

ETICS, INTEGRITY and APTITUDE

Why UPSC introduced Ethics Paper?



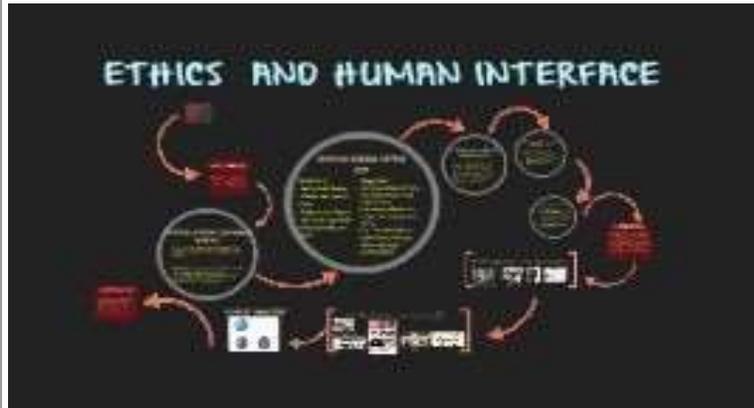
Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilize the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered:

Syllabus:

Topic:

Ethics and Human Interface



Subtopic:

- The essence of ethics, determinants and consequences of ethics in human interaction.
- Dimensions of Ethics
- Ethics in private and public relationships
- Human Values- lessons from the lives of administrators, leaders and freedom fighters
- Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating moral and ethical values.

Topic:

Attitude

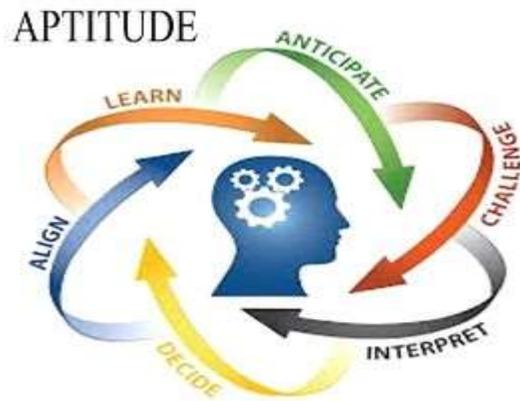


Subtopic:

- **Content, structure and function of attitude**
- **Influence of attitude in behaviour**
- **Moral and political attitudes**
- **Social influence**

Topic:

Aptitude



Sub-Topic:

- Aptitude and foundational values of civil services
- Integrity
- Dedication to public service
- Empathy, tolerance and compassion towards marginalised sections of the society

Topic:

Emotional Intelligence



Sub-Topic:

- Concepts of emotional intelligence
- Utility and application of emotional intelligence in administration and governance

Topic:

Contributions of thinkers and philosophers



Sub-Topic:

- **Contribution of thinkers like- Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Karl Marx, Aristotle, Plato**

Topic:

Ethics in Public Administration

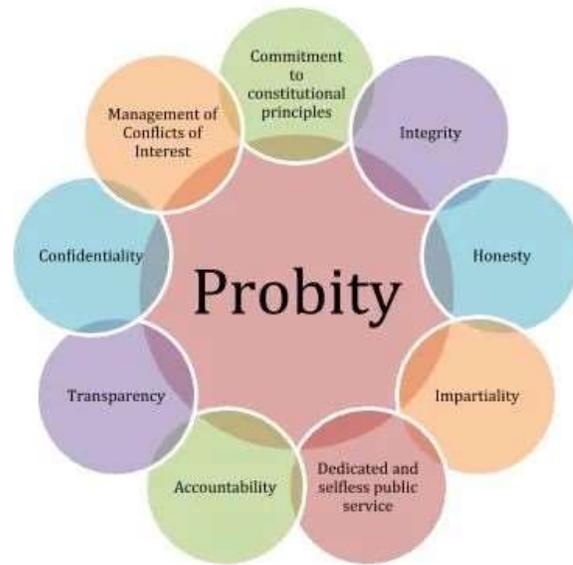


Sub-Topic:

- Status and associated problems
- Ethical concerns and dilemmas
- Accountability and ethical governance
- Corporate governance

Topic:

Probity in governance



Sub-Topic:

- Concept of public service
- The philosophical basis of governance and probity
- Right to information
- Codes of ethics
- Codes of conduct
- Citizen charter
- Utilization of public fund
- Challenges of corruption

How GS Paper IV can help you to be in Top 10 Ranking?

- **It is very scoring paper. You can score 150+ in this paper with right strategy.**
- **It gauges your personality and thus helps in scoring well in personality test.**
- **It develops your analytical capability and thus improves your answer writing skill.**
- **It is very much linked with Essay paper thus helps you to score high in essay as well.**
- **AS it is in correlation with GS papers like Governance, Social Justice and Polity. Thus will help you in other GS papers as well.**

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

Introduction

Ethics is a system of principles that helps us tell right from wrong, good from the bad. Ethical values (like honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility) can help to make rational decisions, whether at the individual, societal or national level.

Body

Role of Ethics & Values in Enhancing Human Capital:

Ethics is all about the choices that an individual makes. People always face many dilemmas and choices that affect the quality of their lives.

Ethics & values make an individual aware that their choices have consequences, both for themselves and others.

Thus, ethics & values build credibility, improves decision making, and provides long term gains.

Role of Ethics & Values in Enhancing Social Harmony:

Ethics & values are about character; the sum of qualities that defines a person. The same principle applies to society.

Ethics & values develop norms of behaviour that everyone should follow in society. If every person acts with a selfish motive, society might fall into chaos & anarchy.

There is nothing wrong with pursuing one's interests. However, an ethical person must be willing – at least sometimes – to place others' interests ahead of self-interest because of our responsibility to society. Moreover, often ethics succeeds law in safeguarding society. The law machinery is often found acting as a mute spectator, unable to save the society and the environment.

Role of Ethics & Values in Enhancing Soft Power:

International relations are largely driven by the ideology of realism, which propagates national interest precedes every action of a nation.

However, pursuance of national interest must not always be fulfilled with Hard' power (Military power, economic power). The soft power (a country's image due to its culture & values) also secures national interest without compromising others' interest.

In this regard, ethics & the country's ancient values (for example, Idea of Vasudeva kutumbakam in India) revive national pride and project a country's peaceful image.

Conclusion

As stated by India's current president, 'Nations are not built by governments alone, each citizen is a nation-builder', there is an immense role of ethics and values in enhancing the comprehensive national power of a country.

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

This question needs one to have a hold over the concept from GS paper 2 which is the topic of education. The basic demand of the question is to explain how the role of education is not injunction (education through authorities orders) but rather it needs to focus on a person’s all-round development which will lead to individual and social transformation simultaneously. The candidate needs to analyze this statement in light of the important attributes of the New Education Policy (2020).

Here the candidate first can explain the basic meaning of injunction and the need for better learning for enabling a student to achieve his/her own potential rather than forceful or coercive teaching.

Then Link the attributes of New Education Policy (2020) to individual and social transformation.

- Transformation in the examination system by focusing on learning outcomes rather than rote learning and objective-based questions.
- Education in mother tongue will enable better understanding and exploration of ideas by students from all sections of society
- Inclusive education with concepts like three-language formula, support for weaker sections, and use of digital technology to reach the untouched areas.
- Multidisciplinary in nature by allowing flexibility in choosing subjects and setting up a multidisciplinary college in every district.
- Focus on imparting critical thinking.

Thus, link all these features to how it can transform the individual and society of India in near future. While doing so add values an ethical term in arguments.

Q.2. (a) ‘ Hatred is destructive of a person’s wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation’s spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. (150 words)

This is a very direct question and there is nothing here to disagree with the statement given as hatred is a strong negative emotion that can be destructive of both Individual wisdom and a nation’s spirit. Here first one needs to describe how hatred is a negative emotion that is irrational, subjective, and far beyond a normal dislike of a thing or subject.

Further explain with examples of how this is a threat to a person’s wisdom and conscience, here you can use examples such as infamous figures like Hitler and Mussolini where both had a strong hatred towards certain communities and institutions.

Further, you can write that, when this hatred becomes all-pervasive in a society it can destroy a nation’s spirit and could further hurt social capital and cooperation among citizens. This can be explained as to how the hatred of Hitler for Jews led to the corruption of the majority of German citizens which had devastating effects on the German nation and its conscience.

This statement needs to be contextualized to present the Indian context and how the hatred on social media, on roads, and mob behavior on incidents such as lynching is ethically wrong and in long run can affect both the Individual and nation.

Q.2. (b) What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? discuss. (150 words)

This is a basic question that is based directly on the point mentioned in the syllabus that is Emotional intelligence. The candidate needs to explain here what are the different components of Emotional Intelligence and can these components be learned.

Here the candidate can start by definition of Emotional intelligence given by David Goleman that Emotional intelligence is a person's ability to manage his feelings so that those feelings are expressed appropriately and effectively.

According to Goleman, emotional intelligence is the largest single predictor of success in the workplace.

Components of Emotional intelligence:

- Self-awareness** – A person has a healthy sense of emotional intelligence self-awareness if they understand their own strengths and weaknesses, as well as how their actions affect others. A person with emotional self-awareness is usually receptive to, and able to learn from, constructive criticism more than one who doesn't have emotional self-awareness.

- Self-regulation** – A person with high emotional intelligence has the ability to exercise restraint and control when expressing their emotions.

- Motivation** -People with high emotional intelligence are self-motivated, resilient, and driven by an inner ambition rather than being influenced by outside forces, such as money or prestige.

- Empathy**– An empathetic person has compassion and is able to connect with other people on an emotional level, helping them respond genuinely to other people’s concerns.
- Social skill** – People who are emotionally intelligent are able to build trust with other people, and are able to quickly gain respect from the people they meet.

After explaining the components of E.I., you can take any of the three stands related to the second demand of the question.

- Emotional intelligence can be learned and write how it can be learned like there are training and courses for a child in school and officers in the academy.
- Emotional intelligence cannot be learned as it is a predisposition in the attitude of a person to act in a certain manner and it is not possible to inculcate these components.
- A balanced view after taking both in consideration for a middle path.

Add examples on some officers of how they need and have used Emotional intelligence in past and current context for value addition

Q.3. (a) What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.(150 words)

This question is based on the moral philosophers. Here the candidate needs to know what are the basic teachings of Buddha which are most relevant today. This further needs to be answered as to why these teachings are relevant today with help of relevant examples.

Gautama Buddha was a moral thinker who lived in the 6th century B.C in ancient India. He after attaining enlightenment at Bodhgaya propounded his vision. This includes the concepts or teachings which are relevant even today That are :

- Equality** – In today's world where there discrimination based on class, caste, and creed this value remains essential for Humanity even today.

- Detachment** – According to Buddha attachment which leads to desire is the basic reason for suffer therefore a person should not be attached to things that are purely material and ephemeral in nature. This can help in the current context to fight climate change which is a direct outcome of a materialistic and consumeristic society. Also, it can help in controlling suicides by youngsters due to failure in relationships.

- Rationality** – This value imbibes scientific temper and in the current context can overcome hate and bigotry in general and communalism in particular. Also, it can lead to the growth of the nation.

- Middle path (Madhyam Marg)** – This concept can help individuals, communities, or nations to a valid extreme end of arguments and accommodate diverse views for a better society.

A candidate can refer to some specific issues of India for value addition such as communalism, lack of scientific temper, violence on migrants (Son of soil theory), climate issues.

Q.9) Rampura, a remote district inhabited by a tribal population, is marked by extreme backwardness and abject poverty. Agriculture is the mainstay of the local population, though it is subsistence due to the very small landholdings. There is insignificant industrial or mining activity. Even the targeted welfare programs have inadequately benefited the tribal population. In this restrictive scenario, the youth has begun to migrate to other states to supplement the family income.

Plight of minor girls is that their parents are persuaded by labour contractors to send them to work in the Bt Cotton farms of a nearby state. The soft fingers of the minor girls are well suited for plucking the cotton. The inadequate living and working conditions in these farms have caused serious health issues for the minor girls. NGOs in the districts of domicile and the cotton farms appear to be compromised and have not effectively espoused the twin issues of child labor and development of the area. You are appointed as the District Collector of Rampura.

Identify the ethical issues involved. Which specific steps will you initiate to ameliorate the conditions of minor girls of your district and to improve the overall economic scenario in the district (250 words)