

GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. : test 36 B2.

Name

Email ID.

Roll No.

Mobile No.

Date

Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard - <https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on - <https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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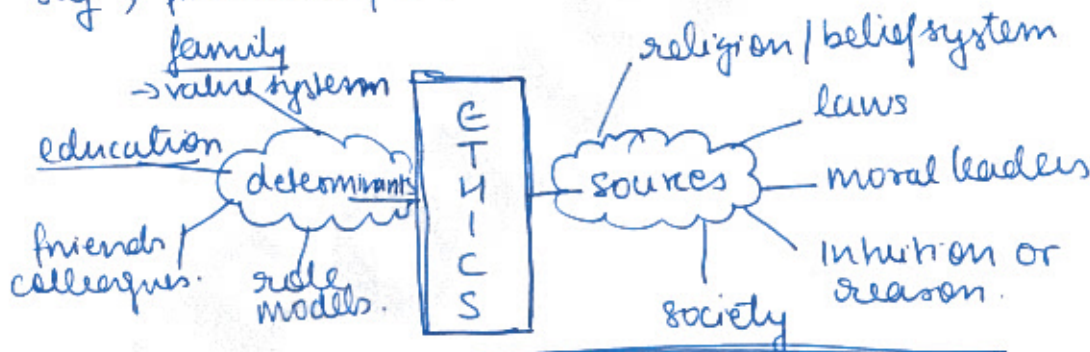
2.1)

What do you understand by Ethics?
Discuss the significance of ethics in leading a moral life.

Ethics is a branch of moral philosophy which provides a set of dos and donts.

As per the 2nd ARC : ethics are a set of moral principles.

* Ethics often originates from outside the self, pertaining to the societal sphere.



Significance in leading a moral life

At Individual level

① facilitates moral judgements ; inculcates sense of right and wrong ; provides a moral compass

② helps mitigate disagreements through empathy and tolerance

③ helps make informed choices; evaluate 'means' and 'ends' of actions.

Societal level

④ makes world more reliable

[eg:] moral thinkers view ethics as a sense of duty → if everyone performs their duty → rights of all are secured.

⑤ ethics in everyday life makes civilization possible

[eg:] Kant's categorical imperative of 'murder is wrong'

→ if everyone could kill anyone - life would cease to exist

⑥ facilitates exercise of free will and thereby completes the human experience

[eg:] awareness of consequences of an action can help us exercise our choice.

Yet, there are limitations as ethics can provide multiple answers, subjective answers, and often be guided by emotions.

Nonetheless, the pursuit of ethics provides one with an authentic life.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

2.2)

Discuss how ethics and morality differ from each other, w/ suitable examples.

Ethics are a set of moral principles accepted within a society. Morality refers to the individual sense of right and wrong.

[eg:] A criminal lawyer's morality may tell her that her client (guilty) should be punished, but her duty as a professional is to provide the best legal aid (Ethics).

Morality

① private and inherent sense of right and wrong

[eg:] a judge believes that capital punishment is wrong.

② difficult to codify; individual oriented.

③ pertains to the character of the individual

Ethics

① public and societal sense of conduct.

[eg:] s. 354 of Cr.P under "rarest of rare cases" accepted by society.

② can be codified as:
→ laws
→ rules
→ business ethics
→ medical ethics

③ relates to the 'conduct' within society

① general principles
one abides by

[eg:] truth, non-violence

② confined to the
private sphere

④ often in response to
a specific situation

⑤ ventures into the
public sphere

* When morals and ethics come into

conflict they can → (+ve) — pave way for
innovation, reform
[eg:] Sati ban.

* yet, when
ethics and morals
conform to each

other, they can → (+ve) — preserve peace and
harmony

(-ve) — stagnate society
[eg:] acceptance of deplorable
conditions of harjans
in Vaishya system.

Thus, when morals
are accepted by greater number of
individuals, they become ethics.

Overall Grading (✓)

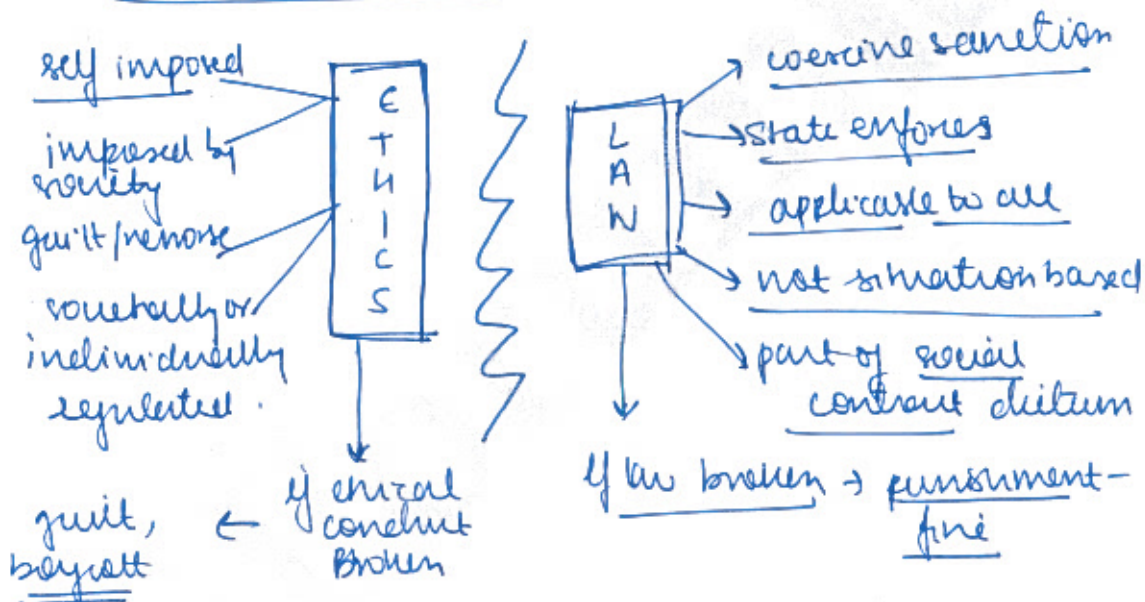
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2.3)

Explain what happens when law comes in conflict with ethics?

Ethics are a set of moral principles (2nd Hk) while law often provides legal sanction to these moral principles.

* Both ethics and law are tools to regulate human conduct in a society



Issues when law and ethics come in conflict

① Law has the parents' partner in mind

[eg!] recent debate on legality of marital rape highlights how ethics of society and law are in conflict.

② instances of law paving way for legal social change:

[eg:] Hindu Succession Law

striking down of s. 377 (IPC)

} pressured society to keep up with changing ethics.

③ Yet, there are instances when ethics were in conflict with law

[eg:] Maternity Benefit Act need for the 'social role' of women in child rearing by denying paternity leave.

④ while ethical stance of domestic violence protection is given by law - it disproportionately affects innocent men.

[eg:] bias towards female allegation.

Yet, while law and ethics are both necessary: the law should not be compromised (Rule of law) and ethics should be backbone of legal system.

In this context - the 'good law' principle with adequate representation and debate becomes important.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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2.4)

Are ethics and business ~~necessarily~~ mutually irreconcilable? How can business be made more ethical?

Ethics refers to a set of rules for regulating moral conduct, whereas businesses function with the principle of profit maximization.

⑥ Both ethics and businesses pertain to the public / external sphere of society

Ethics and Businesses are seen as irreconcilable because:

① Businesses move with profit motive
i.e. largely focused on consequentialist approach

[eg:] whatever approach maximizes profit is the best.

→ this may be in stark contradiction with deontology i.e. purity of means.

[eg:] reports of brand retailers like Nike outsourcing cheap labour in Bangladesh to cut cost.

- ② ethics involves the virtues of integrity, honesty, transparency however, businesses often conduct practices like fineprinting, maladvertisement etc.
- ③ competitive pricing and efficiency in businesses may be a direct threat to consumer choice through risk of creating a monopoly.
- ④ freedman principle of profit-mindedness also heralds consequentialist aims; decisions made by a few
- yet businesses can be made ethical as if
- ⑤ strengthening of IPR and work culture ethics.
eg: pepsi named Cocacola when its recipe leaked, despite having the opportunity to utilise this information.
- ⑥ strengthening moral leadership of entrepreneurs
eg: grants like TATA, Infosys etc. show that businesses/profit are reconcilable with state/welfare.
- ⑦ inculcation of corporate social responsibility, greening of businesses practices, sustainable outlook help reaffirm ethics.
Thus, businesses are an integral part of society and ethical approaches like compassionate capitalism are necessary.

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2.5) Ethics and Politics do not go hand in hand. Do you agree?

Politics refers to the activities undertaken in order to capture power to write rules of society.

⊛ Ethics are understood as a set of moral principles (2nd ARC). While politics and ethics are seen as contradictory by some; leaders like Gandhi considered politics without principles as one of the 7 sins.

Ethics and Politics are seen as adversaries as:

- (1) leaders like Machiavelli (political strategist) held that "politics have no relation to morals"
- (2) Kautilya's principles of sham, deceit, flattery, greed, deceit, shed
 ↓ ↓
threat diplomacy
 ⇒ run against ethical principles of integrity, inclusion, accountability, transparency.
- (3) politics is seen ^{as} divorced from ethics for 'practical purposes' [eg: state acts as parens patriae]

(4) inherent contradictions and test of character when one has 'power'.

[eg:] Hitler was an 'elected' leader but went down in history for crimes against humanity.

However, ethics and politics are compatible as

(5) leaders like Jai Prakash Narayan demonstrated the value of integrity and morality in ethics.

[eg:] He submitted his resignation as Railway minister under J.L. Nehru after a train accident he couldn't prevent.

(6) the ultimate goal of politics is to create a rule-based, inclusive society, abiding by constitutionalism.

⇒ necessitates that law-makers themselves are subject to same conditions.

(7) politicians function with the moral responsibility of representing the electorate.

⇒ politics is indispensable without accountability and transparency.

eg: Kumarmaji Kamraj developed the Kamraj Plan to dispel the lustre for money and power among leaders.

eg: even political strategists like Manmohan Singh are known for using one lamp for state's use and another for personal use.

* As James McBurns held, "divorced from ethics, politics is mere technique".

Thus, trust in democratic process, faith in politicians, and self-imposed accountability is crucial to a well-ordered society.

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- 2.6) Some people argue that means are more important than ends while others argue that ends are more important. Give your opinion.

The debate on the primacy of means of ends pertains to the deontological and consequentialist schools of thought. Bhagavadgita too highlights this debate via Krishna & Arjuna.

Some argue for means over ends:

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

- (1) purity of the action is derived from the purity of means.

eg: Gandhiji called off the non cooperation movement (when at its peak) because of the Chauri Chaura incident

→ He wanted to preserve the purity of means i.e. non violence

- (2) 'means' seen as 'duty'; not contingent on consequences:

eg: Kant's call for "duty for the sake of duty" and categorical imperatives

SOCIETAL LEVEL

(3) capital punishment is contested because it treats the human body as a means to achieve the 'end' goal of 'justice'.

(4) In governance and public policy, procedural compliance (means) is necessary to secure checks/balances.

(eg:) judicial activism (even with right intentions) carries risk of violating structural separation of powers.

Yet, some argue for ends over means.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

(5) consequentialist school of thought postulates greater good for greatest no.

(eg:) the contrast of gandhi and Bose, where Bose opted for creation of an army to win freedom.

(eg:) Euthanasia: some view it as 'murder' while others see it as relieving pain of a distressed individual.

SOCIETAL LEVEL

6) Wars are justified on the utilitarian principle i.e. saves more lives than it takes.

(7) justifying 'ends' approach is often used in utilitarianism; most easy and practical to adopt.

yet, there are challenges in both as:

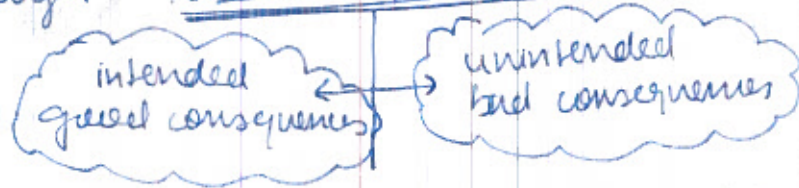
① Means > Ends approach may lead to moral absolutism

[eg.] It does not sustain the Psychopam example where one may have to lie to save a life

② Ends > Means approach is unpredictable, difficult to measure, and prone to chaos.

[eg.] outcomes of green revolution depend on the time frame it is observed.

Thus, a madhyamarg approach balanced enough Paulin's principle is necessary.



Purity of means and ends are indispensable but at best we can mitigate the negative consequences and amplify the positive ones.

Overall Grading (✓)

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2.7)

God based ethics does not only have limitations, but creates more problems than it solves. Examine

'God' is visualized as the creator, sustainer, destroyer; and moral generator (Karmaphaladate) to regulate moral conduct.

* It is the most primitive source of ethics used to bring uniformity in a society's ethical conduct.

Yet:

Limitations to God-Based Ethics are:

① Euthyphro problem

Is something good because god says it is?

Is god greater than god?

⇒ Men, god is dependent on god.

god says something is good because it is originally good?

If god merely repeated, then is god greater than god?

⇒ god becomes limited.

② morality would lose independence, objectivity

[eg:] if certain ethical codes are based on scriptures → cannot be altered → stagnate societal progress

③ create a problem of intermediary

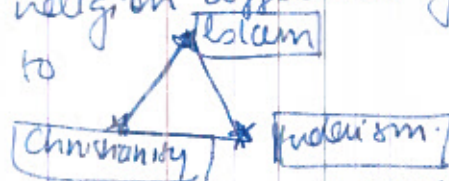
[ie.] an exclusive class of patrons who alone have immediate access to god.

[eg:] the Shramana movement arose as a reaction to Brahmanism in ancient era for similar reasons.

④ as many gods, as many principles;

and lack of agreement within the same religion

[eg:] inter-religion differences gave rise to



despite being from the same region

[eg:] intra-religion differences:

- Shia / Sunni conflict
- Mahayana / Hinayana differences in ancient times.

This may give rise to newer problems:

⑤ promotion of superstition; disproportionately impacting the poor and illiterate

⑥ problem of fundamentalism

↳ justifies terrorism [eg: → Kulthuran → ISIS]

⑦ counter to constitutionalism; crowding out secular morality

[eg:] constitutionalism allows for legislations to bring societal change (Hindu Succession Act; striking down S. 377) which scriptures cannot.

Despite these limitations, god-based ethics are a powerful source of maintaining social harmony :

[eg:] → 10 ^m commandments
→ law of Karma & Dharma
→ Confucian principles (hi, ren, shu... etc.).

While 'god' can help anchor moral conduct, belief systems like Buddhism and Jainism prove that morality without god is possible.

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
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