



# 200 ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASE STUDIES with DISCUSSIONS for UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MAIN

**GENERAL STUDIES PAPER 4 MAIN EXAM**

- Collection of 200 Case Studies from Polity, Economy, Social & Ecology
- Detailed Discussion for each Case Study
- Very useful for Mains & Mains Answer Writing

**SAMPLE**

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## DISHA PUBLICATION

45, 2nd Floor, Maharishi Dayanand Marg, Corner  
Market, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

Tel : 49842349 / 49842350

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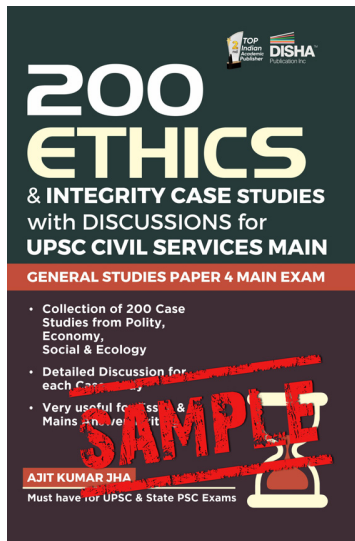


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This sample book is prepared from the book "200 Ethics & Integrity Case Studies for UPSC Civil Services Main Exam General Studies Paper 4".



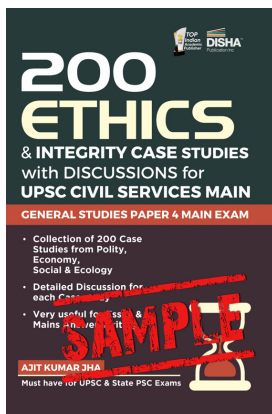
ISBN - 9789390511570

MRP- 250/-

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## CASE STUDY : 7



### How Would You Respond to Blackmail?

*Ramesh is a studious boy who has spent the past few months preparing for his MBA final exams. His friend Jaideep is not very good at studies. Jaideep has never scored good marks despite trying his best. He is very worried about what kind of job he will get when he leaves the institute. It is very important for him to find a well-paying job as his parents have taken a loan for his studies.*

*A day before the exam Jaideep finds out that the exam paper is available for sale. He asks Ramesh to lend him the money which he promises to repay later. Jaideep is very happy as he feels now he will be able to score good marks. Ramesh does not want to disappoint his friend, at the same time he feels it would be wrong to cheat.*

*Ramesh comes to you for advice. What advice will you give him? (250) words*

#### Answer

Ramesh is in a tough situation. On the one hand lies his friend's dreams and aspirations and, on the other hand are his ideals. In such a situation Ramesh has limited options.

(i) He can refuse to give his friend the money since it is against his principles and ask him concentrate on his studies.

(ii) He can report the leaking of the paper to his teachers and allow them to resolve this situation.

(iii) Thirdly, he can give into his friend's requests and lend him the money.

The first and third options are both extreme. In both cases one person will feel extremely hurt. In other words it is a zero sum game where one person wins and the other loses. The second option seems the best. However, before informing the teachers I would advise Ramesh to tell Jaideep what his intentions are. I would also advise him to tell Jaideep to rely on his own hard work. In many such cases the so called leaked papers are often fake. Even after paying money there is no guarantee that he will get good marks. In such a case, it is better to rely on one's own hard work. Even if he did secure a well-paying job by cheating in his exams, he might find himself unable to discharge his duties properly. This could mean that he would lose his job. Besides, marks alone cannot bring success in life. Hard work and good character are what matters in the long run.



## CASE STUDY : 8



### Is It Ethical to Purchase Land From Villagers at an Unfair Price?

*Assume you are a District Magistrate. The MP of the area often comes to visit your district and you know him well. One day he calls you and asks for a personal favour. His son has been arrested for a car accident. The MP does not want the media to hear about this. He asks you to get his son released and make the police drop all charges against him. He says he will be highly obliged if you help him. Your friend is present when the MP calls, he advises you to do what the MP has said. "It is always useful to have an MP who owes you a favour," he says. Do you agree with your friend? Give your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing in 250 words.*

#### Answer

A district magistrate must do his work in such a manner that the district benefits. It is not his duty to curry favours. He cannot be involved in any activity which goes against the law.

In this particular case I think there are three possible options

- (i) I can agree with what the MP has asked me to do and get his son released.
- (ii) I can refuse and tell him there is nothing I can do.
- (iii) I can tell him that without any details I can make no decision. I will contact the police and try to find out what can be done and only then will I take any action.

In this case the first option is incorrect. I cannot make any promise without the complete details. The boy may have been arrested under a law which will not allow bail; there may be many other legal complications.

The second option is unduly harsh. As a member of the bureaucracy I am working to help the citizens. Every citizen has a right to ask for my assistance.

The third option is the best. I will find out all the details of the case and see if there is any assistance I can give within the ambit of the law. I will try to ascertain the legal standing of the case and then evaluate what options are

available for the MP and his son. I will inform my superiors before taking any action so that they are aware of my decision.



## CASE STUDY : 9



### Unsocial Behaviour of Your Neighbours

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*Gopal was transferred as head of finance to government undertaking. When he reached there he found that many employees were used to asking their suppliers for favours. The suppliers would be happy to oblige. They even paid for the holiday outings of many senior employees. Gopal felt that this was not right. He felt that the employees should maintain a distance between their personal and professional lives; taking professional help for personal reasons is a kind of corruption. He tried to point this out, but the employees took umbrage at his words. They told him that he was being too rigid. Times had changed and there was no harm in social interactions with their suppliers. None of them were corrupt; there had never been any exchange of cash for any official work. Gopal was dissatisfied with their responses but he realised that there wasn't much he could do.*

*Next month when it was time to review the suppliers' contracts, Gopal chose the option which was best for the company's finances. Unfortunately this was not the old supplier, his colleagues disagreed with him. They cited many technical reasons to overlook the financial implications and voted against his decision. Gopal feels they have been swayed by the old supplier but he has no proof. He comes to you for advice. What advice will you give him?*

---

#### Answer

The main issue here is awarding the contract to the best supplier for the company. Gopal is the head of finance, as such his decision should be final. However, if all the other employees have voted against his decision he needs

to go back and study his decision. He must see whether the reasons they have advanced for voting for the old supplier are valid or not. If he finds that the reasons they gave are indeed valid then he must agree and not make this an issue of his ego. To this end he can request a technical person to evaluate the contracts.

However, if there are no valid technical reasons, then Gopal should not change his decision. In that case he needs to consider why everyone voted against him. If he feels that the only reason is the fact that many employees have built personal connections with the suppliers then he needs to bring this to the notice of his superiors.

I would advise him to consider these aspects and then make a final decision. He can attach a copy of the technical evaluation to his report in which he should mention the employees' relationship with the supplier. He should inform his superiors of the decision taken and ask them to decide which supplier they should go forward with.



## CASE STUDY : 10



### Whether Third Degree Interrogation Can be Justified?

*Suresh was on his way to his job interview. He knew that traffic could sometimes be very bad so he left half an hour early. However, on his way he faced abnormally long traffic jams. As his car inched forward he saw that there had been an accident. A car had overturned and blocked half the road creating such a huge traffic jam. He noticed that there was a young girl lying in front of the car. There were two occupants still trapped inside the car. Many people slowed down when they passed the car but no one stopped to help. Suresh wants to stop but he is afraid that if he stops to help he might miss his interview. What would you do if you were in his place?*

#### Answer

This is not a decision which can be made easily. On the one hand we would like to help anyone who is in need of assistance. On the other hand many of us are afraid of getting involved in road accidents because we are scared of getting involved in a police case. On top of that Suresh has to consider his upcoming interview. He cannot afford to put his career on risk for people he does not even know, especially when there are many others who can step up.

However, the other aspect is a moral aspect. A person in need cannot be abandoned just because he is not known personally. A good human being is one who helps anyone who requires assistance. In this case Suresh can see that others are not providing assistance. The injured people are not in a position to ask for help themselves. Suresh would also be aware that in case of an accident it is crucial for the victims to reach a hospital as soon as possible, and a slight delay could mean a loss of life.

If I were in Suresh's position I would first call the police on their helpline and inform them of the accident. This way I would be able to ensure that someone comes to the assistance of the injured passengers. I will exhort people to help the victims instead of gawking at them.

I would then call the office where I was going for an interview and inform them of the situation. I would request them to give me some extra time. If they agree I would immediately go to the accident site and help provide first aid to the victims. If my interview cannot be postponed I will head towards the office knowing that I have done whatever I could.

## CASE STUDY : 11



### **As an Attorney Should Your Report Your Wanted Client?**

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*You are a senior officer in a PSU. One day an employee approaches you for your assistance. He would like you to allow him to work part time for one of your competitors. He tells you he is in desperate need of money. Since it would be unethical of him to work somewhere else you refuse to give him permission. You advise him to take a loan instead of indulging in unethical behaviour. He tells you that he knows you cannot give him any official permission but he would like you to allow him on an informal level. You refuse to do so, further you tell him that it would be against his employment contract for him to do so and if you find out from someone that he has gone ahead you will recommend his suspension.*

*Next week he contacts you yet again and makes the same request, when you refuse the second time he says that he will make an allegation regarding bribery against you if you do not help him. What will you do?*

---

#### **Answer**

In this situation there are two different aspects.

**(1)** The employee wants to work for a competitor. This can create a conflict of interest; also it would be against the terms of his employment. The correct action is to dissuade him from such action. If he is in need of cash there are many other options available to him. He can take a loan; he can withdraw money from his Provident Fund etc. He should be made aware of all options as his actions may spring from ignorance.

**(2)** The second aspect is his attempt at blackmail. By threatening to make false

allegations, the employee is indulging in unethical behaviour. Here there are no mitigating factors; he is willfully and knowingly following a wrong path. For this itself he can be given an official reprimand. If any leniency is shown in such circumstance it will create a bad example. In such a situation, I would deal with him very sternly. I would tell him that he could face serious consequences for making false allegations. Since there has been no question of taking any bribes, I would assure him that even if he tried he would not be able to prove any such allegations.

Furthermore, I would immediately inform my superiors of the entire incident and ask them for their advice on how to proceed. This would ensure that should he proceed with his allegations, my position would already be clear. If my superiors recommend, I would initiate disciplinary proceedings; otherwise I would end the issue with an official warning.

