

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 4 - UPSC CSE 2024
REFERENCES FROM THE MANUAL ON ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND
APTITUDE

15 / 19 Questions have been directly discussed in the Book as mentioned below :

Q 1 (a) Application of Artificial Intelligence - Page 39 of the text

Artificial Intelligence and Ethics

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning are changing societal behaviour quickly and will do so for many decades to come. These new technologies have a potential to both positively and negatively affect human lives, causing a profound ethical impact on societal transformation. AI is actually the externalisation of human intellect, and its can be categorised as evil or good depending on how the systems are designed, developed, trained, and utilised.

The availability of big data has made businesses more focused on automating processes and promoting data-driven decision-making throughout the enterprise. This automation may improve outcomes and at the same time may also lead to unforeseen consequences. As with all technological advances, these innovations have outpaced the government regulations concerned with these new technologies.

There are many ethical issues that have cropped up with the usage and prevalence of AI, some of which are as follows:

Q 1 (b) Dimensions of ethics and Professional ethics - Page 25 of the text

Professional Ethics

Professional ethics covers a wide range of areas and hence is discussed in detail in this section with regard to several professions. The profession of a civil servant will be discussed in unit 3 of the book.

Professional ethics establishes the values and principles that makeup a profession's responsibilities and conduct. A professional is a part of a group of people who provide the same type of goods or services and organise themselves to achieve a societal good. Like the associations of chartered accountants, engineers, doctors, etc.

Professional ethics includes the values, goals, and the provision of high-quality services, as well as responsibility towards clients or customers. When professionals comply with these ethical codes, the honour of the profession is protected and enhanced.

Various professions such as that of a public servant, a doctor, and a lawyer establish different codes that serve as guiding principles for behaviour in their respective fields. Professionals may come under pressure from external factors to act unethically, so the ethical code provides them a reason to act in the way they know they should. When we take up professional responsibilities, our professional behaviour becomes as important as personal ethics, and personal ethics is not the only principle that guides our decision-making.

Territorial Aggression and War

Ethics of War: Just War Theory

The Just War Theory provides a framework for evaluating the moral and ethical aspects of warfare. This theory has sparked debates and raised important questions about the justification for going to war and the conduct of war.

Jus ad bellum: It concerns the set of moral reasons and justifications for a group, political entity, or nation state to justifiably go to war. It focuses on the 'just cause' element of war. It includes the principles such as just cause, right intention, legitimate authority, necessity, proportionality, and likelihood of success. According to this principle, satisfaction of all these criteria is necessary and sufficient to fight a just war.

Jus ad bello: It concerns ethical behaviour on the battlefield once engaged in war. To 'fight well' is when the soldiers exercise ethical restraint with respect to using only necessary and proportionate force towards their designated enemy, discriminate between combatants and non-combatants (soldiers and civilians), exercise caution to minimise collateral damage, and respect the basic rights of prisoners of war. These moral principles are often codified in the standard rules of engagement for soldiers.

Around the middle of the seventeenth century, wars were fought for the interests of individual sovereigns and were limited both in their objectives and in their scope. Later, war came to be known as the national state instrument, which would be undertaken only if the most vital interests of the state or survival are concerned. Later, the First and Second World Wars changed the course of international relations. For instance, in contemporary times, Russia declared a special military operation against Ukraine in 2022 for the annexation of Crimea by claiming that Nazi practices are prevalent in the Ukrainian regime. Also, Israel declared war against Hamas in 2023. The death, damage, and destruction which ensue in such wars have many ethical implications.

Ethical issues involved:

- Humanitarian losses are the worst fallouts of war. Not only human life is threatened, but numerous instances of torture, killings, extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, violence with prisoners of war, etc. occur. The ethics of war mandates that the civilians and buildings such as shelters and hospitals should not be targeted for destruction. These barbaric crimes call for the justice of the victims and accountability of those involved. More than 30,000 Palestinians and Ukrainians were killed in the wars till April 2024 and February 2024, respectively.

Environmental Issues

Climate Change and Global Warming

An increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases is caused by human activities, and these create an enhanced greenhouse effect. Over the past 200 years, emissions from vehicles, power plants, and other human inventions have led to about a 30% increase in the natural concentration of carbon dioxide and more than a 100% increase in the atmospheric concentration of methane. Globally, the average temperature of the earth has warmed over 0.55°C since the mid-nineteenth century, when measurements had begun.

The ecological systems of many of the poorest nations are most at risk because of the vulnerability of human health and socio-economic systems. Some small island nations and other countries will be more vulnerable because their existing sea and coastal defence systems are less established for any calamities. For instance, Bangladesh is already extremely vulnerable to damage from storm surges. In Bangladesh, storm surges in November 1970 and in April 1991 are believed to have killed over 250,000 and 100,000 people, respectively. Many of the world's poorest people, particularly those living in subtropical and tropical areas and those dependent on isolated agricultural systems in semi-arid and arid regions are at a risk of increased hunger. This is because these countries cannot afford food imports, irrigation systems, large-scale public works to prevent flooding, or costly health protection strategies.

Given below are the historical CO₂ emissions of different countries.

Q 3 (a) Swami Vivekananda - Page 173 of the text

a. On education

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.

In Swamiji's view, education should be holistic, with the psychical, spiritual, intellectual, and working sides of our nature equally developed. He encourages people to strive to become the best version of themselves through education. He envisioned the development of a man who possesses both intelligence and compassion: '*Great in heart and great in mind.*'

Vivekananda said, '*End of all education, all training, should be man making*', emphasising on the importance of character development through education. When Swamiji referred to religion as the 'innermost core of education', he was referring to the timeless principles such as universal love, purity, freedom, and selflessness, rather than any specific sect or ideology. He famously remarked, '*You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself.*'

3 (b) Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel - Page 180 of the text

d. Fortitude and endurance

Two ways of building character—cultivating strength to challenge oppression, and tolerate the resultant hardships that give rise to courage and awareness.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement, Sardar Patel spent two years and three months in jail. There he suffered immense mental and physical sufferings due to his deteriorating health. He lost his closest family members, including his mother and elder brother as well as daughter in law while in prison. Despite his own acute pain, he took care of the fellow inmates, including Gandhiji who later described his care as maternal affection. In his letters to his daughter Maniben, he assured her of his health and remained committed to the cause of the freedom struggle.

Q 3 (c) Immanuel Kant - Page 13 of the text

4. Deontology by Immanuel Kant

Immanuel Kant was a famous German Philosopher of the Enlightenment Age. The basic premise of the Deontology Theory is that any action is moral if it conforms to certain principles or duties irrespective of its consequences. *Deon* implies *duty*, which means that actions are considered either good or bad on the basis of whether they are consistent with moral duties. In Kant's philosophy, we must do the right thing, because it is right. It does not require us to weigh up the cost or benefits of that action or its consequences but we must focus on the moral rule itself. It says that no matter how morally good the consequences, some choices are morally forbidden.

His three main ideas are worth taking note:

- a. **Categorical Imperative (Commands that one must follow regardless of one's desire):** These moral obligations are devised using moral reasons—for example, not killing a person is a categorical imperative; no matter what the situation is, killing cannot be justified. As per this logic, killing Zee could never be justified, and hence, is unethical to do.

Q 4 (a) Just / Unjust and Miscarriage of Justice - Page 54 of the text

10. **Justice:** The idea of justice relates to the core of morality. In the simplest form, justice is giving every person his or her due. One of the principles of justice is that individuals should be treated the same, unless they differ in ways that are relevant to the situation involved. For example, if A and B are two workers in an industry and both do the same work, then they must be paid equally. However, if A is being paid more just because he is a man or a relative of the owner, then it is not justified. The ethicist John Rawls has pointed out that the stability of a society or any group depends upon the extent to which the members of that society feel that they are being treated justly. People who have a sense of justice exhibit prosocial behaviours (i.e. helping, co-operating, and sharing), which in turn are associated with both harmony and peace.

Q 5 (a) Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct - Page 287 of the text

Code of Ethics

Code of ethics refers to a set of principles designed to promote ethical mindset and decision-making among a group of professionals. It outlines the core ethical values of an organisation which is expected to be upheld by the professionals. A code of ethics sets forth values, ethical principles, and ethical standards to which professionals aspire and by which their actions can be judged. A code of ethics is adopted and generally does not have any legal sanction to be enforced but may contain penalties. It constitutes the fundamental values that are essential for the conduct of the profession and that maintain the standards of quality and integrity.

Code of ethics may generally include the following values:

1. Commitment towards public good
2. Integrity and Honesty in conduct
3. Maintaining confidentiality and safeguarding inside information
4. Avoiding conflict of interest
5. Professional competence and knowledge
6. Accountability and Transparency

Q 6 (b) Mission Karmayogi - Page 306 of the text

- **Technology initiatives:** Use of technology to improve the procedures, reduce the time taken for processing applications as well as promoting transparency can be a game changer in improving the work culture. For example, use of E-governance in nearly all government departments has reduced the time taken to deliver services. Digitisation also enhances transparency where citizens are better informed and thus impacts work performance.
- **Training and upgradation:** Due to changing technology and the upgradation of rules, laws and so on, induction training alone is not sufficient for the employees. Training must become a regular feature of the employee profile for constant upskilling and improvement. The recently introduced IGOT-Karmayogi platform for civil servants and staff has made online self-paced training available and accessible for all. Relevant courses from reputed institutes of higher and professional learning can make it even more effective.
- **Rewards and feedback:** Just as fixing accountability and monitoring are essential, so is positive feedback and rewards. When a positive work performance of an employee is recognised it not only helps encourage their behaviour but also sets a positive example for all other workers in the workplace, creating a ripple effect. Many private companies utilise the method of naming employees as 'Employee of the month' or 'Star performer of the week', etc. to motivate them and others. These are simple techniques of rewards and feedback that can enrich the work environment.

Q 7 CASE STUDY - AI AND ETHICAL ISSUES - Page 41 of the text

There are many more issues with AI usage, which will continue to hold importance in the years to come. AI offers amazing capacities to help people and make the world a better place, but this will have to be consciously chosen to be done, in accordance with ethics. In 2021, UNESCO released its **Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence** to provide a universal framework of values to guide state action regarding AI as well as to foster dialogue and consensus building.

It lists down the following values and principles as key to AI ethics:



Figure 2.1: Values and Principles of AI Ethics Listed by UNESCO 2021

Q 8 CASE STUDY - CYBER SPACE AND ETHICS- Page 42 of the text

Cyberspace and Ethics

Information technology and computing are essential to business, industry, government, health care, education, entertainment, and society at large. The Internet and cyberspace have become an extension of our daily lives, and this routinely raises ethical dilemmas and issues for individuals and societies.

In what follows, let us look at some of these major issues one by one:

- **Cyber harassment and cyberbullying:** Online platforms have created great benefits by expanding the ways in which we could communicate with each other. However, they have also led to online harassment and trolling as internet users are shielded by anonymity. Posting hurtful comments and messages to people is a form of cyberbullying. Internet users face many forms of harassment, including sharp criticisms, trolling, death threats, threats of sexual abuse, or stalking. Such online abuse can lead to both short- and long-term mental health issues, lack of confidence, and lower self-esteem in the victims.
- **Radicalisation and grooming:** Internet is often used by people with malicious intentions to target the vulnerable population. An individual or group propagating and encouraging extreme religious, political, or social beliefs is referred to as *radicalisation*. When individuals have some vulnerability or unmet psychological needs of belonging to a status, they can be exploited by predators.

Official reports from the European Union note that online platforms were used by terrorists to incite violence and encourage people to join terrorist groups. The practice of manipulating someone to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse and trafficking has come to be known as *grooming*. Offers of support, friendship, and belonging are used to gain influence and control over people, especially teenagers and youth.

Q 9 CASE STUDY - NAXAL AREA AND POLICE RELATED CASE

Page 368 and 369 of the text

3. Consider that you are a police personnel who has been especially trained for anti-Naxal operations. You get selected as a Commander for the elite security force that

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operates in forward areas in the jungle against the Naxalites. Your team's main aim is to eliminate the Naxal hideouts in the region.

Your team gets an input from an informer that there is a big Naxal hideout in the nearby jungle, a couple of hours away from your current position. The informer also tells that the number of Naxals positioned there are more than your team's strength. Also, they are planning a big attack and are about to disperse from the hideout for conducting the attack soon in a few hours. Your nearest backup forces are at least 12 hours away, and it will be very late to wait for them.

Now, you conduct a team meeting to take a call on attacking the hideout. The team in general are affirmative about the chances of coming out victorious, but you are worried about the collateral damage which the team might suffer. You are very confident about the capabilities of your team, but you are also cautious that it might be a trap as well. You have to take a call soon now.

- a. What are the options available before you? Evaluate the merits and demerits of the same.
- b. List down and comment on the values which you will show in different options available before you.

**Similar
Practise
Case study
in the
book.**

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Q 10 - CASE STUDY - PROCUREMENT AND MEDICAL ETHICS

- Page 30 and 317 of the text

Medical Ethics

Medical ethics is a branch of applied ethics that deals with practical issues within the area of medicine and clinical practices. Doctors take an oath, named the Hippocratic Oath, which is one of the oldest binding documents in history. Written in antiquity, its principles are held sacred by doctors to this day: treat the sick to the best of one's ability, preserve patient privacy, teach the secrets of medicine to the next generation, and so on.

All over the world, the following pillars of medical ethics are recognised as cardinal principles to be followed in the field of medical practice.

1. **Autonomy:** This means that a patient has the ultimate decision-making responsibility for his/her own treatment. A doctor cannot impose treatment on a patient, and they should be free to choose on their own. If a person is capable of exercising his or her rational choice, his or her consent must be taken before following any procedure or treatment. The only exception to this is the cases where the patient is deemed unable to make autonomous decisions—that is, when they are not in the appropriate state of mind or are in situations of emergency.
2. **Beneficence:** This principle directs that the doctor must always act in the utility and benefit or the best interests of the patient. Thus, he must be concerned with maximising the good for the patient.

Procurement

Basic Aims of Procurement—The Five R's of Procurement

The fundamental goal of all procurements, whether public or private, is to strike the ideal balance between expenses and specifications with regard to the five factors that make up the 'Five R's of Procurement'. This proper balance is intended to be achieved

throughout the whole procurement process, which spans from the identification of the demand for a good, service, or facility to its satisfaction. When we talk about 'right', we mean 'optimal balance'.

Q 11 - CASE STUDY - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT VS WELFARE
Solved Case Study 2022 Mains - Page 345 of the text

- d. The ethical dilemmas involved in exercising the options are as follows:
- The dilemma between prioritising economic development over environmental conservation is primarily faced. Promoting industrial progress is a must for economic benefits of the region and increasing employment opportunities for the population. At the same time, the development that does not respect the ecological balance and leads to pollution and health issues cannot be sustainable in the long run.
 - The provision of employment for the labourers has been possible because of the presence of industrial units. However, the need to follow the existing laws can hamper the livelihood of the labourers and force them into poverty and subsistence.
 - The investments in the region through industries and other businesses have also contributed to the growth of the region. The ease of doing business must be promoted but needs to be looked at from the lens of legal duties of the business entities.
 - As the officer of the environmental pollution control board, you are responsible to enforce the environmental standards in all the industries. As observed, the industries were given clearance certificates but were not practically complying with them. This also exposes the corrupt behaviour of the office staff in causing the environmental damage, and their accountability needs to be fixed.

The ground realities in the case of environmental clearances might be farther than the legal compliances required. Involving the stakeholders, encouraging phased implementation, and then enforcing the polluter pays principle are crucial for realising the idea of sustainable development.

Apart from the above directly discussed question, 4 questions have been indirectly discussed in multiple places in the text.

Q 4 (b) Perceptive civil servant - discussed in the section on Aptitude and Foundational values for civil servant

Q5 (b) BNS and associated concepts - Concepts of Justice, Equality and Impartiality discussed in detail in the section on Aptitude and Foundational values for civil servant

Q 6 (a) Challenges faced by female civil servants - discussed in solved case study section as well as in section on Ethics of Care.

Q 12 Case study on Biotechnology - discussed in section on Business Ethics