1. What makes international ethics important? Discuss how philosophical schools of thought focus on various aspects of international relations.

International ethics refers to the good that international interactions, exchanges, relations can bring to our planet earth and to all life forms and which can be harmed by unfriendly, hostile, uncooperative behaviours. Ethical questions are central to the study of international relations, as it is a field of study concerned with war and peace, trade and production, and law and rights.

Ethics **provide a systematic framework** to assess the moral dimension of human behaviour and reflect on the role moral evaluation should play in politics. Politics without conscience **threaten** all societies and bypass the minimal requirements of justice. There are no moral free zones absolving the political strategist from accountability, whether that strategist is a head of state or the head of a terrorist organization.

Ethics are a **source of conscience**, while at the same time, they should also be "a critique of pure conscience.” International ethics may be fruitfully defined as that which enables one to participate more actively in shaping and building good international community.

International ethics **guides** international relations and **resolution** of international conflicts. International ethics guides the international environmental effort to fight against issues such as ozone depletion, global warming, etc which are common shared problems and which require actions from many nations who are major contributors to forces generating such problems.

**TO BE COMPLETED**

2. Explain the distinctive features of environmental ethics. Why has environmental ethics become an important issue of human concern today?

Human existence is not possible without a good and healthy environment. Environmental ethics is having a conscience or moral that reflects one’s commitment and responsibility toward the environment as well as present and future generations of humanity. It is an important issue which we are dealing today, to adjust the relationship between humans and environment. It is a **discipline** of philosophy that deals with the ethical problems surrounding environmental protection. It considers extending the traditional boundaries of ethics from solely including humans to including the non-human world.

There are several distinctive features of environmental ethics:

**First, environmental ethics is extended.**

If we do not constrain our actions towards nature, then that ethic is considered to be anthropocentric.”, which means “human-centeredness,”. Environmental ethics extend the scope of ethical concerns beyond one’s community and nation to include humanity as a whole, the whole of nature, which is the green environment, which includes forests and trees, animals, wild and domesticated.

**Second, environmental ethics is interdisciplinary.**

There are many over lapping concerns and areas of consensus among environmental ethics, environmental politics, environmental economics, environmental sciences and environmental literature.

It is a matter of argument that the changes required to slow or reverse the climate change would be very costly. In the environmental ethics series it was important to get the input from an expert in economics in order to gain an intelligent and balanced assessment of the potential role of economics in changing human behaviour.

**Third, environmental ethics is plural.**

Environmental ethics is been an area in which different ideas and perspectives compete with each other. All these topics provide reasonable justification for environmental protection :

Anthropocentrism: referring to the point of view that humans are the only, or primary, holders of moral standing.

Animal liberation/rights theory: refers to Exposing Cruelty to Animals.

Biocentrism: refers to an ethical point of view that extends inherent value to all living things. It includes the preservation of biodiversity, which is the variety and variability of life on earth, and environment protection, which is to protect the natural environment. Rapid changes in environmental causes mass extinctions. In industrial economies, voluntary environmental agreements often provide a platform for companies to be involved in moving beyond the defined regulatory standards and support the development of best environmental practice.

Eco centrism: refers to nature centred, rather than human centred system of values. It is grounded on the belief, that the ecosphere has a very valuable and significant part in the creation of humanity.

**Fourth, environmental ethics is global.**

Ecological crisis is a global issue. Environmental pollution is not limited to national boundaries. This is not a concern of a single country.

**Fifth, environmental ethics is revolutionary.**

The environmental revolution is the process of moving out of from pollution causing and climate-changing technology and resorting to efficient and clean technology. It critiques the materialism, hedonism and consumerism accompanying modern capitalism, and calls instead for a ‘green lifestyle’ that is harmonious with nature. It argues for pacifism and against an arms race.

In the current era, the need for green technology is being realized, and the development of electric cars and alternative energy is gradually started to being adopted.

3. Answer any two of the following questions in about 250 words each:

a) What do you understand by cultural and ethical subjectivism?

One’ own mental activity is the only unquestionable fact of one’s experience, is Subjectivism. It claims that all moral values are true. It is the claim that beliefs are relative to each person’s individual perspective. It deals with the moral aspects of being right or wrong in a group or an individual’s action is, based on that cultures standards and what they feel is right or wrong in a particular situation; or based on each person’s individual perspective.

**Cultural Subjectivism** school of thought hand accepts both the ontological and semantic version and says that all moral statements are true. It is the claim that all beliefs are relative to a particular culture. What is said to be right and wrong depends completely on the society, and what the society feels is ethical depending on their culture. Since morality is based on the understanding of the society, and different societies have different views of right and wrong, there can be no moral absolutes. Hence, all moral values are considered to be true, even if they conflict or not.

Every individual is a member of various groups at the same time like cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious and so on. The values that exist in each of group can conflict with other groups. It is up to each individual’s choice to resolve the conflicts.

Ethical Subjectivism: A value is objective if it is more fundamental than the pro-attitudes in relation to it, i.e., if it exists independently of our desires, preferences, emotions etc. A moral objectivist adopts the model of perception. In this sense, a moral objectivist is a moral realist. Hence, **Ethical Subjectivism**, supports that what is good or badly depends on individuals or cultural groups.

b) How do you understand human freedom and moral responsibility? Explain.

Human freedom is a social concept that recognizes the dignity of individuals. Human freedom is inherently valuable and plays a role in human progress.

Moral responsibility is the status of morally deserving praise, blame, reward, or punishment for an act or omission, in accordance with one's moral obligations. Humans hold themselves or others morally responsible for their actions, assuming that the action was done knowingly and willing in other words freely. The idea of responsibility seems to connote and presuppose that of freedom.