

AURA IAS ACADEMY

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Telangana.**



Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude:

Previous Year Questions

Section-A: Theory

Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude

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UPSC CSE -5 Mains & 1 Interviews

UPSC CSE -2015 GS-4 Topper (124 Marks)

National Faculty for UPSC CSE –Ethics & Polity

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PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (TOPIC WISE) -2012-25

UPSC SAMPLE QUESTIONS -2012

- 2012_Q.1. What do you understand by ‘**Ethical Human Conduct**’? In what way is it important to be **ethical along with being professionally competent**?
- Q.2. What do you understand by the following terms? Point out their **specific relevance in public service**;
- ✓ 1. Intellectual integrity
 - ✓ 2. Empathy
 - ✓ 3. Perseverance
 - ✓ 4. Spirit of service
 - ✓ 5. Commitment
 - ✓ Indicate **two more attributes** which you consider very important for public servants. Justify your answer.
- Q.3. Which **great Indian personality** has inspired you the most as a role model and how have you been able to benefit in your own life by such an inspiration?

1. Ethics and Human Interface:

1.1 Ethics and Human Interface:

- 2020_Q.1.(a) Discuss the **role of ethics and values** in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony. (150 words)
- 10

- **2022_3.(a) Ethics is** knowing the difference between what you have the **right to do and what is right to do.**’-Potter Stewart . (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2023_Q4. (b) Differentiate ‘moral intuition from ‘moral reasoning’** with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words)10
- **2024_4. (a) “The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual.** What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today’s context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice.” Examine the above statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

1.2 Ethics in human actions

a) Essence of Ethics in human actions

- **2013-** What do you understand by ‘values’ and ‘ethics’? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2014-**What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (10 marks and 150 words.)

b) Determinants of Ethics in human actions

c) Consequences of Ethics in human actions

- **2016-** Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. (10 marks and 150 words.)

- **2017-** The **crisis of ethical values** in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. (150 Words, 10)
- **2022_2.(b)** It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

1.3 dimensions of ethics

- **2014-** “Human beings should always be treated as ‘ends’ in themselves and never as merely ‘means’.” Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2015-** what is meant by ‘**environmental ethics**’? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2015-** (b) Differentiate between the following (200 words) : (10 marks)
- (i) Law and Ethics
 - (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics
 - (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment
 - (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics
- **2018-** With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer. (150 words, 10 marks)

- **2024_1.(b)** “Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour.”
- ✓ Explain the key **dimensions of ethics that influence human actions.**
 - ✓ Discuss **how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making** in the professional context. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

1.4 Ethics in a) Private and b) Public Relationships

- **2013-**“The good of an individual is contained in the good of all.” What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2013-** It is often said that ‘politics’ and ‘ethics’ do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2019-**What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples. (10 marks| 150 words)

2. Human Values –

2.1 Human Values –

- **2014-**In the context of defence services, ‘patriotism’ demands readiness to even lay down one’s life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday

civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. (10 marks and 150 words)

- **2014**-All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2014**-We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2014**-The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2015**-“Social Values are more important than economic values”.
Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. (150 words) (10marks)
- **2016**-Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (10 marks and 150 words.)
 - ✓ a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours.
 - ✓ b) How can it be managed and controlled?
- **2017**- (a) Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 Words, 10)
- **2020_Q.5. (b)** “The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.’ Discuss. (150 words)10

2.2 Inculcating values

2.2.1 Role of family in inculcating values

2.2.2 Role of society in inculcating values

2.2.3 Role of Educational institutions in inculcating values

- **2016**-Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society. (10 marks and 150 words.)
 - ✓ a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians
 - b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?
- **2022_3.(b)** “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Abdul Kalam. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

2.3 Great Leaders, Reformers and Administrators

2.3.1 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Leaders

- **2014- Which eminent personality** has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples, describe how you

have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. (10 marks and 150 words.)

- **2016-** Discuss Mahatma **Gandhi's concept of seven sins.** (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2017-** “Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them.” – **Napoleon Bonaparte.**
 - ✓ Stating examples mention the rulers
 - ✓ (i) who have harmed society and country,
 - ✓ (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. (150 Words, 10)
- **2018-** “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – **Warren Buffett**
 - ✓ What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. (150 words, 10 marks)
- **2020_Q.6. (b))** What do each of the following quotation mean to you “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” – **Mahatma Gandhi** (150 words) 10-

2022_3.(c) “Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.” **Dalai Lama.** (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

2.3.2 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Reformers

- **2020_Q.3. (a)** What teachings of **Buddha** are most relevant today and why? Discuss. (150 words) 10
- **2020_Q.6. (a)** What do each of the following quotation mean to you?
 - ✓ “Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them

go their own way.” – **Swami Vivekanand** (150 words)10 marks

2.3.4 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Administrators

- **2018**-What do the following quotation mean to you in the present context?
- ✓ “The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded. ”**Abraham Lincoln** (150 words, 10 marks)

2.4 Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

2.4.1 Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India

- **2013**- Given below is a **quotation of great moral thinker/philosopher**.
- ✓ From this quotation, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (each quote for 10 marks and 150 words)
- ✓ “There is enough on this earth for every one’s need but for no one’s greed.” **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **2015**- Given are two quotations of moral thinker/philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context:

- ✓ (a)The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." (150 words) (10marks)
- **2015-** we can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light." (150 words) (10marks)
- **2016-Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's** concept of seven sins. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2017-** “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – **A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.** (150 Words, 10)
- **2018-** What do the following quotation mean to you in the present context? “Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding. “ _ **Mahatma Gandhi** (150 words,10 marks)
- **2018-**“Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good.” _ **Tirukkural** (150 words,10 marks)
- **2019-**What do the following quotations mean to you? “A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes.” – **M.K. Gandhi** (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2019-**What do the following quotations mean to you? “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world” – **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2021.Q3.** (a) “Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see

the light, sooner or later.-**Swami Vivekananda** (Answer in 150 words)

-
- **2023_Q6.** (a) What were the major teachings of **Guru Nanak**? Explain their **relevance** in the contemporary world.(Answer in 150 words)10

Q3. Given below are the three **quotations of great thinkers.** What do each of these quotations **CONVEY TO YOU** in the **PRESENT CONTEXT**?

- **2023_Q3.** (a) “The **simplest acts of kindness** are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” – Mahatma **Gandhi** (Answer in 150 words)10
- **2023_Q3.** (b) “**To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened.** Ones she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.” – Jawaharlal Nehru (Answer in 150 words)10
- **2023_Q3.** (c) Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle.” – **Swami Vivekanand.** (Answer in 150 words)10

3. Given below are **three quotations of great thinkers.** What do each of these quotations **convey to you in the present context**?

- **2024_ 3.**(a) “Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do

not become others.” – **Swami Vivekananda** (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



➤ **2024_3.(b)** “Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work.” – **Sardar Patel** (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



➤ **2024_ (c)** “In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.” – **Immanuel Kant** (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

➤ **2025_3.** Given below are three quotations of **great thinkers**. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

✓ **2025_3(a).** "Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself." – Thiruvalluvar (Answer in 150 words) 10

✓ **2025_3(c).** "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda (Answer in 150 words) 10

➤ **2025_4(b).** What are the major teachings of **Mahavir**? Explain their **relevance in the contemporary** world. (Answer in 150 words) 10

2.4.2 Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from world

- **2013-** Given below are quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context: (each quote for 10 marks and 150 words)
 - ✓ **1)** “Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”—**Abraham Lincoln**
 - ✓ **2)** “I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies.”—**Aristotle**
- **2016-**Analyze **John Rawls's concept of social justice** in the Indian contest. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2019-**What do the following quotations mean to you?
 - ✓ “An unexamined life is not worth living”. – **Socrates** (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2021.Q3.** What does each of the following quotations mean to you?
- **2021.Q3.** (b) “We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves.” – **Dalai Lama** (Answer in 150 words)
- **2021.Q3.** (c) Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all.” -**Erik Erikson** (Answer in 150 word)
- **2020_Q.6. (c)** What do each of the following quotation mean to you
 - ✓ “A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception

which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – **Socrates**
(150 words) 10

- **2025_3(b)**. "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes." – **William James** (Answer in 150 words) 10
✓

3. Attitude

3.1 Attitude



- **2014-** What **factors affect the formation** of a **person's attitude** towards social problems? (150 words) 10Marks
✓ In our society, **contrasting attitudes** are prevalent about many social problems.
✓ What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the **caste system** in our society?
✓ How do **you explain the existence** of these contrasting attitudes?
- **2016-**Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally **shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings** in which we grow up. **Some** of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are **often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society**. (150 words) 10Marks
✓ a) Discuss such **undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians**
✓ b) **How can such undesirable attitudes be changed** and socio-ethical values considered **necessary in public services be cultivated** in the aspiring and serving **civil servants**?

- 2020_Q.5. (a) What are the **main factors responsible for gender inequality** in India? Discuss the contribution of **Savitribai Phule** in this regard. (150 words) 10
- 2021.Q4. (a) **Attitude** is an important component that **goes as input in the development of human being**. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? (Answer in 150 words)

3.2 Attitude: content, structure, function

3.2.1 Attitude-content

3.2.2 Attitude- structure,

3.2.3 Attitude-function;

3.3 Attitudes influence and relation with Thought and Behaviour

3.4 Moral and Political attitudes

3.4.1 Moral attitudes

3.4.2 Political attitudes

3.5 Social influence and persuasion

3.5.1 Social influence

3.5.2 Persuasion

- **2016-** How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan?(10 marks and 150 words.)

4. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service

- 2021.Q.1.(a) Identify **five ethical traits** on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2022_5.** (b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each :
 - ✓ (i) Constitutional morality
 - ✓ (ii) Conflict of interest
 - ✓ (v) Devotion to duty

4.1. Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service

4.1.1 Aptitude

4.1.2 Foundational Values for Civil Service

- **2018**-State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (10 marks and 150 words)
- **2024_4.(b) Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter**, results in rendering of injustice. A **perceptive civil servant** is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent”
- Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2025_4(a).** "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully **implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework.**" Justify this statement with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

- **2025_5(b).** To achieve holistic development goal, a **civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator**. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal? (Answer in 150 words) 10



4.1.3 Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service

4.2 Integrity

- **2014-** “Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.” What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2015-** One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. (150 Words, 10)
- **2018-** “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – Warren Buffett
- **2021.Q6. (b)** “Integrity is a value that empowers the human being.” Justify with suitable illustration. (Answer in 150 words)

4.3 Impartiality and Non-Partisanship

- **2016-** Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day Scio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2021.Q5.(b)** Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful

civil servant? Discuss with illustrations. (Answer in 150 words)



4.4 Objectivity

➤ **2022_1.(a) Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon** with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is no rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such **preoccupation of an administrator** leads to **travesty of justice** to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate. (150 words) 10 Marks

- ✓ * **reckon** = to think or believe: I reckon it's going to rain// to believe that (something) is true or possible.
- ✓ ** **travesty** = represent in a false, absurd, or distorted way// something that fails to represent the values and qualities that it is intended to represent, in a way that is shocking or offensive// A travesty is a cheap mockery, usually of something or someone serious, such as a travesty of justice.

4.5 Dedication to public service

2025_5(a). “One who is **devoted to one’s duty** attains highest perfection in life.” Analyse this statement with reference to sense

of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a **civil servant**.
(Answer in 150 words) 10

4.6 Empathy, Tolerance and Compassion towards the Weaker-sections

4.6.1 Empathy towards the Weaker-sections

4.6.2 Tolerance towards the Weaker-sections

4.6.3 Compassion towards the Weaker-sections

- **2017**-Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify. (150 Words, 10)
- **2022_1.** (b) **Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion** are some of the other vital attributes that **facilitate** the civil servants **to be more competent** in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10

5. Emotional Intelligence-EI

5.1 Emotional Intelligence-EI

- **2013-** What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2019-** "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you". Do you agree with this view? Discuss. (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2021.Q4. (b)** In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2023_Q4. (a)** **What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills** – your EQ- not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (Answer in 150 words)10

5.2 EI-Concepts

- **2020_Q.2. (b)** What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss. (150 words) 10

5.3 EI-Concepts Utilities and Application in Administration and Governance

- **2016-** How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? (150 Words, 10 marks)

6. Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration

- **2019_** What do you understand by the term ‘public servant’? Reflect on the expected role of public servant. (10 marks| 150 words)

6.1 Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems

6.1.1 Public/Civil service values

- **2013-** What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (5 terms x 3 marks each=15 marks |250 words)
- ✓ Integrity
 - ✓ Perseverance
 - ✓ Spirit of service
 - ✓ Commitment
 - ✓ Courage of conviction
- **2013-** Indicate two more** attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (10 marks |100 words) (**other than those five earlier mentioned- Integrity, Perseverance, Spirit of service, Commitment, Courage of conviction)
- **2014-** What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?
- **2014-** There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility? (10 marks and 150 words).

- **2017-** Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (150 Words, 10)
 - (a) Transparency
 - (b) Accountability
 - (c) Fairness and justice
 - (d) Courage of conviction
 - (e) Spirit of service
- 2017- Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 Words, 10marks)
- 2018- What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? (150 words)
- 2021.Q.1.(a) Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. (Answer in 150 words)
- 2021.Q4. (a) Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human being. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? (Answer in 150 words)
- 2021.Q6. (a) An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2022_5.** (b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each : (v) Devotion to duty
- **2024_6.** (a) “In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of

gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years. Examine the **gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants** and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

- **2024_6.(b) Mission Karmayogi** is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme **empower the civil servants** in enhancing productive efficiency and **delivering the services** at the grassroots level? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2025_2 (b).** “**Constitutional morality** is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law.” Examine the **significance of constitutional morality for public servant** highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- **2025_5(b).** To achieve holistic development goal, a **civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator**. What specific measures will you suggest to achieve this goal? (Answer in 150 words) 10

6.1.2 Ethics in Public administration

- **2014**-What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2015/16** Explain with the help of two examples, where
 - (i) an act is ethically right but not legally and
 - (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically)
- (b) How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples. (150 words) (10marks)
- **2016- Max weber** said that it is **not wise** to apply to public administration the **sort of moral and ethical norms** we apply to matters of **personal conscience**. It is important to realize that the **State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality.**” Critically analyze this statement. (10 marks and 150 words.)

6.1.3 Public/Civil service values: Status and problems

- **2015**-Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the **bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude.** (10 marks and 150 words.)

- ✓ (a) **Distinguish** between these two terms and write their **merits and demerits**.
- ✓ (b) **Is it possible to balance the two** to create a better administration for the faster development of our country?

6.1.4 Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems

6.2 Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas in Government and Private Institutions

6.2.1 Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas

6.2.2 Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas in Government

- **2015**-Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term "Conflict of Interest" and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of Interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2017**- Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when
 - (a) official duties,
 - (b) public interest, and
 - (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other.
 - How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. (150 Words, 10 marks)
- **2018**-What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (150 words, 10 marks)
- **2018**- Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bounded by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should

it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies (150 words,10 marks)

- 2018-Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. (150 words,10 marks)
- 2021.Q2. (b) Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2022_5.** (b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each :
 - (ii) Conflict of interest
 - (v) Devotion to duty

6.2.3 Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas Private Institutions

6.3 Laws, Rules, Regulations and Conscience as Sources of Ethical Guidance

6.3.1 Laws, Rules, Regulations and Conscience

- **2020_Q.4. (a)** Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them (150 words) 10

6.3.2 Laws, Rules, Regulations as Sources of Ethical Guidance

- **2015-**Mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well- developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties. Do you agree? (150 words) (10marks)
- **2016-**Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (10 marks and 150 words.)
 - ✓ a) Discuss how they achieve this objective.

- ✓ b) Giving examples. Show how the two differ in their approaches.
- **2018-**“In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication”. Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties. (150 words, 10 marks)
- **2022_2.** (a) **The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same**, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- **2024_5.** (b) **The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos.** Discuss this in the light of **major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice** in the present judicial system. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

6.3.3 Conscience as Sources of Ethical Guidance

- **2013-** What do you understand by the term ‘voice of conscience’? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? (10 marks| 150 words)

- **2013-** What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2019-**What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2021.Q4. (b)** In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2020_Q.2. (a)** "Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit." Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words)10
- **2023_Q5. (a)** **Is conscience a more reliable guide** when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making ? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)10



6.4 Accountability and Ethical Governance

6.4.1 Accountability

- **2014-**What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? (10 marks and 150 words.)

6.4.2 Ethical Governance

- **2016-** What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? (10 marks and 150 words.)

6.4.3 Accountability and Ethical Governance

6.5 Strengthening of Ethical and Moral Values in Governance

2023_Q6. (b) Explain the term **social capital**. How does it enhance **good governance**? (Answer in 150 words) 10

6.6 Ethical issues in International Relations and Funding

- **2015-.** At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2017-** Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. (150 Words, 10 marks)
- **2021.Q5. (a)** "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society. (Answer in 150 words)
- **2020_Q.3. (b)** "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations. (150 words) 10

- **2022_5.** (a) **Russia and Ukraine war** has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. **What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far?** Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2023_Q1.** (b) **'International aid'** is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on **'ethics in contemporary international aid'**. Support your answer with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- **2024_2.** (a) "It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it." In the present context, the **major weapon industries** of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the **ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today's international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts?** (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2024_2.** (b) **Global warming and climate change** are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life

on Earth. How do you put an **end to this to protect life** and bring equilibrium between the **society and the environment**? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

- **2025_2(a)**. Carl von Clausewitz once said, **“War is a diplomacy by other means.”** Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary **geo-political** conflict. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- **2025_2(b)**. Keeping the **national security** in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over **environmental clearance** of development projects in ecologically sensitive **border areas** in the country. (Answer in 150 words) 10

6.7 Corporate Governance

- **2017-** Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. (150 Words, 10 marks)
- **2022_6(b)** In contemporary world, **corporate sector's** contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, **do you think** Corporate Social Responsibility (**CSR**) **is efficient and sufficient enough** to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10Marks

- **2023_Q1.** (a) What do you understand by ‘**moral integrity**’ and ‘**professional efficiency**’ in the context of **corporate governance** in India? Illustrate with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

7. Probity in Governance

7.1 Probity in Governance



- **2015-** Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions.

Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized. (150 words) (10marks)

- **2019-**What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2022_4.** (a) What do you understand by term ‘**good governance**’? How far **recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance** steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
- **2022_5.** (b) Write short notes on the following in 30 words each :
- (i) **Constitutional** morality
 - (ii) **Conflict** of interest
 - (iii) Probity in public life
 - (iv) **Challenges** of digitalization

➤ (v) **Devotion** to duty

7.1.1 Probity

- **2014**-What do you understand by ‘probity’ in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? (10 marks and 150 words.)

7.1.2 Probity in Governance

- 2023_Q5.** (b) ‘**Probity is essential** for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.’ Discuss. (Answer in 150 words)10

7.2 Concept of public service

7.3 Philosophical basis of governance and probity

- **2019**-What is meant by the term ‘constitutional morality’? How does one uphold constitutional morality? (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2017**-Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify. (150 Words, 10)

7.4 Information sharing and transparency in government

7.5 Right to Information

- **2018-** “The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens’ empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss. (150 words)
- **2019-** There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss. (10 marks| 150 words)



7.6 Codes of Ethics & 7.7 Codes of Conduct

- **2016-** Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- **2018-** Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples. (150 words)
- **2024_5.** (a) “**The ‘Code of Conduct’ and ‘Code of Ethics’ are the sources of guidance in public administration.** There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. **Suggest a suitable mode for code of ethics** to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



7.8 Citizen’s Charters

- **2019-** Explain the **basic principles of citizens charter** movement and bring out its importance.

7.9 Work Culture

- **2023_Q2.** (b) In the context of **work environment**, differentiate between **'coercion' and 'undue influence'** with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10
- **2025_6(a).** It is said that for an **ethical work culture**, there **must be code of ethics in place in every organisation**. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place? (Answer in 150 words) 10

7.10 Quality of Service Delivery

- **2022_4.(b)** **Online methodology** is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and system at large. **Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to vulnerable section of society.** (150 words) 10 Marks
- **2024_6.(b)** **Mission Karmayogi** is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn

developing oneself. How will this scheme **empower the civil servants** in enhancing productive efficiency and **delivering the services** at the grassroots level? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks



7.11 Utilization of Public Funds

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- **2019** Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications. (10 marks| 150 words)
- **2025** 6(b). India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, **allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised**. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future? (Answer in 150 words) 10



7.12 Challenges of Corruption

- **2014**-It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful

people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples. (10 marks and 150 words.)

- **2015-** Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (10 marks and 150 words.)
 - (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications.
 - (b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.
- **2016-** “Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development.” Discuss Kautilya's views. (10 marks and 150 words.)
- “Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption”. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (10 marks| 150 words)

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- **2022_3.(b)** “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Abdul Kalam. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks
 - **2023_Q2.** (a) “Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society.” In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to **uplift the core values in the society**? (Answer in 150 words)10



Decision- Making

➤ **2021.Q2. (a)** Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for **rational decision making** is debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example. (Answer in 150 words)

2024_1. (a) The application of **Artificial Intelligence** as a dependable source of input **for administrative rational decision-making** is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Current/Burning-Social issues

2025_1(a). In the present digital age, **social media** has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several **ethical issues and challenges**. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Constitutional morality

2025_2 (b). “**Constitutional morality** is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law.” Examine the **significance of constitutional morality for public servant** highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Schemes /Policy

➤ **2020_Q.1. (b)** “Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation”. Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. (150 words)10

2.3 Great Leaders, Reformers and Administrators

2.3.1 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Leaders

2014- Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life

2016- Discuss Mahatma **Gandhi's** concept of seven sins.

2017- Napoleon Bonaparte.

2018— Warren Buffett

2020_— Mahatma Gandhi

2022_.Dalai Lama.

2.3.2 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Reformers

2020_ teachings of Buddha

2020— Swami Vivekanand (150 words)10 marks

2.3.4 Lessons from the lives and teachings of Great Administrators

2018- Abraham Lincoln (150 words, 10 marks)

2.4 Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

2.4.1 Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India

2013- Mahatma Gandhi.

2016_ Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's

2017_ A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

2018- Mahatma

2018_ Tirukkural

2019— M.K. Gandhi

2019- A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from world

2013- Abraham Lincoln Aristotle

2016- John Rawls's concept of social justice

2019-Socrates

2020-Socrates

2021.Q3.

Swami Vivekananda

Dalai Lama

-Erik Erikson

2022_3

- **Potter Stewart**
- **Abdul Kalam**
- **Dalai Lama.**

2023_Q3

- **Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- **Swami Vivekanand**

2025_Q3.

- **Thiruvalluvar**

- William James
- Swami Vivekananda

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