



An Institute for Civil Services

MAINS TEST SERIES 2023

GS MAINS Q&A

TOPICAL TEST - 22
(5 QUESTION)

ETHICS

Human Values

HUMAN VALUES

Time Allowed: 50 Mins.

Max. Marks: 50

1. Tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections are two essential virtues in civil servants that are needed for inclusive and balanced development of India. Why?
2. Differentiate between self-confidence, complacency and arrogance? How do these attributes affect the performance of an administrator?
3. Differentiate between moral, immoral and amoral. Morality is universal or relative. Illustrate.
4. Use of public spaces for religious festivals and ceremonies has its own value conflicts. Discuss.
5. Discuss the ethical concerns of tourism and ethical obligation of tourists with the point of view of environmental ethics? Substantiate your answer with the help of examples.



HUMAN VALUES

1. *Tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections are two essential virtues in civil servants that are needed for inclusive and balanced development of India. Why?*

Hints:

An inclusive and balanced development means having a system where everyone irrespective of status and identity is considered to be an equal. To make India inclusive and to achieve balanced development, it is essential that the weaker sections are treated equally on par with the dominating sections. For example to make a society inclusive it is necessary that women, elderly, handicapped, poor and any other weaker sections are being empowered.

To make them an integral part of society their role has to be enhanced and improved. At the ground level, this task is done through the local government which executes its functions through its officials. So, it is very much essential for the civil servants and officials to be compassionate and tolerant towards the lower sections to make an inclusive society. Tolerance means respect and acceptance of other opinions, identities, beliefs, practices, thoughts, way of life etc. Whereas, compassion means having a positive emotional connection with people, which helps in understanding the situation of others in a better way.

Initiatives such as preventing Child Marriage in Rajasthan where it hinders girls from moving forward to come to schools to get education and organizing bike dispensaries in the tribal areas of Chattisgarh to avail medical facilities to Tribes, made a significant difference in people's life. The efforts to make the resources available shows the compassion and tolerance of officers, where they did not let the gender biasness or identity difference to come to their thoughts and worked without making any prejudice and discrimination.

Compassion and Tolerance enable a fair, objective and inclusive implementation of schemes, framing of policies and a growth which infiltrates to the last mile. We can not achieve development till each and every section whether it is strong or weak gets the equal opportunity.

2. *Differentiate between self-confidence, complacency and arrogance? How do these attributes affect the performance of an administrator?*

Hints:

- **Self-confidence:** Self-confidence is a feeling of trust in one's abilities, qualities, and judgement. It is the self-assurance that comes from an understanding of one's abilities or qualities. Self-confident person has no problem admitting to being wrong. This is because they are aware of their own weaknesses and willing to learn from their own mistakes.
- **Complacency:** Complacency is a feeling of uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements. It is to be comfortable and secure in one's task and not willing to take initiative for further advancement. It can lull people into a false sense of security and cause them to downplay any risks that surround them.
- **Arrogance:** Arrogance is characterized by an offensive display of superiority or self-importance. An arrogant person often has an exaggerated sense of importance or abilities. They often ignore

the abilities and skills of others around them and consciously or unconsciously try to make others feel inferior. Arrogant people also believe that they have nothing to learn from others.

Effect on the performance of an administrator

- **Self-confidence:** A self-confident administrator is aware of his abilities/skills to handle a situation. They have the professional competence to difficult situations such as riots, disasters etc. They try to be creative and innovate in solving social problems and are not afraid to take calculated risks for the fear of backlash. They understand what the shortcomings are and what needs to be done to overcome them. Hence, a self-confident public servants serves the people well.
- **Complacency:** Administrators resist changes as they are wedded to their privileges and prospects and thereby, have become ends in themselves. They resist new ideas to guide them in their emerging roles and have inadequate communication with the public. They fail to discharge their duty and people suffer because of it. The emerging issues related to climate change, digital technology, artificial intelligence require public servants to learn and adapt to the new normal to serve the people well.
- **Arrogance:** An arrogant administration is rude, unresponsive, and unaccountable to the people. They do not have empathy and compassion for the people and thus failed in their responsibility to work for the people. They are unaware about the problems of others and put their needs first. This breeds inefficiency, corruption, culture of secrecy in the administration.

3. Differentiate between moral, immoral and amoral. Morality is universal or relative. Illustrate.

Hints:

Moral: It is the beliefs and principles of an individual or a community, moulded by societal, cultural or religious norms, about what is right and wrong or good and bad. Eg. Telling truth, respecting, serving and not harming others etc can be considered moral actions.

Immoral: Immoral is someone who does things that aren't good enough in the moral sense. Thus, this person continues to do things even if he knows it is really wrong. Eg: Deliberately stealing money

Amoral: Amoral is someone who is not aware how to differentiate between what is wrong and what is right. Hence, an amoral has not accepted the moral standards set by society to which he could be judged. Eg: Babies are innocent beings who don't understand morality.

Moral relativism: states that morality is relative according to the culture in which it exists. These are based on individual and societal standards, their likes, dislikes, social norms, tradition, for instance Indian traditional values of 'Vasudev Kutumbakam', universal brotherhood, tolerance may contradict with western values of liberalism, individualism and utilitarianism.

- Moral values evolve to bring order in the society and are culture specific. They evolve along with the cultures. For Example, the present generation of Indian society is more ambition sensitive showing more assertiveness, instead of Indian traditional values of sacrifice and selflessness. The norms of nuclear family and even live-in relationships are more socially accepted today.
- People's morals tend to change over time as well. Values that suited you as a child change as you become a young adult, which may further change as you become an old person.
- Over a period of time, new ethical issues have arisen and morals have changed. New knowledge about existing problems or techniques and completely new areas of work has also led to change in values. For example, people stance on homosexuality.

There are a series of core moral values around which most people would agree. However even those are changing at least in the intensity. For Example, say if we believe that that human life is sacred, but we do not feel the same intensity of this value when judging a terrorist who has killed thousands of innocent people.

“The man who never alters his opinion is like standing water, and breeds reptiles of the mind.” – English poet William Blake.

We can often see resistance from parents and society as we are growing up. Our changing values sometimes conflict with our parents’ values, or our culture’s values and leads to this resistance. For example, women working at par with men, etc.

Moral Universalism: asserts that there are certain universal moral principles by which all peoples’ actions may be judged. Universal values like truth, gratitude, peace, non-violence, sympathy, are considered beyond time and space. They are core and fundamental values. They do not change and remain stable.

- The standards of conduct differ from person to person, society to society but there can be some values which can be considered universal. For Example, murder is a crime in every society and hence a universal norm.
- Immanuel Kant considered human dignity as a universal value and one of his categorical imperatives. Similarly, justice for Rawls is an architectonic principle.
- Over the time, repeated positive engagement of values is likely to strengthen them. Our lives provide continual opportunities for the growth of certain values. Our lives also sometimes put constraints on certain values.
- Values as such do not change. Only their expression changes depending on circumstances and situations. In some cultures, as well as different circumstances, the priorities assigned to values change.

We can find values like peace, kindness, hard work, perseverance, etc. still relevant to the same degree as from age old times. They will still remain relevant even after we die. Values are essential to build ourselves. We build ourselves to survive in the world and create a society. Since values needed to build a good society are constant or similar, values can be said to be constant, similar or universal as each of us tries to build a good society.

Thus, moral principles can either be universal, relative or dynamic which keeps changing with time. As Einstein once rightly remarked, “Try not to become a man of success but try to become a man of values”.

4. Use of public spaces for religious festivals and ceremonies has its own value conflicts. Discuss.

Hints:

India being a multi-religious and faith diverse country, has granted to its people the rights to freedom of conscience, right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion under Article 25 of the Constitution. Being a secular country from its inception, India has allowed the practice of religion in public spaces. Whether it is performing prayers by muslim on roads and other public places or to perform religious processions such as Yatras and Nagar Kirtans of Hindus and Sikh community respectively, it has never been prohibited.

Conflict of faith vs ethical values

Though performing religion in public places has been allowed, the question is whether the freedom to practice religion is so absolute that it can justify violating one’s comfort even inside his/her home. For example, the use of loudspeakers in religious places has been objected to by the people as it has caused discomfort by disrupting sleep.

When it comes to performing religious practices people often forget the tendency to misuse the rights given to them and wrongly conceive these rights as a certificate to practice religion in public places which can cause nuance and discomfort. For example, use of loudspeakers causes noise pollution and performing prayers and processions on roads causes heavy transportation disruption.

Performing religion in a non-considerable way may compromise other rights given in the constitution such as freedom given in article 19 and 21. So, while using one's rights, people tend to forget the rights of others. One other problem also observed in multicultural countries like India is that even constructive criticism insites people's sentiment and creates a problem of communal tension.

Legal and Ethical measures to make a balance

While for making a balance between personal belief and public comfort it is important that rights of individuals must exist in harmony with each other and enjoyment of one's right must be consistent with the enjoyment of rights of others. No religion requires prayers to be performed on amplifiers which causes discomfort. Rather, the purpose of religion is to bring order and peace instead of causing nuance.

To this end, the Supreme court has also given directions regarding use of loudspeakers and public prayers. In such a scenario, it is the duty of citizens to learn not to transgress their limits and not to overemphasize the freedom to practice religion, especially in public places, because by doing so we are often either violating another person's rights or breaching the law. We must abide by laws and regulations by being more considerate and compassionate.

5. Discuss the ethical concerns of tourism and ethical obligation of tourists with the point of view of environmental ethics? Substantiate your answer with the help of examples.

Hints:

Tourism is a genuine driver of solidarity and development. It is a way for tourism to deliver better opportunities and sustainable development for millions across the globe. As tourism rises, it also places increased responsibility on an area to host tourists, which can lead to negative effects in the destination's delicate ecosystem. That's where ethical tourism comes in.

At its core, an ethical tourist is someone who is aware of the consequences and privileges of their actions as a "visitor" on the local environment, whether that includes the local people, physical environment, or wildlife.

Ethical tourism is a form of responsible tourism. Ethical tourists consider the impact of their actions with regards to the three pillars of sustainable tourism- the environment, the economy and society. They minimize negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts.

Ethical Obligations of tourists

Tourism can have various economic, social, and cultural consequences on the environment and local communities. Therefore, there are serious ethical considerations in terms of environmental degradation.

- **Compassion towards wildlife:** The understanding and promotion of the ethical values for environmental ethics such as the attitude of protection of environment for example compassion towards the animals people are visiting or not causing unnecessary nuance in the region. Not riding elephants in Thailand or eating at local restaurants in Costa Rica, there are many ways that people find ethical tourism.
- **Pro-environmental Behavior:** There are a variety of activities that can be deemed as PEBs including recycling, picking up litter, conserving energy, and volunteering time to conservation projects.
- **To follow local rules and regulations:** It is also required for tourists to abide by environmental rules and laws of the host country and places. Such as not smoking in a no smoking zone.

