

Ethics_SS Class 02
20th June, 2024 at 9:00 AM

A BRIEF ASPECT OF ANSWER WRITING IN ETHICS (09:05 AM):

- You can introduce by defining the keywords/by giving examples relevant to the theme of the question/Premise/Background/Paradox/Context/Quotes.

FEATURES OF VAME (09:15 AM):

- **Culture-specific Vs Universal:**
- Values are the adhesive which binds people together.
- For any society to survive requires stability and harmony.
- One of the prerequisites for stability and harmony is value-consensus.
- Hence there are some values which are culture-specific.
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West

Indian

Individualism

Collectivism

Competition

Cooperation

Secularization

Strong religious
orientation

Consumerism

Delayed gratification

- However, there are some values which transcend the boundary of the society and are universal.
- For example, love, happiness, compassion, etc.

- **Compassion**= Empathy + Desire for action.
- **Empathy**= Imaginatively placing yourself in the place of others to understand their emotional profile.
- **Antipathy**= *Negative value system towards others.*
- **Apathy**= *Indifferent attitude.*
- **Absolute Vs Relative (With respect to context):**
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Absolute

Relative

Truth is a truth even if no one speaks and a lie is a lie even if everyone speaks.

Nothing is right or wrong for all time to come.

If something is right, it is right for all time to come. Hence no wrong way of doing the right thing.

It depends upon the circumstances, society, culture, and context.

Eg: Robinhood is not ethical; Kantian ethics.

Eg: Euthanasia, Surrogacy, Medical Termination of Pregnancy, Live -in relationship

- Relative is desirable as it provides flexibility which is required to engage with the environment successfully.
- With respect to Newton's movie, the lesson learned was one should not take pride in the duty that was expected when one joined the services.

- **Subjective Vs Objective (with respect to the individual) (09:54 am):**

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Subjective	Objective
Value of the object is not the property of the object but the perspective of the subject.	The value of the object is independent of the subject.
Beauty lies in the eyes of the behavior.	According to Plato, beauty is an objective value.
Eg: Live in relationships, Homosexuality, Adoption, Surrogacy, MTP, Capital punishment	Eg: Peace, Discipline, Integrity, Compassion, Happiness, Fundamental duties, etc.

- **Interrelationship between VAME (10:14 AM):**
- **Beliefs**=>Long-lasting beliefs based on the preferences with respect to desirable or undesirable => **Values** => Object-tied => **Attitude** = Specific determinant of behavior; Readiness of psyche to act/react in a certain way.
- **Values Features:**
 - General determinant of behavior.
 - Guiding principles wrt behavior.
 - Expressed in terms of 'SHOULD'.
 - Worth you allocate to something.
 - Largest canvas which subsumes all other concepts.
- **Values - Morals - Ethics (when seen in the prism of right and wrong):**
 - Values => Individuals = Morals.
 - Values => Societal = Ethics.
 - (Note: Refer to the diagram on the smart board).
 - Not every value can be seen in the prism of right and wrong.
 - For example, creativity, beauty, adventure, curiosity, etc.
 - Hence only those values which can be evaluated in the light of right and wrong at the individual level are known as moral and at the collective level known as ethics.

- **Ethics Vs Morals (10:46 am):**

Parameters	Ethics	Morals
Concept	What is the right thing to do for an actor in a situation	Standards of behavior set by an individual for himself wrt the right or wrongness of an action.
Source	External/society	Internal/individual
Why do we follow them?	Because society says it is the right thing to do	Because we believe it is the right thing to do.
What if we deviate?	It may lead to a social boycott.	It will generate feelings of guilt, anxiety, and remorse.
Flexibility	Since it is the collective preposition of society, it is relatively more objective than morals.	It is highly subjective as it varies from individual to individual.

- **Example:**
- **Case study:**
- Distribution of ration under the PDS system however only to those who have Adhar-linked ration cards. Consider a family that recently migrated and does not have ration cards linked to Adhar. They are genuinely starving.
- Administrative ethics:
- The official denies them ration as per the rules.
- Morality:
- The official provides rations despite the lack of Adhar linkage to alleviate the hunger of the family.
- Not always ethics and morality are in the synch.

CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE (11:05 AM):

- **Conscience:**
- It refers to intuitive authoritative judgement wrt morality of action.
- **Crisis of conscience (CoC):**
- It is defined as a situation when:
 - a) You worry because you have done something wrong.
 - b) When you are confronted by ethical dilemmas ie forced to choose an action against your conscience.
 - c) Sense of guilt.
- **Examples:**
- i) The mental state of Arjuna just before the battle of Kurukshetra.
- **Conflict:** He was torn between his duty to fight in the battle and his compassion for his family members.
- **Resolution:** The crisis led to Bhagvat Gita where lord Krishna helped Arjuna in addressing his dilemma and guiding him on the path of duty.
- ii) Inertia to appear as a witness in a criminal case.
- iii) An employee discovered illegal activities within the company. He is facing CoC as he is not able to decide whether to report activities to the authorities while risking his job and relationships with the police or stay silent to protect his career.
- iv) You are an administrative officer and there is a group of people peacefully protesting. According to you, it is their constitutional right however you received an order from the superior to disperse the crowd even if it requires the use of force and it has generated CoC.
- v) Dr Savita's medical termination of pregnancy case.
- To overcome the CoC, you require wisdom, courage, and integrity.
- "Conscience is like a dog which can never bite but never stops barking".
- (Answer Writing Practice from 11:30 am to 11:45 am).

Q.What do you understand by values and ethics? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? (10 Marks/150 Words).

- **Approach:**
- You can mention the following points in the answer:
- Introduction:
- Values and ethics are moral constructs and act as tool for behavior regulation.
- Refer to the chart on the smart board regarding professional competence and lack of competence + Ethical and Unethical. [Dr Kalam (Ethical) and Dr A Q Khan (Unethical)].
- Being professionally competent is a necessary condition for ensuring efficiency in any organization.
- However if with professional competency, the person lacks ethics = Threat.
- Eg:
- Individual -
- Corporate -
- Political leadership -
- Sports -
- Administration -
- National - US bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Hence being ethical is sine qua non for maintaining social cohesion in society.

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS: Continuation of CoC.