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# MAINS ANSWER WRITING APPROACH ANSWERS

Topic- ETHICS DAY 1



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**Q.1) What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? (10 marks) (150 words)**

Ethics is a set of rules that governs how people behave in society. They are concerned with individual activities and behaviour that can be classified as acceptable or unacceptable in the society at the moment.

As a result, ethics aims to foster "**virtuous**" **traits in human existence**, qualities that contribute to societal peace and harmony, as well as the success and advancement of society (and hence individuals within it) as a whole.

**Compassion** – for all living things, honesty – in speech and conduct, respect – for others, particularly elders, **integrity**, a rational outlook – to make appropriate decisions, **a sense of fairness and justice** – social, economic, and political, and **courage** – to face adversity – are examples of such qualities.

Because public administration is a task that involves large-scale public interaction with people from all walks of life and all strata of society, ethics are even more vital.

- The behaviour of public servants both reflects and reinforces the behaviour of society.
- Because it is founded on **fairness and equity**, and it is executed with **honesty and integrity**, ethical administration results in improved public service delivery.
- Ethical standards in public administration restore trust in the system and result in improved welfare outcomes as well as a boost to society's overall well-being.

As a result, ethics are **the bedrock of a stable society**. However, it must be remembered that a stable society is not necessarily equal, and it is the responsibility of the people to identify and alter any norms or behaviours that make the society unjust. Only then can ethics prove to be beneficial in maintaining societal harmony.

**Q.2) What do you understand by the term ethics? Do you believe that someone with a scientific mindset is also ethical? Explain with examples. (10 mark) (150 words)**

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with the differentiation between the right and wrong human actions. Ethics emphasises on appropriate human behaviour irrespective of compulsions of circumstances.

- Ethics is all about being consistent with fundamental human virtues.
- It involves the critical examination of objective reality and application of wisdom to human conduct.
- Subject of ethics deals with the study of appropriateness of human conduct in the light of Universal human virtues such as honesty, compassion, truthfulness, empathy, etc.
- Ethics involves critical examination of various options available in front of an individual while taking an action. It looks into the factors that guide human conduct. Ethics is universal in nature. It is timeless.

#### **Ethics and scientific outlook**

- Science involves emphasis on rationality, logic, reason. Scientific principles are objective in nature. Ethics also emphasises rationality. And because of this, at times ethical conduct is confused with a scientific outlook. It is emphasised that a person should pursue scientific principles in order to be ethically correct.
- Science is value neutral. If scientific knowledge is used for the betterment of humanity, then such actions can be considered as ethical. But scientific knowledge can also be used to kill human beings. Use of biological and chemical weapons by terrorist and rouged states can be cited as an example of unethical use of scientific knowledge.

Because of this scientific principles are not necessarily ethical

Ethics involves the application of wisdom. Wisdom is defined as the right use of knowledge. It is the ability to think and act in the most appropriate manner,

irrespective of the challenge of circumstances. Wisdom involves the application of knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

According to Buddha a man of wisdom can discriminate between right and wrong. A wise man is guardian of righteousness and virtues. Wise man stands for justice and fairness. Buddha emphasises that a person is not wise merely because he talks much. Wise man is calm, free from hatred and fear and he is consistent in his behaviour.

Greek philosopher Aristotle emphasised the inseparable relationship between ethics and equality. Ethical behaviour involves **respect for the principles of equality**. But at the same time, it must be kept in mind that equality has to be seen in the light of prevailing circumstances. The principle of equality cannot be applied in a rigid manner. Because only equals should be treated equally. The uniform treatment to people placed unequally would amount to inequality. Ethics emphasized that justice must be ensured to every individual irrespective of circumstances.