Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

A civil servant is pressured by political actors to favour certain candidates in a recruitment process. Identify the ethical issues and suggest a course of action. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 06/10/2026	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

- **Impartiality; political neutrality; merit; conflict of interest; rule of law; accountability; transparency; whistle-blower protection.**
- **Give stepwise action: refuse improper direction → document → seek written order → follow rules → report through lawful channel.**

Model Answer

The situation presents a conflict between political pressure and the civil servant's duty to uphold merit, fairness and the rule of law. Ethical issues include abuse of authority, discrimination, conflict of interest, erosion of institutional integrity and violation of equal opportunity.

The civil servant should first communicate respectfully that recruitment must follow prescribed rules and merit-based criteria. If pressure persists, the officer should seek any direction in writing, maintain a transparent record and consult the competent authority or legal/procedural framework. The selection process should be insulated through objective criteria, standardised evaluation and appropriate oversight. If an unlawful instruction is issued, it should not be implemented merely because it comes from a politically influential person.

The officer should use established reporting, vigilance or grievance mechanisms where necessary, while protecting confidential information and avoiding public confrontation that could compromise the process. Personal integrity

must be combined with institutional prudence.

The ethical principle involved is that public office is a trust, not a private instrument of political patronage. Upholding impartial recruitment protects both deserving candidates and the credibility of the state.

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