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UPSC ETHICS SYLLABUS 2026

THE COMPLETE GS PAPER 4 GUIDE



Complete GS Paper 4 Syllabus

Detailed coverage of all topics in Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude



Ethics & Human Interface

Human values, attitude, aptitude & emotional intelligence



Integrity & Probity

Integrity in personal & public relationships, probity in governance



Public / Civil Service Values

Foundational values, citizen charter & role of civil servants



Case Study Approach

Strategies to analyze ethical dilemmas & real-life situations



INTEGRITY



EMPATHY



JUSTICE



VALUES



WISDOM



PUBLIC SERVICE



UPSC Ethics Syllabus

1. Human Interface and Ethics:

- a) Contribution of Philosophers and Moral Thinkers from India and the World.
- b) Ethics-in Private and Public Relationships
- c) Role of Family Society and Educational Institutions in Inculcating Values
- d) Human Values-Lessons from the Lives and Teachings of Great Teachers
- e) Administrators and Reformers
- f) Dimensions of Ethics
- g) Determinants and Consequences of Ethics in-Human Actions
- h) Essence

2. Probity in Governance:

- a) Concept of Public Service
- b) Information Sharing and Transparency in Government
- c) Philosophical Basis of Governance and Probity
- d) Utilization of Public Funds
- e) Challenges of Corruption
- f) Quality of Service Delivery
- g) Work Culture
- h) Right to Information
- i) Codes of Ethics
- j) Codes of Conduct
- k) Citizen's Charter

3. Civil/Public Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration

- a) Ethical Dilemmas and Concerns in Government and Private Institutions
- b) Problems and Status
- c) Laws, Rules, Regulations and Conscience as Sources of Ethical Resources
- d) Ethical Issues in International Relations and Funding
- e) Corporate Governance
- f) Accountability and Ethical Governance
- g) Strengthening of Ethical and Moral Values in Governances

4. Attitude

- a) Content; Structure and Functions
 - b) Influence and Relations with Thought and Behaviour
 - c) Social Influence and Persuasion
 - d) Political and Moral Attitude
5. **Emotional Intelligence:** Concepts, and their Utilities and Application in Administration and Governance
6. Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Services, Impartiality, Integrity and Non-partisanship, Dedication to Public Services, Tolerance, Objectivity and Compassion towards the weaker-sections
7. Contribution of Philosophers and Moral Thinkers of India and The World
8. Case studies on all the above Cases