

SECTION - A

1. a) "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Discuss the statement with an example in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. **(150 words)**
(10)
 b) "It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied"- J.S. Mill. Discuss the significance of this statement in prioritising education, dignity, and human development over mere material welfare. **(150 words)**
(10)
2. a) Critically examine the role of social media on individuals' capacity for effective regulation. How does diminished emotional regulation in digital spaces contribute to insensitive and unethical behavior in society? **(150 words)**
(10)
 b) Can AI-based education systems replace human teachers entirely from an ethical perspective? Discuss. **(150 words)**
(10)
3. a) What is cognitive dissonance? Examine how it influences moral decision-making and discuss the strategies a civil servant should adopt to resolve the conflict, with an example. **(150 words)**
(10)
 b) "Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, and weak minds discuss people." — Socrates. How has this thought influenced the development of ethical humility and lifelong learning in philosophical thought? Discuss this statement in terms of long-term foreign policy. **(150 words)**
(10)
4. a) "We can never obtain peace in the outer world unless we first cultivate peace within ourselves." Examine in light of the view that lasting peace begins within the individual. **(150 words)**
(10)
 b) Evaluate the role of social media influencers in shaping consumer behaviour. What ethical concerns arise from sponsored content and undisclosed promotions? **(150 words)**
(10)
5. a) Explain the concept of altruism. How does altruistic behavior contribute to public welfare and social cooperation? **(150 words)**
(10)
 b) Define prudence as a moral virtue. Discuss its importance in responsible decision making. **(150 words)**
(10)

6. Discuss the moral of the statements given below:
- a) "To perceive the world differently, we must be willing to change our belief system, let the past slip away, expand our sense of now, and dissolve the fear in our minds." — William James **(150 words)** **(10)**
 - b) "Our right of interference is limited entirely to giving education. Women must be put in a position to solve their own problems in their own way. No one can or ought to do this for them. And our Indian women are capable of doing it as any in the world." — Swami Vivekananda **(150 words)** **(10)**
 - c) "War is a dangerous teacher and physical victory leads often to a moral defeat." — Sri Aurobindo Ghosh **(150 words)** **(10)**

SECTION - B

7. You are the Chief Development Officer (CDO) of a semi-urban district. A textile dyeing company, AquaTex Industries, has applied for expansion of its existing plant located near a River, which is the primary source of irrigation and drinking water for five downstream villages. An independent environmental audit reveals that the company's current effluent treatment system is outdated and occasionally releases untreated wastewater into the river during peak production periods. Though the pollution levels are within "adjustable limits," local farmers have reported declining crop yields and increased skin ailments among villagers.

The company argues that the expansion will generate 800 additional jobs and that upgrading the effluent treatment plant immediately would significantly increase operational costs, possibly making the project unviable. The management has informally requested you to grant conditional clearance and allow them time to upgrade infrastructure later.

You are aware that strict enforcement may delay economic growth and employment, but leniency may compromise environmental sustainability and public health.

- a) Identify the stakeholders and the ethical issues involved in this case?
- b) What course of action would you take? Give justification. **(250 words)** **(20)**

8. You are the Block Development Officer (BDO) in a rural district where the administration has recently launched a digital literacy programme aimed at encouraging villagers to use mobile phones for accessing government services, online education, and financial transactions. During your field visit to a village, you learn that several adolescent girls who had earlier enrolled in the programme have stopped attending the training sessions. On further inquiry, it emerges that the village council and some influential families have informally decided that girls should not use mobile phones in the absence of a male member of the household. They argue that unrestricted phone usage may expose girls to "undesirable influences" and could harm the reputation of the family.

As a result, many girls are unable to participate in online classes, digital banking activities, and government awareness programs. Some parents privately express concern about this restriction but feel pressured by prevailing social norms. A few girls confide that they feel this rule is unfair and limits their educational opportunities. You recognize that the issue involves deeply embedded cultural practices, but it also raises questions about equality, autonomy, and access to opportunities.

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- b) How do such restrictions reflect gender inequality and affect the rights and opportunities of girls?
- c) As a public official, what steps would you take to address this issue while being sensitive to the local sociocultural context? **(250 words)** **(20)**

9. Mr. Rohit is the Municipal Commissioner of a large city. He is a very honest and upright officer. A huge multipurpose mall is under construction in his city, in which a large number of daily wage earners are employed. One night, during monsoon, a big chunk of the roof collapsed, causing instant death of four labourers including two minors. Many more were seriously injured requiring immediate medical attention. The mishap resulted in a big hue and cry, forcing the government to institute an enquiry.

His preliminary enquiry has revealed a series of anomalies. The material used for the construction was of poor quality. Despite the approved building plans permitting only one basement, an additional basement has been constructed. This was overlooked during the periodic inspections by the building inspector of the municipal corporation. In his enquiry, Rohit noticed that the construction of the mall was given the green signal despite encroaching on areas earmarked for a green belt and a slip road in the Zonal Master Plan of the city. The permission to construct the mall was accorded by the previous Municipal Commissioner Mr. Ramesh, who is a good friend of Mr. Rohit.

Prima facie, the case appears to be of a widespread nexus between officials of the Municipal Corporation and the builders. Rohit's colleagues are putting pressure on Rohit to go slow in the enquiry. The builder, who is rich and influential, happens to be a close relative of a powerful minister in the state cabinet. The builder is persuading Mr. Rohit to hush up the matter, promising him a fortune to do so. He also hinted that if this matter is not resolved at the earliest in his favour there is somebody in his office who is waiting to file a case against Mr. Rohit under the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act.

- a) What are the major ethical issues involved in this case?
- b) Identify the stakeholders in this situation and examine their conflicting interests.
- c) How does this case reflect the problem of administrative corruption and builder-bureaucrat nexus? **(250 words)** **(20)**

10. Sanjana, a 25-year-old married woman from a financially vulnerable rural background, agrees to act as a surrogate mother for an affluent urban couple who have been unable to conceive. The arrangement is registered under the provisions of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which permits only altruistic surrogacy and prohibits commercial compensation beyond medical expenses and insurance coverage.

Although the formal contract mentions only medical reimbursement, it is informally understood that Sanjana will receive additional financial support from the intending couple to help her family repay debts and fund her younger brother's education. This unofficial promise becomes the primary motivation for her consent.

In the second trimester, Sanjana develops severe pregnancy-related complications requiring prolonged hospitalization and specialized care. The medical costs begin to rise beyond the initially estimated expenses. The intending couple, anxious about mounting bills and uncertain outcomes, gradually distance themselves and delay financial assistance. They begin questioning whether they are legally obligated to bear the additional expenses.

Meanwhile, Sanjana's family pressures her to continue the pregnancy at any cost because they are counting on the promised compensation. Her husband is worried about her deteriorating health but fears social stigma and financial ruin if the arrangement collapses. Doctors are concerned about Sanjana's physical and psychological well-being.

Local media catches wind of the issue, raising debates about exploitation and commercialization of surrogacy. As the District Medical Officer, you are responsible for ensuring compliance with the law, protecting Sanjana's health and rights, safeguarding the interests of the unborn child, and preventing unethical practices.

- a) What are the key ethical dilemmas in this case ? Identify all stakeholders and their competing interests.
- b) How should you balance strict legal compliance with humanitarian and medical ethics considerations? What immediate administrative and medical steps would you take?

(250 words)

(20)

11. A private company in the technology sector has recently secured several high-value international contracts. A senior manager, Mr. Smith, is widely credited for bringing substantial business revenue and maintaining key client relationships. He is considered indispensable by top management.

A female employee from his team files a formal complaint alleging repeated instances of inappropriate remarks, unwelcome physical proximity during meetings, and late-night messages with suggestive undertones. She claims that after she resisted his advances, she was excluded from important projects and received a poor performance review.

The complaint has been submitted to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) under the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

However, some ICC members express reluctance to proceed aggressively, fearing that action against the senior manager could result in financial losses and damage client confidence.

A few senior executives suggest handling the issue "internally and discreetly" to avoid media attention. Rumours begin circulating within the company, affecting workplace morale. The complainant fears retaliation and social isolation at work. The accused denies all allegations and claims the complaint is motivated by professional rivalry.

The company has a written code of conduct and publicly promotes itself as an equal-opportunity employer. As the HR Head, you are responsible for ensuring compliance with the law, maintaining employee morale, safeguarding the organization's reputation, and upholding ethical standards.

- a) What ethical principles are involved in this case ?
- b) How can you ensure procedural fairness and natural justice while minimizing reputational damage to the organization? **(250 words)**

(20)

12. You are the District Magistrate of a border district. A school teacher confidentially informs you that a group operating in the area may be involved in trafficking children from nearby villages under the pretext of offering employment and education in cities. Two children from her school have recently gone missing, and she believes more children may be moved out of the district within the next 48 hours. The teacher requests that her identity and the source of information be kept strictly confidential, as she fears retaliation from the trafficking network. You realise that any delay may endanger the children, but premature or poorly planned action may alert the traffickers.

- a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- b) Evaluate the possible options available to you.
- c) What course of action would you adopt to ensure both confidentiality and the safety of the children? **(250 words)** **(20)**
