



Mains Notes for IAS and PCS

GS-4 Moral Thinkers

Last year Question papers

1. What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
2. Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC).
(Civil Services Examination 2016)
3. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/ philosophers. For each of these, bring out what it means to you in the present context.
 - (a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong".
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
 - (b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
4. (a) "Social values are more important than economic values". Discuss the given statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
- (b) Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc. are providing helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyse this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized.
(Civil Services Examination 2015)
5. (a) Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/ her teachings giving specific examples; describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
- (b) There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds and their decisions have wide – ranging impact on society and environment. What steps you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?
(Civil Services Examination 2014)
6. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/ philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context.
 - (a) "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed" – Mahatma Gandhi.
(Civil Services Examination 2013)
 - (b) "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln.
(Civil Services Examination 2013)
 - (c) "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." – Aristotle.
(Civil Services Examination 2013)
7. "The good of an individual is contained in the good for all". What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?(Civil Services Examination 2013)

