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UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Ethics & Human Interface — GS-IV

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

26 Questions

Year range: 2013–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

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Essence, determinants and consequences of ethics in human actions

2025 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. "The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people." – Swami Vivekananda

2024 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view.

2024 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q3. Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment?

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q3. "Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do." - Potter Stewart.

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q5. "Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it." - Dalai Lama.

2021 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example.

2020 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony.

2018 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q6. With regard to morality of actions, one view is that means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

2017 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss.

2017 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some "enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority." Justify.

2017 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q3. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.

2016 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being.

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples.

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration?

2013 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. What do you understand by 'values' and 'ethics'? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?

Dimensions of ethics

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2024 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. "Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour." Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.

2023 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q3. Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples.

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt, it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and the system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to the vulnerable section of the society.

2015 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. (a) What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. (b) Differentiate between the following: (i) Law and Ethics (ii) Ethical management and Management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and Preferential treatment (iv) Personal ethics and Professional ethics

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q6. "Human beings should always be treated as 'ends' in themselves and never as merely 'means'." Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society.

Ethics in private and public relationships

2025 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. (Answer in 150 words) 10

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.

2018 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.

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2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q13. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

2013 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q7. 'The good of an individual is contained in the good of all.' What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?