

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

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

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q3

(a) "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself." - Thiruvalluvar. (b) "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes." - William James. (c) "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." - Swami Vivekananda.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · GS IV · 10 marks · Attitude

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

Core demand of the question

- **Elucidate each quote in full sentences:** Thiruvalluvar on inner calm; James on attitude; **Vivekananda** on social morality
- Tie each to a civil servant's work

Revision summary

- **Thiruvalluvar's line is about equanimity:** a calm officer can master a crisis that a panicked one worsens.

William James argued that changing attention and attitude can change a life; for an officer that means seva, not cynicism, without blaming the poor.

Vivekananda held that a society's real strength is the people's morality, not the thickness of the statute book.

Laws still matter; they work when character supports them.

Together the quotes train inner weather, professional will and social ethics.

Introduction

UPSC here gives **three lamps**, not three slogans. A good answer **explains the line**, then **walks it into a tehsil**. Thiruvalluvar speaks of **inner weather**. **William James** speaks of **the mind's lever**. **Vivekananda** speaks of **the people's character**. Together they are **self, will and society**.

Body**(a) Thiruvalluvar: the untroubled in trouble**

The Kural says, in substance, that **those who stay calm when trouble comes will make trouble itself tired**. This is not numbness. It is **equanimity** - what the Gita calls samatva, what stoics call meeting what one cannot yet change without panic. A **Deputy Commissioner** in a cloudburst who shouts at every junior **spreads fear**; one who **prioritises, delegates and still feels** the dead, **governs**. Emotional intelligence here is an **ethical skill**, not a soft extra. The quote also warns against **performative panic** on television. Courage is **steady work**.

(b) William James: alter the attitude, alter the life

James, the American psychologist, meant that **habit of attention** shapes destiny. A bitter officer who sees every citizen as a cheat will **find cheats** and **miss the honest poor**. A growth attitude - I can learn this flood protocol - is **objectivity plus hope**. The ethical risk is **blaming the victim**: telling a hungry person to "change attitude" is cruelty. James is for the **agent's inner freedom**, not for a State that withdraws welfare. For a civil servant, attitude is **seva versus darbar**: the same desk can be a service or a throne.

(c) Vivekananda: strength in morality, not only in law

"The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." Law without **internalised honesty** is a **police-statute graveyard**. India has many Acts and still **leaks**. **Vivekananda** wanted **character** as nation-building. The civil servant's job is **both**: write a good rule **and** model it. If the officer takes a Diwali gift that is a bribe, the **law is a joke** in that office. If citizens will not queue without a tout, **no portal** will save them. **Durkheim** would call this the **collective conscience**. **Vivekananda** calls it **man-making**.

- The three quotes in one life: calm in the crisis, a chosen professional attitude, and a people who do not need a camera to be honest.

Flow diagram

Thiruvalluvar: calm -> Civil servant
James: attitude -> Civil servant
Vivekananda: public morality -> Civil servant

Conclusion

Thiruvalluvar praises calm competence in crisis. James praises a chosen attitude that changes conduct. **Vivekananda** reminds us that statutes fail if people and officers are not moral. A civil servant needs all three.

Facts & figures

Thirukkural

A classical Tamil ethical text; many kuralas on governance stress self-control in the powerful.

William James

A founder of American psychology and pragmatism; he stressed habit and the will to believe as shapers of conduct.

Vivekananda

He argued that nation-building is man-making: character, not borrowed machinery, is the strength of India.