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# **DAILY ANSWER WRITING** **APPROACH ANSWERS**

**Topic- ETHICS (Part 1)**



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**Q.1) What do you understand by the term ethics? Do you believe that someone with a scientific mindset is also ethical? Explain with examples. (10 marks) (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 roused 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.

**Q.2) "The terms ethics and morals are frequently used interchangeably. However, they are not the same." Explain. (10 marks) (150 words)**

The word **morality** is derived from the Latin word '**mores**,' which suggests **customs/traditions or social practises**. While the term **ethics** is derived from the **Greek word ethos** meaning **character**.

Ethics	Morality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ethics are more <b>extrinsic rule</b> sets that serve as a guide for all of us.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morals are <b>derived from within</b>. One's own internal compass.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ethics is <b>universal</b> in nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morals are <b>time specific</b>. Tomorrow moral understanding of society may be affected by level of awareness and spread of knowledge.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ethics is concerned with the process of deciding what is right and wrong, which might involve assessing the benefits and drawbacks, as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morality is a set of guidelines for behaviour that is frequently founded on religious beliefs and influences our ethical decisions.</li> </ul>

well as conflicting values and interests.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ethics is concerned with workplace policies that establish codes of behaviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morality refers to the principles we set for ourselves in terms of what is right and wrong.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ethics is a set of concepts that has been carefully constructed over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morality is a feeling that one has intuitively.</li> </ul>

Morality develops in accordance with ethics as a result of a person's exposure to society, family and ethical principles. Finally, while ethics is universal, morality varies depending on the individual.

**Q.3) Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. (10 marks) (150 words)**

Values are the aspects of life that we deem essential or desirable. They serve as a **guidance and standard for human behaviour**. The centrality of values in an individual's life gives his character **purpose and strength**. Values reflect an individual's attitude, judgments, decisions, and choices, as well as their behaviour and relationships. **Values can be both relative and absolute.**

#### **Relative values:**

- These are based on individual and societal standards, their likes, dislikes, social norms, and tradition; for example, Indian traditional values of "**Vasudev Kutumbakam,**" **universal brotherhood, and tolerance** may conflict with western values of **liberalism, individualism, and utilitarianism**.
- **Culture-specific values** grow to bring order to society and are culturally specific. They evolve as the cultures do.
- In contrast to the ancient Indian principles of **sacrifice and altruism**, the current generation of Indians is more sensitive to ambition and demonstrates more assertiveness.

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- Today, the rules of the nuclear family and even cohabitation are more socially acceptable.

#### Absolute values:

- **Truth, gratitude, peace, nonviolence, and compassion** are regarded as transcending time and place. They are core values and are fundamental. They stay unchanged and stable.
- The norms of behaviour vary from person to person and society to society, although some ideals can be regarded as universal. For example, **murder is a crime in all societies and hence a universal standard.**
- **Human dignity** is a universal ideal and one of Immanuel Kant's categorical imperatives, according to Kant. Similarly, for Rawls, justice is an architectural concept.

Thus, values may be either universal, relative, or dynamic, as they continue to evolve over time. Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of values, as Einstein once wisely said. Our values affect our ideas, emotions, and behaviours. They direct us in the proper direction. Values offer life direction and stability.

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#### Q.4) Why is honesty considered the best policy? Also, what does it take to be honest? (10 marks) (150 words)

Honesty is a facet of moral character that connotes **positive and virtuous attributes** such as **integrity, truthfulness, and straightforwardness**, including straightforwardness of conduct, along with the absence of lying, cheating, theft, etc.

#### Honesty is best policy

- Honesty **enhances the value of an individual**. It makes a person **worthy**. Such people are sought after to manage most precious resources.
- Honesty makes a person **credible** and without credibility **no person can be a leader**. A leader is supposed to safeguard values, beliefs and every form of asset of the followers.
- Honesty **enhances the self-worth** of an individual only then a person can have **self-respect, self-esteem and courage**.
- Honesty gives inner peace, happiness, and a sense of satisfaction.

- Only an honest person can have a **clear conscience** and can enjoy blessings of divine light during the hours of darkness when others begin to stumble.
- Honesty is the most important **attribute for public servants**, because without being honest, a person can neither be fair nor just.

### What does it take to be honest?

- Honest people are **fair. (non-discriminatory, unbiased, equitable)**
- Honest person is **truthful**.
- **Upright**- An upright person speaks what he or she believes and he is convinced about it without any fear or favour.
- An honest person stands for **justice**. Honest person endeavours to ensure that everybody gets what they deserve.
- Honest person is **transparent**. Such a person doesn't hide anything because of any reason.
- **Being sincere, genuine and frank** are other attributes of an honest person.
- An honest person behaves in accordance with the **virtues of ethics**.
- **Commitment** is another important quality of such a person.

Honesty is the most important value for a public servant in particular and any human being in general. Because without being honest, person can neither be fair nor just.

**Lal Bahadur Shastri** was a leader whose simplicity and integrity made him stand out as a statesman. Shastri ji was a devoted disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and was arrested several times by British during India's freedom struggle. One of the examples of his honesty - once he's granted permission to spend 15 days with his sick daughter, but sadly she died the day he reached home. He performed the last rites & returned to prison, even though he could have stayed for the duration of parole.

### **Q.5) Why is it important to have a positive attitude in the civil service? (10 marks) (150 words)**

Attitude of a person is the key to success in every sphere of human life. Because attitude **reflects natural inclinations**. It is **based on well ingrained beliefs and values** in the personality of an individual. These core beliefs are not easy to change.

- Attitude is a reflection of a person's orientation towards something, that is, whether a person is **optimist or pessimist; risk taking or risk averse; trusting**

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**others or doubting everyone; has a sense of security or he is in grip of fear; a progressive or regressive** is decided by attitude.

- Attitude plays **the most important role in decision making**. Our choices become destinations and the destination is the key to destiny.
- Attitude plays the most important role in **interpersonal relations**. A suspicious person living in the grip of fear **can never win the support and trust of others**. Such a person **can never be a good leader**. Because nobody follows a person with a bad attitude.
- **Attitude of service** is necessary to be a successful civil Servant. Such an attitude is possible only if a person has **a strong conviction, empathy and compassion**. In the absence of an attitude of service **rules and regulations would be interpreted rigidly and red tapism** is the only outcome.
- A public servant has to be **open to a change** because a person is required to work in a different cultural environment. Opening up new ideas will make a person **respectful toward others** and this is **the key to win the heart and the mind of a people**.
- A public servant is required **to take many risks**. Because every decision could be interpreted quite differently by others. In the absence of a risk taking attitude, **a situation of policy paralysis develops**.
- Attitude determines **the aims and objectives of life**. A person with a wrong attitude finds comfort in a thing of insignificance whereas a person with the right attitude looks for **higher objectives**. Instead of focusing on something immediate in terms of efforts and rewards, a person with a good attitude looks over the horizon to see the long-term returns.
- **Optimistic attitude** is necessary in public service at every level. Without that the attention would be only on limitations. Attitude of fault finding can obstruct the path of success.

Because of this critical significance of attitude in a life it is often said that attitude determines the attitude of an individual.

#### **Armstrong Pame**

- His passion and dedication towards the betterment of the society was so strong that he built a 100 km long road in a remote hill of Manipur without the government's help. People came forward and supported him in large numbers and gave shape to the "**people's road**" which connects the hill to the rest of the

state.

- He **used his own savings and turned to social networking sites** to raise funds for the project and is fondly called “miracle man” by the villagers.

**Q.6) What is meant by 'political attitude'? Based on your understanding of the term, discuss the main negative attitudes existing in Indian politics. (10 marks) (150 words)**

**Political Attitude** means the beliefs and values which underpin the operation of a particular political system. These attitudes were seen as including knowledge and skills about the operation of the political system, positive and negative judgments about the system. These attitudes determine how people participate, whom they vote for, and which political parties they support.

Example :casting of votes during an election (positive political attitude);going on a strike against the government (negative political attitude)

**Main negative attitudes existing in Indian politics**

- **Defection** :leads to a wave of mistrust amongst the people who confide and vote for a certain party ideology.
- **Criminalisation of politics**: politics seems to be a refuge for criminals in the eyes of the people
- **Voting along religious,casteist undertones**:discourages genuine candidates from contributing positively in politics;leads to groupism and selfishness in the legislative process

India is the **most diverse country with diverse ideology** too.

- Most Indian adults see politicians as **corrupt** and question whether elections are effective. **58% of adults in India say that no matter who wins an election, things do not change very much.**
- Despite these negative views, Indians think their country allows other democratic values to flourish. By more than two-to-one, for example, Indians say the rights of people to express their own views are protected and that most people have a good chance to improve their standard of living. A sizable share (47%) also believes the courts treat everyone fairly.

**Q.7) Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service:**

**(i) Impartiality**



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**(ii) Empathy & compassion**

**(iii) Dedication to public service**

**(iv) Tolerance (10 marks) (150 words)**

### **Impartiality**

Impartiality means fairness. It means equal treatment of all rivals and disputants. It is also known as **evenhandedness or fair-mindedness**.

Since a civil servant handles programmes and policies of the government for society at large, it is very important that he/she is impartial or works without prejudice. An impartial civil servant gets respect and honour of people and impartiality helps the civil servant uphold the constitution.

### **Empathy & compassion**

This necessarily involves **selflessness, tolerance, liberal, accommodative, result-oriented and rational attitude**.

If a civil service lacks empathy and compassion then it will be **no different from the colonial bureaucracy**. Such civil service will be just **doing the minimum and allow injustice to continue**. When a government office becomes empathetic, it leads to **a more citizen friendly space**, which means more **psychological security**.

**Inclusion** of all sections of society in mainstream and hence **a more resilient society**. A special focus on **marginalised sections** like **Dalits, Adivasis, children, women, persons with disability, old-age, upholding of constitutional values like justice, equality, liberty, fraternity, democracy and so on**.

Accessible and credible government offices also lead to **more confidence among investors, tourists, foreign students** etc. It leads to many economic benefits in the long run e.g. more capital inflow, more creation of jobs, less poverty, good infrastructure etc.

### **Dedication to public service**

**Dedication to public service** requires an individual to have an internal motivation or passion for working in the greater public interest. It is a passionate commitment and a genuine desire to act without any external formal tool to compel that desire. It helps civil servants when confronted with adversity. For instance, if powsted in a Naxalite stronghold or remote rural area.

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Today, we are transforming into a consumerist society. There is a widespread lack of empathy, concern, and commitment to others and the community. Everyone wishes to attain their worldly aspirations, and many view civil services as a means to that end. Without it, civil workers would struggle to carry out their responsibilities in adverse times.

### **Tolerance**

**Tolerance** in civil services helps to accommodate and respect citizens' faith, belief, tradition. While **empathy and compassion** bring an urge to do sincere work for the upliftment of masses (dedication)

This ensures a civil servant works in favor of all sections of society that leads to balanced development. People **feel comfortable in communicating with a civil servant** possessing tolerance. It **enhances constitutional values** like **secularism** and **keeps communalism** at bay.

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**Q.8) Do you believe that civil servants should be impartial and nonpartisan, especially when officials are cold, neutral, and objective? If yes, then why? (10 marks) (150 words)**

**Impartiality** means fairness. It means equal treatment of all rivals and disputants. It is a principle of justice holding that the decisions should be based on objective criteria rather than on the basis of bias or prejudice, or preferring the benefit of one person to the other for improper reasons.

**Non partisanship** in civil services means the civil servants should execute duties in accordance with laws and regulations without prejudice against or preferential treatment towards any groups or individuals.

### **Relevance in Public Service:**

- **Impartiality** lies at the heart of public service and is the core of the commitments of a public servant. A public servant must be impartial and must not act on the basis of **nationality, race, religion, or political point of view**.
- Impartiality helps in **building the gap of trust** between public and the government, speedy implementation of policies, professional life becomes more effective, adds lawfulness to the administrator's behaviour

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- Since a civil servant handles programmes and policies of the government for society at large, it is very important that he/she is impartial or works without prejudice. An impartial civil servant **gets respect and honour of people** and impartiality helps the civil servant **uphold the constitution**.
  - **Non-partisanship** strengthens democratic institutions and procedures.
  - People who have not voted for the ruling party don't feel insecure, no worries about change of government to enjoy the benefits of services, checks and balances to favouritism and corruption.

Thus impartiality and non-partisanship are foundational values of civil services and every civil servant must follow both values.

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**Q.9) Explain the role of emotional intelligence in private life and public life. (10 marks) (150 words)**

Emotional Intelligence (EI) refers to the capability of a person to recognize, understand and manage their own emotions, as well as to understand, manage and influence the emotions of others. It is not always virtuous and can be used as a tool for positive and negative ends.

#### **Relevance in private life**

- It is a skill and every skill makes life easier. An emotionally intelligent person can understand the behavior of others easily and can maintain social relations successfully.
- Emotional intelligence keeps a person free from unnecessary stress and strain.
- Emotional intelligence is the key to mental health and physical health.
- Emotionally intelligent people can understand the pain and happiness of others easily and such persons are appreciated by all.
- Emotional intelligence gives stability. Because a person does not get carried away easily.
- Emotionally intelligent people are more successful in life. Because they can remain focused on their goal in spite of multiple challenges.

#### **Relevance in Public life**

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- EI makes a person a better public servant because such a person can understand the urges, aspirations, pain, and pleasure of others.
  - EI gives the ability to connect with others and without such connections no public servant can succeed.
  - It enables officials to handle the challenges, stress, and strain easily without getting crumbled. It is the key to the success of a team. Because team members have to have a high level of interpersonal bond.
  - It enables people to do complex tasks with ease and sophistication. It helps in developing rapport with others.

By recognizing the emotion and using reasoning, people are able to look at a (problematic) situation rationally and make the right decision. Moreover, they will include their past experiences in their decision-making process. It has been found that people with high Emotional Intelligence are better at this than people with low Emotional Intelligence.

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**Q.10) What is 'emotional intelligence'? How emotional intelligence can be used in governance? (10 marks) (150 words)**

Emotional intelligence refers to **an individual's capacity to comprehend and control his or her own and others' emotions**. It is a critical characteristic for professional success. This is because people are hired on the basis of a similar intelligence quotient, which is tested by exam or interview; what **separates one person from another is their emotional quotient**. For a bureaucrat, EQ is really valuable. He is responsible for a large number of people and is in a position where critical decisions must be made.

#### **Use of EI in governance**

- **Self-awareness:** As a bureaucrat, I need to understand the **feelings, moods, and motivations of their colleagues and the people at whom public policy is directed** in order to gain a better understanding of the nature of society's issues and possible solutions.
- **Self-regulation:** As an aware bureaucrat, I am able to control my emotions and act appropriately for the greater good of society.
- **Motivation:** Understanding my own emotions, passions, and sentiments, as well as those of my peers, can help people stay motivated and persist in difficult

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situations. This will help optimise organisational advantages and ensure that targets are met on time.

- **Empathy:** Having an understanding of others' concerns enables them to be resolved more quickly and effectively.

Overall EI contributes to the reduction of work-family conflict, the improvement of physical and mental health, and job satisfaction.

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