cases where using a **ViewModel** is essential:

**1. Security (Sensitive Data Protection)**

* **Why it's a must**: Sometimes, you have sensitive data like passwords or personal information in your model. You don't want to expose this data to the view. A **ViewModel** allows you to only send the necessary data to the view, keeping sensitive information hidden.
* **Example**: You may have a model with sensitive fields like passwords or social security numbers, but in the view, you only need to show the user’s name and email. The ViewModel ensures only non-sensitive data is passed to the view.

**2. Complex Data Combination**

* **Why it's a must**: If the data required by the view is spread across multiple models, or if you need to manipulate or combine data before showing it, a **ViewModel** is necessary. It allows you to gather data from multiple sources into one object tailored for the view.
* **Example**: You may need to show both a list of students and the department they belong to in the same view. A ViewModel can combine both data sets, making it easier to display.

**3. Custom Validation or Business Rules**

* **Why it's a must**: Sometimes, you need to apply custom logic or validation rules to the data before presenting it. A **ViewModel** can hold this extra logic, ensuring the data is ready for display and meets the required conditions.
* **Example**: You may have a form where the price field needs to be valid only if a discount is applied. The ViewModel can check the conditions and ensure the data follows the required business rules.