

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

UPSC Mains 2017 GS IV

Year-wise PYQ pack · WRAP model answers with canonical links

Official UPSC stems in exam order. Each live answer sits on one WRAP URL; this PDF is the year pack, not a second copy of the article. Open the link under a question for the full page.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/gs-4/2017/>

Q1 · 10 marks

Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics in Public Administration

Revision summary

Conflict of interest is a clash among official duty, public interest and personal interest, not only a caught bribe.

Public interest must lead; duty is the lawful means; personal interest must be last and declared.

Resolution uses disclosure, recusal, reduced discretion, speaking orders and enforcement of Conduct Rules.

An example is a District Magistrate who recuses from a mining lease in which a relative has a stake.

A medical officer steering patients to a spouse's lab is the same conflict in a smaller room.

Introduction

- **A public office holds three pulls at once:** the duty written in the post, the welfare of the public, and the private life of the officer. Conflict of interest begins when those three are stacked so that the private claim wins.

Body

What the conflict is

- **Official duty is the work the statute, the posting and the file require:** a licence, a tender, a transfer, a relief list.
- Public interest is the lawful welfare of the community, including people who will never meet the officer.
- Personal interest is money, kin, caste, friendship, future employment, or a quiet favour owed to a patron.

- Conflict of interest is not only a proven bribe. It is a situation where a reasonable person would doubt that the decision was made for the public.
- When personal interest sits above duty, the stamp becomes a family shop.
- When a misread "duty" sits above public interest, the officer hides behind a circular while a village is hurt.
- Resolution is not a speech about honesty. It is a set of habits and rules that keep the three in the right order: public interest first, duty as the lawful means, personal interest last and declared.

How administration can resolve it

- **Declare:** a written disclosure of property, relatives in the jurisdiction, and any private link to a bidder or a beneficiary, as service rules and the Lokpal framework expect.
- **Recuse:** if the file touches a spouse, a sibling, a former employer or a plot you own, leave the chair and put the reason on the note.
- **Reduce discretion:** published criteria, e-procurement, direct benefit transfer and a visible queue make it harder to sell a yes.
- **Separate roles:** the person who inspects should not also award; the person who recommends should not also audit.
- **Speak on the file:** a speaking order lets a court and a citizen test whether public interest or a cousin won.
- Train with cases, not slogans, so a young officer practises recusal before the first wedding invitation from a contractor.
- **Enforce:** the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968, and the **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** must have real inquiries, not a transfer as a reward.
- **Culture:** a secretary who recuses in public teaches more than a hundred integrity pledges.

Example

- A District Magistrate must decide a mining lease. A brother-in-law is a silent partner in one company. Duty is to process the lease. Public interest is water, forest and lawful revenue. Personal interest is the relative's profit.
- **Wrong resolution:** stay on the file, "be fair in the heart", and award on a technicality.
- **Right resolution:** disclose the relation, recuse, send the file to the next competent authority, and keep a copy of the disclosure. The lease may still be granted if it is lawful; it will not be granted by a judge in his own family cause.
- Another daily example is a medical officer who refers patients only to a diagnostic centre owned by a spouse. Duty is treatment; public interest is honest diagnosis; personal interest is the commission. The fix is a published panel, a ban on such referrals, and disciplinary action if the pattern continues.

Flow diagram

Duty public interest personal interest -> Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest -> Disclose

Conflict of interest -> Recuse

Conflict of interest -> Less discretion

Disclose -> Public interest first

Recuse -> Public interest first

Less discretion -> Public interest first

Conclusion

Conflict of interest is resolved when public interest leads, official duty is the lawful path, and personal interest is declared and parked. Disclosure, recusal, less discretion and real punishment turn that order from a wish into administration.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/conflict-of-interest-in-the-public-sector-arises-when-a-official-duties-b-public-interest-and-c-personal-interest-are-taking-priority-one-above-the-other-how-can-this-conflict-in-administration-be-resolved-describe-with/>

Q2 · 10 marks

Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (150 Words, 10) (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service.

GS IV · 2017 · Probity in Governance

Revision summary

Transparency is lawful openness of rules, queues and reasons so that bribes lose their dark room.

Accountability is the duty to explain a file to superiors, auditors, courts and citizens.

Fairness and justice are equal treatment plus hearing and reasons, rooted in [Article 14](#) and natural justice.

Courage of conviction is a recorded lawful no under pressure, not rude stubbornness.

Spirit of service is treating the citizen as the purpose of the post, which completes the other four.

Introduction

A civil servant holds other people's power. These five qualities are not decoration. They are how that power stays safe for a stranger at the counter.

Body

(a) Transparency

- Transparency means the citizen can see the rule, the queue, the criterion and, where secrecy is not strictly required, the reason.
- In civil service it is relevant because darkness is where a bribe is priced and a cousin is inserted.
- The Right to Information Act, 2005 and suo motu disclosure under [Section 4](#) make transparency a duty, not a favour.
- A published beneficiary list, an e-tender and a speaking order are transparency in daily form.
- Transparency is not gossip and not the leaking of a cabinet paper that the law still protects. It is openness with a lawful exception, not a locked cupboard as the default.

(b) Accountability

- Accountability means the officer can be asked, on the file and in public forums, why this person got the licence and that person waited.
- Upward accountability to a superior is old. RTI, audit, the legislature, courts and social audit add accountability to people who were never in the room.
- Without it, transparency is a pile of papers no one must explain.
- The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and disciplinary inquiries are accountability with a penalty. A media trial is not a substitute for a fair inquiry.

(c) Fairness and justice

- Fairness is the same rule for a friend and a rival. Justice is that rule plus a hearing for the person who will be hurt.

- **Article 14** of the Constitution of India is fairness in legal form. Natural justice - hear the other side, give reasons, do not be a judge in your own cause - is justice in procedure.
- In civil service this is relevant at the ration shop, the police station and the recruitment board. A clever officer who is unfair is still a failed trustee.
- Justice also means a bias toward the weakest when the law allows discretion, because they cannot buy a second visit.

(d) Courage of conviction

- Courage of conviction is the will to record a lawful no when a powerful person wants a yes.
- It is relevant because integrity without courage becomes a private feeling, and the file still moves the wrong way.
- It is not stubbornness. The officer must still listen, still cite the statute, and still accept a lawful contrary order from a competent authority on the note.
- Examples include refusing a false muster, refusing a communal targeting of a raid, and putting a dissent on a note rather than whispering in the corridor.
- The **Second Administrative Reforms Commission** on Ethics in Governance treated this courage as part of integrity, not as optional heroism.

(e) Spirit of service

- Spirit of service is the habit of treating the counter as a public trust, not as a burden or a shop.
- It is relevant because a transparent and fair system still fails if the officer humiliates the applicant or delays out of disdain.
- **Gandhi's** talisman - recall the weakest face - is this spirit in one sentence.
- It shows in a disability pension that is not sent on a third trip, in a disaster camp that is run before the camera arrives, and in courtesy that the Conduct Rules already require.
- Spirit of service without the other four becomes sentimental theatre. The other four without it become a cold machine that the Constitution did not ask for.

Flow diagram

Civil service -> Transparency
 Civil service -> Accountability
 Civil service -> Fairness and justice
 Civil service -> Courage of conviction
 Civil service -> Spirit of service
 Transparency -> Public trust
 Accountability -> Public trust
 Fairness and justice -> Public trust
 Courage of conviction -> Public trust
 Spirit of service -> Public trust

Conclusion

Transparency lets the public see. Accountability makes the officer answer. Fairness and justice keep the republic one. Courage of conviction protects the file from fear. Spirit of service keeps the human being in the queue. Civil service needs all five together.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/examine-the-relevance-of-the-following-in-the-context-of-civil-service-150-words-10-a-transparency-b-accountability-c-fairness-and-justice-d-courage-of-conviction-e-spirit-of-service/>

WRAP Exams

Q3 · 10 marks

Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics and Human Interface

Revision summary

Honest youth avoid active politics because of money, muscle, closed tickets, smears and a culture that calls all politics dirty.

Motivation needs inner-party democracy, cheaper campaigns, faster justice, disclosure that voters use, and local offices as a first step.

Education should teach the Constitution as a craft, not as a reason to stay home.

Parties must select on record, not only on family.

Ethics in politics is entry plus reform, not a vow of absence.

Introduction

A democracy that scares honest youth out of parties and polls will be run by those who can stand the dirt. The task is not a lecture on duty. It is to make ethical entry into politics thinkable and survivable.

Body

Why ethical youth stay away

- Politics is widely seen as a market of money, muscle, and family tickets, not as public service.
- The cost of a campaign, the fear of character assassination, and the risk to family livelihood push a salaried ethical person back to a job.
- Inner-party democracy is weak, so merit and clean records lose to loyalty and cash.
- Criminalisation and the slow court process make a false case a career weapon.
- Media and social media reward outrage, not committee work, so a decent candidate looks dull or is quickly smeared.
- Civic education often treats politics as dirty by definition, which becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Steps to motivate ethical youth

- **Inner-party democracy:** published membership rolls, contested organisational elections, and youth wings that are not only applause machines, as the **170th Law Commission** discussion on electoral reform and many later reports have urged in spirit.
- **Lower the money wall:** stricter ceiling enforcement, more public funding of parties on transparent criteria, cheaper campaign time through debates and a level digital field, and State funding experiments that are audited.
- Fast, fair process against both real crime and motivated false cases, so that a clean candidate is not ruined by a pending charge-sheet as theatre.
- **Disclose and deter:** effective implementation of affidavit disclosure, the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** disqualifications, and voter education so that a criminal record is costly at the booth, not only in a seminar.

- **Local first:** urban local bodies, panchayats, student unions and issue campaigns as lawful nurseries, where a young person can serve without a national war-chest.
- **Protect the decent:** anti-defection should not become anti-conscience, but threat, booth capturing and paid news must meet real police and **Election Commission** action.
- **Honour service:** internships with legislators that teach files, not only posters; fellowships that pay a modest stipend so that only the rich can afford a year in public life.
- **Education that does not sneer:** schools and colleges should teach the Constitution, local government and how a budget is made, so that politics is seen as a civic craft.
- Parties should publish candidate-selection criteria and give tickets to persons with a record of social work or professional integrity, not only to heirs.
- Media and civil society should cover ward work and questions in the House, not only the insult of the day, so that ethical work is visible.
- **Reduce the humiliation of the first-time honest candidate:** model code enforcement against personal vilification, and a culture in parties that a lost election is not a family disgrace.
- Role models in office who live simply and keep a clean register do more than a motivational video. Youth copy what wins.

What not to do

- Do not tell youth that ethics means never joining a party. That leaves the field to the unethical.
- Do not romanticise outsider anger that has no programme and no patience for institutions.
- Do not confuse a technocratic job with political representation. Both are needed; only politics writes the law.

Flow diagram

Ethical youth stay away -> Money and muscle
 Ethical youth stay away -> Smear and false cases
 Ethical youth stay away -> Closed tickets
 Motivate entry -> Inner-party democracy
 Motivate entry -> Lower campaign cost
 Motivate entry -> Panchayat and local first
 Motivate entry -> Honour clean work

Conclusion

Ethical youth will enter politics when entry is cheaper, fairer and safer, and when parties and voters reward a clean record. Reform the gate, show the work, and stop teaching that public life is only a swamp.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/young-people-with-ethical-conduct-are-not-willing-to-come-forward-to-join-active-politics-suggest-steps-to-motivate-them-to-come-forward-150-words-10/>

Q4 · 10 marks

(a) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. (150 Words, 10) (b) Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics and Human Interface

Revision summary

Integrity is tested by a complete refusal to sell the file, the tender or the truth, including the small gift.

Real-life pictures include moral responsibility after a railway disaster, an **Election Commission** that would not be soft, and officers who accept transfer rather than a crooked land deal.

CSR under the Companies Act, 2013 can cut conflict, attract talent and protect a social licence, which supports profit over time.

CSR as a brochure over unpaid labour or pollution is not sustainability.

The core business must itself be lawful; CSR is not a detergent.

Introduction

Integrity is what remains when a price is offered for the yes. Part (a) asks for that refusal in a real life. Part (b) asks whether corporate social responsibility is only charity or also a way a firm lasts.

Body

(a) Integrity as complete refusal to be compromised

- Integrity means the public or professional role is not for sale, not in a large envelope and not in a small "facilitation".
- Complete refusal is the test because a half-compromise trains the next demand. The first gift is a hook, not a thank you.
- Compromise here is not ordinary negotiation over a lawful alternative. It is trading the truth of a file, a tender or a diagnosis for private gain, fear or belonging.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri resigning as Railway Minister after a serious accident, taking moral responsibility that the law did not strictly force, is integrity as honour, even though the stem's harder test is refusal of a corrupt bargain.
- **A clearer refusal:** S. R. Sankaran, as a civil servant, was known for siding with the landless and for not bending a welfare file to a local notable; the point is the habit, not a statue.
- Ashok Khemka's repeated transfers after acting against irregular land deals is often cited as the cost of refusal; whether every file is agreed or not, the public lesson is that integrity may be punished by posting, and still must not sell the stamp.
- T. N. Seshan as **Chief Election Commissioner** used the office to enforce the model code against parties that were used to a soft Commission; the compromise refused was the idea that elections are a private arrangement of the powerful.
- In daily life, a junior engineer who will not certify a weak culvert for a contractor's Diwali gift is the same test without a headline.
- **Complete refusal needs a system:** asset rules, a whistle-blower path, and colleagues who do not isolate the one person who said no. Integrity is personal, but it dies faster in a lonely office.

(b) CSR, profit and sustainability

- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India is, after **Section 135** of the Companies Act, 2013, a statutory spend for eligible companies, not only a voluntary smile.
- The claim in the stem is that CSR makes firms more profitable and more sustainable. Analyse, do not recite.
- **How it can help profit:** a firm that is trusted on labour, environment and local consent faces fewer shutdowns, fewer court stays and a more stable workforce. That is risk reduction, which is a form of profit over time.
- **Brand and talent:** buyers and skilled staff prefer a firm that is not famous for a dead river. In export markets, social and environmental standards are often a ticket to the shelf.
- Shared value, as later business writing named it, is when a company solves a social problem that is also its supply chain - water for a beverage plant, skills for a factory town - rather than a random donation.
- **How the claim is overstated:** a two-per-cent spend can be a brochure while the core business still evades tax, poisons a stream or cheats a contract worker. That is not sustainability; it is makeup.
- Forced CSR can become a political slush or a favourite-trust pipeline if governance is weak. Profit then is a politician's, not the community's.
- Sustainability is environmental, social and financial at once. A CSR well that is photographed while groundwater is mined unsustainably fails the test.
- **The honest analysis:** CSR, done as strategy and as compliance with a clean core business, can support long-run profit and a social licence. CSR as a substitute for paying taxes, wages and effluent standards does not.

Flow diagram

Integrity -> Complete refusal
 Complete refusal -> Unbought file
 CSR -> Lower social risk
 CSR -> Makeup if core is dirty
 Lower social risk -> Sustainability
 Makeup if core is dirty -> Licence to operate fails

Conclusion

Integrity is a complete no to the sale of a role; Shastri's responsibility, Seshan's enforcement and a junior's unbought signature are the same virtue at different heights. CSR can aid profit and endurance when it is tied to a clean core; it cannot wash a dirty one.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/a-one-of-the-tests-of-integrity-is-complete-refusal-to-be-compromised-explain-with-reference-to-a-real-life-example-150-words-10-b-corporate-social-responsibility-makes-companies-more-profitable-and-sustainable-analyse/>

Q5 · 10 marks

(a) "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." - Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. (150 Words, 10) (b) "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother and teacher." - A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Probity in Governance

Revision summary

Napoleon is right that ambition takes the colour of the principles that steer it.

Harmful rulers include Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, extractive colonialism and Emergency excess; developmental examples include Ashoka's turn, Lincoln, Mandela, and institution-builders such as Nehru and Shastri.

- **Kalam's father, mother and teacher form the first ethic:** queue, truth and curiosity.

They cannot replace CAG, police and courts, but without them those offices fill with already bent adults.

Beautiful minds are integrity plus inquiry, not marks without shame at a stolen rupee.

Introduction

Napoleon is saying that size of will is not virtue; the compass is. Kalam is saying that the first compass is drawn at home and at school, before the first bribe is offered in an office.

Body

(a) Ambition, principles, and two kinds of rulers

- Ambition is a strong desire to achieve and to matter. In a ruler it can build a canal or empty a prison into a grave.
- Napoleon is right that character without principle is power looking for a use. Principle here means a public ethic: the people are not fuel.
- Harmful ambition treats the country as a private stage. Developmental ambition treats the office as a trust.

Rulers who harmed society and country

- Adolf Hitler turned ambition and a racial principle into genocide and a world war; Germany and Europe paid in corpses and ruin.
- Joseph Stalin industrialised with terror, famine and camps; the State's strength was real and so was the mass death.
- Pol Pot's Cambodia showed how a "pure" political principle can murder a society.
- In Indian memory, colonial extraction under the British Raj subordinated Indian welfare to metropolitan gain; famines and de-industrialisation were not accidents of weather alone.

- Among Indian political failures, Emergency excesses of 1975-77 - detention without the usual safeguards, press curbs, and forced programmes in some places - showed how even an elected ambition can injure constitutional morality.
- Local tyrannies - a landlord-politician who runs a district as a pocket borough - are the same pattern at a smaller scale.

Rulers and leaders who worked for development of society and country

- **Ashoka** after Kalinga turned conquest toward dhamma, welfare and a public ethic of restraint, which Indian political thought still cites.
- Akbar's attempt at a broader imperial ethic, including sulh-i-kul, sought a political community that was not only one sect's property.
- Abraham Lincoln held a union together against slavery's expansion; the cost was terrible, the principle was a wider freedom.
- Nelson Mandela used power after prison to restrain revenge and to build a constitutional order, which is development of a moral kind, not only of roads.
- In India, **Jawaharlal Nehru's** stress on science, institutions, adult franchise and a non-aligned dignity set a developmental frame, with flaws that later generations must name.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri's call for discipline in food and his simple life tied ambition to restraint.
- A. P. J. Abdul Kalam as President modelled a teacher-scientist in the highest ceremonial office, linking technology to a decent national self-respect.
- **The test for a serving officer is the same as Napoleon's:** a strong will to finish a dam or a raid is good only if law, rights and the weakest person still count.

(b) Father, mother and teacher

- Kalam is not cancelling police, CAG or the Lokpal. He is naming the first factory of conscience.
- A child who sees a parent buy a marksheet or beat a queue learns that the State is a shop. A child who sees a parent refuse a short-cut learns a cost.
- The mother, in Kalam's triad, is often the first instructor in care and in shame at a stolen rupee; the point is parenting, not a law that only women must be moral while men buy the ticket.
- The teacher is the first public officer the child meets. A teacher who sells grades or humiliates a caste produces both corruption and ugly minds.
- Beautiful minds, for Kalam, meant curiosity, integrity and compassion, not only high marks. Science without ethics is a better weapon.
- Schools that run only for board ranks and tuitions will not deliver his triad. Value education that is a weekly slogan also will not. The hidden curriculum - punctuality, no leaked paper, no fee for a seat - will.
- **Limits of the quote:** a clean home cannot defeat a dirty recruitment board alone. Institutions still matter. Kalam's claim is that without the three, institutions inherit already bent people.
- **Policy that follows the quote:** early childhood care, unpaid care recognised so parents have time, teacher training and status, and an end to political capture of school appointments.
- For a corruption-free country, father, mother and teacher are necessary and not sufficient. They are the seedbed. Law is the fence.

Flow diagram

Great ambition -> Principles

Principles -> Tyranny and extraction

Principles -> Constitutional development

Father mother teacher -> Conscience and curiosity

Conscience and curiosity -> Public integrity

Institutions -> Public integrity

Conclusion

Ambition is morally empty until principles choose the victim or the citizen. History is full of both kinds of ruler. Kalam's father, mother and teacher grow the principles before the file; offices and statutes must still punish the adult who forgets them.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/a-great-ambition-is-the-passion-of-a-great-character-those-endowed-with-it-may-perform-very-good-or-very-bad-acts-all-depends-on-the-principles-which-direct-them-napoleon-bonaparte-stating-examples-mention-the-rulers-i/>

Q6 · 10 marks

(a) How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (150 Words, 10) (b) Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Emotional Intelligence

Revision summary

Emotional intelligence is noticing and steering emotion in self and others so that an officer stays lawful and humane under pressure.

It applies in disasters, inquiries, rumour control and negotiations, without becoming manipulation or a substitute for statute.

Strength is a State's capacity to remain autonomous; peace is processed dispute; security is durable safety of people and polity.

- **The three pillars fail if one is pursued alone:** peace without strength, strength without peace, security without either.

India's quest for strategic space and the UN's peace-and-security language both assume this triangle.

Introduction

Administration is people under pressure. Emotional intelligence is how an officer reads those people, including the self. Part (b) then names three public goods without which States cannot even sit at a table.

Body

(a) Emotional intelligence in administrative practices

- Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to notice, name and regulate one's own emotions, and to notice and respond to others' emotions, without becoming their captive.
- Daniel Goleman's popular framing - self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skill - is a usable map for a district office.
- **Self-awareness:** know when fatigue, caste comfort or yesterday's insult is writing the order. A pause and a second reader on a harsh demolition note is EI, not weakness.
- **Self-regulation:** do not shout at a clerk or a complainant because a minister shouted at you. The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 already require courtesy; EI is how you actually keep it on a riot day.
- **Motivation:** keep the public goal when the file is dull - a pension, a vaccine camp - without needing daily applause.
- **Empathy:** hear why a farmer will not leave a flood house, or why a woman will not file a police complaint, before you call them stubborn.
- **Social skill:** chair a tense meeting so that a municipal councillor and an engineer can disagree without a walkout; negotiate a procession route that saves both faith and a hospital gate.
- In disaster work, EI is the difference between a camp that humiliates and a camp that feeds. People remember the tone as much as the tarpaulin.
- **In inquiry and discipline, EI means firmness without humiliation:** a charge sheet that is specific, not a public shaming on social media.

- In communication, name fear during a rumour - a communal WhatsApp forward, a disease panic - and give one clear next step. Panic is an emotion; facts without empathy do not land.
- **Limits:** EI is not manipulation, not a smile while the tender is cooked, and not delay of a lawful eviction only because someone cried. Empathy informs the hearing; the statute still decides.
- **Training:** case discussion, feedback after a field day, and mentoring beat a one-hour lecture on "soft skills".

(b) Strength, peace and security as pillars of international relations

- International relations is how States, and now other actors, manage power, trade, war and common problems in a system with no world government.
- **Strength is the capacity to protect autonomy:** military, economic, technological and demographic depth, plus internal legitimacy. A weak State is a subject of others' bargains.
- Peace is more than the silence of guns. It is a condition in which disputes can be processed by diplomacy, law and institutions rather than by conquest.
- Security is the assurance that survival, borders, citizens and critical infrastructure are not at daily mercy of a rival, a terrorist group or a supply shock.
- The three lean on one another. Strength without a peace policy becomes a threat that organises balancing against you. Peace without strength is a hope that a predator may ignore. Security without peace is a garrison forever on edge.
- The Charter of the United Nations (1945) puts peace and security at the centre of collective effort, while still assuming that States keep enough strength to exist.
- India's strategic language - from non-alignment to multi-alignment - has tried to gain security and development space without becoming a camp follower, which is a peace-and-strength mix.
- Nuclear deterrence is a grim form of strength meant to produce a kind of security; it does not by itself produce peace, as crises between nuclear neighbours show.
- Economic strength - food, energy, digital public goods - is now as much a security pillar as tanks, which COVID-19 and supply-chain shocks taught.
- **Human security (UNDP, 1994) widens the pillar:** a citizen insecure from hunger or communal violence is a failure of the State even if the border is quiet.
- **Elucidation for ethics:** a republic's foreign policy is unethical if it seeks strength by humiliating the weak abroad, or peace by selling a neighbour's people, or security by a permanent internal emergency.

Flow diagram

Emotional intelligence -> Self-awareness
 Emotional intelligence -> Empathy
 Emotional intelligence -> Better administration
 International relations -> Strength
 International relations -> Peace
 International relations -> Security
 Strength -> Stable order
 Peace -> Stable order
 Security -> Stable order

Conclusion

Apply EI as self-command, empathy and skilled meetings so that law is implemented by a human being, not by a temper. In world politics, strength, peace and security stand together: drop one and the other two become fear or vanity.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/a-how-will-you-apply-emotional-intelligence-in-administrative-practices-150-words-10-b-strength-peace-and-security-are-considered-to-be-the-pillars-of-international-relations-elucidate-150-words-10/>

WRAP Exams

Q7 · 10 marks

(a) The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (150 Words, 10) (b) Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics and Human Interface

Revision summary

The ethics crisis is fed by a good life defined as private consumption and rank, which turns neighbours into tools.

A wider good life includes dignity, enough goods, care, ecology and a civic role.

GDP can rise while benefits sit in gated, English, private-service islands.

The majority often pays in land, insecure labour and pollution.

The stem is justified as a pattern, not as a claim that no poor person ever gained.

Introduction

If the good life is only a private score of money, status and sensation, public ethics will look like a fool's hobby. Part (b) then tests whether India's growth story has been a nation or a few gated islands.

Body

(a) Narrow good life and the ethics crisis

- **The good life, in a wide sense, is a life that is worth living:** health, decent work, relationships, meaning, and a just place in a community.
- A narrow modern picture often reduces it to income, consumption, celebrity and comparative ranking. Aristotle's eudaimonia, Gandhi's swaraj, and the Buddhist middle path all refuse that reduction.
- When success is only a package, other people become instruments. Lying in a resume, a bribe for a seat, and a troll campaign are then rational, not shameful.
- Family and school that praise only marks and a package teach that the neighbour is a rival. Civic virtue has no marks in that exam.
- Markets are useful. A market that is treated as the whole of the good life crowds out unpaid care, honesty in a file, and rest. Burnout and fraud are cousins.
- **Media and advertising sell a lifestyle that cannot be universal:** if everyone lived the advertised good life, the planet and the poor would break first.
- Religion reduced to display, and politics reduced to a team sport, both fit the same narrowness: belonging without dharma, victory without public reason.
- The crisis of values is therefore not only "the youth". It is an official culture of GDP without dignity, a middle class of anxiety, and a poor majority told to wait.
- **A wider good life restores:** enough material security, equal dignity (Article 14 and 21), useful work, ecological limits, and a public role - vote, panchayat, a clean queue.

- **For an officer, the discussion is practical:** do not measure a posting only by a house and a car. Measure it by whether the weakest person in the district can live a slightly less narrow life.

(b) Wealth without equity: enclaves of modernity

- National wealth can rise as GDP, forex reserves and billionaire lists while nutrition, housing and regular jobs stay flat for a large mass. That is growth without development in Amartya Sen's sense of expanding real freedoms.
- **Enclaves:** IT parks, airport cities, gated housing, private hospitals and English-medium islands sit beside informal work, polluted peripheries and unpaid care.
- **Cost of the majority:** land and water diverted to the enclave; contract labour without security; air and river as dumps; public hospitals crowded because the enclave bought out of them.
- Agriculture's share of workers remains high relative to its share of income in India; that arithmetic is an enclave of urban services living on a hinterland that does not share the boom equally.
- Caste, gender and region structure who enters the enclave. A growth rate that ignores this is not a trickle; it is a wall.
- The liberalisation period raised many averages and cut some extreme shortages. Justification of the stem is not that nothing improved. It is that the pattern of benefits has been concentrated, and that concentration has social and ecological costs.
- Crony access to land, spectrum and credit at some moments made the enclave a political product, not only a skill product.
- Human development and the Sustainable Development Goals ask for distribution, not only a taller national total. A malnutrition map next to a luxury tower is the stem in one photograph.
- **Public ethics:** a State that boasts GDP while delaying wages on a worksite is serving the enclave's story. Tax, quality public services, labour standards and regional policy are how a republic refuses to be only a few postcodes of modernity.

Flow diagram

Narrow good life -> Ethics crisis
 Dignity work ecology civic role -> Public ethics
 National wealth -> Enclaves
 Enclaves -> Majority bears land labour ecology
 Public services tax labour rights -> Shared development

Conclusion

A thin idea of the good life - consume, rank, display - starves honesty and solidarity. A thick idea makes room for dignity and a common world. National wealth that pools in enclaves at the majority's cost is growth that has not yet become a just nation.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/a-the-crisis-of-ethical-values-in-modern-times-is-traced-to-a-narrow-perception-of-the-good-life-discuss-150-words-10-b-increased-national-wealth-did-not-result-in-equitable-distribution-of-its-benefits-it-has-created/>

Q8 · 10 marks

(a) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 Words, 10) (b) Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (150 Words, 10).

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics and Human Interface

Revision summary

Discipline as lawful order and role is necessary; as blind subordination it hides error, crime and cruelty.

Productive discipline allows recorded dissent and refuses illegal orders.

Law needs a habit of obedience without a guard on every corner.

Democracy needs losers who accept counts and winners who do not hunt rivals as enemies of existence.

Markets need honest weights and kept promises; a contemporary picture is viral electoral lies or pandemic hoarding that no inspector can fully police.

Introduction

Obedience keeps a file moving. Blind obedience can also keep a wrong file moving. Part (b) then says that law, votes and prices all sit on a moral floor that no statute writes in full.

Body

(a) Discipline, orders, and when they harm the organisation

- **Discipline in an organisation is reliable conduct:** time, role, and a chain of command so that work is not a daily argument.
- Following a lawful order and accepting subordination are normal in a civil service, an army and a hospital. Without them, a disaster camp is a crowd.
- Counter-productive discipline is the kind that forbids bad news, punishes a question, and treats the person as a tool.
- **Groupthink:** if every junior must smile at a bad tender, the organisation buys a scam and a collapse.
- Innovation dies when only the senior may think. A municipal engineer who cannot flag a weak design because "the chairman has decided" will still sign the death trap.
- **Moral injury:** an officer forced to implement a communal or illegal oral order learns that the organisation hates the Constitution. Loyalty then becomes fear.
- **Learned helplessness:** staff stop using judgement. The organisation then needs the boss for every small yes, which is slow and brittle.
- **Whistle-blowing and a speaking dissent on the note are disciplined in a higher sense:** loyal to the public purpose, not to a person.

- The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules still require obedience to lawful superior orders. They do not require a crime. An illegal order must be refused and, if needed, asked for in writing.
- **Productive discipline is purpose-based:** clear goals, fair appraisal, and a right to record disagreement. Military mission-command thinking is similar: intent is binding, mindless detail is not.
- Example: a hospital where nurses cannot challenge a wrong dose because of hierarchy will harm patients. A regiment where a sentry cannot report a drunk officer will harm soldiers.

(b) Shared moral values under law, democracy and markets

- Law is words plus the habit of treating them as binding even when a policeman is not watching. Without that habit, every rule needs a guard, and there are never enough guards.
- Democratic government needs losers who accept a count, winners who do not jail the opposition, and citizens who treat opponents as wrong, not as vermin. That is a moral obligation, not only a section of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.
- A market economy needs contracts that are kept, weights that are true, and a refusal to sell poison as food. Price signals fail when trust fails; then only mafias and inspectors remain.
- Adam Smith wrote of markets and also of moral sentiments. The second book is the floor of the first.
- **Contemporary illustration:** digital misinformation during elections. The law on defamation and the **Election Commission's** model code cannot, by themselves, stop a million forwards that dehumanise a community. Shared norms - do not share a lie, do not cheer violence - are what make a campaign a contest rather than a riot with a polling date.
- **Another illustration:** COVID-19. Lockdown law existed. Compliance also depended on a sense of obligation to strangers - a mask on a bus, not hoarding oxygen as a private good when a hospital next door had none.
- **A third:** financial fraud and fake news about banks. Deposit insurance and RBI rules matter; a run still begins when the moral belief "this institution is not a lie" cracks.
- When values are not shared - caste humiliation as normal, tax as optional, a bribe as efficiency - law looks like a hurdle, democracy like a loot cycle, and the market like a cheat if you can.
- **Entrenchment means schools, families, professional bodies and parties repeat the same floor:** truth, non-violence, promise-keeping, and equal dignity. A one-day integrity pledge does not entrench.

Flow diagram

Discipline -> Lawful order
 Discipline -> Blind subordination
 Lawful order -> Healthy organisation
 Blind subordination -> Scam collapse moral injury
 Shared moral values -> Law
 Shared moral values -> Democracy
 Shared moral values -> Market

Conclusion

Discipline should bind people to a lawful purpose, not to a silent crime or a silent design flaw. Law, democracy and markets all free-ride on shared moral habits. When those habits thin, only force, spectacle and fraud thicken.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/a-discipline-generally-implies-following-the-order-and-subordination-however-it-may-be-counter-productive-for-the-organisation-discuss-150-words-10-b-without-commonly-shared-and-widely-entrenched-moral-values-and/>

WRAP Exams

Q9 · 20 marks

Case study. A building permitted for three floors, while being extended illegally to 6 floors by a builder, collapses. As a consequence, a number of innocent labourers including women and children died. These labourers are migrants of different places. The government immediately announced cash relief to the aggrieved families and arrested the builder. Give reasons for such incidents taking place across the country. Suggest measures to prevent their occurrence.

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

Illegal extra floors, sleeping inspectors, collusion and informal migrant labour explain repeated collapses.

Cash relief and arresting the builder treat the symptom after death.

Prevention needs digitised sanctions, real inspections, prosecution of officials and signing engineers, and BOCW protections including no children on site.

Regularising illegal height with a fee trains the next crime.

Dignity for migrants includes identified dead, wages on record, and welfare cess that actually pays.

Introduction

The collapse is not a surprise that fell from the sky. It is a three-floor permission wearing six floors of greed, and a workforce that was cheap enough to be unnamed until they died.

Body

Stakeholders

- Dead and injured workers, including women and children on or near the site, and families in source States who now have no wage and no body that is easy to claim.
- Other residents and passers-by who might have been under the slab.
- The builder, engineers, architects and contractors in the chain.
- Municipal and development-authority staff who permitted three floors and then did not stop six.
- The State government that pays relief and makes an arrest after the fact.
- You as a public observer or officer asked for reasons and prevention, not for a television quote.

Ethical issues and values

- Right to life ([Article 21](#)) of workers who had no say in the illegal floors.
- **Justice:** cash after death is not the same as a building that was never allowed to kill.
- Integrity in the permit and inspection chain; a file that sleeps is a partner.
- **Dignity of migrant labour:** they are not disposable inputs.
- Accountability that reaches the official who looked away, not only the builder who is already in the news.

Reasons such incidents occur across the country

- Illegal extra floors are profitable. Each extra slab is rent. The risk is shifted onto workers and later buyers.
- Building by-laws exist; enforcement is episodic, often after a complaint from a rival, not as a routine.
- **Collusion and conflict of interest:** a site inspector who can be paid to unsee a column, or a local notable who is a silent partner.
- **Weak professional ethics:** a structural engineer who signs a drawing that the soil and steel cannot carry, or who never visits.
- Migrant labour is informal, often without written contracts, helmets, or the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 protections in practice.
- Children on sites show that housing, creche and labour inspection have already failed before the slab failed.
- **Fragmented responsibility:** municipality, fire, environment, electricity and police each hold a piece; the collapse holds all of them.
- Cheap materials, rushed curing, and night work to beat a stop-work notice are technical cousins of the same greed.
- After a disaster, arrest-plus-ex-gratia is politically quick. It does not change the next plot if the permit software still has no teeth.

Options

- **Option 1:** Only cash relief and one arrest.
- **Merit:** immediate help and a villain.
- **Demerit:** the inspection system that allowed six floors stays in place.
- **Option 2:** Demolish all extra floors everywhere at once without due process.
- **Merit:** fear.
- **Demerit:** new deaths, selective targeting, and courts that will stay a vendetta.
- **Option 3:** Treat this as a safety-and-governance failure: prosecute the chain, compensate with dignity, and rebuild inspection so that the next extra floor is stopped at the first beam.

Measures to prevent occurrence

- **Map and digitise permissions:** what was sanctioned must be visible on a public portal with floor count and a photograph, so that six floors cannot be a neighbourhood secret.
- Risk-based inspections with body-worn cameras or time-stamped photos, rotation of inspectors, and a third-party structural audit for buildings that add load.
- Prosecute the company, the signing engineer and the negligent public servant, not only the face of the builder. The **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** applies where a public servant sold a blind eye.
- Enforce BOCW registration, cess, helmets, and a ban on children on sites; link labour camps to the Building and Other Construction Workers' welfare boards for immediate relief that does not wait for a cabinet decision.
- Independent collapse inquiry with published findings, like a small National Building Code post-mortem, so that "poor soil" is not a magic phrase.
- Fast, fair demolition of illegal storeys with notice, alternative shelter where families live in the same building, and no VIP exceptions.
- Professional bodies should suspend licences of engineers and architects who signed the lie.

- **Migrant support:** portable identity, wages in accounts, and a district protocol to identify the dead and send bodies home without a tout.
- Fire and structural safety should be conditions of electricity and occupancy, not a separate optional NOC that is photocopied.
- **Political message:** an illegal floor is not regularisable by a later fee if it was always a death trap. Regularisation culture is how three becomes six.

Flow diagram

Three-floor permit -> Six floors
Six floors -> Collapse
Collapse -> Cash and arrest
Cash and arrest -> Next site unchanged
Six floors -> Public map audits prosecute BOCW
Public map audits prosecute BOCW -> Stop the next slab

Conclusion

These deaths happen because extra floors pay, inspections sleep, and migrants are cheap. Arrest and cash are the minimum. Prevention is a public map of permissions, a prosecuted chain, licensed professionals who fear a ban, and labour law that treats a construction worker as a person.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-a-building-permitted-for-three-floors-while-being-extended-illegally-to-6-floors-by-a-builder-collapses-as-a-consequence-a-number-of-innocent-labourers-including-women-and-children-died-these-labourers-are/>

Q10 · 20 marks

Case study. You are an honest and responsible civil servant. You often observe the following: (a) There is a general perception that adhering to ethical conduct one may face difficulties to oneself and cause problems for the family, whereas unfair practices may help to reach the career goals. (b) When the number of people adopting unfair means is large, a small minority having a penchant towards ethical means makes no difference. (c) Sticking to ethical means is detrimental to the larger developmental goals (d) While one may not involve oneself in large unethical practices, but giving and accepting small gifts makes the system more efficient. Examine the above statements with their merits and demerits.

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

Statement (a) notes a real cost to families; it does not justify unfair means, which also ruin careers later.

Statement (b) ignores that one clean file, one model junior and one court paper are already a difference.

Statement (c) confuses speed of a photo with development that can stand a collapse inquiry.

Statement (d) mistakes a gift for efficiency; Conduct Rules treat it as a hook.

An honest officer names the pressures and still refuses all four permissions.

Introduction

Four common excuses visit every honest officer. Each has a grain of social observation. None of them is a permission to join the rot.

Body

Stakeholders

- You, your family, and juniors who will copy your file.
- Citizens who need a clean licence, school and road.
- Colleagues who use unfair means and those who do not.
- The service and the Constitution, which hired you as a trustee, not as a careerist.

Values

- Integrity, courage, justice, and a spirit of service.
- Empathy for family fear, without making the family a veto on the Constitution.
- **Accountability:** a career built on unfair means is still a public wrong.

(a) Ethics brings trouble; unfair means help the career

- **Merit of the observation:** transfers, isolation and delayed promotions do happen to officers who block a contract. Families feel that cost. Unfair networks sometimes look "successful" on a

posting chart.

- **Demerit as a guide:** a career is not the purpose of the post. **Article 14** and the Conduct Rules do not yield because a spouse is anxious.
- Unfair means also destroy careers - a trap case, a later government, a media pile. The "help" is a loan from the next scandal.
- Ethical conduct can still be a long career if one is competent, documents reasons, and uses lawful forums against a mala fide transfer.
- **Duty:** refuse the premise that the family must be fed by a dirty file. Use welfare, honesty and skill; do not use the child as an argument for a bribe.

(b) A small ethical minority makes no difference

- **Merit:** one clean clerk cannot clean a whole directorate in a week. Collective action problems are real.
- **Demerit:** this is the bystander logic that keeps a massacre and a scam going. Difference is not only a revolution; it is a licence that was not sold today.
- A minority creates a file that a court can use, a junior who has a model, and a statistic that the next reformer can cite.
- If the statement were true, every reform from RTI to direct benefit transfer would have been impossible. They began as minorities.
- **Duty:** stay ethical, join other clean officers, and use systems that multiply one person's no - e-procurement, published queues.

(c) Ethical means harm larger development

- **Merit:** a delayed environmental hearing or a cancelled illegal contract can slow a ribbon-cutting. Some politicians call that anti-development.
- **Demerit:** a flyover that falls, a dam that silts a village without consent, or a fake skill-mission is not development. It is a photo.
- **Ethical means are how development lasts:** true bills, true soil tests, true beneficiaries. The **Second Administrative Reforms Commission** treated integrity as a development input, not as a luxury.
- "Larger goals" that need a false muster are not larger; they are a private goal wearing a public flag.
- **Duty:** be efficient and ethical. Cut delay that is laziness; do not cut the hearing that is justice.

(d) Small gifts make the system efficient

- **Merit:** in a clogged office, a box of sweets can feel like oil, and a culture may call it manners.
- **Demerit:** the small gift is how a large capture begins. It creates a debt. The next ask is a file, not a sweet.
- The Conduct Rules restrict gifts from persons with official dealings precisely because "efficiency" is the usual story.
- A system that needs gifts to move is inefficient by design. The reform is process, not petty corruption as lubrication.
- Even if one avoids large crimes, the small gift trains the citizen that the State is a shop and trains the officer that a price is normal.
- **Duty:** refuse, record if pressed, and fix the delay through supervision and e-service, not through a private tariff.

What you should do

- Treat all four as social diagnoses, not as moral permissions.
- Protect the family with honesty about risk, lawful savings, and a refusal to hide a corrupt lifestyle as "the children's future".
- **Seek postings and work methods that reduce lonely heroism:** teams, digital trails, and written orders.
- Report large and small capture through vigilance channels when you have evidence; do not become a public accuser without a file.

Flow diagram

Ethics hurts career -> Career is not the telos
Minority is useless -> REJ2 Today's clean file still matters
Ethics blocks development -> Fake development is not development
Small gifts oil the system -> Gifts create debt
Career is not the telos -> Stay honest and competent
REJ2 -> Stay honest and competent
Fake development is not development -> Stay honest and competent
Gifts create debt -> Stay honest and competent

Conclusion

The four statements describe real pressures. They fail as ethics. Trouble is not a licence; a minority still matters; development that needs a lie is not development; a small gift is not oil, it is a hook.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-you-are-an-honest-and-responsible-civil-servant-you-often-observe-the-following-a-there-is-a-general-perception-that-adhering-to-ethical-conduct-one-may-face-difficulties-to-oneself-and-cause-problems-for-the/>

Q11 · 20 marks

Case study. You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. On the day of the interview, on the way to the venue you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help. What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action.

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

The clash is a scheduled UPSC interview versus two badly injured relatives who need help now.

Life and rescue come first; the interview is a real but lesser good.

Action is scene safety, emergency call, hospital handover, police information, then a truthful request to UPSC.

Do not impersonate, bribe, or invent. Do not stay only to argue while they bleed.

The same duty holds for a stranger; kinship removes the excuse of walking on.

Introduction

The stem puts a life's work and two bleeding relatives on the same road. The ethical centre is the duty to rescue a life in front of you, not the duty to protect a timetable.

Body

Stakeholders

- The injured mother and child, who need first aid, transport and a hospital now.
- Other road users, if the scene is still dangerous.
- You as an aspirant, with an interview letter that will not easily be reissued as a right.
- Family members waiting at the UPSC venue and at home.
- The **Union Public Service Commission**, which can be told the truth later; it cannot un-kill a child.
- Bystanders who may help or may only film.

Ethical issues and values

- **Sanctity of life and the duty of rescue:** a person who can help and walks away treats kin as less than a career file.
- **Justice and non-partiality:** they are relatives, but the same duty would hold for a stranger; kinship only removes the last excuse of "someone else will stop".
- **Integrity:** do not invent a story later. Do not, equally, use the accident as a casual lie if it did not happen.
- **Emotional intelligence:** panic will waste minutes; a sequence will save them.
- The interview is a legitimate personal good. It is not a higher good than two preventable deaths.

Options

- **Option 1:** Drive on to the interview and telephone someone else to help.
- **Merit:** you may reach the board on time.
- **Demerit:** if they need you now - bleeding, blocked airway, no other competent adult - the call is not help. A career built on that choice is already a comment on public service.
- **Option 2:** Stay for hours in a crowd argument with police, missing both hospital and any chance to inform UPSC.
- **Merit:** looks loyal.
- **Demerit:** you may not be the best person to file the FIR; the hospital is the first institution that matters.
- **Option 3:** Immediate rescue: make the scene safe, first aid, ambulance or your vehicle to the nearest hospital, hand over to doctors, inform family and police, then inform UPSC with facts and seek a later board if the rules allow.
- **Merit:** life first, then the career through a truthful channel.
- **Demerit:** you may still miss this day's interview; that is a real loss, not a moral error.

Action I would take

- Stop. Park without causing a second crash. Switch on hazards. Keep the child and mother from further traffic.
- Call emergency services at once (108 / 112) while checking breathing and bleeding. Use any first-aid you truly know; do not play surgeon.
- **Use bystanders for specific jobs:** one to wave traffic, one to fetch a doctor if a clinic is in sight, one to call the other parent.
- If the ambulance is late and the injuries are clearly time-critical, take them to the nearest hospital yourself, with someone in the back if possible.
- Do not abandon them in a corridor. Hand over to medical staff, give names, and leave a reachable number.
- Inform the police with a true account. You are a relative and a witness; do not manage the scene as if you owned it.
- Then contact UPSC / the designated help number / a mentor with the hospital record and time stamps, request postponement or a fresh interview slot as the Commission's process allows, and accept a no if the rules give no discretion.
- Do not ask a friend to impersonate you at the gate. Do not bribe a clerk for a false attendance.
- If a stranger had been on the road, the sequence would be the same. Relatives only make delay more shameful, not more optional.

Justification

- **Article 21** is not only for the State. A future civil servant who cannot stop for blood will not stop for a file that has no camera.
- Professional codes and the Good Samaritan principle, recognised in Indian policy after the Supreme Court's directions on road-accident helpers, protect a rescuer who acts in good faith.
- The personality test itself looks for integrity and compassion. Saving two lives is the test that arrived early.
- Career harm is a cost I should try to reduce through honest communication, not through neglect of the injured.

Flow diagram

Accident on the way -> Stop and make safe

Stop and make safe -> First aid and 108

First aid and 108 -> Hospital handover

Hospital handover -> Inform UPSC with proof with proof

Drive past -> Maybe on time

Drive past -> Preventable death

Conclusion

I would stop, stabilise, move them to a hospital, inform police and family, then tell UPSC the truth and ask for whatever lawful second chance exists. An interview can be petitioned. A death on the kerb cannot.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-you-are-aspiring-to-become-an-ias-officer-and-you-have-cleared-various-stages-and-now-you-have-been-selected-for-the-personal-interview-on-the-day-of-the-interview-on-the-way-to-the-venue-you-saw-an-accident/>

Q12 · 20 marks

Case study. You are a Public Information Officer (PIO) in a government department. You are aware that the RTI Act 2005 envisages transparency and accountability in administration. The act has functioned as a check on the supposedly arbitrarily administrative behaviour and actions. However, as a PIO you have observed that there are citizens who filed RTI applications not for themselves but on behalf of such stakeholders who purportedly want to have access to information to further their own interests. At the same time there are these RTI activists who routinely file RTI applications and attempt to extort money from the decision makers. This type of RTI activism has affected the functioning of the administration adversely and also possibly jeopardises the genuineness of the applications which are essentially aimed at getting justice. What measures would you suggest to separate genuine and non-genuine applications? Give merits and demerits of your suggestions.

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

RTI must serve justice-seekers and public audit; extortion and rival-firm fishing are abuses.

A PIO cannot lawfully sort applicants by purity of heart.

The workable split is suo motu disclosure, on-time replies, honest **Section 8** and 11, and criminal process for proven money threats.

A pre-screening of 'genuine' citizens will be captured and is contrary to the Act.

Fear of inconvenience is not the same as extortion.

Introduction

The Right to Information Act, 2005 was written for the citizen who cannot buy a file. It was not written as a second business model for a tout. The PIO's job is to protect both the Act and the office, without becoming a censor of inconvenient questions.

Body

Stakeholders

- Genuine applicants seeking their own justice - a wage, a marksheet, a missing person.
- Citizens and journalists using RTI as public audit.
- Intermediaries who file for a hidden commercial rival or who threaten officers for money.
- Decision-makers who may be victims of extortion or who may be hiding a genuine wrong.
- The public authority, the **Information Commission**, and you as PIO.
- Staff whose ordinary work is buried under copy-paste applications.

Ethical issues and values

- Transparency and accountability versus privacy, commercial secrecy that the Act already exempts, and freedom from harassment.
- **Justice:** a genuine application must not drown in a flood of motivated ones.
- **Integrity:** do not use "non-genuine" as a label for an applicant who is only inconvenient.
- **Proportionality:** extra filters can become a new bribe window at the PIO's door.
- The Act already balances through **Section 8** exemptions, not through a PIO's private morality test of the applicant's soul.

Options

- **Option 1:** Ignore the problem and answer everything at the same slow speed.
- **Merit:** no accusation of censorship.
- **Demerit:** genuine files rot; extortion thrives on delay as much as on disclosure.
- **Option 2:** PIO privately decides "motive" and rejects.
- **Merit:** fast for the office.
- **Demerit:** illegal. The Act does not require the applicant to prove a pure heart. This is how RTI dies.
- **Option 3:** Use lawful process tools, suo motu disclosure, and criminal law for proven extortion, without a motive test at the counter.

Measures, with merits and demerits

- **Measure 1:** Heavy suo motu disclosure under **Section 4** - tenders, bills, beneficiary lists, circulars, RTI logs.
- **Merit:** fewer applications; touts lose a monopoly on the photocopy.
- **Demerit:** needs record-keeping that many offices still lack; must still protect **Section 8** data.
- **Measure 2:** Time-bound, quality replies to all valid requests, with a separate fast track for life-and-liberty as the Act already envisages.
- **Merit:** genuine justice-seekers are not punished for others' sins.
- **Demerit:** needs staff; without posts, a fast track becomes another sale.
- **Measure 3:** Do not demand reasons for seeking information, because the Act does not. Train PIOs that "why do you want this" is usually unlawful.
- **Merit:** protects the genuine poor applicant who cannot write an essay of public interest.
- **Demerit:** will not by itself stop a tout - other tools must.
- **Measure 4:** Where a pattern of identical applications is used to threaten an officer for cash, treat it as a crime: record, CCTV of the demand if any, and police / vigilance, not a silent payment.
- **Merit:** attacks extortion, which is not RTI.
- **Demerit:** a thin-skinned officer may file a false case against a real activist; independent scrutiny of that FIR is needed.
- **Measure 5:** Use **Section 7** and **8** honestly: transfer, exemption, and third-party procedure under **Section 11** when commercial or personal data of others is sought.
- **Merit:** lawful filter without a motive inquisition.
- **Demerit:** over-use of **Section 8** is itself a mala fide. Commissions exist to correct that.
- **Measure 6:** One-time information and online dashboards so that a "routine filer" cannot resell the same photocopy every month.
- **Merit:** kills the business model of resale.

- **Demerit:** digital divide; keep a window for the offline poor.
- **Measure 7:** Public authority should publish a monthly list of applications and replies (names can be masked where privacy requires) so that bulk, identical, or clearly commercial patterns are visible to the Commission, not only to a tired PIO.
- **Merit:** sunlight on both the tout and the hiding department.
- **Demerit:** activists may be targeted; mask where risk is real.
- **Measure 8:** Training and counselling of officers so that fear of RTI does not become hatred of citizens. Extortion is rare relative to ordinary inconvenient truth.
- **Merit:** culture.
- **Demerit:** training without prosecution of real extortion is a sermon.
- **Measure 9:** Do not invent a pre-screening committee of "genuine" applicants. That committee will be captured.
- **Merit of refusing this:** legality.
- There is no demerit in refusing an illegal filter.

What I would not do

- I would not deny an application because the applicant is "not personally affected". Public interest applications are part of the Act's design.
- I would not leak the applicant's name to the person who was asked about, for revenge.

Flow diagram

RTI application application -> Section 4 disclosure
 RTI application -> Timely reply
 RTI application -> Lawful exemptions
 Extortion -> Police and vigilance
 PIO motive test -> Act dies

Conclusion

Separate genuine from predatory use by publishing more, answering on time, applying **Section 8** and 11 as written, and prosecuting extortion as a crime. Do not appoint the PIO as a priest of motives. That would kill the Act in the name of saving the office.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-you-are-a-public-information-officer-pio-in-a-government-department-you-are-aware-that-the-rti-act-2005-envisages-transparency-and-accountability-in-administration-the-act-has-functioned-as-a-check-on-the/>

Q13 · 20 marks

Case study. You are the head of the Human Resources department of an organization. One day one of the workers died on duty. His family was demanding compensation. However, the company denied compensation because it was revealed in investigation that he was drunk at the time of the accident. The workers of the company went on to strike demanding compensation for the family of the deceased. The Chairman of the management board has asked for your recommendation. What recommendation would you provide to the management? Discuss the merits and demerits of each of the recommendation.

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

The family, the strikers and the safety system are different problems that meet in one death.

Refusing all money because of alcohol is harsh and may hide employer fault.

Paying silently as if rules did not exist hides the drink and the machine.

Recommend statutory dues, dignified ex gratia, a real inquiry, addiction and fitness-for-duty rules, and negotiated end to the strike.

If the company was negligent, accept full legal compensation; the bottle is then not a shield.

Introduction

A death at work is a moral event even when the worker broke a rule. The family is not the strike. The strike is not a licence to hide a safety failure. HR must hold all three: law, compassion and the next living worker.

Body

Stakeholders

- The deceased worker and the dependent family.
- Co-workers on strike, and those who fear the next accident.
- The company, the Chairman, supervisors and contractors if any.
- Other employees watching whether drunkenness is rewarded or whether death is discarded.
- Inspectors under the Factories Act, 1948 or the Occupational Safety, Code on Social Security, 2020 framework as applicable, and insurers.

Ethical issues and values

- **Sanctity of life and dignity of the dead:** a drunk worker is still a person who died in the company's space.
- **Justice:** compensation is not a bonus for breaking the liquor rule; it is a response to dependence and to possible employer failure.
- **Responsibility:** was the site so unsafe that even a sober worker could die? Was alcohol access or overtime culture part of the story?
- **Non-violence and dialogue:** a strike is a legitimate pressure; a riot is not.

- **Integrity of investigation:** "he was drunk" must be a medical and witness fact, not a convenient sentence to zero the ledger.

Options and recommendations

Option 1: Refuse all payment because he was drunk

- **Merit:** upholds a clear safety rule; deters drinking on duty; protects a legal position if standing instructions were known.
- **Demerit:** may be cruel to dependents who did not drink; may ignore contributory faults of the company (unguarded machine, missing helmet, twelve-hour shift); inflames the strike; looks like dumping a body.
- I would not recommend this as the only line.

Option 2: Pay full compensation as if it were a no-fault workplace death, with no inquiry into alcohol or safety systems

- **Merit:** ends the strike quickly; looks humane.
- **Demerit:** hides whether supervisors sent a drunk man to a height; trains the shop floor that rules are theatre; may be unfair to the insurer and to sober workers' safety.
- I would not recommend silence about the alcohol finding.

Option 3: A split, documented package - humanitarian and statutory dues, plus a full safety inquiry, plus a firm alcohol policy going forward

- **Merit:** compassion without a lie; deterrence without humiliating the family; addresses root causes so the next worker does not die.
- **Demerit:** costs money; hardliners on both sides will call it either weakness or stinginess; needs careful communication.
- This is the recommendation I would put to the Chairman.

What the recommended package should contain

- **Confirm facts:** post-mortem, blood alcohol if lawfully obtained, time, machine, witnesses, CCTV, whether he was sent up after being seen unsteady.
- **Pay immediately whatever is due without dispute:** wages, provident fund, gratuity, and Employees' State Insurance or other statutory occupational-disease / accident routes if they still apply on the facts. Do not use drunkenness to steal a PF account.
- Ex gratia to the family, framed as humanitarian assistance from the company, not as an admission that drinking is allowed. Size it so that children can eat and a funeral is not a debt, without advertising a lottery for rule-breaking.
- If inquiry shows employer negligence - unguarded equipment, no screening, a supervisor's wink - accept legal compensation and even criminal exposure; do not hide behind the bottle.
- If inquiry shows the death was overwhelmingly the worker's intoxication against a well-enforced rule and a safe machine, still do not zero the family; keep ex gratia and counselling, and explain the distinction in writing to the union.
- **End the strike through negotiation:** a written timeline, a joint safety committee, and a no-victimisation clause for peaceful strikers. Do not hire a muscle contractor.
- **Future:** breath or fitness-for-duty checks where lawful, access control on alcohol, training, and a confidential help path for addiction, so that the policy is prevention, not only a post-death sermon.
- **Communicate with dignity:** no press photo of the bottle beside the body.

Merits and demerits of the recommended path (summary for the Chairman)

- **Merit:** lawful, humane, and safer tomorrow; separates the family's hunger from the shop-floor rule.
- **Demerit:** not the cheapest week; requires the Chairman to accept that "drunk" is not a full story until the machine is also examined.

Flow diagram

Death on duty -> Alcohol and machine facts
Alcohol and machine facts -> Statutory dues
Alcohol and machine facts -> Humanitarian ex gratia
Alcohol and machine facts -> Safety inquiry
Zero because drunk -> Anger and possible hidden fault
Pay and forget -> Next drunk at height

Conclusion

Do not treat the family as guilty of the drink, and do not treat the drink as irrelevant. Pay statutory dues, add humane ex gratia, finish a real safety inquiry, and bargain the strike into a safer plant. A corpse is not a clause.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-you-are-the-head-of-the-human-resources-department-of-an-organization-one-day-one-of-the-workers-died-on-duty-his-family-was-demanding-compensation-however-the-company-denied-compensation-because-it-was/>

Q14 · 20 marks

Case study. You are the manager of a spare parts company A and you have to negotiate a deal with the manager of a large manufacturing company B. The deal is highly competitive and sealing the deal is critical for your company. The deal is being worked out over a dinner. After dinner the manager of manufacturing company B offered to drop you to the hotel in his car. On the way to hotel he happens to hit motorcycle injuring the motorcyclist badly. You know the manager was driving fast and thus lost control. The law enforcement officer comes to investigate the issue and you are the sole eyewitness to it. Knowing the strict laws pertaining to road accidents you are aware that your honest account of the incident would lead to the prosecution of the manager and as a consequence the deal is likely to be jeopardised, which is of immense importance to your company. What are the dilemmas you face? What will be your response to the situation?

GS IV · 2017 · Ethics Case Studies

Revision summary

- **Dilemmas:** an honest account may prosecute the driver and sink a critical deal; silence or a lie may save the deal and abandon the rider.

Stakeholders include the victim, both firms, the officer and future road users.

Rejected options are amnesia, a silence-for-signature bargain, and flight.

Response is medical help, a true statement of speed and loss of control, no coaching, and honest report to one's own company.

A deal that requires perjury is not a deal worth keeping.

Introduction

A bleeding stranger, a speeding host, and a deal that your firm needs are three duties in one car. The law of the road does not pause because a purchase order is unsigned.

Body

Stakeholders

- The injured motorcyclist, whose life and evidence window are closing.
- The manager of company B, who drove fast and lost control.
- You as the sole eyewitness and as manager of company A.
- Company A's workers and owners, who need the deal.
- Company B's owners, who did not authorise a hit-and-lie.
- The investigating officer and the court, who need a true witness.
- Other road users, who will meet this driver again if tonight is buried.

Ethical issues and values

- Right to life and justice for the injured versus loyalty to a commercial deal.
- Truth-telling versus a profitable silence.
- **Integrity:** an eyewitness who lies is an accessory to a false case, not a clever negotiator.
- **Conflict of interest:** your firm's gain is now tied to a man's escape from the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** and criminal law.
- Compassion for the victim first; even the driver is a person, but he is not entitled to your perjury.

Dilemmas

- **Truth versus deal:** an honest statement may end the dinner contract and hurt your plant; a lie may save the contract and bury the rider.
- **Loyalty to employer versus loyalty to law:** the company pays your salary; it did not buy your tongue.
- **Gratitude versus justice:** he offered a lift; a lift is not a right to your silence.
- **Certainty versus fear:** you saw speed and loss of control; a lawyer may later twist you; fear of cross-examination is not a moral veto.
- **Immediate rescue versus remaining to watch the story:** if you only "manage the deal" while the rider bleeds, you have already chosen.

Options

- **Option 1:** Tell the officer you saw nothing, or that the motorcyclist was at fault, to save the deal.
- **Merit:** possible contract.
- **Demerit:** false evidence, possible later prosecution of you, and a victim without a witness. Rejected.
- **Option 2:** Bargain privately: you will stay silent if he signs tonight.
- **Merit:** looks like leverage.
- **Demerit:** extortion wearing a contract; still a lie to the police. Rejected.
- **Option 3:** Flee the scene to "avoid involvement".
- **Merit:** none that is ethical.
- **Demerit:** illegal and cowardly; you were in the car.
- **Option 4:** Ensure medical help, give a true statement of speed and loss of control, cooperate, inform your own company honestly, and pursue the deal later through another officer of B if B is still a lawful firm.
- **Merit:** life, law, and a clean career.
- **Demerit:** this deal may die; that is a cost, not a duty to lie.

Response

- **First, the person on the road:** first aid, 112 / 108, do not let the car leave if it is needed as evidence and if staying is safe.
- Do not accept coaching in the back seat. If he asks you to "say the brakes failed" or "the rider came from nowhere" when that is false, refuse once, clearly.
- **To the law-enforcement officer:** state what you perceived - high speed, loss of control, your position as passenger, lighting and road as you remember. Do not add what you did not see. Do not subtract the speed.

- You are not the judge of sentence. You are a witness. Strict accident law is the legislature's choice; it is not yours to nullify for a spare-parts order.
- **Inform your senior in company A the same night:** the deal is at risk because of an accident and because you will not lie. Ask to reopen with B's leadership, not with a frightened manager's secret.
- If B's firm punishes the truth by killing a lawful contract, that is information about B's ethics. A deal bought with perjury would have been a bad partner anyway.
- Do not sell the story to a newspaper for pressure. Process first.
- Support the victim's hospitalisation as a human being if you can do so without contaminating evidence or seeming to buy silence.

Justification

- The **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** and the Indian Penal Code / Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions on rash driving exist so that a commercial dinner is not a licence to maim.
- Professional ethics for a manager includes not committing or abetting an offence in the firm's name.
- The stem's "immense importance" of the deal is a test of whether importance can launder a lie. It cannot.

Flow diagram

Speeding hit -> Aid the rider
 Speeding hit -> Truth versus deal
 Truth versus deal -> Honest eyewitness account
 Truth versus deal -> Save the contract
 Save the contract -> False evidence
 Honest eyewitness account -> Deal via clean channel or no deal

Conclusion

The dilemmas are truth versus contract, gratitude versus justice, and employer loyalty versus the injured stranger. Rescue, tell the speed as you saw it, refuse a coached story, and let the deal live or die in daylight. A purchase order is not worth a false witness.

Open WRAP page — <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/gs-4/2017/case-study-you-are-the-manager-of-a-spare-parts-company-a-and-you-have-to-negotiate-a-deal-with-the-manager-of-a-large-manufacturing-company-b-the-deal-is-highly-competitive-and-sealing-the-deal-is-critical-for-your/>

Compiled answer key

Last pages of this pack. Each question links to the WRAP model answer on wrapexams.com.

ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

Q1 10 marks	Q2 10 marks	Q3 10 marks	Q4 10 marks
Q5 10 marks	Q6 10 marks	Q7 10 marks	Q8 10 marks
Q9 20 marks	Q10 20 marks	Q11 20 marks	Q12 20 marks
Q13 20 marks	Q14 20 marks		

Question-wise key

Q1 · 10 marks Solution

Q2 · 10 marks Solution

Q3 · 10 marks Solution

Q4 · 10 marks Solution

Q5 · 10 marks Solution

Q6 · 10 marks Solution

Q7 · 10 marks Solution

Q8 · 10 marks Solution

Q9 · 20 marks Solution

Q10 · 20 marks Solution

Q11 · 20 marks Solution

Q12 · 20 marks Solution

Q13 · 20 marks Solution

Q14 · 20 marks Solution

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains/gs-4/2017/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com