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Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

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Q9

Case study. At 9 pm on Saturday evening, Rashika, a Joint Secretary, was still engrossed in her work in her office. Her husband, Vikram, is an executive in an MNC and frequently out of town in connection with his work. Their two children aged 5 and 3 are looked after by their domestic helper. At 9:30 pm her superior, Mr. Suresh calls her and asks her to prepare a detailed note on an important matter to be discussed in a meeting in the Ministry. She realises that she will have to work on Sunday to finish the additional task given by her superior. She reflects on how she had looked forward to this posting and had worked long hours for months to achieve it. She had kept the welfare of people uppermost in discharging her duties. She feels that she has not done enough justice to her family and she has not fulfilled her duties in discharging essential social obligations. Even as recently as last month she had to leave her sick child in the nanny's care as she had to work in the office. Now, she feels that she must draw a line, beyond which her personal life should take precedence over her professional responsibilities. She thinks that there should be reasonable limits to the work ethics such as punctuality, hard work, dedication to duty and selfless service.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · GS IV · 20 marks · Ethics Case Studies

Case Studies on above issues.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964

Require integrity, devotion to duty and conduct becoming a government servant; they do not command a lie about health or a total surrender of family care.

Joint Secretary

A senior policy manager in the Government of India whose notes often feed ministers and Cabinet; the post is demanding and is still a human post.

Flexible working hours

Several Union offices already use staggered or flexible hours by administrative order; this is practice, not a separate invented Act.

Devotion to duty

A service value that means the work is done to a professional standard, including asking for help, not that one officer absorbs every weekend.

Gendered unpaid care

Women officers still carry a larger share of child-sickness duty; organisations that ignore that fact call the overload 'commitment'.

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