



Union Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper 4 – Volume - 1

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND ESSAY WRITING



IAS

G.S. PAPER – 4 VOLUME – 1

ETHICS

Page S.No. **Chapter Name** No. 1. Introduction to Ethics - Ethics and Human interface 1 • **Basic concepts** Morality and Value Belief Ethics in public life • Freedom and Discipline • Different perspectives of freedom **Duties and Rights** Virtue Ethics Essence of ethics Components Determinants and Consequences of Ethics • Deterninanb Consequences of Ethics Morality and Moral Values • Morals Constitutional morality Conscience Ethics in Private and public relations o Ethics in Private Relationship Ethics in Public Relationships 0 **Dimensions of Ethics** Meta-Ethics Prescriptive Ethics • Descriptive Ethics Applied Ethics Approaches to the dimensions of ethics 2. **Ethical Qualities - Human Values** 12 **Ethical Qualities** • Kindness Forgiveness Self-Control and Good Temper Fortitude • Cowardice Empathy o Altruism

- Truthfulness
- Keeping promises
- \circ Honesty
- Integrity
- \circ Power and Morality
- o Prudence

- o Temperance
- Humility
- \circ Vices
- o Envy
- o Avarice
- o Lust

3. Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and World

- Philosophy
 - o Indian School of Philosophy
 - \circ Hinduism
 - o Dharma
 - \circ $\,$ Artha and Kama $\,$
 - o Dharma and Moksha
 - o Bhagavad Gita
 - o Mahabharata
 - o Samyama
- Belief system in Hinduism
 - o Human values in Buddhism
 - $\circ \quad \text{Human values in Jainism}$
- Indian thinkers
 - o Kautilya/Chanakya
 - o Tiruvalluvar
 - o Gurunanak
 - o Swami Vivekanand
 - $\circ \quad \text{Sri Aurobindo}$
 - o Mahatma Gandhi
 - o Bhimrao Ambedkar
- Western Thinkers
 - \circ Socrates
 - o Plato
 - \circ Aristotle
 - Slavery
 - o Karl Marx
 - o Rousseau
 - \circ John Locke
 - o Immanuel Kant

4. Applied ethics

- Environmental Ethics
- Business Ethics
 - Features of Business Ethics
 - o Principles of Business Ethics
 - o Ethical Management
- Ethical conflicts in Cosmopolitan Culture and Urbanization

 Cosmopolitanism
- Case Study

5. Attitude

- Components
- Structure of Attitude
- Functions
 - Other Functions

43

25

- Moral and Political attitude
 - o Moral Attitude
 - o Political Attitudes
- Social influence and persuasion
 - Nature of Social Influence
 - Persuasion

6. Aptitude and Foundational Values

- Aptitude:
- Integrity
 - Personal Integrity
 - o Intellectual and Moral Integrity
- Impartiality
 - Political Impartiality
 - Public Impartiality
- Non- partisanship
 - o Consequence of Non-partisanship
- Objectivity
 - Need for Objectivity for Civil servants
 - Usefulness of Objectivity
- Dedication
 - o Importance
 - o Some dedicated Civil servants
- Empathy
 - Types of Empathy
 - o Importance
- Tolerance & Compassion towards weaker sections
 - o **Tolerance**
 - Compassion
 - o Elements of Compassion
 - Importance of Tolerance & Compassion towards weaker sections

7. Emotional Intelligence

Emotion

•

- Emotional Intelligence(EI)
 - o 4 different factors of emotional intelligence:
 - o Framework of EI
 - o Application of EI in Administration and Governance
- Models of emotional intelligence
- Intelligence Quotient (IQ)
- Seven Varieties of Intelligence
- Case Study

8. Ethics in Administration

- Public Administration
- Public Service
 - $\circ \quad \text{Need of Ethics in Public Administration} \\$
 - o SALIENT ASPECTS OF ETHICS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- Status and Problems
- Ethical Dilemma
 - o Types of ethical dilemmas
 - o Ethical Dilemmas Faced by Public Servants
 - Ethical Concerns in private Organisation

75

65

- Ethical Guidance- Rules, laws & regulations
 - Law, rules and regulations
 - o Natural Law
 - o Civil Laws
- Accountability and ethical Governance
- Ethical and Moral Values in Governance
- Ethics in International and Corporate Governance
- Case Study

9. Probity in Governance

- Concept of Public Service
- Need for Probity in Governance
- Information Sharing and transparency
- Right to Information(RTI)
 - o RTI act, 2005
 - o RTI Amendment Act of 2019
- Code of Ethics
 - o Public Services Bill 2006
- Code of Conduct
 - Various Aspects:
 - Features:
 - o Code of Ethics Vs Code of Conduct
- Citizen Charter
 - Principles of Citizens' Charter
- Work Culture
- Quality of service delivery
 - Aims & Objectives:
 - Parameters or guiding principles to measure quality-of-service
- Utilization of Public funds
 - \circ $\;$ Need & Importance of Effective Utilization of Public Funds
 - o Ethical Issues Involved in Utilization of Public Funding
 - o Ways to Strengthen Public Finance Management
- Corruption
 - $\circ \quad \text{Types of corruption} \quad$
 - Reasons for corruption in India
 - Measures to reduce Corruption
- Case Study

10 Ethics in Governance - 2nd ARC

- Ethical Framework
 - o Ethics in Politics
 - Recent Improvements
 - o Issues in Political Reforms
 - Tightening of anti-defection law:
 - Code of Ethics for Ministers
 - \circ Ethics of Members of Houses
 - o Offices of Profit
 - Ethical Framework for the Judiciary
 - Legal Framework for Fighting Corruption
 - Anti-Corruption Laws in India
 - Protection to whistleblowers
 - Serious Economic Offenses
 - Constitutional Protection to Civil Servants (Article 311)

104

90

- Institutional Framework
 - o Union Government
 - o The LokPal
 - o The Lokayukta
 - o Ombudsman at the Local Level
- Social Infrastructure
 - Citizens Initiatives
 - False Claims Act
 - Role of Media
 - o Social Audit & Societal Consensus
- Systemic Reforms
 - Integrity Pacts
 - Reducing Discretion
 - \circ Supervision
 - o Monitoring Complaints
 - Proactive Vigilance on Corruption
 - Vigilance Network
 - Protecting the Honest Civil Servant
- International Cooperation
- Relationship between Political and Permanent Executive

11. Case Studies Approach

- Some important strategies:
- Various Elements
- Various Approaches
- Case Studies

ESSAY WRITING

S.No.	Chapter Name	Page No.
1.	How to write a good Essay: An Overview	141
	What is an Essay?	
	 Ingredients of a Good Essay 	
2.	Specific Aspects of UPSC Mains Examination Essay	143
	Essay Paper Pattern	
	 How to score good marks in UPSC - Essay paper? 	
	Approach of Essay writing	
	Basis of choosing a topic	
	What is expected from an Essay?	
	○ Introduction	
	 Main Body 	
	 Conclusion 	
	How to write Philosophical essay	
3.	Women empowerment	151
4.	Education in India	157
5.	Healthcare in India	165
6.	Urban Planning in India: Building future cities of India	170
7.	Globalisation, its implications and recent trends	173
8.	Agriculture	176
9.	Climate Change	182
10	Artificial Intelligence	187
11.	Cryptocurrency: A tool of Economic Empowerment or a Regulatory Nightmare	193
12.	Social Media and its Evils	197
13.	Tourism in India	201
14.	Indigenization of Defence Industry: From Importer to Exporter	204
15.	Philosophical Essays	211
	Appendix	229
	A - Themewise collection of quotes	

B - Personality wise collection of quotes

] CHAPTER

Introduction to Ethics – Ethics and Human interface

- "Ethics" = Greek word "Ethos" = Character, Habit, Customs or Way of behaviour, etc.
- Defined as Systematic study of human actions based on their rightfulness.
- "A set of principles which guides us what to do and what not to do the way acceptable to the society."

Basic concepts

Morality and Value

Morality	Value
Principles of right and wrong held by an	Qualities instrumental to us.
individual.	• Standard to measure desirability of an action.
Standards of behaviour pertaining to an	Act as an internal compass which help a
individual and not social conduct.	person evaluate different choices of conduct
Arise from personal experience, character,	and behaviour .
conscience and so on.	• Ex: honesty, integrity, empathy, courage,
• Ex: Homosexuality can be moral for an	dedication, compassion etc.
individual but unethical in society's	
perspective.	

Belief

- Explains behavioural component of a person.
- An internal **feeling that something is true**, even though that **belief** may be **unproven** and **irrational**.
- **Eg**. Gandhiji believed that swaraj can be attained within one year of launching non-cooperation movement.
- Can be peripheral (weak) and core (strong).
- Beliefs formed by direct interaction are generally strong.
- aka cognition.

Ethics in public life

- In a **democracy**, all **public functionaries** are **trustees of** the **people**.
- trusteeship relationship b/w public & officials requires that authority entrusted to officials be exercised in 'public interest'.
- Committee on Standards in Public Life in the United Kingdom/ Nolan Committee outlined the following seven principles of public life (OHIOSAL).
 - Objectivity
 - o Honesty
 - o Integrity

- Openness
- o Selessness
- Accountability
- Leadership

Freedom and Discipline

- Freedom is the **basic human value** i.e.
 - **Every living being** who has come on Earth **wants to remain free**. They **always dislike bondage** and **restrictions**.
 - Saying A man is born free but everywhere he is in chains.

Different perspectives of freedom

Individual Freedom	Required as every individual is unique.		
Intellectual	• Freedom of mind, knowledge, freedom to question the old ideas and to		
Freedom	create new ones, freedom to think unthinkable, freedom to explore the		
	unexplored, freedom to reach unreachable.		
	• Tagore – Where the mind is without fear , where streams of human reason		
	are not lost in the gravy dead sand of dead habits , in that light my country		
02-	awakes.		
	Necessary to question the status quo		
Freedom of will	Denotes freedom to choose between alternatives		

Duties and Rights

Concept of Duties

- As citizens, there exists a wide range of duties that bind us in everyday life.
- These duties are **owed** to **state** and to **individuals**.
- There is a **legal duty** to pay taxes, to refrain from committing violence against fellow-citizens, and to follow other laws that Parliament has enacted.
- **Breach** of these legal duties **triggers financial consequences** (fines), or **punitive measures** like imprisonment.
- Duties follow a simple logic that, peaceful co-existence requires a degree of self-sacrifice, and must be enforced through the set of sanctions.

Concept of Rights

- Rights are formulated to ascertain twin principles viz. Anti-dehumanisation and Anti-hierarchy.
- In India, this can be reflected in a chapter on Fundamental Rights in the constitution.
- Rights as a bulwark against dehumanisation:
 - Framers of the Indian Constitution while deliberating on Fundamental Rights were of the view that every human being should have access to basic dignity and equality that can not be taken away the State.
 - The **necessity for Fundamental Rights** in India **originated** from the experiences under the **colonial regime** where Indians had been treated as subjects.
 - For example, the colonial government declared some group of people as Criminal Tribes, who were treated as less than human.

Virtue Ethics

- Helps a person become a better person through self-improvement.
- Socrates thought that knowledge is virtue, and virtue leads to happiness.
- Knowledge of right or wrong makes taking right choices easier
- beliefs about right and wrong influence our decisions.
- If we believe it's right to help a drowning child, then it would be fairly shocking to decide not to do so and it would less surprising when we decide to help the child.
- Virtue always leads to happiness.
- Criminals commit crimes that hurt others. However, helping others can make us happy, so doing the right thing might be more fulfilling than committing crimes.

Essence of ethics

Essence - intrinsic quality of something that determines its character.

- Ethics originate from the sense of justice prevailing in a particular society.
- **Operates** at **different levels** like individual, organisation, socio-cultural, political and international. **Ethics at each level affect each other**.
- Interrelated to each other. E.g. honesty, truthfulness, integrity; values of equality and justice cannot exist without tolerance etc
- Ethical behavior leads to various benefits for an individual as well as the society at large. Ethics leads to peace, harmony, respect, justice etc.
- Preach a certain kind of behaviour to us. It tells us how should people behave.
- Abstract and subjective in nature i.e., they are affected by individual's emotion and perception.
- Determined in a social setting at a given point of time. A society's history, culture, values etc. determine ethical standards which may vary from society to society.
- Not an objective universal concept. Its understanding varies from time to time, person to person, society to society.
- Ethical standards may transcend the narrow stipulations of law and code of regulations. Components
- **Choices Certain preferences and priorities** make us decide what we want. Such choices which we made **reflect in our actions**
- Actions Choices in turn shown through our actions physically.
- **Behaviour** It is the way we act or conduct ourselves. The behaviour in which we exhibit is influenced by choices we made and acts we did. If it's ethical, it is called ethical behaviour for example, treating others with respect or no respect.

Determinants and Consequences of Ethics

- Person:
 - Depends on mental make-up of individual.
 - Also depends upon how the person has internalised personal attitudes and values regarding ethical behaviour.
- Place:
 - Refers to the external environment which includes family, school, etc.



- Eg, as kids we were told by our parents and teachers to not to steal things.
- As we grow up we **tend to carry such knowledge** and **apply** it **to real world**.
- Similarly, work place teaches us ethics of teamwork, punctuality, responsibility, etc.
- Time:
 - Different individuals, societies & culture have different set of moral codes at different times.
 - Eg. It was once ethical to own a slave but today it is unethical.
- Circumstances:
 - **Stealing** is **unethical**. But a **poor person stealing to feed** her **children reduces unethicality** of the act. Such **situational ethics bring subjectivity** as it often **makes morality subjective.**
- End purpose:
 - **To give donation to a poor person** is **good** but if such **donation** is **to lure poor person to do something** for you, then it **becomes immoral**.
- Culture:
 - Has profound effect on shaping individual values.
 - As western culture surrounds around individualistic and Indian culture based on universalism.
- Constitution:
 - A way to establish moral disposition of their society.
- God & Religion:
 - Advocate universal peace and ethical practices.
 - Religious textbooks teach how one should behave in a society and how the society should be.
- Conscience & Intuition:
 - A person who follows his conscience & intuition feel that what is good is good because it is good and what is bad is bad because it is bad.
 - Intuition don't need any justification while following its actions.
 - But **conscience** is **justified** based on his actions because of its moral nature and it has reasoning and justification.
- Family:
 - First interaction where a children personality develops since his birth.
 - Today's Children are tomorrow's citizens.
 - Therefore, its utmost important that Family environment teaches what is ethically correct.

Consequences of Ethics

- Consequences of human actions which are guided by ethical practices.
- Plays an instrumental role in human life and society.
- Helps in arriving at decisions more quickly as it assist making choices.
- Reveals the value dimension of a decision that would otherwise seems value free.

Consequences of loss of ethics

Dimensions	Consequences
Individual level	Petty crimes, domestic violence, urinating and spitting on public spaces, abusive and filthy language, crime against the aged, jumping red light.



Social level	Corruption, Rise in crime rate, acknowledging goons and mafias, joint family, parent's respect, drug addiction, regionalism, castes.	
Organizational level	Repotism, Corruption, rise in inequalities, loss of trust, decrease in efficiency, economy and effectiveness, destruction of work culture, loss of trust in the administration, lawlessness.	
Political level Hung parliament, corruption, criminalisation of politics, Coalition govt.		
International levelTrust deficit, frictions, disputes, unhealthy competition, damage to the e and unsustainable development, disregard to international conventions		
Bioethical level	Abortion, animal rights, cloning, artificial intelligence, consent, confidentiality, GM organisms, Suicide.	
Environmental level	Loss of flora and fauna, unsustainable development, polluter shall pay principle is diminishing, increase in pollution levels, disregard to Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)	

Morality and Moral Values

Morals

- Ethics, Morals and Values often interchange.
- Morals are part ethics based on concept of goodness.
- Here Bad part of ethics excluded.
- Morality is standards of individuals for right and wrong.
 - Derived from Latin word 'Moralitus' which means character.
- Eg: Being Honest, Transparency, Fair choice to everyone in recruitment exam etc

Types :

Private Morality		Public Morality		Political Morality	
• An Inte	r personal Morality	•	Inter group Morality	•	Morality among leaders .
 Obligat 	ions to our children,	•	Harmony between	•	It specifies what rulers and
spouse,	parents, teachers		different religious-		the ruled owe one another
and rela	atives.		philosophical groups		and also subjects obedience
• Here M	orality is guided by		generated by the exercise		to their leader .
unartic	ulated emotions		of self-restraint.	•	Values such as political
among	members of family.	•	As there is no personal		freedom, solidarity, shared
• We hav	e a duty towards		attachments, Individual		traditions and cultural
those u	nder our special care,		goals and self-interest		heritage guides morality as
includin	g the aged ,		guides morality. There is no		citizens are subjects of
'servan	ts', animals and,		commonly held ethic either.		political state.
occasio	nally, strangers.	•	Neither hate speech nor	•	The core of political morality
• We can	't completely escape		speech glorifying oneself		is a commitment to justice &



 from being impartial because of obligations towards our personal relationships. One's private life automatically guarantees high moral stature in political life. 	 was acceptable as part of public morality. Some degree of partiality exists. Public morality transforms to elect morally correct leaders. 	 impartiality. We have to overcome our loyalty to blood relations, not pursue only our private interests, using power grounded in shared principles and complete impartiality with no discrimination. Need not be shown after assuming the power.
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Constitutional morality

- A substantive content of the constitution in the form of Ethical Ideas that underlines formal provisions.
- Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity are elements of modern constitutional morality.
- Ambedkar Constitution could at best provide a legal framework, a necessary but not sufficient condition for such a transformation.
- To be effective, constitutional laws have to rest upon substratum of Constitutional morality. It is not a natural sentiment but has to be cultivated.

Characteristics :

- Enhances values like liberty, equality and fraternity
- Secularism i.e., respect for plurality
- Political, social and economic justice
- Open culture of dissent and constructive criticism
- Tolerance, restraint and mutual accommodation in public life
- **Respect** for **formally prescribed rules** and **procedures**
- **Constitutional morality** is the **basis for** which any **statutory acts** should be made.

Conscience

- A portion of our subconscious mind that tells us to act in a certain way.
- ability to make value-based decisions. Here, ends have taken precedence over means.
- The ability to make a practical judgement based on ethical beliefs and principles is known as the voice of conscience.
- The moral compass of right and wrong, as well as the awareness of one's conduct, is the voice of conscience. It's a quiet voice from within, as well as the voice of God. But, most of the time, we ignore such voices and make poor decisions as a result.
- Man loses his state of mind and acts for a short time before realising his mistake and receiving punishment. Many criminal situations occur when a person loses his or her mind and refuses to listen to his or her conscience.
- Eg:
 - When faced with a decision between family and organization in a case involving family members, it is the conscience that guides us.



- When Ramakrishna paramahamsa appointed Vivekananda as his principal pupil, he urged him to steal food from his home with no one looking, but Vivekananda said, "his inner conscience is always watching himself."
- Indrani Mukherjee, a well-known businesswoman, and her husband murdered her own daughter. Only snakes kill their own babies in this world, as their inner conscience has become blind.

Components of Inner Conscience

Connection	 To get inspiration, it is beneficial to be in a calm, thoughtful, and prayerful state. Reading something inspiring, such as a holy book from your or any other faith that appeals to you, a speech that has inspired you, or an article in a magazine or newspaper that has boosted your spirits. This aids in the development of a connection with your inner Self, Higher Wisdom, or the Divine (what you call it is not as important as knowing it inspires). 	
Correction	Amending actions based on self analysis and understanding of implications	
Direction	Channelizing actions for a greater good	

Ethics Vs Morality

	Ethics Unleash t	ţ	16 LODDE Morality
•	Standards of human conduct that society adopts for itself. Set of dos and don'ts that govern human	•	Principles of right and wrong held by an individual. Self-regulation in a personal life. Personal and normative.
•	conduct in a social setting. Standards of "good and bad" distinguished by a certain community or social setting.	•	Moral connotation links theology and spirituality.
•	A term used in conjunction with business, medicine, or law. Uniform across the cultures	•	Vary person to person and culture to culture. But at personal level you may either support to adultery or you feel it's wrong.
•	Eg: Ethically adultery is wrong		

Ethics in Private and public relations

Ethics in Private Relationship

- Ethical and moral values adopted by person during his personal dealings.
- Varies from person to person.
- Freedom of Will forms the basic foundation of Private Ethics. It means freedom to act or not to act.
- Eg : One should speak Truth but you are at full freedom to speak lie as well.
- Private Relationships are
 - One to One and based on emotions
 - Informal in nature
 - Internal control instead of external control (law, rules etc)



- Ethicality of Action in Private life can be checked only if
 - \circ $\;$ There must be some human knowledge of the consequences of that action
 - Action should be done voluntarily ie no compulsion
 - There should be presence of different choices

Some common underlying principles

- Law of Integrity : Person shouldn't lie and keep his promises
- Law of Improvement : If mistake has been committed, person should try to improve that
- Gratitude : If other person has helped him, person should keep that in mind
- Helping others
- Justice
 - Self Improvement
 - Don't damage others
- Loyalty loyalty to one's partner and to the family members
- Love loving all even with their imperfections

Ethics in Public Relationships

- Ethics that a **person may adhere to in respect of their interactions and business dealings** in their professional life.
- Main principles:
 - Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
 - **Integrity** : Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations
 - **Objectivity** : In carrying out public business, holders of public office should make choices on merit
 - Accountability for your actions taken in respect of your position in public service
 - **Openness** : Holders of public office should be as open as possible
 - Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties
 - Loyalty to the Organisation
 - Spirit of service
 - Fairness & Justice
- When somebody enters into public life by election system (MP/MLAs) or Selection System (Civil Servants) then there has to be some special ethics for such persons .
- Hence, ethical framework has been prepared for the people in public life .
- Supposed to be strictly guided by that ethical framework

Reasons for moral erosion

- Lack of accountability and responsibility: If anything goes well, there is no dearth of people to claim that they are the people behind that but if anything goes wrong, nobody is ready to take responsibility.
- Sacrificing ethics, values , integrity and spiritualism: for materialism & wordly success
- **Social Acceptance:** society has started to accept the people who are corrupt. So social pressure to wrong attitudes and behavior is gone.



- Failure on the part of family, schools, society and institutions wrt inculcating values
- Mega Administration, slow methodology and delay in decision making: There is growth of each department and institutions both vertically and horizontally. This has created confusion in hierarchy leading to delay in decision making.
- Soft Society, tolerant public opinion and politico-business-bureaucracy nexus: Public don't resent & tolerate the wrong doings. This give decision makers more liberty against not doing such crimes in future.

Dimensions of Ethics

Meta-Ethics

- aka as the 'ethics of ethics'.
- Deal with the questions which determine if a raised subject or matter is morally right or morally wrong.
- Asks about our understanding- how we interpret if a decision, action or a motive is good and bad.
- From ancient times, philosophers have been trying to give a definitive description to meta-ethics.
 Aristotle had theorised that our interpretation of right and wrong is based on our understanding of other subjects and relative ethical wisdom that we passively gain from it.
- Eg, the differentiation of healthy food items from junk food items is on the basis of our understanding of factors like taste, appetite and effects on our body.
- Aristotle also claimed that acculturation plays an important role to influence our thoughts and ideologies regarding a subject.
- When two or more cultures combine in a geographical region to co-exist, the various aspects of every culture are integrated in their daily lives and broaden their horizon of knowledge and influence their understanding of good and bad.

Prescriptive Ethics

- Deals with the study of ethical action.
- Extensively investigates questions which ask whether the action one implements is actually right or not.
- aka normative ethics.
- A vast subject and is conveniently divided into sub-divisions that helps in better organisation and analysis of questions and ideas raised:
 - Virtue ethics/ ethics of Socrates describes the character of a moral agent as the driving force behind ethical behaviour.
 - Other classifies the **subject under consequentialism** moral theories that hold the consequences of a certain action as the foundation for any relevant moral judgement regarding the particular action.
 - Easily understood in the aphorism- 'The ends justify the means.'
- Further branches of **Deontology**, **pragmatic ethics** and **anarchist ethics** further **classify prescriptive ethics on** the **basis of** a **multitude of factors** that determine the answer to '**is the action or decision being implemented is wrong**?'

Descriptive Ethics

- Least philosophical end of the spectrum of ethics.
- Seeks information on how people live; observe the patterns of situations arising in their surroundings and draw general conclusions based on these observations.
- Identify more as a branch of social science rather than human morality, by offering a value-free perspective of ethics.
- Does not start with preconceived theories and hypotheses but rather prefer to thoroughly investigate the existing facts and cases relating to the subject- making observations of actual choices which are made by moral agents in a practical world.
- Study includes various fields of examinations ranging from ethical codes that lay down rules and regulations for the society, informal theories on etiquette, practices of law and arbitration and finally, observing choices made by ordinary people without the assistance or advice of an expert.

Applied Ethics

- Used in practical life in various fields of work and life.
- Applies ethical philosophy in real-life situations.
- Some **common fields** of **specialised applied ethics** include engineering ethics, bioethics, geoethics, military ethics, public services ethics and business ethics.
- Under this discipline, various specific questions have been raised which require a philosophical approach rather than technical interpretation to satisfy the morality of the human nature.
- Many public policies are decided upon the answers to such questions.
- **Eg** is abortion immoral? Should euthanasia be legalised? What are the fundamental human rights? And others.
- While dichotomies are preferred due to the convenience of taking a decision, most of the questions raised are generally multifaceted in nature and the most efficient answers are able to solve many areas coherently.

Approaches to the dimensions of ethics

- Utilitarian Approach
 - Conceived in the 1800's by famous philosophers Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill.
 - Used by the legislators to determine which laws were morally upright and which ones were not.
 - Foundation lies on the fact that the laws are to be formulated to provide the best balance between right and wrong.
 - **Eg**, ethical warfare is trying to curb terrorism for the greater good by killing and destroying the terrorist organisations.
- Rights Approach
 - Stems from the philosophy of Immanuel Kant which focused on the rights of a person to choose from their free will.
 - Stresses on the fact that humans are not a subject to manipulation and their dignity and decisions should be respected.
 - Many **fundamental and legal rights** like right to privacy, right of freedom, etc. **find their roots** in this form of approach.



- Fairness or justice approach
 - Described by Aristotle and his contemporary philosophers.
 - **Propagates** the **idea of equality** to all irrespective of their origins or creed in every aspect of life.
- Common goods approach
 - First described by the **Greek philosophers.**
 - **Denotes life** in a society **as a good commodity** in itself and the **actions** of each and every individual **should contribute to this common good.**
 - **Modern philosopher John Rawls** gives a **better definition of common good** as 'certain general conditions those are equally applicable to everyone's advantage.'
 - **Eg.** Affordable healthcare, transparent administration, environmental uplifting.
- Virtue Approach
 - Most primitive approach in the list.
 - Adheres to the fact that ethical actions are supposed to be consistent and at par with certain ideal virtues that provide for the holistic development of our humanity.
 - **Temperaments** and **practices of day to day lives** that enable us to act according to the highest potential of our character and propagate the moral values.
 - **Eg of virtues.** Honesty, courage, compassion, generosity, tolerance, love fidelity, integrity, fairness, self-control, and prudence.



Ethical Qualities - Human Values

- Main theme of Ethics virtues and vices.
- Virtue
 - Acquired power or capacity for moral action.
 - **Cultivated** through **moral exertion.**
 - **Eg**, courage, compassion, etc
- Vice
 - **aka** fault, depravity, sin, iniquity, wickedness, and corruption.
 - A practice, behaviour, or habit generally considered immoral, depraved, or degrading.
 - A negative character trait, a defect, or an infirmity.
 - Eg, gambling, smoking etc
 - Ethical texts contain long lists of virtues and vices, many of which are quite similar having the same moral concept.
 - Moral philosophers divide vices into major and minor categories.
 - Major vices deadly or mortal sins.
 - **Eg.** anger, vanity, avarice, lust, sloth, envy etc.
 - Allied qualities Love, mercy, benevolence, consideration for others, altruism and kindness.

Ethical Qualities

Kindness

- As a virtue, kindness is **other-regarding.**
- **Tiruvalluvar** Those who perform kind deeds seek no return.
- Dalai Lama kindness is the essence of religion.
- Hinduism emphasises on Daya or Anukampa i.e. kindness.
- Similarly, **Buddhism** focuses on Karuna.
- Islam concept of Reham or mercy.
- Jainism kindness towards all living creatures abjuring all forms of violence against living creatures.
- Non-violence- chief component of kindness.
- St. Paul Kindness is the bond of perfectness.
- Arises from human sentiments and feelings empathy which enables them to experience by a kind of association with the emotions, pleasures and pains of others.
- Humans share a sense of fellow feeling with others in virtue of their common humanity.
 - Feel saddened by the sufferings of others and try to alleviate their pains.
- Kindness is the **outcome of social conscience**.
- More than mere charity which provides for the physical necessities of the destitute and the needy.



- Most religions consider forbearance and forgiveness as a special form of practical kindness.
- Moral principles falling within practical kindness:
 - One should **not speak evil** of others.
 - One should be **gentle and humble.**
 - One should **live peaceably with all** avoiding anything which may lead to strife.
 - One should tolerate and forgive one another.
- Plato's observation on kindness:
 - Plato asks to be **considerate towards others** as they may be facing tougher situations than us.
 - May be not true.
 - One has to invariably act kindly towards others.
 - Becomes a permanent attribute of one's moral being.
- Mother Teresa's observation:
 - One should be kind and compassionate even at the risk of making mistakes.
 - This way, **we will never harm or hurt anyone physically or psychologically** even some immoral or undeserving persons.

"Work miracles in unkindness and hardness"

- Many interpretations.
 - Ambitious parents may put children through harsh educational grind causing psychological damage.
 - **Legal systems** may impose **harsh penalties** on **offenders** without tampering justice with mercy.
 - May also be referred to many **means through which men try to achieve supposedly high ends**.
 - Eg.as in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia or Communist China which aimed at total social transformation.
 - In the process, they killed, and maimed millions of people.
- Mark Twain's observations:
 - Kindness is a **feeling** which can be **conveyed without using any words.**
 - People can readily see and sense kind words and deeds.
 - A sentiment which **passes from one person to another without** the need for an **intervening medium**.
 - No special faculties or skills are needed for conveying or sensing kind sentiments.
 - Even illiterate persons are capable of being kind.
- Kindness is part of man's original and natural emotional make up.
- Harsh circumstances may destroy this quality can be revived through teachings of religious and philosophical texts.
- A central moral tenet of all religious thoughts.
- If not present, human beings become beastly, cruel, ruthless and pitiless.
- Need for kindness is seen from the violent conflicts which are currently tearing apart many nations of the world.
- Eg. in Afghanistan (Taliban rule), Myanmar (Rohingya crisis) etc

Forgiveness

- Pardoning of an offence, wrongdoing, or obligation.
- The concept can be summarised by the phrase 'forgive and forget'.
- May extend to groups when the **wronged group excuses the other.**
- In the current era, governments have started setting up commissions to establish truth and bring about reconciliation between perpetrators and victims of historical wrongs.
 - Eg. Information commission, Central Vigilance Commission etc.
- Benefits of forgiveness:
 - Ensuring that **personal relationships go on smoothly.**
 - Wiping negative thoughts which could harm the wronged individual.
 - Helping faulters by freeing them from blame and hostility, and by enabling them to start all over again.
- Involves re-establishment of a relationship ruptured by wrongdoing.
- Forgiving enables the victim to give up resentment against the offender. The faulter atones for his wrongs and seeks forgiveness.
- Many other philosophers have postulated that forgiveness can be misdirected, and also reflects an individual's weakness of character.
 - Eg. a woman in an abusive relationship may continuely forgive the wrongdoer for no reason.
 - Thus, forgiveness has to be based on morally valid reasons.
- can be justified only when the wrongdoer displays genuine guilt.
- A tendency to forgive may reflect servility (lack of self-respect) which is a vice.
- **Aristotle** any person who lacks appropriate anger is "unlikely to defend himself" and "endure being insulted" and is for this reason a "fool".
- Kant a person who fails to become angry at injustices done to him lacks dignity and self-respect.
- Hume forgiveness is justified only under certain circumstances.
- process of getting over resentment (anger that is felt on behalf of one's own self).

Difference between Anger and Resentment

Anger

- Sudden and instinctive.
- May be **deliberate** and **sustained over time.**
- A **"reactive attitude,"** provoked by beliefs about the intentions, attitudes, and actions of others towards us.

Resentment

- Involves taking offence, umbrage, or exception to the deeds and intentions of others.
- based on moral principles as they help a person in overcoming resentment that he feels towards a
 person who has hurt him.
- Also involves overcoming other "retributive emotions" like indignation, contempt, or hatred.
- Moral thinkers contend whether forgiveness should be unconditional or be based on the behaviour of the wrongdoer.
- Wrongdoer should confess his wrong, apologise, show remorse or attempt to atone for it by accepting the right punishment.



- Religious ideas (especially Christian) hold that we should forgive others their wrongs as our own forgiveness by God depends only on it.
- Some philosophers consider forgiveness as a duty or what one ought to do. Others consider forgiveness as non-obligatory but desirable.
- As time is a great healer and resentment also dissipates over time.
- There are **many offences** which **people readily forgive** in the ordinary course of business.
- Hence we should not **bear grudges** for **trivial offenses**
- sometimes forgiveness becomes difficult & involves mental struggle.
- Self-control and strength of will are necessary in order to manage temper and not hold grudges against wrongdoers.

Self-Control and Good Temper

- Plato display of anger reflects the vice of intemperance.
- Anger has to be rationally controlled.
- Aristotle "good temper" is the mean between the extremes of irascibility (marked by hot temper and easily provoked anger), anger, and total placidity (tranquillity).
- A good-tempered person "is not revengeful, but rather tends to forgive".
- Aristotle morally appropriate anger is shown by the virtuous person who is "angry at the right things and with the right people".
- Christianity based on an ethic of love that focuses on the need to respond to wrongdoing by accepting it, turning the other cheek, and re-embracing the offender in an act of love or compassion.
- 2 views on anger:
 - Anger appropriately mediated by reason is a virtue.
 - Transcending anger in an act of love is a virtue.
- Uncontrolled anger vice.
 - **Eg**. Teachers who lose self-control and thrash children in a fit of rage. Anyone who is angrily obsessed by someone's wrongdoing may be harming himself since pent up anger produces adverse biochemical effects on the body.
- It may be desirable to release anger into harmless channels.
- However, it is better to control intense anger rather to release it freely.
- Anger may sometimes be the initial trigger for seeking constructive solutions to personal or political problems- more likely to be harmful to those expressing it and to those around them.
- All forms of anger are **inconsistent with moral life** since they **dispose us to cruelty** and **vengeance**.
- These passions encourage us to see other people as less than fully human.
- So, a **person of virtue strives to extirpate anger** in all its forms.
 - Has influenced many great moral leaders like Gandhi.

Fortitude

- Aristotle fortitude is the means by which men can control their fear of death. Soldiers often face threats to life in battle fields.
- Enables one to contain this fear by the dictate of the reason.
- Soldiers without fortitude will desert the battle field.



- Reason asserts that there are **better things than life** and **things worse than death** for men of honour.
- Mean between fear and rashness; cowardice leads one to fear, and daring to rashness. Fortitude moderates the two opposing tendencies.
- Life should not be lightly thrown away or risked for trivial or ignoble ends.
- It is not that the **brave man fears no danger**; he rather **controls** the **fear** in his mind **through rational means**.
- recklessness of an angry man and to be brave from ignorance and folly is not fortitude.
- Philosophers have regarded magnificence, magnanimity and patience as parts of fortitude.
- **Christian writers** mention **fortitude** in the context of **saints** who have **become martyrs** defending their faith. **Eg**. martyrdom of Sikh gurus.
- Voluntary workers sometimes perish while rushing to the aid of others in danger. Eg. role of teachers in elections during the pandemic many of who died.
- One of the four cardinal virtues which Plato and Aristotle identified others being wisdom, temperance (self-control) and justice.
- Plato identified 3 aspects of human nature and paired each with a cardinal virtue.

Aspect of human nature	Corresponding cardinal virtue	
Cognitive or intellectural	Wisdom	
Active power	Fortitude	
Appetitive or pertaining to human impulses	Temperance	

- Essential in any rational conception of human life.
- Necessary for the goodness of human character.
- Locke "Fortitude is the guard and support of the other virtues".
- **Bacon** Fortitude is the armour of the will. Although one may have noble intentions, one needs courage to act on them.
- In administration, civil servants need to have moral courage or the courage of conviction should display firm resolve, and adhere to rules, norms and follow courses of action that promote public welfare- should not yield to illegal pressures or allow themselves to be won over by inducements.

Cowardice

- Gandhi adhered to tenets of truth and non-violence abhorred violence in all its forms.
- Was also concerned that non-violence or absence of anger may serve to hide cowardice.
- A cowardly person can never take up a cause and fight for it.
- Gandhi condemned cowardice for this reason.

Empathy

- A quality that causes concern for others.
- Helps to feel keenly the sufferings, pain and torments of others.
- Fellow feeling and compassion and enables to identify with the feelings, emotions and sentiments of others.

Difference between sympathy and empathy.

Sympathy : Feeling for someone

Empathy: Feeling with someone.

- Emotional sharing with others.
- First stage whenever anyone is moved to help others in distress.
- An **empathetic point of view** is achieved by **setting aside** our own **interests**, **current disposition**, and **relation to** the **agent and sympathising** with the effects of a person's actions on those around him.
- Adam Smith- empathy is imaginatively placing oneself in another's position, or what would now be called simulation, rather than mere emotional contagion, association, or inference.
- Fairness, justice and interdependence are involved in empathy, it may be considered rational in nature and its application understood as an activity based on sound judgment.
- Annie Lennox when empathy atrophies in men driven by ideological or religious fanaticism or by xenophobia, they turn against one other with great ferocity.
 - Eg. terrible massacres perpetrated in world wars.
- Some people may be cold, indifferent or unresponsive to the suffering of others. Not empathatic and fail to summon the necessary energy to assist those in trouble.
 - **Eg**. in accidents, people just refuse to help the victims or just drive away leaving the victims to their fate.
- An innate aspect of human nature.
- Helps human beings to adapt to environment and to survive and reproduce.
- Comes into play in many situations in personal life, social life, and professional life and in appreciating literary works like novels, dramas and poems.
- Helps in **breaking down** the **barriers** which **egoistic tendencies** erect around men.
- Ways to strengthen the quality of empathy:
 - One should listen carefully and attentively to others, and resist the temptation to switch off.
 - While reading about literature and humanities, one should stay focused without getting distracted.
 - One should take **genuine interest in the problems** which **friends** and **relatives face**, and **extend a helping hand** without **getting intrusive**.
 - One should **extend one's impersonal interests**, and **minimise self-preoccupation**.
- Albert Einstein our interests should not be limited to ourselves and our immediate family but should extend to the whole living world.
- Empathy is a chief ingredient of emotional intelligence which managers need.
- Empathetic understanding is necessary for effective work performance.
- In administration, all relevant viewpoints have to be elicited and suitably accommodated; so administrators require this quality.

Altruism

- aka **selflessness**.
- Coined by Auguste Comte.
- Concern for the **welfare of others**.
- A traditional virtue in many cultures and a core aspect of various religious traditions and secular worldviews.

- Opposite of selfishness.
- Ethic of altruism/ moralistic altruism / ethical altruism is an ethical doctrine that holds that the moral value of an individual's actions depends solely on their impact on other individuals, regardless of the consequences on the individual himself.
- Altruist dictum An action is morally right if the consequences of that action are more favourable than unfavourable to everyone except the agent.
- Auguste Comte calls for living for the sake of others individuals had a moral obligation to renounce self-interest and live for others.
- C. D. Broad altruism is "the doctrine that each of us has a special obligation to benefit others."
- W. G. Maclagan "a duty to relieve the distress and promote the happiness of our fellows".
- Utilitarianism can result in altruism.
 - Recommends acts that maximise the good of society.
- Classical economic theory holds that if every economic agent pursues his self interest, social welfare will be maximised. This view works against altruism.
- Friedrich Nietzsche the idea to treat others as more important than oneself is degrading and demeaning to the self hinders the individual's pursuit of self-development, excellence, and creativity.
- Rational egoism rationality consists in acting in one's self-interest (without specifying how this affects one's moral obligations).
- Many writers question the possibility of 'true' altruism.
 - Psychological egoism no act of sharing, helping or sacrificing can be described as truly altruistic. Although these seem as disinterested and self-denying, the moral agent may receive an intrinsic reward by way of psychological gratification.

Truthfulness

- A vast theme with many implications.
- Involves various discussions in philosophy, religion, morals and literature.
- Gandhi considered truth as the highest virtue.
- Aspects of truth -
 - **Definition** of truth
 - Truth as a moral virtue
 - High value accorded to truth in the hierarchy of virtues
 - Criteria for calling something as true
 - **Social utility** of truthfulness
 - Socially sanctioned exceptions to truth-telling
 - Other virtues allied to truthfulness.
- Aristotle "to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true." He also added "he who thinks the separated to be separated and the combined to be combined has the truth, while he whose thought is in a state contrary to the objects is in error".
- **3 major theories** of truth in modern philosophy:
 - Correspondence theory:
 - What we believe or say is true if it corresponds to the way things are or to facts.
 - When a **proposition** is **true**, it is **identical** to a fact, and **belief** in that **proposition** is **true**.



- **Similar** to the **Greek view**.
- Modern philosophers discuss the idea of truth with logic.

Philosophical doctrine of objectivism

- Belief that the **world exists objectively**, **independent** of the way **we think about it** or **describe** it.
- Our thoughts and claims are about that world.
- Coherence theory of truth:
 - Those thinkers who subscribe to philosophical idealism hold this view.
 - Truth is that **systematic coherence** which is the **character of** a **significant whole**.
 - One can speak meaningfully of truth about ideas that are embodied in a system of ideas that form a whole.
 - A belief is true if it is a part of a coherent system of beliefs.
 - **Truth** is a **property of** a **whole system** and **not of isolated facts**.
- Pragmatic philosophers like William James proposed theory of truth based on its social utility.
 - **Truth** is something which we find useful or satisfactory to believe.
 - This does not mean that we should permanently reside in a world of comfortable dreams.
 - **Truth** of a belief **acts as** a **reliable guide to action**.
 - Some pragmatists associate truth with experimental or scientific truth.
 - Truth is a settled position that emerges after a painstaking inquiry.
- Veracity (truth telling) intrinsic virtue not based on rights of others or on any external circumstances.
- Social existence of human beings depends on truth telling.
- If witnesses habitually tell lies, judicial proceedings will end in mockery of justice.
- If people cannot trust one another, business and commerce will shrink drastically.
- Without truth telling, the ordinary transactions of common life will be enmeshed in incessant doubt and suspicion.
- **People** often **distort truth partially** and **mislead others**. That is why witnesses are asked to tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth".
- A statement may have a double meaning, and in the given circumstances mislead people into accepting the false meaning.
- Half truth may be told to misguide listeners.
- Solzhenitsyn truth has to be unvarnished otherwise it does not remains truth.
- Einstein truth has to be expressed plainly and simply without adornment.
- **Somerset Maugham** men pursue their comforts and advantage, and in the process abandon truth.
- **Diderot** men readily swallow flattering lies which bolster their egos, but avoid acknowledging unpalatable truths which undermine their self images.
- Reasons for telling lies:
 - Religious and other groups who face persecution may tell lies to cover up their identity.
 - Governments may not disclose matters deemed vital for national defence.



- People utter falsehood to damage the interests and reputation of others.
- **People** may tell **lies to flatter those in power**, and thus get into their good books.
- **Socrates** lies can be told to guard against enemies and to prevent harm to others.
- **St. Augustine** no lie can ever be just since it is against divine dispensation.
- Immanuel Kant truth telling is an absolute imperative which has no exceptions.
- **Dr. Johnson** lying for protecting an innocent man from killers is justified but denies that lying to patients about their serious illness is justified.
- Another point is how easy or hard it is to perceive truth. Gandhi says truth has a quality of selfevidence. Once we see it, we identify it without further intellectual effort. All that is required is to remove the veil of ignorance which surrounds it.
- **Goethe** error is visible on the surface **whereas** truth lies in buried structures. People are unwilling to undertake the labour of digging out truth.
- Gandhi identifies truth with the highest form of divinity according to which no higher God exists. He regards truth as the substance or essence of morality.
- He also identifies truth with non-violence even if one's ends are noble, violent means should not be used for achieving them.
- The identification of truth with God or with non-violence is not free from obscurity.
- As a practical moralist Gandhi **emphasised that mere theoretical discussions** of truth or simply lavishing praise on truth as a virtue is **of no use.**
- People have to adopt truth as a practical virtue in their actual life. They should follow the narrow and straight path of truth and be ready to sacrifice life for it. Eg. saints who laid down their lives for what they regarded as religious truth.
- Fear of bad consequences should not cause abandonment of the quest for truth.

Keeping promises

- Keeping promises + honesty + integrity = part of veracity.
- Gandhiji considers breaking a promise as equivalent to abandoning truth.
- Failure to honour promises is an indicator of moral bankruptcy.
- Keeping promises is important in the economic sense. No economic transactions are possible when no one is serious about keeping promises.
- **2 parts** to keeping promises:
 - No one should light-heartedly make a promise i.e. there should be an honesty of purpose in making a promise.
 - **One should not enter into immoral or illegal promises**. If someone makes such a promise unknowingly, he should get out of it.
- If the person to whom the promise has been made is likely to suffer loss because of breaking the promise, he should be compensated accordingly.
- Many constitutional functionaries take oath to uphold the constitution and to perform their duties without getting influenced by personal or other extraneous considerations.
- It is the reason why **oath taking** is an **important element of judicial proceedings**.



Honesty

- Means truthfulness in financial matters.
 - Individuals who perform such functions—accountants, custodians of cash, wealth managers, guardians of minors, trustees of charitable bodies, bankers, and treasury officers—have to be very honest.
- Honesty in public administration:
 - **Civil servants** should **discharge** their **duties honestly** without giving into monetary temptations or inducements.
 - They need to **understand that honesty** is **the best policy**.
- Businessmen should also avoid all forms of deception, cheating and fraud.
 - Their financial transactions should be clean and transparent.
 - This is the **reason for corporate governance** i.e. to promote clean business practices.

Integrity

- Actions resulting from a set of well-ordered commitments and beliefs that promote trust.
- Means moral agent acts according to one's inner convictions.
 - His conduct is free from hypocrisy and deception.
 - His actions are in conformity with his stated values.
- The British historian GM Trevelyan:
 - **Covers** aspects of **Puritanism** i.e. rigid pursuit of high morals "by making a shibboleth of virtue, it (puritanical version of Christianity) bred notorious hypocrites".
 - But it does not mean that one needs to abandon morals.
 - One should be moral sincerely without making a show of it.
- Creates interpersonal trust.
- Trust capacity to depend on and place confidence in the actions of others.
- All social interaction depends on integrity and trust.
- Integrity is especially relevant in public administration in which cooperative, corroborative and collective efforts are needed to solve interconnected problems.
- Ethics of integrity tries to impart to civil servants the necessary skills to analyse moral problems on their own.
 - **Consists of training** in areas like public service ethos, ethical standards and values and **in** the processes of **ethical reasoning**.

Power and Morality

Power

- Ability to get others to do what you want.
- Can take many forms, from brute force to subtle persuasion.
- Bertrand Russell considers power as the fundamental concept of all social science.
- Takes many forms such as political, economic, social and religious.
- Most of political and economic power in modern nations is concentrated in governments.
- Unlimited power invariably leads to corruption, abuse and oppression.
- Anyone who acquires or is vested with power undergoes a psychological transformation.

Power and Political Morality

- Those who wield political power must realise that what they do has enduring consequences affecting the lives of an incalculably large number of people.
- This **brings with it enormous public responsibility** which derives in no small part from the fact that they have at least temporary legitimacy to use force against ordinary citizens
- Even when an individual is righteous in his life, but is not adhering to principles of justice it can create problems.
- Moral scrupulousness [i.e conformity to high standards of ethics] in one's private life doesn't always automatically guarantees high moral stature in political life.

Prudence

- Means discretion, cautiousness, care, forethought or good sense.
- Prudent individuals avoid rashness and recklessness and tend to be wary of needless risk taking.
- They tend to be **conventional** and **stick to** the **well trodden path**.
- An inappropriate basis of morality.
- In the sense of moderation and practical wisdom, is a highly desirable virtue in civil servants.
- Can be seen as consisting in avoiding extreme positions, and adopting moderate courses of action.

Temperance

- A virtue which brings to bear the judgement of reason on human cravings for food, drink and sex.
- Promotes self control and checks other rash impulses like anger.
- Stands for moderation in food and drink as opposed to gluttony, and for chastity as opposed to lust.
- Includes moderation and **self control**.
- In **Plato's** phrase, **modesty indicates** the **presence of temperance** "set up on holy pedestal" within an individual's heart.
- A modest individual will avoid brash or impudent behaviour, and will show due courtesy and respect to others.

Humility

- aka humbleness.
- Recognised as a virtue in all religions.
- Does not mean self debasement or denying one's merits, talents and accomplishments.
- Humility + other similar virtues (meekness, mercifulness and peaceableness) formed the basis of early Christianity.
- Lack of false pride is important for a public servant to perform his duties effectively.
- An **immodest person** will be **occupied with** his **own achievements**, instead of looking for ways to better the life of the public at large.
- Also, a humble person does not blow his own horn, and lets his work represent him

Vices

- Opposites of virtues.
- Like all other moral training, freeing ourselves from any vice needs arduous effort.
- Hard to escape from the grip of a vice.



- Relevant to man's personal and social life.
- Harms not only an individual but also his family.

List of Vices

Anger	Strong passion or emotion of displeasure or antagonism, excited by real or
	supposed injury or insult to one-self or others, or by the intent to do such injury.
Arrogance	Making undue claims in an overbearing manner; that species of pride which
	consists in exorbitant claims of rank, dignity, estimation, or power, or which
	exalts the worth or importance of the person to an undue degree; proud
	contempt of others; lordliness; haughtiness; self-assumption; presumption.
Bragging	Exhibiting self-importance, boastful talk.
Cowardice	Lack of courage to face danger; extreme timidity; base fear of danger or hurt;
	lack of spirit.
Disloyalty	Lack of loyalty; lack of fidelity; violation of allegiance.
Doubt	Lack of trust and confidence. To suspect; to fear; to be apprehensive.
Envy	Feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by and in conjunction with desire
	for the possessions or qualities of another.
Greed	Excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one needs or deserves,
	especially with respect to material wealth.
Injustice	Practice of being unjust or unfair.
Impatience	Quality of being impatient; want of endurance of pain, suffering, opposition, or
	delay; eagerness for change, or for something expected; restlessness; chafing of
	spirit; fretfulness; passion
Jealousy	Quality of being jealous; painful apprehension of rivalry in cases nearly affecting
	one's happiness; painful suspicion of the faithfulness of husband, wife, or lover.
Recklessness	Wild carelessness and disregard for consequences. Insufficient consideration.
Sloth	Aversion to work or exertion; laziness; indolence.
Untrustworthiness	Trait of not deserving trust or confidence
Vanity	Inflated pride in oneself or one's appearance.
Weakness	Quality or state of being weak; want of strength or firmness; lack of vigour; want
	of resolution or of moral strength; feebleness.
Wrath	Forceful, often vindictive anger.
Avarice	A desire to possess more than one has need or use for or excessive love of
	money which may extend to power and to various material possessions.
Lust	Excessive sexual desire. All religions condemn sex outside marriage or adultery
	i.e. disloyalty to one's spouse. Violates the vows taken at the time of marriage.



Envy

- Resentment of others for their wealth and success.
- A perversion in which desire for one's own good turns to a desire to deprive other people of their good.
- An envious person wishes ill of others.
- Arises when another gets what one has tried to unsuccessfully to acquire.
- Against the moral injunction that we should love our neighbours.
- **Basically irrational** since the riches or poverty of another make no difference to our condition.

Avarice

- Covetousness or greed.
- A desire to possess more than one has need or use for or excessive love of money.
- May extend to power and to various material possessions.
- A morbid excess of the propensity to seek wealth.
- Desire for modest means of gratifying one's minimum needs and comforts is not a vice. Without minimum material means, no one can meet the physiological, social and cultural needs of his family.

Lust

- Excessive sexual desire.
- All religions condemn sex outside marriage or adultery.
- Involves disloyalty to one's spouse.
- Violates the vows taken at the time of marriage. Hence, it involves a type of untruthfulness or falsehood.
- Breaking the bonds of marriage affect family ties, damage children psychologically and hurt family interests.
- Hurts one's own long term interests and happiness.
- Lustful men may sexually assault women. Such crimes are clearly violent.
- These incidents tend to remain under wraps. In cases of sexual harassment, men force their attentions on unwilling women. In this way, they violate the dignity and modesty of women.