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SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

- IAS SELF STUDY GUIDE -

SECURE SYNOPSIS

MAINS **2019**

GS-IV

MAY **2019**



NOTE: Please remember that following '*answers*' are *NOT* '*model answers*'. They are NOT synopsis too if we go by definition of the term. What we are providing is content that both meets demand of the question and at the same time gives you extra points in the form of background information.



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General Studies Paper - IV

TOPIC: Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world. Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity;

Q) Examine the relevance of Probity and Integrity to civil services. Justify your answer using a suitable case study. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of the syllabus, it aims to evaluate the significance of virtues – probity and Integrity to civil services.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss what you understand by probity and integrity? What is its relevance and significance to civil services?

Directive:

Examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines suggest importance of such virtues to civil services.

Body:

The answer must have the following points of discussions:

- What is probity in ethics? – Probity is the evidence of ethical behaviour in a particular process. For Government employees and agencies, maintaining probity involves more than simply avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct. It involves applying public sector values such as impartiality, accountability and transparency.
- What is Integrity? – Integrity is following strong moral principles while Probity of having strong moral principle.
- Their importance to civil services?

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such virtues to civil servants.

Introduction:

- Probity is “the quality or condition of having strong moral principles, integrity, good character, honesty, decency”. It is the act of adhering to the highest principles and ideals rather than avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct. It balances service to the community against the self-interest of individuals
- Integrity is the practice of synchronisation of thought, words and actions. It can be correlated to honesty but unlike honesty it’s more a professional value. It’s related to institution. It advocates sacrifice of personal gains in favour of organisational objectives

Body:

The relevance of probity and integrity:

- **Individual level:**
 - For individuals, probity is about understanding the limits of their authority and powers and acting within those limits.
 - Public servants need to be conscious at all times of the need to uphold the highest standards of conduct in their dealings on the government’s behalf, which includes acting with integrity and avoiding conflicts of interest.
 - Having a conflict of interest is not morally wrong or unethical in itself. The challenge is in recognising and managing them.
 - Public servants should also be aware of the need to avoid any perception of bias in their dealings. This requires an open mind in decision-making and acting fairly and impartially in good faith.



- Financial integrity is important component. Civil servants are handling public assets they are the custodians of public money.
- Integrity ensures the economy of expenditure, reduction in unproductive expenditure, minimisation of corruption.
- **Organisational level:**
 - For organisations, probity is about setting values at an organisation level, and then implementing those values through policies and codes of practice.
 - It is then for managers to demonstrate those values through leadership, to positively reinforce the values and also to ensure compliance with, and enforcement of, the values.
 - Government agencies should establish an ethical culture. Then, they should set out to live that culture.
 - To ensure the equitable distribution of resources
 - To bring strong image of country around the globe
 - To cater to the needs of all sections of society. So that inclusive growth is achieved.
- **Watch-dogs:**
 - At another level, there are the watch-dogs, being the public sector bodies charged with oversight and investigation of standards and behaviours.
 - To ensure compliance with processes.
 - To prevent unethical practices like misconduct, fraud and corruption in governance. It will bring the lost public trust back.

You can add your own case study based on the above theory.

Conclusion:

- Present day civil servants needs to perform multiple functions of giving suggestions to political representatives, addressing public grievances, institutionalisation of the socio economic changes, delivering goods and services. Hence a value committed bureaucracy is need of hour.

Q) Write a note on reformers and administrators who are role models for inculcating values. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of the syllabus. It is about discussing the role played by reformers and administrators who have set themselves in the society as role models by upholding true ethos and values in the society.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the contributions made by reformers and administrators in the society to the society and how their values stand tall as role model to others and inspire others in taking them forward.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines suggest importance of such reformers and administrators to the good and well-being of the society.

Body:

The answer is direct in approach, one has to highlight the significance of reformers and good administrators, role played by the them in the society.

Discuss in detail what makes them different; their values, moral and ethics and how they play a crucial role in the society.

Quote examples of famous administrators and reformers from the history to the contemporary times, highlight their contributions and substantiate your answer.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such contributors to the society.

Introduction:

- Values can be defined as those things that are considered 'important' by an individual, society or an organization. Examples include courage, honesty, freedom, innovation etc. History of India and the world has shown us many reformers and administrators who are role models for the society and their lives are repository of values which guide us in the ethical path.

**Body:**

Here, you can divide the answer under heads and give your own examples and solutions to it. Few eggs are added here

Reformers:

- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Periyar E.V Ramaswamy Naicker, Martin Luther King Jr., Kailash Sathyarthi, Wilson Bezawada etc.
- The values that their lives teach us include courage, goal-oriented, inclusiveness, altruism, compassion, secularism, self-determination, social equality, equality of the human race, women empowerment, scientific thinking etc.

You can also add how they have influenced or inspired your life.

Administrators:

- Sreedharan, VP Menon, M S Swaminathan, Verghese Kurien, Palme Armstrong, Sathish Dhawan,

Values: punctuality, self-belief, integrity, high-quality standards, dreaming big, entrepreneurship, policy making, innovation, honesty, people-first,

Q) Discuss any two women social reformers who in your opinion have fought for doing away with societal evils and have proved to be game changer. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon Publications

Why this question:

The question is to reflect upon the role of women social reformers and their contributions to the society.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should discuss any two women social reformers in detail who have contributed immensely to the society in doing away with the social evils.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines state the context of question.

Body:

The answer can vary from one to another. Discuss any two women social reformers of your choice in detail with special emphasis on their contributions with respect to doing away with social evils.

Conclusion:

Conclude by stating how their contributions have made a remarkable difference to the society.

Introduction:

- Indian women have always been an epitome of beauty, strength, and intelligence. One of the major contributors to the Indian society has been the active participation of some very focussed and dedicated women. The women activists have played a significant role in changing many social evils and have been a shining beacon of hope. Some of them have displayed exemplary devotion in their respective fields.
- They managed to bring revolutions by making radical changes in the society. Some of the reformers took up the challenges of breaking the jinx of prevailing caste-system while some fought for the introduction of girls'-education and widow remarriage. The contributions, made by these, simple yet eminent souls towards humanity are really extraordinary. Their activities and thoughts guided the nation to a new beginning.

Body:**Savitribai Phule:**

- Born into a family of farmers in 1831, in Maharashtra, Savitribai was married at the age of 9 to Jyotirao Phule, who was 12.
- In spite of all this, she later went on to become the first woman teacher in India of the first women's school in India, which she opened along with her husband.
- She is considered to be a pioneer in modern Marathi poetry.
- Savitribai also set up a care centre for widows and encouraged them to remarry. She even fought for the rights of untouchables.
- In 1852, she started the Mahila Seva Mandal to help create awareness among women of their social status and rights. She is truly an example for women today.



Mother Teresa

- Mother Teresa was a true follower of humanity. Many people considered Mother as the “reincarnated form of Lord Jesus”.
- Lower caste and untouchable person who were not touched or treated by doctors or vaidya and died due to lack of medicine and care by their love ones.
- After seeing the situation of city’s poor people she decided to open a school and also established a home for the persons those are rejected by their families due to untouchable’s diseases.
- In 1950 she opened ‘The Missionaries of Charity’ only with 12 members.
- Mother Teresa devoted her entire life in serving the needy and abandoned people of the society.
- Although her mission started in India, she succeeded in bringing the people of all societies under one roof, i.e. humanity.

Note: You can quote your own examples. Some of the modern day examples include Medha Patkar, Aruna Roy, Kiran Bedi, Irom Sharmila, Pramila Nesargi, Laxmi Agarwal, Jyoti Dhawale etc.

Conclusion:

- India is fortunate to have, in its long history, many extraordinary human beings who devoted all their lives for the betterment of the society and for the upliftment of the downtrodden. Women have played an equally significant role in bringing social changes and fighting social evils.

Q) Gandhi always advocated the purity of means- with respect to that, do you think it is unethical for a military officer to mislead the enemy ? Yes/No/Why ? (250 words)

[Indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the concept of Purity of means propounded by Mahatma Gandhi.

Key demand of the question:

Discussion should be based on the case of a military officer deciding to disguise the enemy, you must give a fair and balanced opinion.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines explain the concept of purity of means.

Body:

One must cover the following aspects in the answer –

Elucidate upon the idea of “Purity of means” as propounded by Mahatma Gandhi; that ‘means are as important as end’. The purity of means is to achieve an end result which tells us about our values and attitude. For instance Gandhiji adhered to the path of non-violence for achieving independence for India. But Gandhiji himself justified violence in Quit India movement when he saw no other alternative has been left. Thus ethics is contextual and situational.

Discuss how for a military officer, his highest moral duty would be to safeguard the national interest and ensure the survival of the state. As failing in the war would mean subordination of the country which would take away the people’s fundamental rights and push them towards impoverishment, therefore for a military officer winning a battle is more necessary even if he has to mislead the enemy.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what should be the way forward.

Introduction:

- Gandhi seems to stand almost alone among social and political thinkers in his firm rejection of the rigid dichotomy between ends and means and in his extreme moral preoccupation with the means to the extent that they rather than the ends provide the standard of reference. He was led to this position by his early acceptance of satya and ahimsa, truth and nonviolence, as twin moral absolutes and his consistent view of their relationship. But Gandhiji himself justified violence in Quit India movement when he saw no other alternative has been left. Thus, ethics is contextual and situational.

“The means may be likened to a seed, the end to a tree; and there is just the same inviolable connection between the means and the end as there is between the seed and the tree.”

**Body:**

- For a military officer, his highest **moral duty would be to safeguard the national interest and ensure the survival of the state**. As failing in the war would mean subordination of the country which would take away the people's fundamental rights and push them towards impoverishment, therefore for a military officer winning a battle is more necessary even if he has to mislead the enemy.
- The recent airstrikes on Balakot terror camps which are located in the PoK region was bombed. Although it is against the international relation ethics to attack regions in the areas of other country, India had to take the **pre-emptive strikes to safeguard herself from the repeating terror attacks**.
- So, when national interest is at stake in situations as above, end becomes more important. But in military aggression and adventurism like by Russian in Crimea or Israel in Palestine end and long term interest of the nation must be seen.

Conclusion:

- According to Gandhiji, If we are sure of the "purity" of the means we employ, we shall be led on by faith, before which "all fear and trembling melt away". Unconcern with results does not mean that we need not have a clear conception of the end in view.

Topic– Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.

Q) Social influence and persuasion are fundamental functions of communication, in relevance to public services, discuss the significance of these values to a public servant's life. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the significance of the values of Social influence and persuasion as fundamental functions of communication.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the importance of values of Social influence and persuasion in communication aspects of public servants while rendering their service to the people.

Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines appreciate the need for such values in a public servant.

Body:

- Define first – what do you understand by social influence and persuasion ?
- Social influence – A change in person's behaviour, thoughts, feelings and attitudes that results from interaction with another individual in society.
- Persuasion – ability to make someone do something through the use of words to manipulate their thoughts, behavior, and actions.
- What is the difference between social influence and persuasion?
- Discuss How can a civil servant/public servant be more persuasive?
- Use examples wherever possible to justify their importance.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of the above virtues to public servants in their service.

Introduction:

- Social influence occurs when a person's emotions, opinions, or behaviours are affected by others. Social influence takes many forms and can be seen in **conformity, socialization, peer pressure, obedience, leadership, persuasion, sales, and marketing**.
- Persuasion is symbolic process in which communicators try to convince other people through transmission of a message to change their attitudes or behaviours.

**Body:**

- Social influence is the change in behavior that one person causes in another, intentionally or unintentionally. Persuasion is symbolic process in which communicators try to convince other people through transmission of a message to change their attitudes or behaviours. Thus, Persuasion is one form of social influence on attitude; in fact it represents the intersection of social thinking and social influence of everyday life.
- Persuasion can occur through appeals to reason or appeals to emotion. For example, school-based substance abuse prevention programs using the social influences model consistently produce better results than programs emphasizing only health information.

They are used to appeal to a person's attitude, behavior and cognition. Advertisements are the robust examples of persuasion. The government has also utilized this tool for the success of the initiatives like

- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan- cleanliness drives
- Ujjwala Yojana's Give it up campaign.
- Disclosing excess income campaign
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao by making parents understand it is necessary to protect and educate a girl child

Reputation and peer pressure contribute to the desired behavioural change required for effective implementation of public policy. For example, District Collector sending his/her child to the government school can have indirect effect on the functioning of the school and also the attitude of the parents.

Principles on which focus is needed to increase the social influence and persuasion:

Robert Cialdini has earmarked the following cues of influence.

- **Reciprocity**
 - Reciprocation is considered as a strong tool of persuasion which leads to a sense of obligation. The rule of reciprocity is highly effective and overpowering.
- **Commitment and Consistency**
 - Both the values are considered highly important as they are a valuable short-cut through the complicated nature of modern existence. If a person makes any commitment, he or she will likely take up all steps to honour that.
 - Likewise, consistency is highly valued in society as it allows a person to make effective decisions and process information accordingly.
- **Social proof**
 - The behaviour of people surrounding us has a great effect on our thoughts and actions. The 'power of crowd' is considered very important. This becomes utmost effective when there are uncertainties or similarities in a situation.
- **Liking**
 - This is simple as people usually agree to people whom they like. There are two primary factors which contribute to overall liking. They are: physical attractiveness and similarities of attitudes.
 - This is followed in many advertisements where public figures who are liked and respected by the people are roped in to influence people about the programmes.
- **Authority**
 - People always listen to those who are either knowledge or trustworthy. The words of an expert are always taken seriously by everyone concerned as compared to a beginner.
- **Scarcity**
 - Scarcity is often underestimated by people as a method of persuasion. Anything which is of limited availability is given more importance by people. People want more of you when they cannot have.

Conclusion:

- Thus, Persuasion is one form of social influence on attitude; in fact it represents the intersection of social thinking and social influence of everyday life. Understanding these shortcuts and employing them in an ethical manner can significantly increase the chances that someone will be social influenced and persuaded by the public policy.



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Q) Define the terms – Sympathy, Empathy and compassion. How are they different from each other ? Justify with suitable examples. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is based upon the conceptual aspects of paper IV.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must define the terms sympathy, empathy and compassion and must elaborate on the key differences between them using suitable examples/case studies.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines define the terms – sympathy, empathy and compassion.

Body:

- Sympathy is a feeling and expression of concern for someone, often accompanied by a wish for them to be happier or better off. In general, sympathy implies a deeper, more personal, level of concern than pity, a simple expression of sorrow.
- Empathy It involves, first, seeing someone else's situation from his/ her perspective, and, second, sharing that person's emotions, including, if any, his distress. Empathy, is the act of putting yourself in someone else's shoes. It occurs when you are truly trying to understand or experience someone else's emotions, as if they were your own.
- Compassion is a deeper level of empathy, demonstrating an actual desire to help the suffering person. It is a unique feeling of sympathy for the suffering of others that involves emotions and empathy towards others, a sense of understanding, and the drive to protect.
- Then move on to differentiate them – in terms of defining characteristics, how the three differ in terms of a response to suffering etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with their relevance to civil servants as key values necessary for successful administration which is ethical and fair.

Introduction:

- Sympathy, empathy and Compassion are separate terms with some very important distinctions. Empathy means that you feel what a person is feeling. Sympathy means you can understand what the person is feeling. Compassion is the willingness to relieve the suffering of another.

Body:

Sympathy:

- Sympathy refers to acknowledging another person's emotional hardships and providing comfort and assurance. Sympathy is when you are able to understand what the person is feeling.
- For example, if someone's father has passed away, you may not be able to viscerally feel that person's pain. However, you can employ your cognitive skills to understand that your friend is sad.
- It makes sense, then, to send sympathy cards when you understand that someone is suffering. You are not feeling that person's pain, but you want them to know you are aware of their suffering.

Empathy:

- Empathy refers to understanding what others are feeling. This may be because we ourselves have felt so or we can put ourselves in their shoes. It is viscerally feeling what another feels. Empathy may arise automatically when you witness someone in pain.
- For example, if you saw me slam a car door on my fingers, you may feel pain in your fingers as well. That feeling means your mirror neurons have kicked in.
- Empathy isn't just for unpleasant feelings. You can feel empathy when you see someone happy, too.

Compassion:

- Compassion takes empathy and sympathy a step further. When you are compassionate, you feel the pain of another (i.e., empathy) or you recognize that the person is in pain (i.e., sympathy), and then you do your best to alleviate the person's suffering from that situation. Thus, the emphasis here is on action and wanting to help.
- When you're compassionate, you're not running away from suffering, you're not feeling overwhelmed by suffering, and you're not pretending the suffering doesn't exist. When you are practicing compassion, you can stay present with suffering.



- For example, has anyone ever truly listened to you as you share a problem? This person listened without trying to fix your problem, and this person wasn't relating it back to his/her own life or emotions. He/she listened without judgment.
- An important distinction between feeling empathy and compassion is how they can affect your overall well-being. If you are frequently feeling the pain of another, you may experience overwhelm or burnout. This is a common problem for caregivers and health care providers, and it's been labelled "empathy fatigue."

Conclusion:

- A public servant must possess all the three qualities depending on situation. Public servants are meant to serve and this requires developing a humanistic outlook and to go out-of-the way. These qualities ensure that the public servants act sensitively and interpret the rules so as to advance public interest. This is all the more important in a country like India where most the citizens are not aware of their rights and obligations owing to their socio-economic conditions rather than out of ignorance. In their absence, the administration will become mechanistic, rigid and ineffective.



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TOPIC : Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships.

Q) Explain the essence of ethics in private and public relationships. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the kernel of ethics in private and public relationships.

Key demand of the question:

The answer is direct and straightforward, one must discuss the significance of ethics in private and public relationships.

Directive word:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines appreciate the concept of ethics.

Body:

- First differentiate what you understand by private relationship, public relationship, how the two are different from each other. – Ethics in private relationship are generally directed by individual virtues, universal human values, religion, social norms and law of land. Therefore they comprise limited influencing factor.
- On the other hand Public relationship are more instrumental such as organizational colleagues, politicians, strangers, and other outside of one's relatively narrow circle of intimacy. Public Relation is a management function that engages monitoring and evaluating public attitudes and maintaining mutual relations and understanding between an organization and its public. Public could include shareholders, government, consumers, employees and the media. It is the action of getting along with people we constantly come in touch with.
- Discuss how the two differ from each other and thus the ethical aspects applied to them also vary accordingly.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of ethics in private and public relationship.

Introduction:

- Humans have diverse role in society. The role playing defines their role in society. With each social role, one adopts one's behaviour changes befitting the expectation of one's own self and of others. Ethics is related to the concepts like right or wrong, or good or bad human behaviour in different social and organizational settings.

Body:

Essence of ethics in private and public relationships

- Each private and personal relationship has its own irreplaceable value. Each of it has its own unique history, character, and set of implicit and explicit understandings about what is to be expected of the parties to it.
- The governing factors for ethics in private relationships include individual virtues, universal human values, religion, social norms and law.
- The private relations are obviously more intimate than public relations. They are generally inherited, relatively permanent; accommodate more tolerance for imperfections, and are full with expectations of love and affection.
- In contrast, public relations may or may not be inherited, are often temporary; with people who are different from us or even strangers, are likely to be instrumental, engaged in due to mutual benefits (quid pro quid), full with expectation of respect, and accountability and are guarded.
- Many a times, they comprise complex situations, contradictory values and conflict of role and interest. Seven principles of public life are selfless, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- At times, Public servants play conflicting role due to conflict in private life and public life.
- The private relationships demand individual's responsibilities towards the role played in private life such as father, mother, husband, etc. These are self-imposed and voluntary and are backed by sanctions of one's obligations towards self, family and society since ancient times.



- For example, in India, the Dharmashastras provide moral codes to regulate the private relations. However, in public relationships, the public servant needs to cope with several roles altogether. This includes – role in private life, role in personal and family sphere, role as a professional, role for job, role towards his / her area of jurisdiction, role towards seniors and society / humanity at large.
- The public service role invokes legal and constitutional obligations, which when violated invite legal sanctions and penalties.

Conclusion:

- Thus, a public servant needs to cope with these different roles which many a times conflict with each other. The question is – how to survive while playing such conflicting roles. The key to this is “personal integrity”. Personal integrity is simply taking a sincere and ethical stand.

Q) Show clearly how the understanding of the one's own self assists in ethical conduct in a profession. Choose any profession for yourself, and illustrate your answer using this choice. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the essence of self-evaluation in assisting ethical conduct in a profession.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the importance of self-evaluation in supporting ethical conduct in a profession. One must provide for examples to illustrate the same.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines appreciate the need for ethical conduct in one's profession

Body:

- Such questions are best explained with examples, use a case study /example from your experiences and suggest how self-evaluation is critical to one's ethical conduct in one's professional life. Ethics is defined by morals, values, character and integrity. A moral is a personal standard of right and wrong. Values are important beliefs that guide and an individual behavior. Self-evaluation helps to understand what it means to demonstrate positive ethical behavior in the workplace. Employee conduct is an integral aspect of workplace values and ethics. Respectful behaviour honors the dignity and contribution of each employee. It promotes positive behaviors in communication and interpersonal relations, as well as with external partners, clients and stakeholders, Respect earns trust.
- Use examples to justify the above points.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

- Professional ethics encompass the personal, and corporate standards of behavior expected by professionals. Good ethical conduct in the workplace indicates that employees take pride in their company's ethical standards and have respect for other employees, customers, suppliers and partners. Typically, a model for professional conduct consists of a set of rules that prescribe a baseline of legal ethics and professional responsibilities.

Body:

For example, consider the profession of management. A manager who is **Self-Aware makes him more effective by:**

- **Leadership:** When we understand “what make us tick”—what gets us excited, why we behave the way we do, etc.—we also have insight into what makes others tick. To the extent that other people are like you, knowing how to motivate yourself is tantamount to knowing how to motivate others.
- **Knowing your strengths and weaknesses:** Self-awareness helps you exploit your strengths and cope with your weaknesses.
- **Developing intuitive decision-making skills:** Leaders with well-developed emotional self-awareness are more effective intuitive decision makers. People who are highly emotionally self-aware are better able to read their “gut feelings” and use them to guide decisions.
- **Stress:** Helps manage stress and better work-life balance.



- **Motivation:** Self-awareness is empowering because it can reveal where the performance problems are and indicate what can be done to improve performance.
- **Empathising:** To understand his co-workers better and get the best out of everyone.
- **Skill development:** Having an accurate sense of who you are helps you decide what you should do to improve. Often, self-awareness will reveal a skills gap that you want to work on.

Conclusion:

- Self-awareness can improve our judgment and help us identify opportunities for professional development and personal growth. Self-awareness allows you to motivate yourself and manage your stress better, helps you with your intuitive decision making, and helps you to lead and motivate others more effectively.

Q) Define trust and explain the expected outcome of having trust in a relationship. Use an example of a situation that an individual may encounter in a professional domain to illustrate issues arising out of trust deficit. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications.

Why this question:

The question is about analyzing the quality of Trust in an individual, what can happen if there is a mistrust or trust deficit in a relationship – be it individual, societal or professional. One has to analyse and suggest solutions to such a situation using an example/illustration.

Key demand of the question:

Analyse in detail the quality of 'Trust', its significance in one's life. Discuss the impact of trust deficit

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines explain the significance of Trust.

Body:

In brief cover the following aspects –

- Discuss What does trust in the workplace mean to you? Trust at individual level and its impact on concerned relations.
- Benefits of virtue of Trust –
- Individuals who trust each other don't expend as much of their time and energy watching their backs. They often redirect that energy towards productivity and innovation.
- When individuals are given the trust to execute, they are more likely to become engaged with the relationship and align more with its mission.
- What is trust deficit ? how to overcome it?
- How to earn trust? Do what you say you will do and don't overcommit. Be honest – When others know your feedback focuses on attaining the same goal, they'll trust you to not to spin etc.
- Use an example – say one involving trust between two teammates working in an office – workplace and illustrate the trust – trust deficit scenario.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

- Ethics and trust are inextricably linked. Trust refers to reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person. Trust relationships exist at many levels: between two people, among members of a team, between teams, within an organization, between workers and management and even within an entire system, like the financial system or the air traffic control system.

Body:

- Consider a scenario of public servant and why he needs to be trustworthy. Trust in government has been identified as one of the most important foundations upon which the legitimacy and sustainability of political systems are built.

Importance and Outcome of Public Trust:

- A decline in trust can lead to lower rates of compliance with rules and regulations.
- Citizens and businesses can also become more risk-averse, delaying investment, innovation and employment decisions that are essential to regain competitiveness and jumpstart growth.
- Nurturing trust represents an investment in economic recovery and social well-being for the future.



- Trust is both an input to public sector reforms – necessary for the implementation of reforms – and, at the same time, an outcome of reforms, as they influence people's and organisations' attitudes and decisions relevant for economic and social well-being.
- As a result, trust in government by citizens and businesses are essential for the effective and efficient policy making both in good times and bad.
- Investing in trust should be considered as a new and central approach to restoring economic growth and reinforcing social cohesion, as well as a sign that governments are learning the lessons of the crisis

For example, a fund for rehabilitation of destitute old-aged people is setup. In such a situation, if a person of dubious character is put in charge of that fund, then it may cause great tragedy for the concerned people, furthering their pain. Here a trustworthy person is needed to be made in charge of it.

Conclusion:

- Trust is essential for social cohesion and well-being as it affects governments' ability to govern and enables them to act without having to resort to coercion. Consequently, it is an efficient means of lowering transaction costs in any social, economic and political relationship.

Q) The relationships between ethics and trust is mutually reinforcing. Comment. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the interrelationship shared by the qualities of – ethics and trust and in what way they are mutually reinforcing.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss simply how ethics and trust are related.

Directive word:

Comment– here we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines appreciate what you understand by ethics and trust. define the terms.

Body:

- Explain – What is the Relationship Between Ethics and Trust?
- Proactive ethics is part of what it takes to build trust.
- Building trust is part of what is required to maintain good ethics.
- Ethical behavior and choices help build trust.
- High trust environments encourage better ethics.
- When trust is lost, people are less likely to uphold the organization's ethics.
- When ethics is absent, trust is elusive.
- Discuss how If we lead in ways that are trustworthy, we are fulfilling an important part of our responsibility as ethical leaders. When it comes to leading ethically, trust is not a nice-to-have, it's a "must have." If we lead ethically, that lets people know they can count on us, and being able to count on us builds trust with individuals and within the group.
- Suggest Ethics and trust are inseparable. They travel together.
- What needs to be done to keep the two to work in tandem.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Keeping ethics and trust in good shape and relations requires constant attention and daily practice.

Introduction:

- Ethics and trust are inextricably linked. Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do. Trust refers to reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person.

Body:

- Trust relationships exist at many levels: between two people, among members of a team, between teams, within an organization, between workers and management and even within an entire system, like the financial system or the air traffic control system.



Relationship between Ethics and Trust:

- Proactive ethics is part of what it takes to build trust.
- Building trust is part of what is required to maintain good ethics.
- Ethical behavior and choices help build trust.
- High trust environments encourage better ethics.
- When trust is lost, people are less likely to uphold the organization's ethics.
- When ethics is absent, trust is elusive.

Ethics and trust are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing. Improving one improves the other. Damaging one damages the other. If we lead in ways that are trustworthy, we are fulfilling an important part of our responsibility as ethical leaders. When it comes to leading ethically, trust is not a nice-to-have, it's a "must have." If we lead ethically, that lets people know they can count on us, and being able to count on us builds trust with individuals and within the group.

Trust and ethics travel together, as if tethered with a bungee cord. One will not travel far without pulling the other with it. For example, if I intentionally improve my ethics, that will also begin to improve trust. If I work on improving trust, that will also increase the chances that my team is watching out for ethics and would alert me if something happened that would put us at risk.

Ethics and trust act in tandem. Think of them as the respiratory system and heart of the organization. If one fails, the other follows. Keeping them in good shape requires constant attention and daily practice. The good news is that just as the human respiratory system and the heart are improved through exercise, organizational ethics and trust can be strengthened through intentional daily practice.

Conclusion:

- Trust is essential for social cohesion and well-being as it affects governments' ability to govern and enables them to act without having to resort to coercion. Consequently, it is an efficient means of lowering transaction costs in any social, economic and political relationship.

Q) "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." – Martin Luther King, Jr. Discuss the statement in the light of the virtue of raising voice against the wrongs. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the quotation made by Martin Luther King.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the importance of raising voice against the wrong in a society.

Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines appreciate the value of the quote.

Body:

Explain that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to raise voice against it, against injustice. "A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true."

One must appreciate the moral of raising voice against any injustice, any wrong as that is the rightful thing to do.

Students must explain such answers using examples to justify the answer better.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of raising voice against the wrong.

Introduction:

- The above quote reminds a person that he/she should be brave and stand out against injustice. Dr. King reminded us not to sit on the sidelines of life and watch injustice; rather we need to speak out and consciously



push back against it. Any evil or injustice left unopposed will invariably prevail over justice, with unfortunate consequences for the whole of society.

Body:

- We complain about injustice and prejudice; we watch as the rights of others are trampled or erased but we choose to remain silent. Those who recognize that a wrong is being committed and who fail to act may not be culpable with the triumph of evil, but neither are they innocent of the bad that results.
For example: Take the case of corruption in India. It is evident that malpractices, cheating, bribery and other such vices are prevalent. But most people choose to remain silent as they think it is not their problem.
- Sometimes we refrain from speaking out because we assume that “speaking out” means protesting with signs or acts of civil disobedience.
- Dr. King’s words are applicable today in our current political environment – where civility has been replaced by anger and hate. Instances of mob-violence, lynching, and communalism are on a high. It is applicable today where a climate exists which tolerates evil by its deafening silence. Instances of racism, eve-teasing, body-shaming fit the bill here.
- All of the great, remembered people of the world never truly die; they’re still here in memory. And they are remembered for one main reason: **they spoke about topics that mattered.**
- “The things that matter” are often not tangible. Equality matters. Freedom matters. Happiness and peace matter. And when we don’t have those things, we need to fight for them and break the silence. If we don’t have those things, we need to fight for them and break the silence. If we don’t, and we give in, our life truly starts to end. Our world is a complicated place that will always have problems. It will never be perfect, but if we want something close to that, we need to take action to make change.
- In order to change the tone of the rhetoric of hate, we must speak up. We must stand up against injustice and for those who are being treated unjustly. Dr. King urged all of us to feel passionate about freedom and justice – **when we feel strongly, we must speak up; not remain silent.**
- In life, there are two paths: **the easy path and the hard one.** If you take the easy way out, you make sure you are fine and do what you need to do. Martin Luther King took the hard route: helping others more than himself, and doing more than what was required. He was a true leader; he was changing the world and solving its problems.

Conclusion:

- **The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.** The above quote should sculpt the everyday actions of people from leaders, politicians and ambassadors to the common people of the world.

Q) Define trust and explain the natural outcome of having trust in a relationship. Use an example of a situation that a student may encounter in a professional institution to illustrate your point. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is about discussing the virtue of trust and its significance.

Key demand of the question:

Discussion should be about vital role that trust as a virtue has in a any relationship.

Directive word:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines explain what you understand by Trust.

Body:

Such questions are best explained with examples, use case study as demanded by the question and elaborate. Discuss the importance of Trust as a value centric to building key relations.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what should be the way forward.

**Introduction:**

- Ethics and trust are inextricably linked. Trust refers to reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person. Trust relationships exist at many levels: between two people, among members of a team, between teams, within an organization, between workers and management and even within an entire system, like the financial system or the air traffic control system.

Body:**Outcome of trust in a relationship:**

- In any relationship, people have to be able to trust each other.
- This means being honest with the other person in the relationship.
- Having trust in a relationship also means proving to each other that you are reliable, responsible, and dependable.
- Trust is an important component of any healthy relationship. If your relationship lacks trust, it's hard to get close to the other person and to rely on him or her for support.
- In a trusting relationship, you should be able to share information with your partner without worrying that he or she will share it with others or gossip about it.
- Trust eventually leads to the third building block:

You can give your own example here.

Conclusion:

- Trust is essential for social cohesion and well-being as it affects governments' ability to govern and enables them to act without having to resort to coercion. Consequently, it is an efficient means of lowering transaction costs in any social, economic and political relationship

Topic: Leadership and ethics.

Q) Elucidate on the role of Leadership in political, economic and social sphere of nation development. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Why this question:

The question is on the topic of role of leadership.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the role Leadership in political, economic and social sphere of nation development.

Directive word:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines explain what you understand by leadership.

Body:

- Explain that strong leadership is necessary for a nation's development in all spheres of life. A strong leadership ensures greater authority, inspiration and management of resources.
- A strong leader identifies right the ends (objectives) and means (strategies) for a nation's development.
- Discuss how leadership plays a key role in harnessing the energies of the individuals of a nation and guiding the bureaucratic set up to achieve the developmental goals of a country.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the significance of leadership in all spheres of life.

Introduction:

- Leadership can be defined as the ability of the management to make sound decisions and inspire others to perform well. It is the process of directing the behavior of others towards achieving a common goal. In short, leadership is getting things done through others.

**Body:****Importance of leadership:**

- Leadership is the process of influencing the activities of an individual or a group towards the achievement of a goal.
- An effective leader motivates the subordinates for higher level of performance.
- Leadership promotes team – spirit and team – work which is quite essential for the success of any organization.
- Leadership is an aid to authority. A leadership helps in the effective use of formal authority.
- Leadership creates confidence in the subordinates by giving them proper guidance and advice.

You can quote your own examples for role of Leadership in political, economic and social sphere of nation development.

Conclusion:

- Public servants hold responsibility of policy formulation in the interest of country and its people as well as policy implementation. Good leadership qualities in public servants are important for better policy formulation and implementation in favour of country and its people.
- Public servant as a good leader can transform its organisation, manpower as well as citizen from potential to reality. The leader has to be practical and a realist yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist.

TOPIC : Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

Q) What do you understand by corporate governance ? How can ethics make corporate governance more meaningful ? Explain. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon

Livemint

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the role of corporate governance in successful and ethical management of companies and corporations.

Key demand of the question:

The answer is straightforward – one has to discuss the concept of corporate governance, its role, significance etc.

Directive word:

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines define what is corporate governance.

Body:

- Explain – Corporate governance is meant to run companies ethically in a manner such that all stakeholders—creditors, distributors, customers, employees, and even competitors, the society at large and governments—are dealt with in a fair manner.
- Discuss the aspects of Good corporate governance – that it should look at all stakeholders and not just shareholders alone.
- Discuss the need for understanding ethical behavior in the context of corporate governance.
- Justify the above points using a suitable case study to highlight the need for ethics in corporate governance to make the governance more and more meaningful.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of ethics and its significance to the corporate governance.

Introduction:

- Corporate governance is the **system of rules, practices and processes by which a firm is directed and controlled**. It essentially involves **balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders**, such as **shareholders, management, customers, suppliers, financiers, government and the community**.

**Body:**

- In the light of Tata, Infosys, ICICI & PNB bank corporate governance episodes lately, the debate around transparency, role of Independent Directors, promoters etc among others got wide attention to further enhance corporate governance in India

Ethics can make corporate governance more meaningful:

- Transparency in Board's processes and independence in the functioning of Boards. The Board should provide effective leadership to the company and management to realize sustained prosperity for all stakeholders. It should provide independent judgment for achieving company's objectives.
- Accountability to stakeholders with a view to serve the stakeholders and account to them at regular intervals for actions taken, through strong and sustained communication processes.
- Impartiality to all stakeholders.
- Social, regulatory and environmental concerns.
- Clear and explicit legislation and regulations are fundamentals to effective corporate governance.
- Good management environment that includes setting up of clear objectives and suitable ethical framework, establishing due processes, clear enunciation of responsibility and accountability, sound business planning, establishing clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour, establishing performance evaluation measures.
- Explicitly approved norms of ethical practices and code of conduct are communicated to all the stakeholders, which should be clearly understood and followed by each member of the organization.
- The objectives of the corporation must be clearly recognized in a long-term corporate strategy including an annual business plan along with achievable and measurable performance targets and milestones.
- A well composed Audit Committee to work as liaison with the management, internal and statutory auditors, reviewing the adequacy of internal control and compliance with significant policies and procedures, reporting to the Board on the key issues.
- Risk is an important component of corporate functioning and governance, which should be clearly acknowledged, analysed for taking appropriate corrective measures. In order to deal with such situation, Board should formulate a mechanism for periodic reviews of internal and external risks.
- A clear Whistle Blower Policy whereby the employees may without fear report to the management about unprincipled behaviour, actual or suspected frauds or violation of company's code of conduct. There should be some mechanism for adequate safeguard to personnel against victimization that serves as whistle-blowers.

Conclusion:

- Currently, India accounts **nearly 3% of world GDP and 2.5% of global stock market capitalisation – with 5,000 listed companies and more than 50 companies in the global Fortune list.**
- Uday Kotak committee recommendations hold importance in growing concerns for corporate governance.
- The recommendations of the Kotak committee will enhance transparency and effectiveness in the way boards of listed companies function.

Q) What do you understand by conscience? Do you think Conscience is driven by objective morality? Give your opinion with suitable justifications. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is based on the concept of conscience and its significance, one must analyse whether it is driven by objective morality or not.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must debate about relationship of morality and conscience and how conscience is not driven by objective morality, as morality is subjective when it comes to evaluating conscience.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines explain what you understand by conscience.

Body:

- Conscience is the part of your mind that tells you whether what you are doing is morally right or wrong. In short, conscience is a term which we use to denote the inner mind.
- Bring out the different approaches of philosophers on the concept of conscience. Explain that Conscience is a faculty of the mind that motivates us to act morally—or at least according to our most deeply held values.



- Thus conscience is not an objective morality, since it is obvious that two people's consciences or religions can dictate opposing moralities—such as pro-choice and pro-life in the abortion debate
- Conscience is a necessary trait of character for public functionaries for ensuring ethical action in the spheres where there are no legal obligations upon them to act in a particular way.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance.

Introduction:

- Conscience is the inner voice of a person which guides the right and wrong. Conscience aims to make moral decisions in '**overwhelming forces of inescapable situations**' despite the risk of adverse consequences.
- If conscience goes, then everything collapses, conscience is central to our identity and it is a component in the moral decision-making process. The concept of Enlightenment, Nirvana etc. are associated with the highest stage of development of human Conscience. Gandhiji's civil disobedience movement was true to his conscience although it broke the law.

Body:

Views of thinkers:

- In the **Kantian view**, conscience is conceived of as an **inner court**. It is moral self-awareness that allows to apply the moral law suggested by practical reason to our moral conduct, and to judge whether we have complied with the moral law.
- While for some other thinkers, the concept of conscience **does not bear any connection with any particular substantial moral view**. The voice of conscience might suggest different principles and different behaviours to different people. In other words, there is no psychological or conceptual relation between conscience and any particular moral belief.

Is conscience driven by objective morality:

- The independence of the idea of conscience from any substantial moral content can be understood in three senses.
- First, conscience is a **pluralistic notion**. To say that a person acted with conscience or that something violates someone's conscience does not entail anything about what this act consists of or what this person's moral or ethical values are. Although it might tell us that conscience is itself a value this person holds dear.
- To use a metaphor, conscience is like an empty box that can be filled with any type of moral content.
- For example, while some health practitioners raise "conscientious" objection to abortion and refuse to provide the service, someone's conscience might demand the exact opposite, i.e., to perform abortions in order to respect what is conscientiously believed to be a woman's right.
- Second, conscience is **typically a morally or ethically neutral concept**. Appealing to conscience does not usually add anything to the moral justification of any particular conduct or principle.
- For example, the morality of abortion has nothing to do with abortion being conscientiously opposed by some health practitioners or conscientiously supported by others.
- Finally, conscience **only concerns the subjective dimension of ethics**. There are ethical values that can be considered objective, conscience only refers to what individuals believe, independently of any external, objective proof or justification. And when people state what they subjectively and conscientiously believe, they acknowledge that other people might, and probably will, subjectively and conscientiously hold different moral views.

Conclusion:

- These three aspects related to the independence of conscience from particular substantial ethical views explain why appeals to conscience to justify one's decisions are usually made with the expectation that no further reason for the decision in question be required.

Q) "I would always support my country, whether it was right or wrong". Do you support this statement and give reasons for your stand ? (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is to address the ethical dilemma an individual faces with respect to the personal duty vs duty towards country.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must analyse the statement based on merits and provide for a balanced opinion.



Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines suggest importance of duty towards country at the cost of individual interests and cases otherwise.

Body:

The question is to address the ethical dilemma an individual face with respect to the personal duty vs duty towards country and the point of being right or wrong with respect to the same.

One has to establish such ethical dilemmas, conflicts witnessed with suitable examples. Based on example form a fair and balanced opinion and conclude with an approach that addresses both the parts of the statement.

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such contributors to the society.

Introduction:

- The phrase, “My country right or wrong” has become one of the greatest quotes in history. It has the ability to fill your heart with patriotic fervour. However, some linguistic experts believe that this phrase could be a bit too potent for an immature patriot. It could foster an imbalanced view of one’s own nation. Misplaced patriotic fervour could sow the seed for self-righteous rebellion or war.

Body:

- In the world we live today, with growing intolerance and terror breeding in every dark alley, one has to tread carefully before using jingoistic phrases purely for rhetoric. While patriotism is a desirable quality in every respectable citizen, we must not forget that the first duty of every global citizen is to set right what is wrong in our country.
- Blind patriotism is not patriotism. Jingoism can only bring about the downfall of the nation, just like false pride brings us to a fall. The wrongs by the country should be condemned. Patriotism is also loving your country so much that you have the courage to stand up and say your country is wrong and that it needs to change.
- Real patriotism means that you’re willing to pursue that idea even if it means speaking out in a way that ‘traditional patriots’ would consider offensive.
- Blind patriotism also leads to majoritarianism which could affect the rights of minorities.

Conclusion:

- It is my country to support when it’s right, and to work to change it when it’s wrong. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, the moral arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice.

Q) Discuss the significance of ethical accountability in public services also explain what are the challenges in achieving it ? (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon publications

Why this question:

The question is to address the significance of ethical accountability and the challenges in achieving the same in public services.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must brief about what is ‘ethical Accountability’, how does it matter in public services, what are the challenges in achieving the same and how to overcome it .

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines define what you understand by ethical accountability.

Body:

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office. public servants are accountable both to the political executive and to citizens for ensuring responsive, transparent, and honest policy implementation and service delivery. But ensuring accountability for performance is not a simple task



in government services; there are immense complexities involved in making public officials answerable for output and outcomes.

Discuss then the challenges faced in achieving it and suggest what needs to be done?

Conclusion:

Conclude with importance of such virtues in Public services.

Introduction:

- Accountability in ethics is taking ownership for outcomes (successes or failures) while addressing performance issues fairly and promptly. The ability of citizens to demand accountability and more open government is fundamental to good governance.

Body:

Importance of Accountability in Good Governance:

- Accountability ensures **rule of law and respect for institutions**.
- It ensures transparency in operations by having checks and balances and time-bound service delivery.
- It ensures commitment to promises, manifestos and citizen's charters.
- It empowers citizens and aids their development through citizen-centric policies.
- It ensures judicious use of public funds and resources and hence, infuses the efficiency in governance.
- It reduces corruption and builds trust among the governors and the governed.
- Ensures that the grass roots level problems are effectively addressed.
- Improves last mile outreach and helps bring in a change in attitude of bureaucracy.

Challenges to Accountability:

- There is a more nuanced understanding that multiple actors – both state and non-state, national and transnational – are heavily involved in the production of public goods, in all stages – from policy influencing to delivery.
- The influence of corporate interests in the provision of public goods as well as the entry of a large number of unregulated providers poses a big threat to both accountability and inclusion.
- Current political ideologies and religion are increasingly fracturing shared moral norms.
- Monitoring and surveillance of citizens and organizations including on the Internet and the use of nationalistic arguments to censor and silence people is a real problem as accountability work is basically about social actors challenging governments.
- Information is a core part of any accountability efforts. And evidence-based policy-making has gained credibility within a range of development actors.
- Powerful actors employ the “4D strategy – deny, distort, distract and dismay”.

Way Forward:

- To Ensure effective accountability, the following steps can be taken
- Protection of whistleblowers through legislation.
- Social Audits by local communities, NGOs. Example: As done in MGNREGA.
- Use of ICT in service delivery and maintenance of records
- Encouraging Citizens' Participation through RTI in local languages.
- Promoting Competition and discouraging monopolistic attitude among the public service sectors

Conclusion:

- Accountability is intended to make public officials answerable for their behaviour and responsive to the entity from which they derive their authority. Accountability also indicates establishing criteria to measure the performance of public officials, as well as oversight mechanisms to ensure that standards are met.

Q) 'Wherever law ends, tyranny begins.' Elucidate the statement with its relevance to our country. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon Publications

Epw

Why this question:

The question is based on the statement famously given by philosopher John Locke.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail how tyranny and law are interrelated.

**Directive:**

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In a few introductory lines suggest the importance of law.

Body:

Discuss in detail role played by law in a society/country.

Why is law critical to a region?

In what way it controls tyranny? Quote some recent examples here to justify.

Explain what needs to be done to end tyranny and strengthen law.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of law.

Introduction:

- The above statement was made by John Locke. **The equality of all citizens** under the law is a lynch-pin of the modern notion of the rule of law in a democratic state. **Maintenance of public order and the rule of law** is a key sovereign function of the State, as important in its own way as defending the nation from external aggression or maintaining the unity and integrity of the nation State.

Body:

- A revolutionary implication of this idea, well appreciated by Locke in the tumultuous 1680s, is that **even rulers and their magistrates were also under the “sovereignty of the law”**. According to Locke, when any member of the state exceeds his legal authority or in any way violates the law, he ceases “to be a magistrate; and, acting without authority, may be opposed, as any other man, who by force invades the right of another.”

The statement’s relevance to India:

- Rule of law inherently incorporates three concepts – supremacy of law, equality before law and predominance of legal spirit.
- Dicey elucidated: “When we speak of ‘rule of law’ as a characteristic of our country, not only that with us, no man is above the law, but that here every man, whatever be his rank or condition, is subject to the ordinary law of the realm and amenable to the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts.”
- But the question which now arises is whether rule of law actually practiced? Prima facie, one gets a straight and simple answer. Ordinary citizens face the rigour of law just as any public servant charged/convicted of an offence loses his job on the precinct of losing general trust. But does law take similar toll on politicians? Would an action be taken on them through the process of law or just by an adverse public opinion?
- In theory, the Indian criminal justice system does not discriminate in favour of influential persons, yet, in practice, politicians are seldom punished for their criminal offences. Although the police personnel and politicians taken identical oaths i.e. to uphold the rule of law and preserve the sanctity of the constitution, policemen conspicuously witness politicians supporting only their caste and community.
- e.g.: In the Priyadarshini Mattoo case, the status of the accused Santosh Kumar Singh, who was the son of a former Inspector General of Police, resulted in sub-standard investigation. This was responsible for granting benefit of doubt to the accused by the trial court. It was only due to media activism that the prosecution succeeded in getting an early hearing by the High Court and subsequently the judgment of the trial court was over-ruled. Subsequently, death penalty was awarded to Santosh Kumar Singh. The court condemned the brutal rape and murder by implicating it in ‘rarest of the rare’ cases.
- E.g.: Corruption has seeped in at all levels of governance. Be it the Commonwealth Games scam, the Adarsh Housing Society scam, the 2G spectrum allocation scam; the list is increasing day by day.

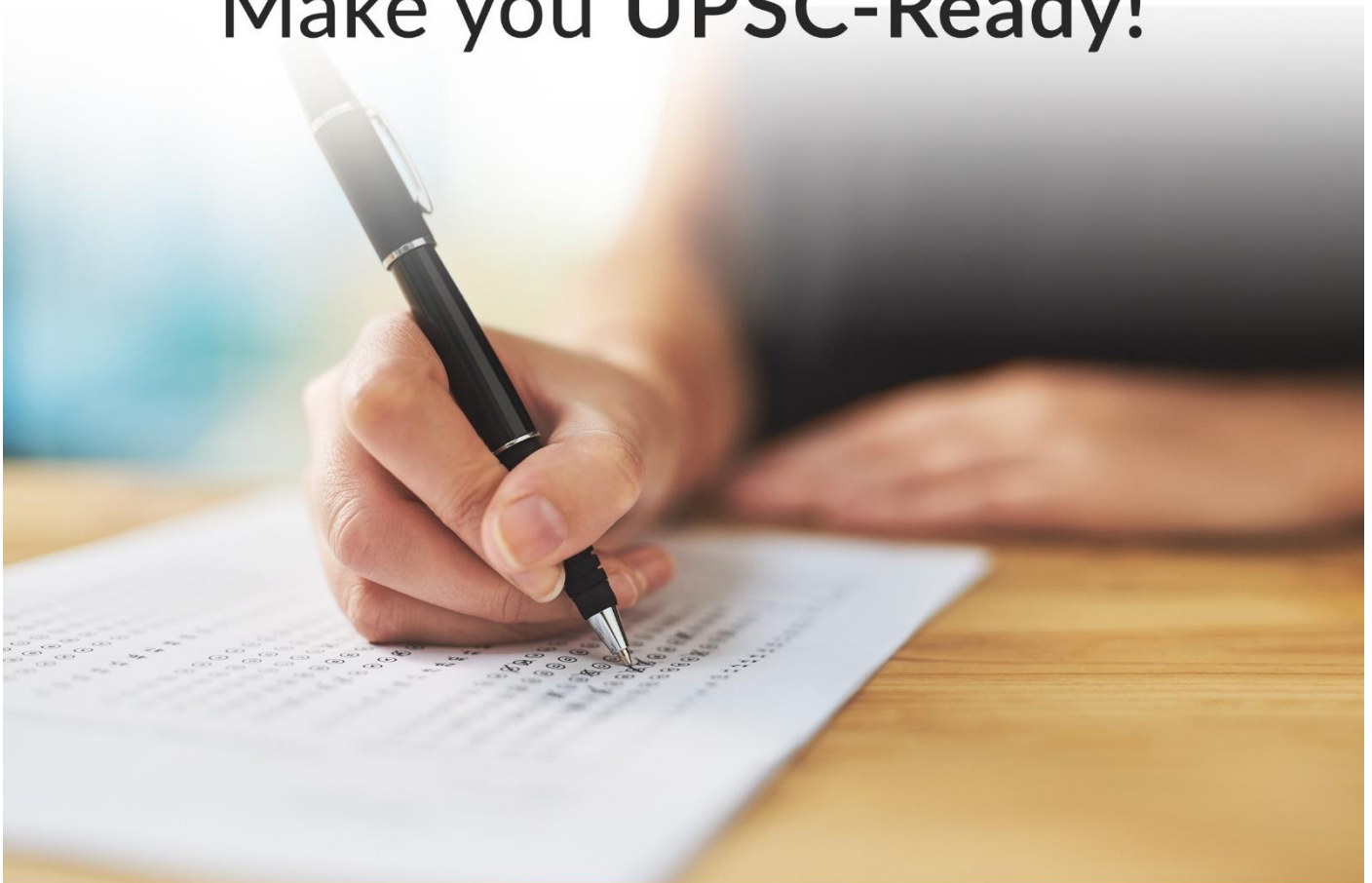
Conclusion:

- The whole criminal justice system needs overhauling so that the constitutional mandate of equality before law is made meaningful and it should not be the case that higher courts are kept occupied by the persons with money or power, as in the case today. Our salvation lies in following and enforcing the principles of natural justice and rule of law.



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Topic– Case study

Q) Military action that defies international law is sometimes justified. Justify the statement with help of examples. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon Publications

Why this question:

The question is to reflect upon the military actions that are taken at times to justify certain situations though they defy the common internationally accepted laws and norms.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should discuss nuances of military actions that are at times taken by countries though they defy international law.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines state the context of question.

Body:

The answer must provide for an explanation as to why an action – Military or any powerful action at times defying the natural course of action that confers to the international norms, rules and regulations is justified.

One can quote examples of recent Indian surgical airstrikes on Pakistan etc.

Students must ensure the opinion stated is fair and balanced one. Such examples are must to justify the answer well.

Conclusion:

Suggest what needs to be done, how best situations can be handled.

Introduction:

- The unanimous political and military actions by few nations defying the international laws are a point of debate. Military intervention is used solely as a last resort when diplomacy fails and military intervention can be justified. Not all acts of military intervention occur between massive nations and nations that cannot defend themselves

Body:

- Two ethical systems could provide guidance regarding the decision to intervene.
- **Just war theory**, popularized by the work of **St. Thomas Aquinas**, provides a template for the conditions that must be met for a state to undertake military action. These **jus ad bellum** (“right to war”) principles include: **right intentions, high probability of success, proportionality, and action of last resort**.
- E.g.: India’s support to the cause of Bangladesh liberation against Pakistani atrocities.
- Another relevant doctrine is the **responsibility to protect (R2P)**, which demands that the international community “never again fails to act in the face of genocide and other gross forms of human rights abuse.” The principle of the Responsibility to Protect is based upon the underlying premise that sovereignty entails a responsibility to protect all populations from mass atrocity crimes and human rights violations.
- e.g.: The grave crimes against humanity committed in Kosovo of killings, tortures, rapes, and mass displacement were perceived as requiring intervention.
- However, military interventions under different pretexts are unethical, for such acts are carried out by powerful nations against the powerless to realize their own agendas in a changing global perspective. E.g.: Russia’s annexation of Crimea.
- The Responsibility to Protect has been the subject of considerable debate, particularly regarding the implementation of the principle by various actors in the context of country-specific situations, such as Libya, Syria, Sudan and Kenya, for example. One of the main concerns surrounding R2P is that it **infringes upon national sovereignty**. The other concerns include that it **Does Not Prioritize the Interests of the People Affected, the Costs of Military Intervention and Pacifism**.
- Further, the doctrine of humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect are not legally binding instruments, they are free to be utilized at the hands of the powerful nations. UN does not have enforcement agencies to punish wrongdoers.

Conclusion:

- The legitimacy for an intervention must be established on a case-by-case basis. The existence of a UN mandate no longer gives automatic legitimacy to the P5 countries to intervene. The humanitarian intervention with a consensus of the affected state is justified as against unanimous action.



Extra information: The Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) is a global political commitment which was endorsed by all member states of the United Nations at the 2005 World Summit in order to address its four key concerns to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity



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Q) On one hand there are people who think the law should let women decide whether to have abortions called pro-choice and on the other hand are People who are pro-life; who believe that all humans, including the unborn, have a right to life. What in your view point is ethical and justified ? Is the belief that abortion is wrong and that it is murder correct ? Critically analyse and give your opinion with suitable justifications. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

Recently in the United States, the Alabama Senate has passed a bill banning abortion. The legislation bans any termination of pregnancy and punishing doctors who perform the procedure with life in prison. The state Senate yesterday approved the law by 25 votes to six, rejecting exemptions for cases of rape or incest.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must debate about the ethical angle involved in the above decision on abortion, the answer must argue the merits and demerits associated with such a judgement.

Directive word:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When ‘critically’ is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines explain the context of the question.

Body:

- Highlight the current scenario – discuss the Alabama human life protection act.
- Salient features of the bill –
- It places a near-total ban on the termination of pregnancy — even in cases of rape and incest.
- Abortions would only be legal if the life of the mother is in danger or the fetus has a fatal condition.
- Performing an abortion is a crime that could land doctors who perform it in prison for 10 to 99 years.
- Unlike the doctors carrying out the procedures, women who undergo abortions would not be prosecuted.
- Then move to discuss what are the ethical issues involved, debate the women rights of reproduction vs freedom to choose to live of the unborn.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion.

Introduction:

- In the United States, the Alabama Senate has passed a bill banning abortion. The legislation bans any termination of pregnancy and punishing doctors who perform the procedure with life in prison. The law even rejects exemptions for cases of rape or incest. The Court’s present conservative majority has some Republicans wanting it to overturn a landmark 1973 ruling that recognised women’s right to abortion.

Body:

- Whereas some communities see abortion as an ethical and moral issue, other communities view it as unethical and immoral.

Pro-Choice arguments:

- Abortion is an act of terminating a pregnancy before the natural delivery of by any available means such as operations.
- Many people and communities accept the fact that abortion is ethical and moral. In other communities, there are efforts to make them legal.
- On of the basis on which they make their argument is that during rape and incest then a person may seek for adoption.
- In such a case, the proponents for the reasons for the abortion practice assert that such a kind need to be aborted and reduce shame and trauma.



- The other reasoning for abortion according to those who are for it, is believe that abortion could possibly be a means of reducing the population
- The proponents of the reasons for abortion also assert that it is ethical and moral as the woman is allowed to decide on the events she would like to happen within her body.
- For instance, if the woman wants to give birth she may do so since she has all the rights as well.
- They also believe that abortion is not murder as it only removes and disintegrate the various body cells incapable of living on the own outside the womb without the aid of other technological devices within the healthcare service provision.
- According to them, it is wrong to bring up a child of unwanted pregnancy and in order to avoid this the persons involve should abort

Pro-Life arguments:

- In supporting the reasons against the act of abortion, it is believed that it is murder denying the unborn child the chance to live.
- Every individual has a fundamental right to life and no one should ever take it no matter the circumstances.
- Fundamental right to life is global basic human rights need to be upheld at all cost.
- Aborting the unborn child would mean that the basic right and freedom is infringed and these amounts to gross ethical and moral standards.
- The morality and ethics of the world requires that the basic rights of a person to be taken into consideration and this help in achieving the good and harmonious existence of the individuals.
- Abortion is wrong since it denies the unborn the chance and the fundamental of human rights and contradicting the sanctity of life.
- Under no circumstance does a community in the world gives another person a right of living of the others. It is believed that God created every human being and it is only Him who gives and takes away life of individuals.

Conclusion:

- It is clear that there is a division between those supporting the abortion concept and those against the concept. The various reasoning of both sides of the debate gives a final verdict that it is true that the debate on the side for the actions of abortion is weaker than the side of the shooting.
- While many scholars have attempted to change the views of abortion by calling it ethical and emotional others believe that the aspect of abortion are complex and in real sense obtained from the various aspects of the government or a given community. It is therefore true without any doubt that abortion, from the discussed issues is unethical and immoral after all they deprive someone of the right of living.

Q) Mention two unethical practices in society today and suggest a sustainable solution to each. (250 words)

Ethics by Lexicon Publications

Why this question:

The question is to bring out the unethical practices in the society that are prevalent even today.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should bring out two specific examples from day to day life highlighting the presence of unethical practices and then suggest solutions to overcome such situations.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines state what are ethical and unethical practices. How do they impact a society.

Body:

The answer to such questions can be put across in many ways, students must quote two unethical practices prevalent or commonly seen in today's societies – it can vary from corruption scandals, nepotism, bribery, corruption in medicine, fraudulent policies etc.

Also, one must suggest solutions to overcome such unethical practices.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Unethical practices are those which are contrary to our own moral principles as well as the principles admired in the community one lives in. It is an action that falls outside of what is considered morally right or proper for a person, a profession or an industry. Individuals can behave unethically, as can businesses, professionals and politicians.

**Body:**

- Moral principles such as fairness, honesty, dignity, and concern for individual rights are of profound importance.

Here, you can divide the answer under heads and give your own examples and solutions to it. Few eggs are added here

Unethical practices among Individuals:

- Treating male and female child differently. Practice of untouchability, female genital mutilation etc.

Unethical practices among Businesses:

- The case of Volkswagen hiding the emission test results.

Unethical practices by Professionals:

- Doping by athletes to improve performance.

Unethical practices among Politicians and the Government:

- Snooping on individuals telephone calls.

Conclusion:

- To be unethical in one's behavior and practices means that one is betraying one's inner character and eventually experiencing a diminished faith in oneself. Education and Sensitization of the moral values will help individuals to avoid the unethical practices.