of Interest:** His son's request uses Subash's official position for private gain.
- **Insider Trading of Government Information:** Sharing project location would be unethical and possibly illegal.
- **Political pressure:** Minister's attempt to favour his nephew violates fairness, transparency and merit.
- **Misuse of public office:** Allowing personal or political benefit compromises public interest.
- **Integrity and impartiality:** Subash risks damaging his reputation built over years.
- **Accountability:** Public resources must be used objectively, not for personal networks.

(b) Options available to Subash

One option is to share project details with his son, but this violates integrity, encourages corruption, and exposes him to disciplinary and legal action. Another option is to favour the Minister's nephew in project allocation. This undermines transparency, damages public trust, and may lead to major scandals.

He may also firmly refuse both demands yet continue handling the project, risking strained relations with the Minister and personal stress at home. Alternatively, he can formally document decisions, ensure strict tender procedures, and seek guidance from higher authorities or vigilance bodies if pressures intensify. He may request a transfer if the situation becomes untenable, though this disrupts continuity of work.

(c) Most appropriate option and justification:

The most ethical and sustainable option is to **refuse sharing any confidential information with his son and resist undue political pressure**, while maintaining full transparency and rule-based procedures. Subash should document all official decisions, follow e-tendering and competitive bidding, and escalate concerns if interference persists. This approach upholds public interest, protects Subash's integrity, and ensures that infrastructure development remains fair, accountable, and professionally executed.

10. Case Study

Rajesh is a Group A officer with nine years of service. He is posted as Administrative Officer in an Oil Public Sector undertaking. As an Administrative Officer he is responsible for managing and coordinating various administrative tasks to ensure smooth functioning of office. He also manages office supplies, equipment etc.

Rajesh is now sufficient senior and is expecting his next promotion in JAG (Junior Administrative Grade) in the next one or two years. He knows that promotion is based on examination of ACRs/Performance Appraisal of

last few years (5 years or so) of an officer by a DPC (Departmental Promotion Committee) and an officer lacking requisite grading of ACRs may not be found fit for promotion. Consequences of losing promotion may entail financial and reputational loss and set-back for career progression. Though he also puts his best efforts in official discharge of his duties, yet he is unsure of assessment by his superior officer. He is now putting extra efforts so that he gets thumping report at the end of financial year.

As Administrative Officer, Rajesh is regularly interacting with his immediate boss, who is his reporting officer for writing his ACR. One day he calls Rajesh and wants him to buy computer-related stationery on priority from a particular vendor. Rajesh instructs his office to initiate action for procuring these items. During the day, the dealing Assistant brings an estimate of Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs covering all stationery items from the same vendor. It is noticed that as per delegated financial powers, as provided in the GFR (General Financial Rules) as applicable in that Organisation, expenditure for office items exceeding Rupees Thirty Lakhs requires sanction of the next higher authority (boss in the present case). Rajesh knows that immediate superior would expect all these purchases should be done at his level and may not appreciate such lack of initiative on his part. During discussions with office, he learns that common practice of splitting of expenditure (where large order is divided into a series of smaller ones) is followed to avoid obtaining sanction from higher authority. This practice is against the rules and may come to the adverse notice of Audit.

Rajesh is perturbed. He is unsure of taking decision in the matter.

(a) What are the options available with Rajesh in the above situation?

(b) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?

(c) Which would be the most appropriate option for Rajesh and why?

(Answer in 250 words) 20

Introduction:

Rajesh faces a conflict between professional integrity and fear of harming his promotion prospects. The situation tests his commitment to rules, transparency, and accountability in the face of subtle pressure and organisational malpractice.

(a) Options available with Rajesh

1. **Split the procurement** into smaller orders to stay within his delegated powers.
2. **Process the entire purchase** and seek mandatory sanction from the higher authority as per GFR.
3. **Discuss the rule constraints frankly** with his boss and seek guidance in writing.
4. **Explore competitive bidding** to ensure correct pricing and justification.
5. **Decline the irregular request** and escalate the matter to the vigilance/finance division if pressured.

6. **Request re-evaluation of requirement** to reduce unnecessary expenditure.

(b) Ethical issues involved

- **Violation of GFR norms:** Splitting orders breaches financial propriety and invites audit objections.
- **Integrity vs career pressure:** Rajesh's fear of poor ACR may affect ethical judgement.
- **Misuse of authority by superior:** Expecting rule-bending compromises organisational ethics.
- **Accountability to public funds:** Public money must be spent transparently and economically.
- **Fairness in procurement:** Single-vendor preference without due process risks corruption.
- **Institutional ethics:** Following wrong precedents weakens the organisation's ethical culture.

(c) Most appropriate option and justification

The best option is to **follow GFR rules and process the procurement through proper sanction of the higher authority**, while clearly explaining the legal requirements to his superior. Rajesh should document file notes citing rule positions and adopt competitive procurement to ensure transparency. This protects him from future audit objections, legal liability, and allegations of misconduct. While this may create short-term displeasure, it upholds integrity, public accountability, and organisational credibility—qualities valued in the long run and essential for career advancement.

Conclusion:

Acting lawfully and transparently safeguards both Rajesh's ethics and his professional reputation.

**Every day counts! Don't wait,
Start your Success journey now**

Courses Available

IAS (UPSC) | **HCS** (Haryana) | **HPAS** (Himachal)
PCS (Punjab) | Allied Services & **Naib Tehsildar**

20-25 Students Small Batches | Offline/Live Classes | Affordable Fee



CS MENTORS - IAS Academy | SCO 13-14-15, 3rd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

CALL/WHATSAPP: 88222 99444

11. Case Study

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program, MGNREGA was earlier known as National Rural Employment Scheme, NREGA. It is an Indian Social Welfare Program that aimed at fulfilling the 'Right to Work' provisions made in the Constitution. MGNREGA was launched in 2006 under Rural Employment Sector by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Main objective of the program is to give legal guarantee of wage employment to the adult members of rural households who are willing to

do unskilled manual labour work subject to a maximum of 100 days per year for every household. Every rural household has the right to register under the scheme, job card is issued to the registered, Job Card holder can seek employment; State Government shall pay 25% of minimum wage for the first 30 days as compensatory daily unemployment allowance to the families and of wage for remaining period of the year. MGNREGA work was undertaken by various Gram Panchayats.

You have been appointed as an Administrator Incharge of the District. You have been given the responsibility of monitoring MGNREGA work undertaken by various Gram Panchayats. You are also given the authority to give technical sanctions to all MGNREGA works.

In one of the Panchayats in your jurisdiction, you notice that your predecessor has mismanaged the Program in terms of:

- (i) Money not disbursed to actual job-seekers.
- (ii) Muster Rolls of the Labourers not properly maintained.
- (iii) Mismatch between the work done and payments made.
- (iv) Payments made to fictitious persons.
- (v) Job Cards were given without looking into the need of person.
- (vi) Mismanagement of funds and to the extent of siphoning of funds.
- (vii) Approved works that never existed.

(a) What is your reaction to the above situation and how do you restore the proper functioning of MGNREGA Program in this regard?

(b) What actions would you initiate, to solve the various issues listed

above?

(c) **How would you deal with the above situation?**

(Answer in 250 words) 20 Marks

Introduction:

The situation reveals systemic corruption and administrative breakdown in the implementation of MGNREGA—violating legal entitlements, financial propriety, and rights of the poorest. As District Administrator, restoring transparency and public trust becomes a moral and professional obligation.

(a) Reaction and steps to restore proper functioning

My immediate response would be one of concern, as these irregularities directly harm vulnerable citizens and undermine a flagship rights-based programme. I would initiate a thorough fact-finding exercise, verify current works, freeze suspicious payments, and ensure that genuine workers receive pending wages. Strengthening monitoring, auditing, and community participation would be essential to rebuild credibility and ensure lawful, need-based implementation.

(b) Specific actions to solve listed issues

- **Conduct a social audit** with Gram Sabha participation to expose discrepancies.
- **Verify muster rolls** through field visits, biometric attendance, and video/time-stamped records.
- **Reconcile work–payment mismatch** using geotagged photographs

and physical inspections.

- **Cancel fake job cards** and update the database with genuine beneficiaries only.
- **Recover siphoned funds** under relevant financial and criminal provisions.
- **Suspend or initiate disciplinary action** against responsible officials and contractors.
- **Mandatory e-payments/DBT** to eliminate fraud.
- **Capacity building** of Panchayat officials on record-keeping and transparency norms.

(c) How I would deal with the situation

I would adopt a zero-tolerance, rule-based approach while ensuring fairness. Immediate corrective action, combined with structural reforms such as real-time MIS monitoring, grievance redressal kiosks, and public disclosure of works, would ensure accountability. Collaboration with villagers, SHGs, and civil society would help rebuild trust. My goal would be to ensure that MGNREGA functions as a rights-based, corruption-free, and demand-driven welfare programme that genuinely empowers rural households.

Conclusion:

By combining strict enforcement with transparent, participatory administration, the programme can be restored to its intended purpose of protecting rural livelihoods.

12. Case Study

Ashok is Divisional Commissioner of one of the border districts of the North East State. A few years back, Military has taken over the neighbouring country after overthrowing the elected civil government. Civil war situation is prevailing in the country especially in last two years. However, internal situation further deteriorated due to rebel groups taking over control of certain populated areas near own border. Due to intense fight between military and rebel groups, civilian casualties has increased manifold in recent past. In the meantime, in one night Ashok got information from the local police guarding the border check post that there are about 200-250 people mainly women and children trying to cross over to our side of the border. There are also about 10 soldiers with their weapons in military uniform part of this group who wants to cross over. Women and Children are also crying and begging for help. A few of them are injured and bleeding profusely need immediate medical care. Ashok tried to contact Home Secretary of the State but failed to do so due to poor connectivity mainly due to inclement weather.

(a) What are the options available with Ashok to cope with the situation?

(b) What are the ethical and legal dilemmas being faced by Ashok?

(c) Which of the options, do you think would be more appropriate for Ashok to adopt and why?

(d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the Border Guarding Police in dealing with soldiers in uniform?

(Answer in 250 words) 20 Marks

Introduction:

Ashok faces a high-stakes humanitarian and security crisis at an international border. His decision must balance national security, international law, humanitarian obligations, and immediate lifesaving priorities.

(a) Options available to Ashok

1. **Allow only women and children (civilians) to enter** on humanitarian grounds while stopping armed soldiers.
2. **Temporarily shelter all refugees**, including soldiers, in a secure, controlled area until higher orders arrive.
3. **Deny entry to all**, citing border protocol, and wait for orders.
4. **Allow medical aid on the border itself** without permitting full entry.
5. **Inform higher authorities repeatedly** through all available channels and seek written instructions.

(b) Ethical and legal dilemmas faced by Ashok

- **Humanitarian duty vs national security:** Saving lives vs preventing infiltration and armed presence.
- **International refugee norms vs sovereign border laws.**
- **Protection of women and children vs risks posed by armed soldiers.**
- **Lack of immediate orders:** Acting without explicit clearance.
- **Risk of diplomatic fallout** due to entry of foreign armed personnel.
- **Moral responsibility to prevent deaths** due to injury or exposure.

(c) Most appropriate option and justification

Ashok should **permit immediate humanitarian entry and medical treatment for women, children, and injured persons**, as international humanitarian principles demand saving lives. Armed soldiers, however, must be **disarmed, isolated, and detained in a secure holding area** without granting asylum, as allowing them free entry poses serious security and diplomatic risks. Simultaneously, he should continuously attempt to contact state and central authorities while documenting all decisions. This approach protects national security while upholding India's humanitarian commitments.

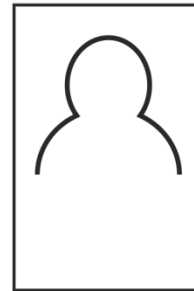
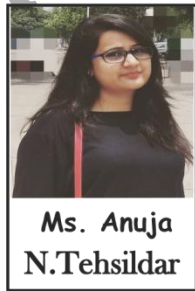
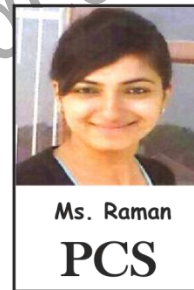
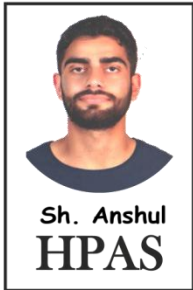
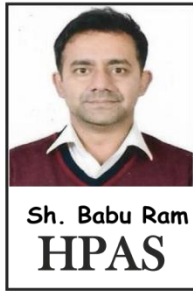
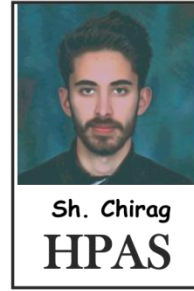
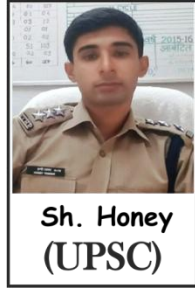
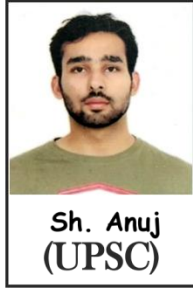
(d) Extra precautionary measures for Border Police

- **Disarm all soldiers immediately** and secure their weapons.
- **Separate soldiers from civilians** to avoid coercion or threats.
- **Conduct identity checks, frisking, and documentation.**
- **Isolate and guard soldiers** to prevent escape or hostile action.
- **Monitor for disguised militants** among civilians.
- **Ensure no communication devices** or intelligence leaks cross the border.
- **Maintain detailed records** for higher authorities and later diplomatic engagement.

Conclusion:

A balanced, humanitarian yet security-oriented response is essential to manage this delicate cross-border crisis.

★ ये हैं हमारे। चमकते सितारे। ★



- Courses Available -

UPSC | PCS | HPAS | HCS | HP ALLIED | NT

Both Hindi & English Medium

CS MENTORS - IAS Academy
CHANDIGARH ☎ **88222 99444**