

MAINS 2016

GS PAPER 4 ANALYSIS

- 1A). Basic question, refer to entire syllabus for learning these points.
- 1B). Again basic term, objective understanding of syllabus matters.
- 2A). Conceptual clarity is needed to answer such questions.
- 2B) and 3A). Factual question, hence width of knowledge becomes important in such questions.
- 3B). It is part of syllabus but still one has to accept that UPSC in this paper swayed towards the factual knowledge.
- 4A). General question but knowledge of Kautilya was still mandatory to answer such questions.
- 4B). UPSC tried connecting basic ethics concepts with governmental schemes.
- 5). A simple question, still a clear understanding of basic concepts of law and ethics was required.
- 6). Analytical question, through such questions UPSC this year tried to have a balance between factual and analytical questions.
- 7). Questions such as these (psychology involved) tried to create a balance between public administration, psychology, philosophy etc.
- 8). Beyond knowledge of details of Max Weber, understanding of sentence is much more important. Overdose of public administration knowledge could even be counterproductive in such questions, as ethical perspective should not be left out while discussing theoretical aspects.

Ethics case study:

- 9). Case study with a basic theme of corporate pro profit motive versus larger societal welfare.
- 10). Very debatable policy of land acquisition whereby candidates approach and perspective becomes very important to be evaluated, as these are the themes which are part of day to day administration of any public officer.
- 11). Classic case of rule bound ethics to conscience bound ethics. This is a basic dilemma where two part of value orientation are coming into conflict. Every administrator is required to balance out such tussles.
- 12). A case study where personal ethics and professional ethics are compared, which has also been a burning question among ethics experts. Both the facets should be present in an ideal administrator.
- 13). Case study was based on an important theme i.e. pro-growth based development versus fallouts on common people of this country.

14). Case study tried to stress on the fact that an administrator has the utmost responsibility of making system more open and approachable towards the people. Various citizen led initiative are trying to make changes in the system but system in a way restricts their pro-initiative capability.

Overall Analysis:

1. Paper was highly balanced where coverage of entire syllabus was intended, hence for future years also aspirants need to cover entire syllabus.
2. Balance of analytical and factual themes, hence both needs to be given equal emphasis.
3. Themes were not very difficult, but basic clarity is needed on these themes.
4. This paper was easier if personalities were covered, in comparison to last year.
5. Writing practice and conceptual clarity is most important in ethics.