

General Studies 4
Topic wise PYQ Brainstorming template.

Unit 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, each question carries **10 marks**, word limit is **150 words**

| Question | Sub topic |
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| 1. What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (2013, 5a) | Conscience as source of ethics |

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| 2. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (2013, 5b) | Conscience |
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| 3. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics' do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (2013, 8) | Relation -ship between Ethics and politics |
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| 4. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (2014, 8) | Laws as source of ethics |
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| <p>5. Differentiate between the following (200 words) (10 marks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Law and ethics(ii) Ethical management and management of ethics(iii) Discrimination and preferential treatment(iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics. (2015, 1b) | <p>Basic definition</p> |
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| <p>6. "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties" Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where</p> <p>(i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and</p> <p>(ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. (2015, 3a)</p> | <p>Law and ethics</p> |
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| 7. What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (2015, 1a) | Applied ethics |
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| 8. "Social values are more important than economic values." Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (2015, 4a) | General/ Applied ethics |
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| <p>9. At the international level, bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tension between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples (2015, 7)</p> | <p>Ethics in IR</p> |
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| <p>10. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of “Conflict of Interest”. What do you understand by the term “Conflict of Interest” and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. (2015, 8)</p> | <p>Conflict of Interest</p> |
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| 11. What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (2016, 2a) | Governance models |
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| <p>12. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence.</p> <p>(a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.</p> <p>(b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches. (2016, 5)</p> | <p>Law and Ethics</p> |
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| <p>13. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) official duties,(b) public interest, and(c) personal interests are taking priority one above the other. <p>How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (2017, 1)</p> | <p>Conflict of interest</p> |
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| 14. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. (2017, 3) | Ethics and politics |
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| 15. Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (2017, 4b) | Corp. Governance |
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| 16. Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (2017, 6b) | Ethics in IR |
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| 17. 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. (2017, 7b) | Applied ethics Social issue |
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| <p>18. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly.</p> <p>What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. (2017, 8b)</p> | <p>Law and democratic values</p> |
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| 19. What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? (2018, 2a) | Public interest doctrine |
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| 20. What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (2018, 3a) | Conflict of interest |
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| 21. "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties. (2018, 4a) | Public service |
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| 22. Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bound by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies (2018, 5a) | Policy formulation, dilemma resolution |
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| 23. Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. (2018, 5b) | Ethical dilemma |
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| 24. What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant. (2019, 1b) | Public service concept |
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| 25. What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (2019, 3a) | Law and ethics |
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| 26. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? (2019, 3b) | Conscience |
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| 27. "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (2020, 3b) | Theory, application in IR |
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| 28. Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them (2020, 4a) | Law as source of ethical guidance |
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| 29. Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. (2021, 2b) | Resolution of dilemmas |
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| 30. "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society. (2021, 5a) | Ethics in IR |
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| 31. The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations. (2022, 2a) | Rules as source of ethical guidance |
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| <p>32. What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples. (2022, 4a)</p> | <p>Governance: Concepts</p> |
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| <p>33. Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair. (2022, 5a)</p> | <p>Ethics in IR</p> |
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| <p>34. In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine. (2022, 6b)</p> | <p>Corporate Governance /CSR</p> |
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| 35. 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples. (2023, 1b) | Ethics in IR |
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| 36. What do you understand by the term 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples (2023, 1a) | Public service values/ Corporate gov. |
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| 37. Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision-making ? Discuss. (2023, 5a) | Conscience |
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| <p>38. "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts ? (2024, 2a)</p> | <p>Ethics in IR</p> |
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| 39. Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment ? (2024, 2b) | Environ -ment Ethics |
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| 40. The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system. (2024, 5b) | Law and ethics |
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