



ETHICS TEST – 1 (APSC Mains 2023)

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(Please fill your details correctly)

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: • There are 10 questions. • All questions are compulsory. • Marks and word limit have been indicated against the questions. • The answers must not exceed 150 words for 10 marks and 250 words for 15 marks. • Content is more important than the number of words.
1.	10		
2.	10		
3.	10		
4.	10		
5.	10		
6.	15		
7.	15		
8.	15		
9.	15		
10.	15		
TOTAL:	125		



Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

	Poor	Average	Good	Very good	Excellent
Understanding the context and demand of the questions					
Relevancy of the content					
Structure and flow of the answer					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Body					
(c) Conclusion					
Subject knowledge					
Language of the answer					
Presentation					
(a) Underline to the keywords					
(b) Use of flowcharts or diagrams					
(c) Paragraph limits and overall					
Understanding of directives					
Factual correctness					
Overall performance					

Detail Feedback

Q1) Discuss the values that make people sail through times of distress and crisis.
[150 words]

Ans: The true test of character of a person is seen during times of distress and crisis. The attitude of an individual and the actions and inactions in dark times bring to light the core values of a person. It is during 'wake or break' situations that a person's entire lives learnings are put to test.

The core values that make people sail through tough times range widely from integrity to courage to perseverance. The values that anchor a person during dark times in my opinion are -

- ↳ Determination
- ↳ Perseverance
- ↳ Courage
- ↳ Patience

- ↳ Self-reliance / Self-confidence
- ↳ Self-esteem
- ↳ Honesty with self.

During times of crisis a person who has inculcated these values within herself can withstand tough winds and can overcome with shining bright. Making use of resources available at hand and not lamenting about what is gone or not in control gives a person edge. Instead of asking "Why me?" during these times one should focus on their strengths. Bad days, times of distress are a part of one's life and learning to navigate through them is what makes a person a real winner in life. As Kiran Bedi used the idiom, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are". One should focus on their zone of influence and zone of concern only.

Q2) "True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else".
 Comment [150 words]

Ans: Mahatma Gandhi wanted to do away with untouchability, Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought Sati, Anna Hazare fought against corruption. These great leaders fought evils in their own country and they are India's biggest leaders. They are the ones whose voice resonates with the entire nation. We call them true patriots of the nation.

True patriotism lies not in pointing fingers at other people's dirt but in keeping one's identity clean.

Love for one's country is not measured by how much a person praises his/her country. Patriotism lies in doing away with injustice and eradicating social evils in one's own land.

Fighting social evils like - poverty, unemployment, child marriage, illiteracy etc. are services to the nation of the highest kind. The intolerance of such practices makes the country richer and more accepting. It makes the country progress in real sense.

A nation free of injustice can take care of its people and vice versa. Patriotism lies not in shouting slogans like "Mera Bharat Mahan!" but in working to remove all obstacles that will make others say that the country truly is incredible. Helping eradicate injustice also is in line with constitutional values and fundamental ^{duties} ~~rights~~ and thus one is a true patriot in real sense. Throwing mud at others does not make one's house clean.

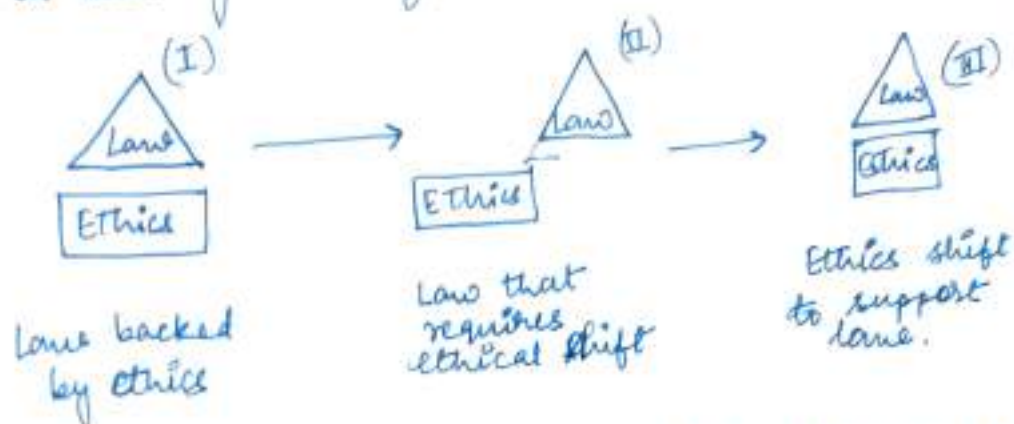
Q3) Law succeeds in encouraging ethical behaviour in a society only when it is backed by the conscience of its individuals. Discuss. [150 words]

Ans: Law is ethical minima. Ethics of a society decides the law of the society to a large extent. Laws that are in line with the ethical conscience of a society are not easily broken, while laws that do not adhere to ethical behaviour are often flouted.

The recent judgement of the constitutional bench of the Supreme court regarding same-sex marriage can be considered in this regard. The SC was of the opinion that before legalising same sex marriage it was necessary to bring about in people ethical behavioural change. The concept is considered fairly 'progressive' and legalising the same without the upgraded conscience of the society may result in deleterious effects.

We can consider the success of law in encouraging ethical behaviour

in society through the following -



There occurs a cognitive dissonance when law is not backed by ethical behaviour. In the absence of conscience of individuals regarding a law there will be blatant flouting of law. The instances of abolition of Sati, widow remarriage did not achieve much success initially since it lacked collective conscience of the society. The recent news of punishment of people involved in child marriage in Bihar can also be cited as an example of failure of existing law due to lack of conscience of a group of individuals.

Q4) Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
 Martin Luther King Jr. [150 words]

Ans: Silence or inaction regarding matters that prick our conscience is the most injustice that one can do to themselves.

When we do not speak up against things that matter we suffer from consciousness crisis. It triggers our core principles & values and one suffers. Tolerance is a value that is highly appreciated but its misuse, in terms that that are not acceptable, may bring about internal turmoil.

If Martin Luther King had not spoken up about Black rights he would have been doing injustice with himself.

Being vocal about the things or actions which seem wrong to one only brings about self-confidence, peace and in greater social context-

emancipation of a large group of oppressed section.

"Our lives begin to end" — we become silent spectators & as our core values seem to crutch in a corner. One can die many deaths even when alive if they do not raise their voices for injustice.

The triumph of evil is when good men do refuse to raise their voice against wrong.

The protest of the death of George Floyd, the marches during the Nirbhaya Incident — all are examples that prove why raising our voices against evil is necessary — it restores faith in humanity.

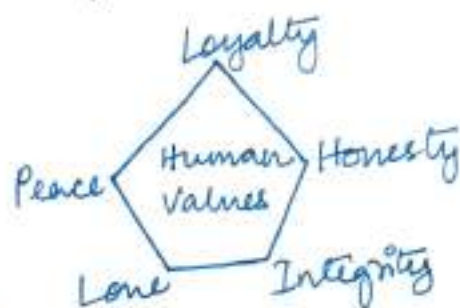
One suffers from moral and consciousness crisis when they are silent in the face of injustice and that becomes a man's undoing.

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Q5) Why are some values considered as human values? What relevance do they have for society? [150 words]

Ans: The values fundamental to being human are considered as human values. They are considered basic inherent values in human beings and that which separates humans from the rest of the living species.

Human values make up our personality and how we act in life. These



are the values which one can not say that do not adhere to. It is important for the existence of society and humankind as a whole.

In a world today plagued by war, famine and degrading moral values ~~for~~ human values hold the most relevance in fixing all problems.

The human values are necessary for guiding through life.

Human values ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ today's society -

- ↳ necessary for upholding peace of society
- ↳ smooth functioning of humanly transactions
- ↳ operation of business and commerce
- ↳ framework for ethical decision-making.

Different cultures and societies may have different ethical standards. But no society would deny not having the basic human values. It is what is holding the human race responsible for their actions - right or wrong and which pushes society to a better path.

Q6) Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct are often taken as synonymous concepts. But they have different meanings and functions. Explain the difference between Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics with suitable examples.

[200 to 250 words]

Ans: Code of Ethics is often considered synonymous with code of conduct but most often it is not.

Code of Ethics is a set of guidelines put out to guide the conduct in accordance with the principle values of an organisation. Values like impartiality, Integrity, commitment to public service, accountability, devotion to duty, exemplary behaviour are values mentioned in code of ethics.

Code of Conduct is a set of rules outlining the expected behaviours from the members of an organisation. The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 is an example of a defined set of Code of Conduct for civil servants.

Code of conduct is what behaviour is acceptable and what is not acceptable, ~~what is~~ it is right vs wrong.

Code of Ethics vs Code of Conduct

↓
 ↳ covers broad guiding principles of good behaviour and governance

↳ one is considered to follow the ethical standards in respect of the organisations core values and standards

↓
 ↳ it is a list of acceptable and unacceptable actions and behaviours in a precise and unambiguous manner

↳ one is considered to follow the codes of conduct and deterrence to it may be punishable

A code of conduct can outline how employees should dress and it also defines fixed regulations or actions in cases where the code is broken. The multinational company 'Visa' has developed a

detailed and wide reaching code of business conduct and with the slogan - "Integrity. Everyday. Everywhere?"

The 2nd Administrative Reforms Council (ARC) on present set of Code of Conduct for civil servants said is too vague, complex and difficult to interpret. ~~It~~ There is no written set of Code of Ethics for civil servants.

A civil servant is expected to be honest, aspirational and tolerant, compassionate - these are is a code of ethics. It is, however, not enforceable. A civil servant accepting bribes is a code of conduct disregard and she is punishable for the same.

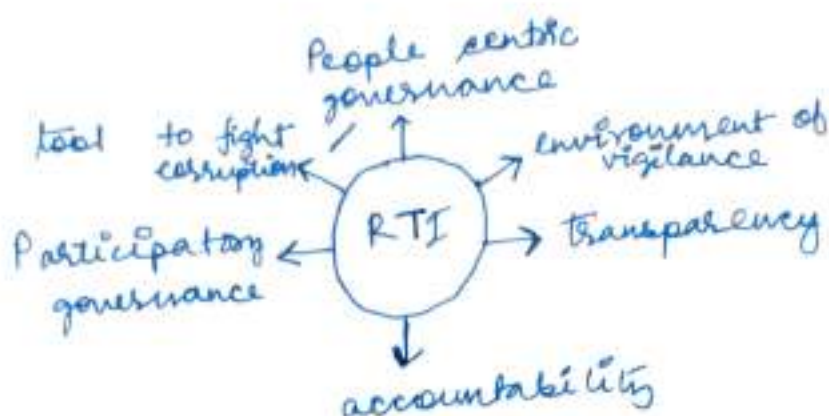
While the terms are most times overlapped, ~~the~~ both Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct have different meanings and functions.

Q7) RTI (Right to Information) Act is considered to be a hallmark of transparency and accountability in Public Administration. Discuss ethical issues associated with application of RTI. [200 to 250 words]

Ans: The Right to Information (RTI) act empowers the citizens of India to seek information from a public authority. Public authority is required to reply expeditiously or within 30 days.

The RTI Act signals the march from darkness of secrecy to the dawn of transparency. It arms the citizens with a vital tool - to seek information about what the government does and how much effectively.

The RTI Act - a hallmark of transparency and accountability in public administration - gives people more participatory power in the sense that can be assumed from the figure -



While the RTI Act has opened up broad scopes of participatory governance it does not come without ethical concerns associated with it-

1) Misuse of RTI -

- 1.1. Leads to many frivolous complaints
- 1.2. Increases the paperwork
- 1.3. Decreases efficiency of public servants as it diverts their time

2) Low awareness -

Indians in rural and uneducated sections are still unaware of this act.

3) Huge Official Secrets Act - This Act was brought in so as to maintain secrecy regarding crucial matters. The RTI Act may sometimes act as a deterrent to that.

4) Issue of Enforceability -

The RTI Act does not give enough authority to the Information Commissions to enforce their decisions.

5) Huge Backlog and Delay in Disposal cases -

While there is a stipulated time to solve matters relating to RTI, it pressurises concerned authorities to direct their entire effort to this cause. Delay may lead to penalisation.

Preventing the misuse of RTI and open data policy adoption by all departments will lead to solving a lot of ~~com~~ ethical issues associated with application of RTI.

Q8) "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Comment with appropriate examples [200 to 250 words]

Ans: Lord Acton's quote "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" talks of the abuse of power. The more power someone has, the more their sense of morality is weakened.

"With great power comes great responsibility" — Power comes with a great deal of accompanied baggage. But in today's world, however, it is seen that those in power misuse and abuse their unchecked authority.

Powerful men, in history, have always tended to be morally corrupt or have been involved in circumstances that showed the hollow nature of their character.

Power provides exemption from checks and balances that society, &

law and administration has hung over it and thus encourages the whims and fancies of the powerful. Man by nature is power hungry and in instances where the powerful lacked moral conscience it ~~led~~^{led} to a corrupt society.

Hitler's Nazi regime and genocide, 'casting couch' in entertainment business are examples of corruption due to power in absence of accountability.

(I) In the scenario where Hitler had absolute power and no accountability, he led a corrupt society that lacked moral conscience and lacked basic human values.

(II) 'Casting couch' is a term we frequently hear in the Bollywood industry & entertainment industry in general. The casting directors who

are powerful take advantage of women and new comers who do not have a powerful voice.

Absolute power with a person
~~blows~~ blinded by it leads to -

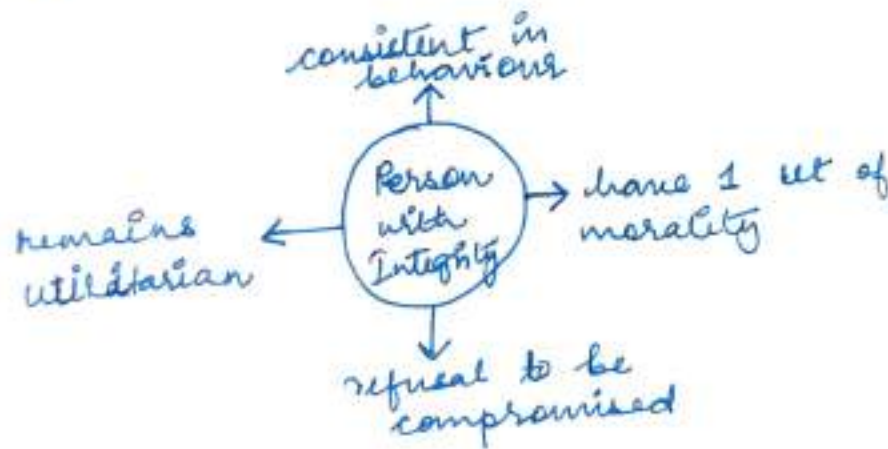
- 1) corruption
- 2) moral values degradation
- 3) instability in society/organisation
- 4) oppression of the weak and down trodden

He/She who yields power, thus, must be chosen with utmost sincerity and made accountable for their actions and inactions. The balance of power and accountability is necessary for any successful institution.

Q9) Discuss the significance of integrity in Public Administration and steps taken to foster it as a culture in administration. [200 to 250 words]

Ans: Integrity is a foundational value in public administration. It is choosing our thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain.

A person with integrity does not go astray even in situations that are a test of their entire life's teachings.



Civil Servants or public administrators
ensure integrity by —

1) not placing themselves in positions that might interfere with their official duties.

Eg: A DC not awarding contracts to his relative.

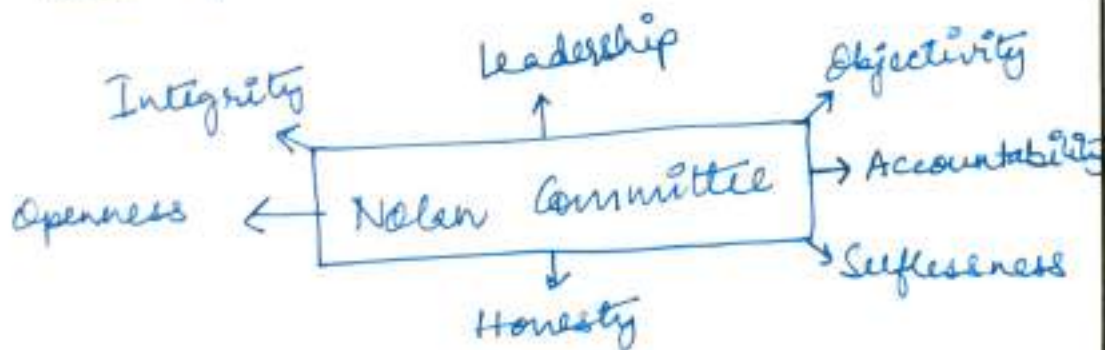
2) not mixing personal and professional interests.

Integrity as a culture in public administration :

There have been several reports and guidelines to ensure that integrity is cultivated in administration.

- 1) Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules
- 2) All India Services (Conduct) Rules

These were mandated by Indian government to make integrity a foundational value. Even UK's Nolan committee has put out ethical standards that promote integrity.



These are called the seven principles of Public Life.

Steps taken to foster integrity :

- 1) Training -
Proper training and learning to civil servants. Eg: Mission Karmayogi.
- 2) Reward and punishment - Punitive measures in case of diversion from integrity.
- 3) Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics -
The 10th Report of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Council (ARC) recommends setting up codified ethical conduct and its timely and routine evaluation.
- 4) Integrity testing -
Integrity testing like offering of bribe to check integrity is done frequently which puts a check on corruption.

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching"

Integrity in public administration is crucial for an efficient, compassionate and corruption free administration in India.

Q10) Which philosophy should in your view work as the golden rule for people in deontology or teleology? Give justification to your view. [200 to 250 words]

Ans: The philosophy of deontology believes in the path chosen to reach one's destination while in teleology the destination is the only goal, the path chosen ~~do~~ matters little.

Deontology

This branch of philosophy decides the ethicality of an action based on the nature of the action. It is a duty based approach. It runs on the lines of "Do unto others what you want them to do unto you".

Teleology

Teleology or consequentialism decides the ethicality of an action based on the outcome or the consequences of the action(s). It is result-oriented ethics. It runs on the lines of the 'greatest happiness' principles.

Deontology	vs	Teleology
------------	----	-----------

- | | |
|---|--|
| - process oriented | - result oriented |
| - deviations from standard/set ethicality not permitted | - outcome is more important than rules |
| - religious ethics | - secular ethics |
| - duty for the sake of duty | |

The golden rule for people - deontology or teleology cannot be generalised for all. While it is advisable for students, sportspersons to follow the deontological path, one should not lose sight of their goals in the process. Teleology also followed with no heed to the process with only sight of goal may be destructive.

The case study of Kevin Carter's impactful photograph of Sudan's famine followed by his suicide can be considered here.

- ↳ He was concerned about the outcome or the greater impact
- ↳ He ignored the human aspect of the situation
- ↳ Suffered from moral conscience and hence his suicide.

This incident clearly highlights the repercussions of following the extreme paths of either deontology or teleology. There should be a middle path to both these philosophies in real life. In theory both deontology and teleology are correct and while following one of them may bring about substantial progress, people in general should follow threshold deontology in everyday life to balance or proportionate various aspects of life. Buddha's "middle path" philosophy should hence be the golden rule of people, ~~and not~~