# UPSC-Ethics

**Unit 1.**

**Essence determinants and consequences of ethics and human action. Dimensions of ethics ethics in private and public relationships. Human values lessons from lives and teaching of great leaders reformers and administrators role of family society educational institution in inculcating values**

1. Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.’-Potter Stewart. (Answer in 150 words) 10, 2022
2. It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? (Answer in 150 words) 10
3. What does this quotation mean to you in the present context:  “Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good?”- Tirukkural. (150 words),2018
4. With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer. (150 words),2018
5. The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. 2017
6. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.2017
7. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being.2016
8. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples show how the two differ in their approaches.  CSE 2016
9. What is meant by ‘environmental ethics’? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. 2015.
10. Differentiate between the following (200 words); a) Law and Ethics; b) Ethical management and Management of ethics; c) Discrimination and Preferential treatment; d) Personal ethics and Professional ethics 2015
11. Human beings should always be treated as ‘ends’ in themselves and never as merely `means’. Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.2014
12. What do you understand by ‘values’ and ‘ethics’? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?2013
13. 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.

## Unit 2. Attitude

**Attitude: Content structure, function, its influence and relation with thought, behaviour, moral and political attitudes, social influence and persuasion**.

1. Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human beings. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant?  (Answer in 150 words)
2. A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in person.? (150 words). CSE 2020

## Unit 3:

**Aptitude and fundamental values for civil services:  integrity, impartiality, and non-partnership, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards weaker sections.**

1. Should impartial and non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.  (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
2. Integrity is a value that empowers the human being.” Justify with suitable illustration.  (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
3. “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – Warren Buffett (2018)
4. State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil service and  bring out their importance. (150 words) 2018.
5. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. CSE 2017
6. Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. (150 Words, 10 marks) (2017)
7. One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. (150 Words, 10 marks) (2017)
8. In the context of defense services, ‘patriotism’ demands readiness to even lay down one’s life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. CSE 2014
9. It is often said that ‘politics’ and ‘ethics’ do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. CSE 2013.

## Unit 4 :

**Emotional intelligence concepts and their utilities and application in administration and governance.**

1. What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI) ? Can they be learned? discuss. (150 words) CSE 2020.
2. “Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you.” Do you agree with this view? Discuss. (150 words, 10m) CSE 2019.
3. What does this quotations mean to you in the present context:  Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding. “ \_ Mahatma Gandhi. (150 words) 2018
4. “In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication”. Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties. (150 words) 2018
5. How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? 10 marks CSE 2017.
6. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? 2016
7. Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context. (150 words) 2014
8. All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. 2014
9. What is ’emotional intelligence’ and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in making ethical decisions? 2013
10. What do you understand by the term ‘voice of conscience’? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?2013
11. What is meant by ‘crisis of conscience’? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. 2013.

## Unit 5:

**Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world.**

1. What does each of the following quotations mean to you?
   1. “Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later.-Swami Vivekananda (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021
   2. “We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves.” – Dalai Lama.  (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021
   3. Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all.” -Erik Erikson word. (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
2. What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss. (150 words) CSE 2020
3. What are the main factors responsible for gender responsibility in India ? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard. (150 words). CSE, 2020
4. ”Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand do so. If not fold your hands, bless your brothers and let them go their own way.” – Swami Vivekanand (150 words).CSE 2020
5. “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others .” Mahatma Gandhi (150 words). CSE 2020
6. ”A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates. (150 words). CSE 2020
7. A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates. (150 words).CSE 2020
8. “An unexamined life is not worth living.” – Socrates (150 words, 10marks) CSE  2019
9. “A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.” – M.K.Gandhi (150 words, 10m) CSE 2019
10. “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.” – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (150 words, 10m) CSE ,2019
11. “Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them.” – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. CSE 2017.
12. Discuss Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of seven sins.2016
13. Analyse John Rawls’s concept of social justice in the Indian context.2016
14. Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, Administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national Development. Discuss Kautilya’s views. 2016
15. Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality. Critically analyse this statement. 2016
16. “The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” CSE 2015
17. We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. CSE 2015
18. Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. 2014
19. There is enough on this earth for every one’s need but for no one’s greed. Mahatma Gandhi. 2013
20. Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.—Abraham Lincoln 2013
21. I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies.—Aristotle 2013.

## Unit 6

**Public / Civil services values.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.**

1. Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high       order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example. CSE 2021.
2. An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every        sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and  ethical conduct. Elaborate. (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
3. Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation.” Examine the statement with reference to the ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society. CSE 2021.
4. Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
5. Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe           the ways and means to prevent unethical behavior in the public servants. 150 words CSE 2021.
6. What do you understand by the term ‘public servant’? Reflect on the expected role of a public servant.(150 words, 10m)2019
7. “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. (150 words) 2018
8. What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? (150 words) 2018
9. State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (150 words). 2018
10. State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. (150 words) 2018
11. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service. 2017
12. One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. 2017
13. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. 2017
14. Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples. 2016
15. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of ‘Conflict of Interest’. What do you understand by the term ‘Conflict of Interest’ and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. 2015
16. How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples. 2015
17. A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties.” Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. 2015
18. Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. A) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits. B) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country? 2015
19. What does ‘accountability’ mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? 2014
20. Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful. What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context.2014
21. There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?2014
22. What do you understand by the by the following terms in the context of public service? (5 terms x 3 marks each: a) Integrity  b) Perseverance c) Spirit of service  d) Commitment e) Courage of conviction f) Personal opinion. 2013
23. Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. (10 marks |100 words) .2013.

## Unit 7

Probity in governance, Concept of public service.Philosophical basis of governance and probity.

Information sharing and transparency in governance. Right to information, code of  ethics.Code of conduct. Citizen charter, work culture, quality of service delivery, utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

1. Impact of digital technology as a reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words) CSE 2021.
2. Explain the basic principles of citizens’ charter movement and bring out its importance. 2019
3. There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of the Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss. 2019
4. What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. 2019
5. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service:
   1. Transparency
   2. Accountability
   3. Fairness and justice
   4. Courage of conviction
   5. Spirit of service  CSE 2017
6. Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.2017
7. What do you understand by the terms ‘governance’, ‘good governance’ and ‘ethical governance’? 2016
8. Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. 2016