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Syllabus heading

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · GS IV · General Studies Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude

Facts & figures for this syllabus heading.

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Ethics

Ethics can be defined as a field of normative science which deals with right and wrong aspects of Human conduct on the basis of established standards with the aim to achieve summum bonum (chief good).; It is based on the basis of human logic, reasoning and objectivity which incorporates societal norms and standards. Example(s); RTI activist Aruna Roy guided by ethical principles fought for transparency and...

Ethics

Quote(s); "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." (Potter Stewart).; "In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so." (Immanuel Kant).

Normative Ethics

Normative Ethics is focused on the creation of theories that provide general moral rules governing our behaviour, such as Utilitarianism or Kantian Ethics.; The normative ethicist, rather than being a football player, is more like a referee who sets up the rules governing how the game is played. Quote(s); "We should conduct ourselves towards others as we would have them act towards us". (Aristotle); "Act only...

Normative Ethics

100+ Ethics Key Terms 1

Virtue Ethics

Virtue Ethics is a moral philosophy that encourages individuals to live virtuously by developing good habits and character traits. It was developed by ancient Greek philosophers like Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates.; Socrates believed that "Virtue is knowledge," suggesting that understanding virtue leads to living the best possible life.; Plato identified four core virtues: Courage, Temperance, Justice, and...

Deontology

Developed by Immanuel Kant ;Focuses on the inherent morality of actions rather than their consequences.; The basis for discerning right from wrong is the categorical imperative; "Act only according to that maxim whereby you can, at the same time, will that it should become a universal law".; The categorical imperative provides a rule-based approach to determining right and wrong, emphasising adherence to duty and...

Deontology

Illustration; If cheating on an exam were universally acceptable, it would erode trust and fairness in education, leading to widespread societal issues like injustice and conflict. On an individual level, it would cause personal guilt and cognitive dissonance.

Deontology

Example(s); Satyagraha and Ahimsa as Deontological Principles used by Gandhiji during Indian National Movement Quote(s); "The means are the end in the making." (M.Gandhi)[]; "Duty is the necessity of acting out of reverence for the law." (Immanuel Kant)[]

Deontology

100+ Ethics Key Terms 2

Utilitarianism/Teleological

It considers an action to be Morally right if it is favourable to more people.; Basis of utility maximisation; outcome of action will determine ethicality of action.; Advocates liberty, equality and freedom[]; As they are necessary for a free environment which is the basis for utility maximisation.; Thus promotes Risk taking attitude(Entrepreneurship),Innovation, Independence instead of dependence.; It was advocated...

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Example(s); Redistribution of income from rich to poor.; Displacement of locals for public project in larger interest.

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Quote(s); "The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." (Jeremy Bentham).; "Actions are right in proportion as they tend to promote happiness, wrong as they tend to produce the reverse of happiness". (J.S.Mill)

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Harm Principle; It states that people are free to act as per their wish as long as their actions do not harm other persons. It was given by J.S.Mill.

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Example(s); Ensuring vaccination of persons during the spread of pandemic to prevent harm to others.

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Quote(s); "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others". (J S Mill)

Utilitarianism/Teleological

Illustration of Virtue ethics, Deontology and Utilitarianism To illustrate the difference among three key moral philosophies, ethicists Mark White and Robert Arp refer to the film The Dark Knight where Batman has the opportunity to kill the Joker.; Utilitarians, White and Arp suggest, would endorse killing the Joker. By taking this one life, Batman could save multitudes.; Deontologists would reject killing the Joker...

Utilitarianism/Teleological

100+ Ethics Key Terms 3

Ethical Dilemma Occurs when

Two or more values are competing against each other.; Situation should be challenging and a choice is to be made.; One has to make a compromise on some values after the decision. Approach to solve Ethical dilemma can be:

Ethical Dilemma

Example(s); Old lady without document/aadhar at PDS shop (should officials give food grain?); Lockdown necessary to prevent COVID spread vs Migration of workers back to home.; Whistleblowing (**Loyalty vs Truth**)

Ethical Dilemma

Quote(s) "Ethical dilemmas have a way of sneaking up on a person. If something smells funny, stay away from it or help get rid of it." (Price Pritchett)

Morality

It refers to the individual set of commitments acceptable to an individual even when they are rejected by others.; Standards at the personal level of what is right and wrong.; Guided by inner thoughts and external factors.; Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, and brave by doing brave acts. (**Aristotle**)

Morality

100+ Ethics Key Terms 4

Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

A six-stage theory of how children learn and develop a sense of morality. Level 1: Pre-Conventional Morality; Obedience and Punishment: Behaviour driven by avoiding punishment.; Individualism and Exchange: Behaviour driven by self-interest and rewards.

Human Values

Values are enduring beliefs about an ideal mode of behaviour.; They are individual principles or qualities that guide the judgement and behaviour of a person or a group.; Derived from human standards and feelings.; They are standards of conduct for humans.; Values are attitudes or beliefs that contain a "should" or "ought" aspect, such as moral or ethical values.; Values are formed when a particular belief or...

Human Values

100+ Ethics Key Terms 5

Altruism

Altruism is the selfless concern for the well-being of others, where an individual acts in a way that benefits others, even at a cost to themselves.; Altruistic behavior often involves acts of kindness, generosity, or sacrifice without expecting any personal gain or reward. Example(s); Giving up your seat to someone in need in a metro, donating organs, etc.; Akshaya Patra Foundation providing free food to...

Altruism

Quote(s); "**Service to mankind is service to God**" (Vivekanand); "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." (**Mahatma Gandhi**)

Cognitive Bias

Cognitive bias refers to consistent deviations from rational thinking or established norms in decision-making, where people make choices or form conclusions influenced by subjective factors like personal experiences, emotions, or preconceived ideas, instead of relying on objective facts or logical analysis; The way a particular person understands events, facts, and other people, is based on their own particular set...

Cognitive Bias

Quote(s); "It is an acknowledged fact that we perceive errors in the work of others more readily than in our own." (Leonardo da Vinci)

Cognitive Dissonance

Cognitive dissonance refers to the mental discomfort or tension experienced when a person holds two or more contradictory beliefs, values, or attitudes simultaneously. This discomfort often leads to a change in beliefs or attitudes to resolve the inconsistency.; It can also be referred to as a situation of mental discomfort when there is conflict between one's Beliefs, Attitude, Values and Behaviour or Actions.

Cognitive Dissonance

100+ Ethics Key Terms 6

Cognitive Dissonance

Example(s); A politician who advocates for environmental conservation but also supports large-scale deforestation projects might experience cognitive dissonance, eventually justifying the contradiction by claiming the economic benefits outweigh environmental concerns.; An IPS Officer who believes in Non Violence has to give orders of Lathi Charge to maintain Law and Order.

Quote(s); "He had very few doubts, and when...

Moral Agent

A Moral Agent is a person who has the ability to discern Right from Wrong and to be held Accountable for his or her own actions.; Ordinarily human beings are considered as Moral Agents, while animals are not.

Moral Agent

100+ Ethics Key Terms 7

Moral Agent

Example(s); A judge in India who delivers a ruling on a controversial case is a moral agent, as they must consider justice and fairness in their decision-making process, based on constitutional principles and ethics.; In international relations, diplomats are moral agents when they make decisions regarding human rights, treaties, and trade agreements, keeping the welfare of both their country and others in mind....

Moral Muteness

Moral muteness refers to the reluctance or failure to speak out against unethical actions, even when one is aware of their immorality. It occurs due to fear, indifference, or a lack of moral courage.; It occurs when people choose to stay silent even on observing Unethical Behaviour.

Example(s); During the Mahabharata, many characters, such as Vidura, were aware of the immorality of the war, but they chose not to...

Moral Muteness

Quote(s); "What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander." (Elie Wiesel)

Moral Equilibrium

Moral equilibrium is the psychological balance that individuals maintain between their ethical beliefs and actions, where they seek to justify actions that may not align with their morals, to maintain a sense of moral coherence.; It is the idea that deals with most people running a mental scoreboard where they compare their self-image as a good person with what they actually do. If they do something consistent with...

Moral Equilibrium

Example(s); A political leader may justify corruption or questionable actions by balancing them with a positive policy initiative, thus maintaining their personal moral equilibrium.; Donating for charity or on a crowdfunding platform makes us feel good about ourselves.

Moral Equilibrium

Quote(s); "The most important human endeavour is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life." (Albert Einstein)

Moral Equilibrium

100+ Ethics Key Terms 8

Moral Relativism

Moral relativism is the view that moral judgments and ethical standards are not universally applicable but are instead shaped by individual or cultural perspectives, and can vary across different contexts.; It holds that there are no universal or absolute sets of Moral standards. They are Culturally defined. Though there may be a few values that seem nearly universal, such as honesty and respect, many differences...

Moral Nihilism

Moral nihilism is the philosophical belief that moral values are baseless and that no action can truly be deemed morally right or wrong, as moral facts do not exist.; Moral Nihilism is the meta-ethical view that nothing is objectively morally right or morally wrong. It holds that there are no objective moral facts or true propositions. Example(s); Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy of the "will to power" challenges...

Moral Nihilism

Quote(s); "Nihilism is not only despair and negation, but above all the desire to despair and to negate." (Albert Camus)

Determinants of Ethics in Human Interaction

Ethics are influenced by individual choices, guided by knowledge, free will and voluntary actions. For example, a child is not ethically scrutinized due to their lack of maturity and understanding.; Nature of the Object: The ethical value of an action is often tied to the nature of the object or situation.; War is generally seen as negative because of its destructive impact on lives and society.; Truth is...

Determinants of Ethics in Human Interaction

100+ Ethics Key Terms 9

Personal Ethics

Personal ethics refers to the moral principles and standards individuals follow in their private lives, including family relationships and personal conduct. It defines a person's moral compass and shapes their behavior, guiding their choices and actions. Example.; **Mahatma Gandhi** embodied high personal ethics through his commitment to truthfulness, sacrifice, honesty, and discipline, inspiring millions with his...

Professional Ethics

It refers to the Moral Principles or Values that govern the way Businesses and Individuals engage in business activities. Example; Companies not using data collected from consumers without consent is an example of professional ethics. Quote; "Work ethics is important because, unlike intelligence, athleticism, charisma, or any other natural attribute, it's a choice." (Mike Rowe)
Ethics in private/personal relations...

Professional Ethics

100+ Ethics Key Terms 10

Moral Reasoning

Moral reasoning involves the process of making decisions based on ethical principles, such as fairness, justice, and rights, to resolve ethical dilemmas.; The process of evaluating right and wrong using ethical principles and logical thinking to guide actions and decisions.

Moral Reasoning

Example; In Indian judicial reforms, judges use moral reasoning to decide on cases related to fundamental rights and social justice.; In India, seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in government jobs and legislatures. The moral reasoning is that this upholds the spirit of democracy by ensuring all citizens have a stake in governance and helps correct historical injustices.

Moral Reasoning

Quote; "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically." (Martin Luther King Jr.); "The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings." (Albert Schweitzer)

Moral Intuition

Moral intuition refers to the immediate understanding of what is right or wrong without the need for conscious reasoning.; Immediate, instinctive sense of right and wrong, often guiding actions without conscious deliberation.

Moral Intuition

Example; A business leader immediately recognizing the unethical nature of a corporate deal and opting out despite potential profits.; Feeling compelled to help a stranger in distress without stopping to analyze the situation.

Moral Intuition

100+ Ethics Key Terms 26

Code of Ethics

A code of ethics is a set of guidelines or principles that outlines the ethical standards and expectations for behaviour of an individual, organisation, or profession.; It provides a framework for ethical decision-making and helps to promote integrity, professionalism, and accountability.

Code of Ethics

Example(s); Medical Council of India (MCI) Code of Ethics and Regulations sets Ethical Standards for physicians in India, including principles such as maintaining the dignity and honour of the medical profession, prioritising the well-being of the patient, and avoiding conflicts of interest.; Public Services Code.

Constitutional Morality

Constitutional morality entails the adherence to constitutional norms within a democratic system. It goes beyond the literal interpretation to encompass a commitment to values such as sovereignty, social justice, and equality in constitutional adjudication.; In the context of the constitution of India, the constitutional values are Democracy, Socialism, Equality and Integrity etc. briefly it is the preamble which...

Ethical Dilemma

Occurs when.; Two or more values are competing against each other.; Situation should be challenging and a choice is to be made.; One has to make a compromise on some values after the decision . Approach to solve Ethical dilemma can be: Example(s); Old lady without document/aadhar at PDS shop (should officials give food grain?); Lockdown necessary to prevent COVID spread vs Migration of workers back to home....

Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias is the tendency to search for, interpret, and favor information that confirms one's pre-existing beliefs, while giving less consideration to information that contradicts them.; It establishes that people naturally favour information that confirms their previously existing beliefs. Example(s); Voters who support a particular political party may ignore negative reports about their preferred party and...

Conformity Bias

Conformity bias is the tendency of individuals to align their opinions, beliefs, or behaviors with those of a group, often to avoid conflict or out of a desire for acceptance, even if it contradicts their personal views.; It is the tendency people have to behave like those around them rather than using their own personal judgement. Example(s); During elections, many people might vote for a party simply because it is...

Determinants of Ethics in Human Interaction

Deliberate Human Conduct: Ethics are influenced by individual choices, guided by knowledge, free will and voluntary actions. For example, a child is not ethically scrutinized due to their lack of maturity and understanding.; Nature of the Object: The ethical value of an action is often tied to the nature of the object or situation.; War is generally seen as negative because of its destructive impact on lives and...

Attitude

Attitude refers to a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically reflected in a person's behavior or actions. It encompasses a person's beliefs, feelings, and predispositions toward specific aspects of life.; It is a psychological tendency of evaluating a particular object either in favour or disfavour.; It Can be; Explicit: Conscious beliefs or feelings that individuals can clearly...

Moral Attitude

Moral attitude refers to an individual's disposition to judge actions, events, and people based on ethical principles and values. It is how one aligns their actions with their understanding of right and wrong.; Moral attitudes are inclusive of Moral judgements (right and wrong) and depict the Values of a person, such as those demonstrated by **Socrates**, **Plato**, and **Gandhi**.; Focuses on ethical judgments and values, it...

Social Attitude

Social attitude refers to the views, opinions, and behavioral tendencies that individuals or groups hold towards others within a social context. It is influenced by cultural, societal, and peer group norms.; Concerns one's outlook on societal and cultural aspects, shaped by personal experiences, as illustrated by attitudes towards social issues. It can be learned predispositions.

Social Attitude

100+ Ethics Key Terms 11

Democratic Attitude

Democratic attitude refers to the commitment to and belief in democratic values, including freedom of speech, equality, participation, and the rule of law, as fundamental to governance and society. It gives space to difference of opinion and appreciates participation of stakeholders. In case of public service, it ensures participation of people at various stages of policy formulation and implementation.; Values...

Bureaucratic Attitude

Bureaucratic attitude refers to the mindset and behavior of individuals working within a bureaucracy which is often characterized by adherence to rules, hierarchy and processes, sometimes at the expense of flexibility or personal judgment. Example: Santoshi Kumari in Jharkhand died of starvation due to a rigid bureaucratic attitude.

Bureaucratic Attitude

100+ Ethics Key Terms 12

Formation of attitudes through different models

Learning through exposure to information; Role modelling; Social comparison; Conditioning (Pavlov's Model); Classical Conditioning: Learning process where a neutral stimulus becomes associated with a meaningful stimulus, eliciting a conditioned response.; Example: □ A product (neutral stimulus) paired with positive music (meaningful stimulus) eventually elicits a positive attitude towards the product. □ A student...

Formation of attitudes through different models

100+ Ethics Key Terms 13

Formation of attitudes through different models

100+ Ethics Key Terms 14

Behaviour

It is the way a person conducts oneself. Our behaviour is largely shaped by our Attitude. A positive attitude manifests in Good Behaviour.; It is an individual's reaction to a particular action, person or environment.; Factors guiding Attitude- Behaviour Linkage.; Vested Interest: Strong personal stake leads to a more predictable alignment between attitude and behaviour.; Strength of Attitude: Stronger attitudes...

Behaviour

100+ Ethics Key Terms 15

Social Influence

Social influence refers to how individuals' thoughts, behaviors, and decisions are shaped by others, either directly or indirectly. Key Processes of Social Influence 1. Compliance: Behavior changes to meet external demands, without changing internal beliefs.; Example: Agreeing to attend a social event to avoid conflict. 2. Identification: Changing behavior to fit in with a desired group.; Example: Adopting a vegan...

Social Influence

Forms Behaviour Attitude Values Compliance Change Not Necessarily changes Not Necessarily changes Identification Change Change Not Necessarily changes Internalisation Change Change Change

Social Influence

100+ Ethics Key Terms 16

Social Influence

Changing attitudes through arguments or appeals.; Example: Advertisement persuading consumers to buy a product. The Asch Experiment concluded that individuals often conform to group opinions, even when they know the group is wrong, due to social pressure. It highlighted the powerful influence of conformity while also noting that some individuals resist and maintain independent judgments.

Persuasion

Persuasion is the process of influencing someone's beliefs, attitudes, or actions through logical reasoning, emotional appeal, or argument. It involves communication aimed at changing how someone perceives or behaves toward a particular idea or course of action.

Persuasion

100+ Ethics Key Terms 17

Attitude

Aptitude is the inherent ability or natural talent an individual possesses to perform certain tasks, acquire specific skills or excel in a particular field with relative ease.; Aptitude is not just limited to academic or technical abilities but can extend to interpersonal skills, creativity and leadership qualities as well. Formula for Success:; Attitude + Aptitude = Altitude: A positive mindset combined with innate...

Attitude

100+ Ethics Key Terms 20

Attitude

100+ Ethics Key Terms 21

Skill

Skill refers to the ability to perform tasks and activities with competence, gained through practice, experience, or training. It involves proficiency in specific areas, such as technical, interpersonal, or cognitive tasks.; Skill is defined as the learned ability or expertise of effectively and efficiently performing a task or a set of tasks. Practice, experience, and training help in developing Skills. Example(s)...

Skill

Quote(s); "The future belongs to those who learn more skills and combine them in creative ways."
(Robert Greene)

Intelligence

Intelligence is the ability to learn, understand and apply knowledge, reason, solve problems, and adapt to new situations effectively.; Intelligence is the outcome of a wide range of cognitive abilities like memory, creativity, logical reasoning, understanding, problem-solving, situational/spatial awareness and learning from experience. Example(s); The intelligence of global thinkers like Stephen Hawking, whose work...

Intelligence

Quote(s); "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change." (Stephen Hawking)

Ability

The natural or acquired competence to perform a particular activity or task is termed as Ability. Physical, Cognitive, or Behavioural are some of its types.; Ability refers to the capability or skill to perform tasks, solve problems, or execute specific actions. Example(s); Ability to Motivate People, Ability to Control Mob, Analytical Ability etc.; The ability of global leaders like Nelson Mandela to inspire...

Values

Values are deeply held beliefs and principles that guide an individual's actions and decisions, often shaping their ethical stance.

Values

100+ Ethics Key Terms 22

Values

Values are the Guiding Principles and Beliefs that shape an Individual's Behaviour, Decisions, and Attitudes.; Values influence our perceptions of right and wrong, good and bad, and what is meaningful and fulfilling.; Factors like Upbringing, Culture, Belief Systems, Education, and Personal Experiences all play their role in shaping Values for an individual. Values can also change over time as an individual's...

Principles

Principles are fundamental truths or propositions that serve as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior.; Principles are guiding concepts that help individuals and organisations make decisions, set priorities, and evaluate actions or outcomes. Example(s); The principle of "Ahimsa" (non-violence) in Jainism and its influence on Indian leaders like **Gandhi**, shaping the Indian independence movement....

Principles

Quote(s); "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." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Principles

100+ Ethics Key Terms 23

Principles

Proficiency A greater degree of competence for efficient, effective and accurate performance of a particular task or activity is termed as Proficiency. Proficiency results from focused extensive practice and experience.; Proficiency refers to a high level of skill or competence in a particular task or field, often acquired through practice and experience. Example(s); The proficiency of Indian scientists in space...

Principles

Quote(s); "When you serve your passions, proficiency gradually takes over and becomes habitual." (Robert Genn) □□□□□□

Principles

100+ Ethics Key Terms 24

Accountability

Accountability is the obligation of individuals or organizations to accept responsibility for their actions, decisions, and their outcomes, both positive and negative.; Accountability refers to the state of being responsible for one's actions, decisions, and performance, and being answerable for the outcomes of those actions.; Accountability ensures the government serves the people with integrity and transparency.

Accountability

100+ Ethics Key Terms 31

Accountability

Instruments of Accountability in a Democracy

Social Intelligence

Social Intelligence is the ability to understand and navigate social situations, recognizing social cues and dynamics to communicate effectively and build relationships.; It involves being aware of and sensitive to the emotions, needs, and perspectives of others, and being able to use that understanding to interact with others in a positive and constructive way.

Social Intelligence

100+ Ethics Key Terms 43

Attitude

Aptitude is the inherent ability or natural talent an individual possesses to perform certain tasks, acquire specific skills or excel in a particular field with relative ease.; Aptitude is not just limited to academic or technical abilities but can extend to interpersonal skills, creativity and leadership qualities as well. Formula for Success.; Attitude + Aptitude = Altitude: A positive mindset combined with innate...

Emotions

Emotions are complex psychological and physiological responses to stimuli that influence behavior, decisions, and interactions with others, often involving feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger, and fear.; Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and influence emotions in oneself and others, facilitating effective interpersonal relationships and decision-making.

Emotions

Example(s); Emotions can be positive or negative, and can range in intensity from mild to intense. Some common positive emotions are happiness, contentment, and excitement, while anger, fear, and sadness are common negative emotions.; Achieving a personal goal or witnessing the success of a loved one can evoke pride. It is the feeling of satisfaction from one's own or others' accomplishments.

Emotions

Quote(s); "One ought to hold on to one's heart; for if one lets it go, one soon loses control of the head too." (Friedrich Nietzsche); These elements are essential for personal and professional success, helping individuals understand and manage their emotions and relationships.

Emotions

100+ Ethics Key Terms 41

Emotions

Feature Emotion Emotional Intelligence Definition A complex psychological state involving The ability to recognize, understand, subjective experiences, physiological use, and manage emotions in oneself responses, and behavioural expressions. and others. Focus Primarily internal, subjective feelings. Both internal feelings and the ability to under-stand and navigate social interactions. Examples Happi-ness, sadness...

Emotions

Application of Emotional Intelligence in Administration and Governance; Public Administration: EI can improve public service delivery by enhancing communication, collaboration, and responsiveness to citizen needs.; Policy-Making: EI can inform policy design by considering the emotional impact of policies on different stakeholders and promoting inclusive decision- making processes.; Organisational Leadership: EI can...

Emotions

Example(s); Maintaining composure during stressful activities or in tense situations like chasing a target during a Cricket game, keeping calm and remaining focussed on the workplace despite disturbance in personal life.; Not being over-excited just before achieving a goal.; Using emotions to energise efforts but not letting them overwhelm you.

Emotions

100+ Ethics Key Terms 42

Emotions

Quote(s); "Rule Your Feelings, Lest Your Feelings Rule You." (Publilius Syrus); "Anybody can become angry-that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way-that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." (Aristotle)

EQ vs IQ

IQ or Intelligence Quotient is an intelligence test score. The test is aimed at assessing a person's cognitive capacity of thinking and reasoning.; EQ or Emotional Quotient is defined as a person's capability of identifying his own and other person's emotions. Emotional intelligence measures a person's ability to perceive, control, evaluate, and express emotions.; IQ may determine the height one may reach, but...

EQ vs IQ

Example(s); In a scenario where two individuals are applying for a high-pressure job, one has a distinguished IQ i.e she possesses greater cognitive capacity and skills but gets easily frustrated under pressure while the other one has an IQ which is comparable to many but her high EQ makes her more suitable to the job.

EQ vs IQ

Quote(s); "What really matters for success, character, happiness and life long achievements is a definite set of emotional skills-your EQ, not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by traditional IQ tests." (Daniel Goleman)

Interdependence

Interdependence is defined as a relationship between two or more entities in which each entity depends on the other(s) for support, cooperation, or mutual benefit. Individuals, groups, or systems that are interconnected and influenced by each other's activities and presence are said to be interdependent. Example(s); In a large tech company preparing for the launch of a new software product, several departments work...

Interdependence

Quote(s); "Global interdependence today means that economic disasters in developing countries could create a backlash on developed countries." (Atal Bihari Vajpayee) □□□□□□

Interdependence

100+ Ethics Key Terms 44

Social Intelligence

Social Intelligence is the ability to understand and navigate social situations, recognizing social cues and dynamics to communicate effectively and build relationships.; It involves being aware of and sensitive to the emotions, needs, and perspectives of others, and being able to use that understanding to interact with others in a positive and constructive way. Example(s); Kiran Bedi - The first female IPS is...

Teachings of Buddhism and Jainism

Buddhism Jainism It is based on the Five Moral Precepts given by It refers to the Five Moral Principles or Gautama **Buddha** Pancha Mahavratas;; Abstain from killing.; Ahimsa: nonviolence; Abstain from stealing; Satya: speaking and following truth; Abstain from sexual misconduct; Asteya- not stealing anything; Abstain from wrong speech; Brahmacharya- control over sensual; Abstain from the use of intoxicating substances...

Teachings of Buddhism and Jainism

100+ Ethics Key Terms 64

Teachings of Buddhism and Jainism

100+ Ethics Key Terms 65

Constitutional Morality

Constitutional morality entails the adherence to constitutional norms within a democratic system. It goes beyond the literal interpretation to encompass a commitment to values such as sovereignty, social justice, and equality in constitutional adjudication.; In the context of the constitution of India, the constitutional values are Democracy, Socialism, Equality and Integrity etc. briefly it is the preamble which...

Seven Sins and Sarvodaya Approach of Mahatma Gandhi

The Seven Principles of Public Life given by Lord Nolan/ Nolan Principles

Integrity

Integrity refers to the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, with a consistency of actions, values, methods, and outcomes.; As per C.S. Lewis, it "is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking."; Integrity is revealed when people act virtuously regardless of circumstance or consequences.; Integrity has nothing to do with external influences but is regulated by internal compulsions....

Integrity

Feature Honesty Integrity Core Value Truthfulness, sincerity Moral uprightness, adherence to principles, consistency between actions and values Focus Speaking the truth, avoiding deceit Doing what is right, even when inconvenient or difficult Scope Primarily about words and Encompasses thoughts, words, actions, and communication decisions Example Admitting to a mistake, not cheating Returning a lost item, standing...

Integrity

Example(s); Lord Rama in the Ramayana is a model of integrity, always upholding truth and righteousness even in the face of personal loss.; Following traffic rules even when the Police is absent.; Ensuring quality of deliverables despite excessive workload.; Kautilya using separate lamps for official work & personal work.; Late P.M.Lal Bahadur Shastri: On a visit to a textile mill as Prime Minister, when the owner...

Integrity

Quote(s); "When you are able to maintain your own highest standards of integrity-regardless of what others may do-you are destined for greatness."(Napoleon Hill); "Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain." (Chris Karcher)

Integrity

100+ Ethics Key Terms 25

Moral Integrity

Moral integrity refers to maintaining ethical standards and staying true to one's values, principles, and honesty, even under pressure.; Consistently adhering to ethical principles and doing the right thing, even when it is difficult or inconvenient.

Moral Integrity

Example; An Indian bureaucrat refusing bribes and reporting corruption despite pressure.; Ratan Tata, former chairman of Tata Group, led the company to exit the tobacco business due to ethical concerns, prioritizing societal well-being over profit-even when it meant financial sacrifice for the corporation

Moral Integrity

Quote; "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." (C.S. Lewis); "In matters of principle, stand like a rock." (Thomas Jefferson)

Honesty

Honesty is the quality of being truthful, transparent, and straightforward in actions and words, free from deceit.; It is the quality of standing by the truth or being truthful. Example(s); The "Honest Abe" reputation refers to the widely held perception of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, as a man of exceptional integrity, honesty, and moral character. He is remembered for his truthfulness...

Impartiality

Impartiality is the principle of treating all people, groups or viewpoints equally without any bias or favoritism.; It is the quality of being fair, or not being biased or partial towards anything or anyone.; Impartiality is the life of justice, as justice is the life of all good governance.

Impartiality

Example(s); An impartial team leader allocates tasks based on skills and strengths, not relationships or seniority, ensuring fairness, boosting morale, and fostering a merit-based, highperformance work environment.; Vinod Rai, former CAG, audited government projects like the 2G spectrum scam without political pressure.; Dr.B.R.ambedkar was chosen in Nehru's cabinet due to his merits despite his personal...

Impartiality

100+ Ethics Key Terms 27

Non-partisanship

Non-partisanship is the principle of avoiding alignment with any particular political party or ideology, especially in public service, to maintain objectivity and neutrality.; Non-partisanship is the principle of remaining neutral and not showing allegiance to any political party or group.; A virtue of staying out of competing groups.(Eg:India during Cold War); It ensures that decisions and actions are made based on...

Neutrality

Neutrality is the state of not taking sides in conflicts or disputes and maintaining an unbiased position.; It is the state of not taking sides on any issue, conflict or situation. Example(s); India's stance of nonalignment during the Cold War era, where it refrained from aligning with either the Soviet Union or the United States.; Mother's love is regarded as the Highest Manifestation of Neutrality, be it a boy or...

Neutrality

100+ Ethics Key Terms 28

Objectivity

Objectivity is the quality of being impartial, unbiased and unprejudiced especially when making decisions, judgments, or analyses.; It is the ability to judge based on facts and observations without any personal or institutional biases; and without any external influences.; The goal of objectivity is to see things as they are, not as we wish them to be. Example(s); **Kautilya's** Arthashastra is often regarded as an...

Anonymity

In terms of public service, anonymity refers to the concealment of an individual's identity in order to protect their privacy, prevent bias or allow for fair and impartial decision-making.; In terms of Public Service, it refers to staying behind the curtain. It is related to the concepts of Permanence and Neutrality in civil services.. Example(s); Several Doctors, Paramedics and Medical Staff have Anonymously...

Courage

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty or other forms of adversity with resolve and determination.; Courage is the quality of being brave, fearless, and willing to confront and overcome challenges, difficulties or even danger.; Courage can take many forms from physical acts of bravery to emotional resilience in the face of difficult situations. Example(s); The courage of Rani Lakshmibai...

Courage

100+ Ethics Key Terms 29

Courage

Gandhiji's defiant Salt March to Dandi.; Narendra Kumar, the IPS officer of 2009 batch, fought with exemplary courage against the Mining Mafias in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. Quote(s); "Courage to accept and dedication to improve are two keys to success."; "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practise any other virtue consistently." (Maya Angelou)

Fortitude

Fortitude is the mental and emotional strength to endure adversity, hardship or difficult situations with resilience.; Fortitude refers to a quality that enables us to face life's difficulties with courage, perseverance and a deep sense of inner strength. Example(s); A single parent juggling multiple responsibilities and battling financial, emotional, and practical obstacles and associated stress.; A soldier with...

Responsiveness

Responsiveness is the quality of reacting quickly and positively to situations, needs, or changes, showing attentiveness and prompt action.; It is the quality of being quick to respond and sensitive to the needs of others. It involves being attentive, receptive and adaptive to the needs, concerns or feedback of others whether in personal, professional or organizational contexts. Example(s); Shivdeep Waman Lande, the...

Openness

Openness refers to the state of being Transparent, Inclusive, and Accessible. Openness promotes a Culture of Trust, Accountability, and leads to social and economic development by increasing access to knowledge and opportunities, enhancing innovation, and creating more inclusive societies.; Openness is the willingness to consider new ideas, experiences and viewpoints and maintaining a receptive attitude to change...

Openness

Quote(s); "Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." (T.S. Eliot)

Openness

100+ Ethics Key Terms 30

Selflessness

Selflessness refers to the quality of putting others' needs before one's own, prioritizing the welfare of others over personal gain.; In a selflessness approach, the benefit to society is maximised, as decisions and actions are driven by the welfare of the community rather than personal gain.; Selflessness can manifest itself in many different ways such as acts of kindness, generosity, patriotism and altruism. It is...

Responsibility

Responsibility refers to the duty to deal with something or someone, acknowledging the consequences of one's actions.; Responsibility refers to the willingness and ability to accept the consequences of one's choices and to fulfil the duties and expectations associated with a particular role, position or situation.

Responsibility

Example(s); Government of India's handling of COVID-19 displayed a strong sense of responsibility towards public health and economic recovery.; Citizen's responsibility to obey the law, pay taxes and vote etc.; Corporate Firm's Corporate Social Responsibility

Responsibility

Quote(s); "The price of greatness is responsibility." (Winston Churchill); "You can't escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." (Abraham Lincoln)

Responsibility

100+ Ethics Key Terms 32

Temperance

Temperance is a personality trait that refers to the ability to exercise Self-Control and Moderation in one's behaviour and avoiding Impulsive Behaviour especially when it comes to indulging.; Temperance allows individuals to maintain balance and avoid extremes. Example(s); **Mahatma Gandhi** exhibited temperance through his practice of non-violence (Ahimsa) and self- restraint. Even under extreme provocation, he...

Prudence

Prudence is the ability to make wise and careful decisions, taking into consideration the potential consequences and long-term effects of one's actions.; Prudence refers to the quality of being careful, cautious, and wise in making decisions and taking actions. Use good judgement and foresight to anticipate potential risks and avoiding hasty or impulsive decisions make one prudent. Example(s); The prudence of...

Spirit of Service

100+ Ethics Key Terms 33

Dedication to Public Service

Dedication to public service is the commitment to serve society and contribute to the welfare of the community, often at the expense of personal interests or comfort.; It refers to commitment of a public servant towards his/duty to ensure the welfare of the public.

Dedication to Public Service

Example(s); S. R. Sankaran, IAS, was known as the People's Man as he led to the Abolition of Bonded Labour and did a lot for the welfare of marginalised communities.; Kiran Bedi (1st woman IPS) transformed the Tihar jail from a 'Human Zoo' to a 'Human Dwelling' through her Dedication towards Work. Quote(s); "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win...

Perseverance

Perseverance is the ability to persist in doing something despite difficulties, obstacles or delays in achieving success.; Perseverance involves a combination of determination, persistence, and resilience in the face of difficulties or failures. It is an important trait for achieving success in various fields. Example(s); The perseverance of India's freedom fighters despite British repression and their continued...

Perseverance

Quote(s); "It always seems impossible until it is done." (Nelson Mandela); "Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other." (Walter Elliot); "Every work has to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later." (**Swami Vivekananda**)

Discipline

Discipline refers to the practice of maintaining control over one's behavior and actions, adhering to rules, standards, and ethical principles to achieve goals.; Discipline refers to a set of Rules or a Code of Conduct that one follows in order to achieve a certain goal or maintain a certain standard and balance.

Discipline

100+ Ethics Key Terms 34

Discipline

It is the practice of Self-Control and the ability to adhere to the accepted Rules or Standards even when faced with distractions. Example(s); **Operation Sindoor (2025)** showcased the Indian Army's discipline through precise, restrained actions, coordinated multi-force strategies, adherence to rules of engagement and effective use of technology, ensuring national security and regional stability. Quote(s); "He who...

Sympathy

100+ Ethics Key Terms 35

Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person, recognizing their emotional state and responding with care and compassion.; The ability to understand and share the feelings of another person by putting oneself in their shoes. (Equality in mental state) Empathy can be cultivated through various approaches, including;; Role Models;; Highlighting empathetic officers and leaders who...

Compassion

Compassion is the emotional response of sympathy and concern for the suffering of others, often accompanied by the desire to help alleviate that suffering.; It is feeling the pain of others and wanting to help them in relieving their pain. Compassion is Empathy in action.

Compassion

100+ Ethics Key Terms 36

Compassion

100+ Ethics Key Terms 37

Social Capital

Social capital is the network of relationships, trust, and norms that enable people to work together to achieve shared goals.; Networks, trust, and shared values that enable individuals or groups to cooperate for mutual benefit and societal well-being.

Social Capital

Example; In corporate life, strong social capital within a company boosts collaboration and innovation, improving overall performance.; Social capital for a politician is the trust, goodwill, and network of relationships they build with constituents, colleagues, and the broader community. It is a crucial asset for political effectiveness, public influence, and long-term success.

Social Capital

Quote; "Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication." (Stephen Covey); "The greatest capital of a nation is the social trust that its citizens place in each other." (Abraham Lincoln)

Sarvodaya

Sarvodaya means "welfare of all" or "universal uplift," an ideal of social progress focusing on the well-being of every individual in society.; The philosophy of universal upliftment and welfare of all, central to Gandhian thought.

Sarvodaya

Example; Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement (land gift movement) in India embodied Sarvodaya, promoting land redistribution for the welfare of the poor.; Modern NGOs and cooperatives in India and abroad that focus on inclusive growth, collective decisionmaking, and sustainable development embody Sarvodaya principles.

Sarvodaya

100+ Ethics Key Terms 39

Sarvodaya

Quote; "The welfare of all depends on the welfare of the individual." (Vinoba Bhave); "I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice." (Mahatma Gandhi)

Antyodaya

Antyodaya refers to the upliftment of the last person in society, focusing on the needs of the poorest and most marginalized communities.; The principle of uplifting the last and most disadvantaged person in society, ensuring no one is left behind. Example; Indian government schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana targeting food security for the poorest families.; Organizations and individuals who focus on providing...

Character

Character refers to the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual, shaping their actions and responses to various situations.; Character defines a person's Moral and Ethical Identity as a result of certain qualities, values, and traits that one possesses. Example(s); The character of Karna in the Mahabharata, whose loyalty to Duryodhana and adherence to his personal code of honor defined his actions...

Character

Quote(s); "Character is like a tree and reputation is like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." (Abraham Lincoln)

Rationality

Rationality refers to the ability to think logically, make decisions based on reason and evidence, and avoid biases or emotions in decision-making.; Rationality refers to the ability to think critically, weigh different options, and make informed decisions in a logical and reasoned way i.e. based on evidence and facts. Example(s); Public Welfare schemes (PMJDY, Digital India, Skill India etc.) are only unfolded...

Rationality

Quote(s); "Rationality is the recognition of the fact that nothing can alter the truth and nothing can take precedence over that act of perceiving it." (Ayn Rand) □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Rationality

100+ Ethics Key Terms 40

Ethical Governance

Ethical governance refers to the practice of upholding moral principles and values in public administration, ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of society with transparency and accountability.; It takes into account the set of Rules, Practices, and Processes driven by Moral principles like Probity, Honesty, Integrity, Transparency etc.

Ethical Governance

Example(s); Reforms like Mission Karmayogi aim to build efficiency, accountability, and transparency in bureaucracy with the larger aim of providing ethical governance.; CPGRAMS Portal of Union Government and Sampark Portal of Rajasthan Government for Effective Grievance Redressal .

Ethical Governance

Quote(s); "I believe that as a part of good governance, all agencies should be reviewing regulations and cleaning up those that may be outdated, redundant, or unnecessary." (Seth Moulton)

Ethics in Public Administration

It encompasses all activities that aims to Achieve/Implement public policy.; It means Which Values should guide the conduct of Civil servants and What should be ethical principles?; Quality of service; Empathy/Compassion/Tolerance ; Innovation & Initiative ; Efficiency/ Outcome Oriented ; Responsibility/Responsiveness ; Actionable Accountability ; Transparency and Citizen friendliness.; Central Services conduct...

Ethics in Public Administration

Problems of Ethics in Indian administration; Lack of Ethical Literacy.(Majority of decision based on Rule books); Poor Reward and Punishment Mechanism.(Disregarding Merit).; Secrecy in Indian Administration (Despite of RTI ACT,2005).; Lack of proper Grievance Redressal Mechanism.; Political superiority (As Bureaucrats are accountable to their political masters; Thus ill decision making); Lack of proper Whistleblower...

Good Governance

As per World bank in Governance and development Report "Good governance is synonymous with sound development management."; It defined Good Governance as "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development".

Good Governance

100+ Ethics Key Terms 45

Good Governance

UNDP defines good governance as governing systems that are capable, responsive, inclusive, and transparent.; Good governance has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law.; It tells about Quality of Governance; should be pro-people and citizen friendly.

Good Governance

Example(s); The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India is an example of good governance, where the government aimed at simplifying tax systems and improving compliance.

Good Governance

Quote(s); "Righteousness is the foundation stone of peace and good governance".(Confucius)

Law

Law is a system of rules and guidelines that are enforced through social institutions to regulate behavior and maintain order within a society.; Law is an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community, and promulgated(St Thomas Aquinas); Types: Statutory, Natural law, Divine law, etc.; In general ethics and law not in conflict with each other(Due to common good).; Ethics provides...

Law

Quote(s); "Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws" (Plato); "Law is not law, if it violates the principles of eternal justice." (Lydia Maria Child); "The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom."(John Locke)

Law

100+ Ethics Key Terms 46

Rule

A rule is a prescribed guide for conduct or action, typically set by an authority to ensure order and consistency within a group or society.; Formed on the basis of Law; it is a subset of law; Flexible; and can be changed by Law enforcers (Executives) ; but in general Law can only be changed by legislature. It is generally the regulations or procedures that govern the conduct within the specific area of activity. It...

Rule

Example(s); Rules of conduct of business in the Houses of the Parliament regulate the manner and procedure governing the proceedings of the House.; The Model Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates ensures that elections are free from manipulation and bias, promoting fair competition and the integrity of the electoral process.

Rule

Quote(s); "Rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men." (Douglas Bader); "The rule is perfect in all its parts, and the perfect rule is as much a work of art as a work of science." (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

Conscience

Conscience is the internal sense of right and wrong, a moral compass that guides an individual's decisions and actions based on ethical principles.; It is an individual judgement regarding the morality of one's actions. It creates a sense of guilt for committing something wrong and pride for right. Thus, It is a Moral compass that gives Guidance , Knowledge and Understanding of what is right and what is wrong.; Human...

Conscience

Example(s); A BSF jawan in Jaipur, Jitendra Singh refused to accept dowry worth Rs 11 lakh and instead, took Rs 11 and coconut as a token.; Durga Shakti Nagpal (IAS Officer) was motivated by her Conscience to take actions against politically supported Sand Mafia despite death threats .

Conscience

100+ Ethics Key Terms 47

Conscience

Before the war, Yudhishtira seeks counsel from Krishna, Bhishma, and Vidura, expressing his doubts about the righteousness of war and his role in it. His willingness to question his own motives highlights the importance of self-reflection and conscience.

Conscience

Quote(s); "There is a higher court than courts of justice and that is the court of conscience. It supersedes all other courts." (Mahatma Gandhi); "Labour to keep alive in your chest that little spark of Celestial fire, called Conscience" (George Washington)

Corporate Governance

Corporate governance refers to the systems, principles, and processes by which companies are directed and controlled, ensuring accountability, fairness, and transparency in business operations.; According to **Cadbury Committee**, Corporate governance is the "system by which companies are directed and controlled."; The features of corporate governance can be listed as follows.; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)...

Corporate Governance

100+ Ethics Key Terms 48

Corporate Governance

Issues of CG in India; Non-adherence to set of ethical standards like business ethics (Business with moral vices like black marketing, adulteration, tax evasion, lobbying, etc.); Coal block scam, 2G scam; Recent Patanjali case involving misleading advertisements and product quality issues.; Family-owned businesses in India in private sectors is very high (Dominance of family members in BODs); In the public sector...

Corporate Governance

SEBI Recommendations; Board of a listed company may be required to ensure that plans are in place for the orderly succession for appointments to the board and senior management.; Making Whistle Blower Mechanism a compulsory requirement; Separating the position of Chairman and that of the Managing Director/CEO.; Enabling shareholders to electronically cast their vote.; Appointment of independent directors by minority...

Corporate Governance

100+ Ethics Key Terms 49

Corporate Governance

Formal channel for information sharing between company and promoters.; Public sector companies governed by listing regulations, not by nodal ministries.; Penalise auditors for lapses.; SEBI should be empowered to grant immunity to whistleblowers.

Corporate Governance

Example(s); Warren Buffett is known for his Ethical Business Strategy based on 3 Ps- Principal, Purpose and People.; JIO did not fire many employees during Covid19 ;instead cut their salary (Compassionate capitalism).; Vishal Sikka resigned from Infosys amidst differences with the board and founders, and Cyrus Mistry was dismissed from Tata Sons due to governance issues and performance concerns.

Corporate Governance

Quote(s); "Corporate governance should be done more through principles than rules." (Adi Godrej).; "Corporate Governance is beyond the realm of law. It stems from culture and mindset of management, and cannot be regulated by legislation alone. Corporate governance deals with conducting the affairs of a company such that there is fairness to all stakeholders and that its actions benefit the greatest number of...

Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a business model and management concept in which companies integrate social and environmental concerns into their operations and interactions with stakeholders, going beyond the sole pursuit of profit.; CSR is a process with the aim to embrace responsibility for the company's actions and encourage a positive impact through its activities on the environment, consumers...

Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR)

Example(s); Tata Trust's support of institutions like TISS and IISc Bangalore, Reliance's Project Drishti.; Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) Project Shakti: Empowering rural women through entrepreneurship opportunities.; ITC's e-Choupal Initiative: Providing agricultural information and market access to farmers.; Mahindra & Mahindra's Nanhi Kali Initiative: Supporting the education of underprivileged girls.

Nepotism

Nepotism is the practice of favoring relatives or friends by giving them positions of power or influence, especially in the workplace or government.; It refers to the misuse of one's power or position to extend an unfair advantage to a closed one.

Nepotism

Example(s); A political leader appointing his son as the president of party instead of internal elections and fair chance to other party members.

Nepotism

Quote(s); "Despotism favours the despot, nepotism favours the despot's genes." (Danielle Tremblay) □□□□□□□□

Nepotism

100+ Ethics Key Terms 50

Seven Sins and Sarvodaya Approach of Mahatma Gandhi

The Seven Principles of Public Life given by Lord Nolan/ Nolan Principles

Seven Sins and Sarvodaya Approach of Mahatma Gandhi

100+ Ethics Key Terms 63

Moral Reasoning

Moral reasoning involves the process of making decisions based on ethical principles, such as fairness, justice, and rights, to resolve ethical dilemmas.; The process of evaluating right and wrong using ethical principles and logical thinking to guide actions and decisions. Example; In Indian judicial reforms, judges use moral reasoning to decide on cases related to fundamental rights and social justice.; In India...

Moral Intuition

Moral intuition refers to the immediate understanding of what is right or wrong without the need for conscious reasoning.; Immediate, instinctive sense of right and wrong, often guiding actions without conscious deliberation. Example; A business leader immediately recognizing the unethical nature of a corporate deal and opting out despite potential profits.; Feeling compelled to help a stranger in distress without...

Accountability

Accountability is the obligation of individuals or organizations to accept responsibility for their actions, decisions, and their outcomes, both positive and negative.; Accountability refers to the state of being responsible for one's actions, decisions, and performance, and being answerable for the outcomes of those actions.; Accountability ensures the government serves the people with integrity and transparency....

Spirit of Service

The spirit of service is the dedication to helping others without expecting personal gain, often seen in acts of compassion and social responsibility.; Selfless commitment to the welfare of others, prioritizing public good over personal gain. Example; Civil servants working selflessly during disasters to aid affected communities in India. Quote; "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of...

Tolerance

Tolerance is the ability or willingness to accept or endure people, opinions, or behaviors that one may disagree with, without resorting to prejudice or hostility.; Tolerance is Respect, Acceptance and Appreciation of the rich Diversity of our world's Cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. (UNESCO). Example(s); India's tradition of religious tolerance, where multiple faiths coexist peacefully, as...

Sympathy

Sympathy is the feeling of compassion or pity for another person's misfortune, often accompanied by a desire to help or comfort them.; Sympathy is feeling care and concern for someone in distress, recognizing their emotions, and wanting to see them feel better. Example(s); In his Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save Childhood Movement), Kailash Satyarthi has shown unparalleled sympathy towards marginalized children who are...

Antipathy and Apathy

Antipathy: It is the feeling of strong dislike or hostility towards someone or something.; Apathy: It is the state of being indifferent towards someone or something. It is marked by absence of concern, feeling, emotions, inclination, etc. towards something. Example(s); Antipathy; The Cold War (1947-1991) saw intense antipathy between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, driven by ideological differences resulting in...

Probity

Probity is the quality of adhering to strong moral principles such as honesty, integrity, uprightness, Good character and decency. It is an act of following the highest principles and ideals rather than merely avoiding corrupt or dishonest conduct.; Probity is confirmed integrity.; Probity in governance ensures that the system remains transparent, accountable, responsive, and open to scrutiny.; According to NCRCW...

Probity

Probity is crucial for Good Governance; Enhances Credibility of the state apparatus: Ensures procedural integrity, leading to efficient and effective system of governance and socio-economic development.; Ensures Institutional Integrity: Maintains ethicality and legality of institutions. It involves adopting an ethical and transparent approach, allowing the process to withstand scrutiny.; Minimises individual...

Probity

Measures taken by Government of India to ensure Probity in Governance; **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** and CVC.; Right to Information Act, 2005 (The **2nd ARC** considers RTI as the master key to good governance.); **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013**; Whistle-blowers Protection Act, 2014; **Prohibition of Benami Property Transaction Act, 1988** and amendments in 2016

Probity

Example(s); A Public Official with probity would act in the public interest, be transparent about their financial dealings, and avoid conflicts of interest.; A Journalist who adheres to Probity would report the truth and be transparent about their sources of information. They would avoid sensationalism and bias, and ensure that their reporting is accurate and fact-based.

Probity

Quote(s); "Recognized probity is the surest of all oaths." (Suzanne Curchod)

Probity

100+ Ethics Key Terms 51

Transparency

Transparency is the practice of being open, clear, and honest in decision-making, communications, and operations, ensuring that actions can be easily understood and scrutinized.; Transparency refers to the availability of information to the general public and clarity about the functioning of governmental institutions.; Transparency is an important principle for promoting Honesty, Trust, and Accountability in all...

Transparency

Transparency as a tool for Good Governance; In a functional democracy, the government is obliged to keep its citizens informed. This helps citizens to hold their public officials accountable, which is key to just and good governance.; As per the **2nd ARC**, transparency in a democracy allows bi-directional information flow which allows citizens to participate in governance.; It empowers the citizens to demand and get...

Transparency

Example(s); A social media platform that is transparent would publicly disclose its content moderation policies, so users know what is allowed and what is not.; A non-profit organisation that adheres to transparency would publish its annual report, which provides information about its activities, finances, and achievements over the past year.

Transparency

Quote(s); "A lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity." (Dalai Lama); "Transparency is the key to good-governance and e-governance is the only effective way of transparent governance." (Narendra Modi)

Right to Information

RTI marks the era of beginning of light and end of the era of darkness.; Considered as the 5th pillar of democracy.; Objective is to secure access to information under public authorities.(Promote Transparency and Accountability.)

Right to Information

100+ Ethics Key Terms 52

Code of Conduct

A code of conduct is a set of guidelines or rules designed to define acceptable behaviors and responsibilities within a specific context, such as a workplace or profession.; A Code of Conduct may also address issues such as conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and compliance with laws and regulations.; Many organisations and professions have their own Codes of Conduct, which are often enforced through...

Code of Conduct

Example(s); The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has a Code of Conduct for its employees that outlines the ethical and professional standards to be followed.

Code of Conduct

100+ Ethics Key Terms 54

Conflict of Interest

A 'conflict of interest' involves a conflict between the public duty and private interests of a public official, in which the public official has private-capacity interests which could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities. (OECD); When an individual or organisation is faced with competing interests or loyalties that may interfere with their ability to act in a Fair...

Conflict of Interest

Quote(s); "The most difficult thing is to recognize that sometimes we too are blinded by our own incentives. Because we don't see how our conflicts of interest work on us." (Dan Ariely)

Coercion

Using force, threats, or intimidation to compel someone to act against their free will, thereby voiding genuine consent.; Coercion involves forcing someone to act against their will through threats, pressure, or violence often resulting in the violation of personal freedoms.

Coercion

100+ Ethics Key Terms 55

Coercion

Example; Forcing an employee to sign a resignation letter under threat of job loss in India.; Coercion in political regimes, like the emergency period in India (1975-77), where opposition leaders were detained and citizens faced forced actions.

Coercion

Quote; "The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion." (Albert Camus); "Coercion, after all, merely captures man. Freedom captivates him." (Robert McNamara)

Undue Influence

Undue influence occurs when someone uses their power to manipulate or control another person's decision-making process, typically exploiting trust, vulnerability, or a relationship.; Improper use of power or position to dominate another's will and gain unfair advantage, especially in relationships of trust.

Undue Influence

Example; A senior official pressuring a junior to approve a contract favoring relatives.; In corporate life, high-ranking officials pressuring subordinates into unethical actions for personal gain.

Undue Influence

Quote; "Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power." (John Steinbeck); "The greatest remedy for the ills of the people is not to impose influence but to provide them with the liberty to act." (John Stuart Mill)

Corruption

Corruption is derived from the Greek word "Corruptus" ;means Destruction or to Destroy.; Corruption is defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gains.; Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical behaviour that involves the abuse of power for personal gain.; Corruption can take many forms such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, fraud,etc.

Corruption

100+ Ethics Key Terms 56

Corruption

Quote(s); "Corruption is a cancer, a cancer that eats away at a citizen's faith in democracy, diminishes the instinct for innovation and creativity." (Joe Biden); Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi remarked in 1985 about corruption in the country that only 15 paise of every rupee meant for welfare of the downtrodden reaches them. Types of Corruption:

Coercive Corruption

Coercive corruption involves forcing or threatening individuals to engage in corrupt practices, such as bribery, under duress or fear of harm.; Coercive corruption occurs when an individual in power uses threats, intimidation, or force to extract bribes or illicit favors, compelling others to comply against their will.

Coercive Corruption

100+ Ethics Key Terms 57

Coercive Corruption

Example; A government inspector threatens to shut down a small business unless the owner pays a bribe, leaving the owner with no real choice but to comply to avoid severe losses.; During election seasons, certain political parties or leaders may coerce voters through threats of violence, intimidation, or denial of government benefits to ensure their votes.

Collusive Corruption

Collusive corruption occurs when two or more parties secretly collaborate to engage in corrupt practices, often to benefit mutually at the expense of others.; Collusive corruption involves two or more parties willingly collaborating to engage in corrupt acts, such as bribery or fraud, for mutual benefit, often bypassing rules or regulations.

Collusive Corruption

Example; A contractor and a government official agree to inflate project costs and split the excess funds, both benefiting from the arrangement at the public's expense.; In corporate life, businesses colluding with government officials to rig bids or gain unfair advantages in procurement processes exemplifies collusive corruption.

Work Culture

Work culture can be defined as the way of life of people in an organisation. It is the totality of processes, Procedures and behaviour of people in organisation for achieving objectives of organisation.; It is the work culture which decides the way employees interact with each other and how organisations functions. Workplace culture can make or break an organisation.

Work Culture

100+ Ethics Key Terms 58

Work Culture

Determinants /Characteristics of Work Culture

Work Culture

Elements of Positive work Culture; Efficiency & economy of time as well as performances; Promptness(Quick response reduce cost overruns); Simplicity of rules and regulations; Flexibility in operations; Quality of service; Organisational Humanism; Goal orientation; Authority-Responsibility balance

Work Culture

Example(s); ISRO has a better work culture.; It is due to Autonomy, Responsibility, Patriotism, Leadership, Aspiration to be exemplary.; Ira Singhal(IAS) is the first person to give a job to a transgender person full-time employment in a government office; thus making the Working environment more inclusive.

Work Culture

100+ Ethics Key Terms 59

Work Culture

Quote(s); 'Being a great place to work is the difference between being a good company and a great company.' (Brian Kristofek); "A hallmark of a healthy creative culture is that its people feel free to share ideas, opinions, and criticisms. Lack of candour, if unchecked, ultimately leads to dysfunctional environments." (Ed Catmull); "Once you have an innovation culture, even those who are not scientists or engineers...

Quality of Service Delivery

It is defined on the basis of the relationship between Expectation & Perception.; Characteristics

Quality of Service Delivery

Efficiency(Cost effectiveness); Responsibility; Endurance (Durability/Quality); Accessibility/Reachability; Effective Grievance redressal mechanism; Timeline; Likeness/Fitting/Suitability; Quality of service is different from Quality of product ; Product's quality can be determined on the basis of certain traits but it is difficult to determine Quality of service as it is a Qualitative term. (In general, the...

Quality of Service Delivery

100+ Ethics Key Terms 60

Quality of Service Delivery

Example(s); Government has taken many steps to deliver quality of service such as PRAGATI, Digitisation, One nation one ration card, e-Filing of Income Tax Return etc ,UPI,e-RUPI etc.; Armstrong Pame constructed a 100 km road in a remote and underdeveloped area of the Manipur hills, by crowdfunding through social media and funds provided by businesses and local leaders.; Awanish Sharan(Chhattisgarh IAS Officer)...

Quality of Service Delivery

Quote(s); "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little." (Franklin D. Roosevelt); "The nation will find it very hard to look up to the leaders who are keeping their ears to the ground". (Sir Winston Churchill); "Governance and public service delivery should be designed to make life easier for the people."

Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness refers to the ability to be relied upon to act with honesty, integrity, and in the best interest of others, fostering confidence and reliability.; The quality of being Honest, Sincere, at all times which makes a person Reliable. Example(s); The rampant spread of Fake News and Rumours have reduced the trustworthiness of Social Media.; Providing truthful and precise information in reports or...

Trustworthiness

Quote(s); "No virtue is more universally accepted as a test of good character than trustworthiness." (Harry Emerson Fosdick)

Discrimination

Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, often based on characteristics such as race, gender, or religion.

Discrimination

Example(s); Racial discrimination- Mahatma Gandhi was thrown out of the first class compartment in a train due to his skin colour.; Caste based discrimination- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar faced discrimination in school as he belonged to the Mahar caste considered as untouchable.

Discrimination

100+ Ethics Key Terms 61

Discrimination

Quote(s); "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." (Nelson Mandela)

Preferential Treatment

Preferential treatment is the practice of giving advantages or favorable treatment to certain individuals or groups, often at the expense of others.; It refers to the concession or the privilege granted to certain persons or groups of persons thereby making certain benefits more accessible to them. Example(s); Preferential treatment is given to persons with disability to help them access public facilities with...

Common Good

The common good refers to the benefits or well-being of all members of a community or society, often achieved through collective effort and shared responsibility.; It refers to those facilities which benefit the society at large and are naturally shared by all the members of a community. Example(s); Public transportation and recreational facilities, the judicial system, civil liberties like the freedom of speech and...

Falsehood

A non-true or inaccurate statement or assertion can be termed as Falsehood. Intentionally or unintentionally the claim in the statement could be misleading or deceptive like lies, rumours, misconceptions, and misrepresentations. Example(s); Advertisers, many times, make false/exaggerated claims about their products in order to increase sales.; Nazi propaganda in Germany was built on deliberate falsehoods and...

Falsehood

100+ Ethics Key Terms 62

Citizen's Charter

Citizens' Charters initiative is a response to the quest for solving the problems which a citizen encounters, day in and day out, while dealing with the organisations providing public services.; The concept of Citizens' Charter enshrines the trust between the service provider and its users.; A Citizen's Charter is a document that outlines the commitments made by a government or public service provider to its...

Code of Ethics

A code of ethics is a set of guidelines or principles that outlines the ethical standards and expectations for behaviour of an individual, organisation, or profession.; It provides a framework for ethical decision-making and helps to promote integrity, professionalism, and accountability. Example(s); Medical Council of India (MCI) Code of Ethics and Regulations sets Ethical Standards for physicians in India...

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