


SPM IAS ACADEMY
 SHAPING BRILLIANCE

ETHICS TEST – 1 (APSC Mains 2023)

NAME:	EN	Phone No:	
DATE:		APSC ROLL NO:	
Email Id:			

(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		

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

Ans: Values are standards of human conduct which are important for humans based on human preferences, beliefs and knowledge.



Values that make people sail through distress and crisis

1. Integrity → Helps in minimising conflict of interest and thus prevents from taking wrong decision.
2. Patience → Thomas Alva Edison kept patience even after 1000 failed experiments.
3. Compassion → During natural disaster, many took opportunities of wrong doing; but compassion can help out the vulnerable and needy people.

④ Dedication → despite multiple hurdles, it is our the dedicated national freedom fighters who achieved Independence.

⑤ Acceptance → One needs to understand that everything is not under one's control.

eg: If failed in APSC exam, we need to accept the outcome and start preparing for the next opportunity.

⑥ Self-control → In this age of globalisation, where there is multiple sources of deviation, if a student has self-control, s/he can achieve her/his goal.

Life is not a bed of roses but a journey of ups and downs and thus we need to develop values which can create positive attitude towards life.

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

Ans: Patriotism is the respect, admiration and loyalty a person has towards the values, principles, symbols etc. of a country.
 eg: Respecting the constitution of India.

True Patriotism trying to bring justice in its own
 Land first

① BR Ambedkar → Raised voice against the discrimination faced by lower caste in India.

② Nelson Mandela: Tried to uproot the social evil of racial discrimination against the coloured people in South Africa.

- ③ Martin Luther King Jr → He won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance in America.
- ④ Kailash Satyarthi → He is the torch bearer for the upliftment of deprived children in India.
- ⑤ Malala Yousafzai → It was due to her strong moral boost for education to women, that now Pakistan women opting more for education.

It is said that change should always
always come from you first, similarly doing
 away injustice in our own land will help
 doing away injustice from the world.

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: Laws are rules of conduct codified by government based on certain ethical values and requires people to obey whereas conscience is the subjective awareness of a person's moral sense of right and wrong which guide his/her behaviour.

Law succeeds in encouraging ethical behaviour when backed by conscience.

Crimes like murder, rape, theft etc. are in the ~~wrong~~ conscience of wrong doing and hence laws for them are widely accepted and followed.

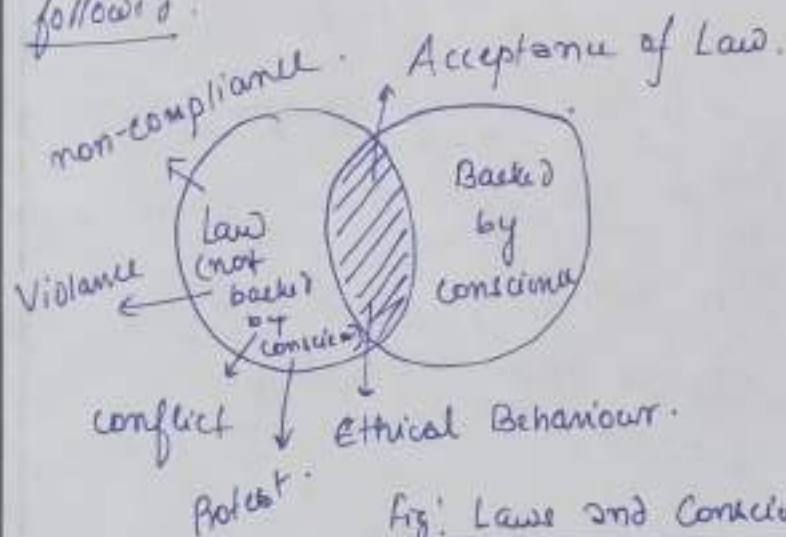
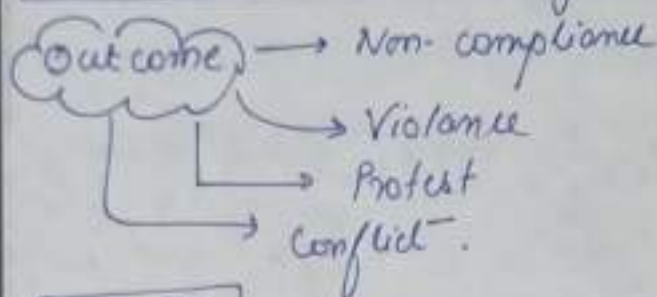


Fig: Law and Conscience

Law, when not backed by conscience



How??

- ① Violating traffic signal → People with 'Nothing will happen' attitude often violate signal.
- ② Rationalisation of corruption → leads to more number of corruption cases.
- ③ LGBTQ community are not socially accepted even after decriminalisation of IPC-377.
- ④ Dowry, untouchability, domestic violence are still haunting many.

Law is just the tool for controlling human conduct. For successful/efficient implementation of Law, inculcation of values that would develop conscience of right doing is of utmost importance.

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

Ans: A man dies when he refuses to stand up for what is right/just. If the ultimate goal of life is good life; voice against evils must be raised.

In ancient Greece, Socrates raised concern against tyranny of Theory of Divine Kingship/state.

Social practices like Sati, child-marriage etc. were addressed by reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Jyotiba phule, Mahatma Gandhi took many initiatives for the upliftment of the so called untouchables.

But with greater effect of globalisation, we are tending towards more materialistic life which in result deteriorating our values.

we have shifted our interest towards

fulfilling the materialistic needs rather than focusing on peaceful and stable society.

There is increase in instances of mob-lynching, communal violence, rape etc. and we have failed to address these despite growing in all other sectors like education, economy, health etc.

Empathy and compassion is lacking because of growing self-interest. Despite growing penetration of internet (social media), we are not able to minimize social evils like abuse, child marriage, marital rape etc.

Priority should be set for betterment of the society as a whole. If we stop raising concerns against the ill practices prevailing in society, it will soon become a grave.

As long as injustice persists in our world, none can truly rest.

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

Ans: Values are individual beliefs that motivate people to act one way or the other; they are not born naturally but acquired and inculcated.

There are 2 types of values

Relative values

Differ from people to people and on larger scale people of different culture.

eg: Live-in-relationship.

Human values

They are absolute and universal in nature.

eg:- Love, compassion, equality, non-violence etc.

Some values considered as human values because

→ Sail through all time: Irrespective of space and time, they always provide us the right-guidance.

→ Enhance tolerance: Thus, they help in respecting

diversity of culture, religion etc and improve peace and stability.

→ Self-development: Human values make humans the better version of themselves.

Relevance of human values for South

Social Relevance → Co-operation among different communities upholding fraternity.

eg: Less instances of communalism, regionalism, mob-lynching.

Environmental Relevance → Sustainable development will ~~take~~ balance growth and ecological development.

Economical Relevance → Peace and co-existence in society will help boosting economic growth.

International Relevance → Better cooperation to take transboundary issues like terrorism, climate change etc.

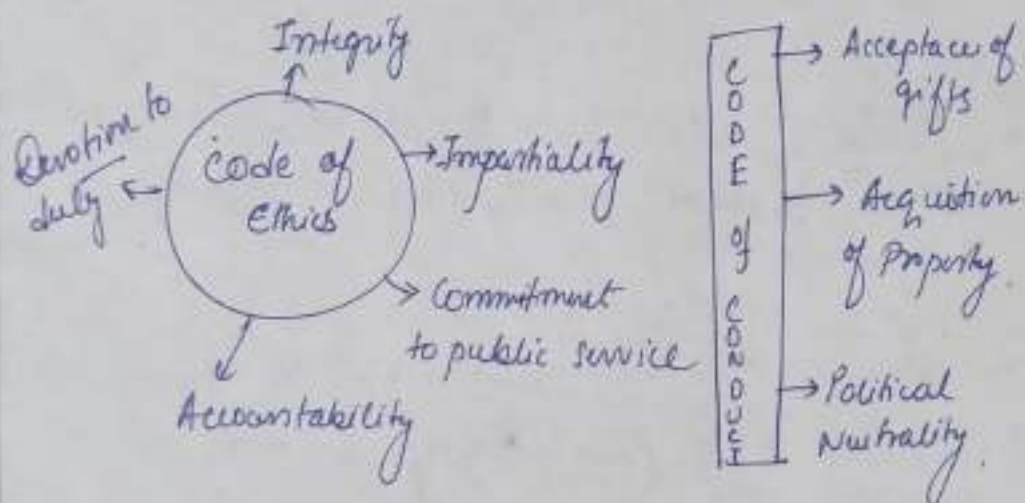
Human values are of utmost importance to uphold the principle of Valu Thaira Kutumbakam.

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: Both code of ethics and code of conduct are tools for promoting ethical behaviour in public sector.

While code of ethics provides overarching principles and values; code of conduct provides more specific rules and guidelines for behaviour.



As both of them are for promoting ethical behaviour and thus used synonymously but they have different meanings and functions.

Code of Ethics

① Set of guidelines containing core ethical values.

eg - Honesty, Integrity, compassion, love etc.

② Covers broad guiding principles and values that an organisation tries to achieve.

③ They are implicit

④ Expected to be followed.
i.e. voluntary and aspirational

⑤ Generally applicable to culture, education or religion.

Code of Conduct

① Set of rules outlining expected behaviour from individuals of an organisation.

eg:- Avoiding conflict of interest.

② Covers precise guidelines and provides list of acceptable and not acceptable behaviour

eg: Written order (acceptable)
Acquisition of property illegally (not acceptable)

③ They are explicit

④ It is mandatory
i.e. its violation may bring punishment.

⑤ Generally applicable to individuals/officials.

⑥ It influences the Individuals judgement.

⑥ Influences the Individuals action.

⑦ There is no code of ethics prescribed for public servants in India.

⑦ There is provision of code of conduct as prescribed by Central Civil Services Conduct Rule, 1964

Some of the rules (code of conduct) as prescribed by Govt.

- Rule of Law: Public servants should abide by Law only.
- Political Neutrality → Not to get biased by any political ideology.
- Not to misuse his/her position for own benefit.

The complex nature and diversity of society demands strict adherence to both code of ethics and code of conduct. They cannot forced but to inculcate them.

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 Act (RTI) came in effect in 2005 empowering citizens with objective of ensuring accountability and transparency.

RTI — Hallmark of Transparency and Accountability

* Empowerment of people → to question, audit, review, assess government acts/schemes/policy.

* Checking Corruption → effective instrument to check corruption by making govt more open to public scrutiny.

eg: coal scam, 2G scam.

* Suo Moto disclosure of information has become a trend in many govt departments.

However, there are some ethical issues associated with RTI -

Issue of Right to Privacy - RTI seeking personal information of an individual or organisation is against fundamental Right.

Issue of Official Secrets Act → Right to access of sensitive information. can harm National security.

RTI being hallmark of transparency and accountability some issues need to be addressed.

(i) High Pendancy → Nearly 47,000 cases are pending pan-India.

(ii) Delay in appointments of Information Commissioner

Active participation of aware people about the activities of govt can bring out the best Governance.

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

Ans: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" was remarked by British Historian Lord Acton.

It means that the ethical and moral values of a person decreases with step rise in power. A person who has absolute authority may misuse his position. For example: Hitler misused his absolute authority against Jews community.

How does power get corrupt?

Without any opposition/restriction, a person may get immense power and start losing integrity as he has no sense of accountability. For example, the dark age of medieval period witness large scale of discrimination, inhumane practices against the

sections of the society by the ruling king.

With power, people start manipulating others for the fulfilment of their own whims and fancies. as Hitler did manipulate the Germans against their own just people.

Power when not backed by accountability and transparency may lead to corruption in the society. Introduction of RTI Act (Right to Information) could manage to curb the discretionary power of public servants which sometimes ~~become~~ go against the welfare of the society.

Even now in India, Prime Minister is brought under the ambit of Lokpal. It is the mechanism of Social Audit in Panchayat, that make people aware of the development activities.

There are many instances of misuse of discretionary power by public servants even

When they are under the vigilance of many laws and regulations.

Thus, if power becomes absolute, it will get corrupted absolutely. This will lead to undermining democracy with rise of autocracy.

The authority with absolute power will try to control every aspects of people's life and thus which shall become obstacle for industrial development; an important tool for all round development of a country.

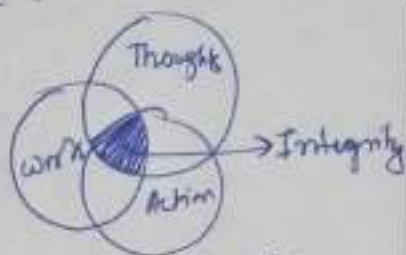
When voices cannot be raised against such rule, fruit of development and growth would not be distributed equally leading to inequality raising crimes, unstable in the society.

Hence, unrestricted and absolute power is neither beneficial nor desirable for small social well-being.

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 synchronization of Thoughts, words and actions. A person of integrity has strong moral principle that he refuses to change with changing space and time.

Significance of Integrity in
Public Administration



- Fig: Integrity.
1. Develop conscience: When ordered to shoot / fire on peaceful protestor, a policeman of integrity will refuse to do so.
 2. Prevents misuse of power by civil servants for their own benefits.
 3. Promotes Accountability and transparency and thus prevent corruption, red-tapism, Nepotism, patronism etc.
 4. Good govt: When public servants are dedicated to their duty, it promotes inclusive development.

- ⑤ Promotes Good Governance when public servants keep themselves ^{away} from political biasness and stick to their constitutional and legal duties.
- ⑥ Prevent to take wrong decision: Decisions of public servants have direct impact on public.
- ⑦ Responsiveness is outcome of integrity when working for public good.

Lord Krishna in Bhagawat Gita mentioned that securing universal welfare by one's action is the ultimate measure of a human being but more so of those who hold public office.

Thus, there are some measures to foster the culture of Integrity in civil servants —

- ① Strict implementation of code of conduct; it promotes ethical behaviour.

- ② Efficient training - Nissim Karamyogi is good initiative for this.
- ③ Strong legal framework: Central vigilance Commission (CVC) has amended the Standard operating system (SOP) on adoption of Integrity pact in government organisations.
- ④ Generating awareness for provisions of Right to Information Act (RTI) → it helps in bringing accountability and transparency.
- ⑤ Whistleblower protection: Their protection is important to aware of unethical activities of the public administration.

Public servants with integrity can ensure good governance leading to all-round development of the society. The need of the hour is to ensure integrity through training and proper vigilance.

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: Deontology and teleology are both normative ethics. Deontology is duty-based and uses rules to distinguish right from wrong.

However, teleology determines right from wrong by focusing on outcome; thus it a form of consequentialism.

Merits of Deontology

- Based on rules and hence less scope for subjective opinion.
- Since focus is 'mean', emphasize value of every individual.
- Focus on innate human potential to do good.

Demerits of Deontology

- Does not emphasize on cost/benefit of outcome.
- Absolutist in nature as it is rule-based.

Merits of Teleology

- Result-oriented → Thus actions are always for achieving the best.
- Promotes democratic way of decision making.
eg: Greatest happiness for greatest number.

Demerits of Teleology

- Too goal oriented → any illegal means can be followed.
- Differ from person to person → can create conflict among people. eg: LG, BTQ rights.
- Minority opinion not considered.
- Orthodox views are supported -
eg: Sati.

With increasing materialism in the society, teleological approach seems to be beneficial but it is only for short term.

Therefore, in order to be in a

Stable position. I would choose deontological philosophy as the golden Rule.

Justification

As Lord Krishna said we should focus only^m what we have in our control, rest will be taken care. If we follow the eightfold paths of Gautam Buddha, the ultimate result will be good.

While preparing for competitive exam like APSC CCE, we need to study regularly with attentive mind. and the outcome will be either we get clear it or we learn many valuable things which helps us to do good in further life.

Even Mahatma Gandhi said we cannot expect rose by planting a Baboon tree. Thus, we shall always prefer to stick to the ethical means to achieve good if not in short time but definitely in long term.