UPSC Mains GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) — All PYQs (2013–2026)

Complete 14-Year Compilation (171 questions) organized year-wise with official marks, word limits, syllabus micro-topics & directives. Free from preplord.com.

UPSC CSE Mains 2026 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: KVMS-G-GSD)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
University professor generating Ph.D. evaluation report using AI due to paucity of time — accountability & integrity

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical challenges for district administrative officer when business house project could displace forest community

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Endangered tribe with skeletal deformity: whether DM should use un-trialed mineral supplement (medical & admin ethics)

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar warning on civil disobedience as 'anarchy' in constitutional democracy — navigating social justice protests

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
How an IAS officer can apply Gandhi's notion of 'trusteeship' to ensure fairness in governance

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Shakespeare (Henry IV): 'The arms are fair when the intent of bearing them is just' — ethical implications in governance

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Doctor convincing family to push reluctant female patient into surgery over medication — paternalism vs beneficence

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Efficiency ('doing things right') vs effectiveness ('doing the right thing') — balancing both to enhance productivity

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Balancing strict enforcement of government rules vs children's educational rights for remote schools

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical considerations subjugated to strategic interests of nation-states in international relations

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Current-Affairs Linked]
DM stopping transfer of schoolteacher tutoring PA's learning-disabled daughter — empathy vs compliance with rules

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Distinction between moral duty and charity in spending surplus resources to help severely suffering people

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Dr. Mansi removes uterus of anaesthetized patient Lata during laparoscopy with sister-in-law Sujata's written consent (without Lata's consent) — informed consent & medical ethics

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
SP Ravi's AI predictive policing software (crowd biometrics) improves order but targets immigrant/low-income neighbourhood — AI bias & civil rights backlash

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
DC Seema in Surinder Nagar discovers touts and subordinate Collectorate staff taking bribes to selectively clear farmers' Change of Land Use (CLU) applications

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
DC Vikas in hilly Nainipura faces PDS biometric failures (children, labourers, seniors, poor WiFi) vs leakage risks — fiscal probity vs Article 21 & tech as gatekeeper

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
DM Rajan in border district Rajapuram handling violent ethnic conflict between Jhara and Biru communities where bias has seeped into local admin/police

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Ajit (Head, Dept of Weapon Sales, MDP) choosing single arms export order between Country A (R&D partner, self-defence, long-term loan) vs Country B (superpower ally, FTA bloc, non-NPT nuclear, backs guerrillas)

UPSC CSE Mains 2025 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: SLPM-G-GSD)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Key ethical dilemmas raised by social media in the present digital age

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Constitutional morality as product of civil education & rule of law — role in good governance & accountability

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Carl von Clausewitz quote ('War is a diplomacy by other means') in contemporary geopolitical conflict

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical dilemmas over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Thiruvalluvar quote: Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
William James quote: A human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Using reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework for social re-engineering via welfare schemes

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major teachings of Mahavir & their relevance in the contemporary world

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Devotion to duty attaining highest perfection — responsibility and personal fulfilment as civil servant

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Civil servant as enabler and active facilitator of holistic development rather than regulator

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Measures to ensure value-based and compliance-based ethical work culture via code of ethics

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
India securing 4th largest economy status (IMF) — accountability, stopping fund leakages & reaching 3rd largest

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Deputy Commissioner Vijay leading cloudburst disaster relief in northern hill district learns mother died in Kerala (only sibling in US) as heavy rains resume

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District administration proposing clearing ecologically sensitive old-growth forest for housing the homeless (DPSP) — ethical justification & alternatives

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]

PWD Secretary Subash pressured by real-estate son Vikas to leak mega road project location AND nudged by PWD Minister to favour Minister's nephew

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Oil PSU Administrative Officer Rajesh (awaiting JAG promotion/ACR) asked by boss to buy ■35L stationery from specific vendor exceeding ■30L GFR limit; office suggests bill-splitting

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District Administrator overseeing MGNREGA uncovers predecessor's fraud in a Panchayat (unpaid workers, fake muster rolls, ghost works, siphoning)

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
NE border Divisional Commissioner Ashok notified at night of 200–250 fleeing civilians + ~10 armed uniformed foreign soldiers crossing border amid civil war while comms fail

UPSC CSE Mains 2024 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: PHKM-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical examination of Artificial Intelligence as dependable input for administrative decision-making

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Key dimensions of ethics influencing human actions & shaping professional ethical decision-making

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Weapon industries of developed nations fuelling wars — ethical considerations to stop conflicts

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Global warming and climate change as outcomes of human greed — restoring equilibrium with environment

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: Learn everything good from others, absorb in your own way, do not become others

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Sardar Patel quote: Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength; both are essential

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Immanuel Kant quote: In law a man is guilty when he violates rights; in ethics if he only thinks of doing so

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Concept of Just and Unjust is contextual — scrutinizing changing context to prevent miscarriage of justice

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mindless addiction to Form ignoring Substance renders injustice; perceptive civil servant carries out true intent

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Suggest a suitable model for Code of Ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS): shift from doctrine of punishment to justice based on Indian ethos

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants & measures to boost efficiency and probity

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Mission Karmayogi: empowering civil servants for productive efficiency and grassroots service delivery

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
CEO of ABC Inc. (2nd largest global tech company in Third World) balancing 48% AI data-center GHG surge since 2019 against 2030 Net Zero pledge

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior IPS officer Raman (State DG) countering global terrorist group recruiting unemployed educated youth via social media & communal networks

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
SP (Special Ops) Rohit captures 10 hardcore Naxalites (2 with ■10L bounty), surrounded by 500+ aggressive tribal women while communications fail

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior Manager Sneha heading equipment procurement for private hospital's super-speciality center notices her financially struggling brother has bid

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District Collector during severe summer water shortage facing angry farmers protesting borewell crackdowns while nearby industries pump groundwater

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Biotech scientist Dr. Srinivasan pressured to expedite viral drug trials via data manipulation, skipping informed consent & using rival's patented compounds

UPSC CSE Mains 2023 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: SKYC-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
'Moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency' in the context of corporate governance in India

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
'Ethics in contemporary international aid' for helping resource-challenged nations

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Corruption as manifestation of failure of core values — measures to uplift core values in society

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' in work environment with examples

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mahatma Gandhi quote: The simplest acts of kindness are more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Jawaharlal Nehru quote: To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: Do not hate anybody; hatred or love comes back completing the circle

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Attitude & Emotional Intelligence [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
EQ vs conventional IQ for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether conscience is a more reliable guide than laws, rules and regulations in ethical decision-making

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Major teachings of Guru Nanak & their relevance in the contemporary world

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Explain the term social capital & how it enhances good governance

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Nationalised bank executive learns manager secretly released ■10 lakh from dormant account to fund colleague's father's urgent heart surgery

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]

AIIMS-trained District Magistrate at remote Uttarkashi landslide facing emergency blood transfusion dilemma for bleeding pregnant woman without blood bank

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Joint Secretary Rashika asked at 9:30 PM Saturday to work Sunday while juggling two young kids — work-life balance & 4 laws for women's workplace

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Honest IAS officer Vinod (MD, State Road Transport Corp) handed bribe video against CM-linked Chairman by Opposition Board Member seeking political gain

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
ADG of CPWD handling insecure retiring Chief Architect harassing brilliant UK-trained woman Senior Architect Seema contemplating resignation

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Ministry official's 11-year-old son bullied; viral fake video accuses official of bullying kids; official posts counter-video identifying perpetrators — social media ethics

UPSC CSE Mains 2022 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: N/A (typeset PYQ))

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Bureaucratic preoccupation with periphery ignoring core issues leading to travesty of justice

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Attitude & Emotional Intelligence [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Empathy and compassion as vital attributes facilitating civil servants in critical decisions

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Positive-minded vs negative-minded officers interpreting the same Rules and Regulations

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
What ethics seeks to promote in human life & how ethical values resolve day-to-day conflicts

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Potter Stewart quote: Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam quote: Three key societal members for corruption-free nation — father, mother, teacher

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Dalai Lama quote: Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
'Good governance' & how recent State e-Governance initiatives have helped beneficiaries

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical issues in online methodology (administration, education, telemedicine) for vulnerable sections

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Russia-Ukraine war: crucial ethical issues in launching war and its continuation

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Five 30-word short notes (2×5=10M): Constitutional morality, Conflict of interest, Probity in public life, Challenges of digitalization, Devotion to duty

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Policy measures to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard whistle-blowers

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Whether CSR is efficient and sufficient amid corporate impact on climate & sustainability

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]

Prabhat (VP Marketing, Sterling Electric) under division-closure & financial stress offered rival's stolen MoD bid papers by candidate Subhash Verma

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Ramesh (Director, Home Dept in border state) exposes illegal migration & forged IDs with border staff connivance; ordered to withdraw report or lose posting/promotion

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Investigative journalist Ashok exposes MLA-police-stone mafia nexus behind Aravalli SP's murder; TV CMD offers promotion & ■10L loan adjustment to bury story

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Shoe company Inspection Team member ordered (under termination threat) to clear defective Europe-rejected consignment for domestic market

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Joint Commissioner Rakesh handling 10-day drivers' union strike demanding full extra compensation & job for family of deceased bus driver who started road-rage fight

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Pollution Control Board officer enforcing fresh EC compliance on polluting SMEs employing migrant workers amid backlash from owners, politicians & workers

UPSC CSE Mains 2021 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: HXS-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Identify five ethical traits to plot civil servant performance & justify inclusion in matrix

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Identify ten essential values for an effective public servant & ways to prevent non-ethical behaviour

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Analyze | Static / Evergreen]
Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision making

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Need for innovativeness and high-order creativity alongside domain knowledge in resolving ethical dilemmas

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekananda quote: Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Dalai Lama quote: We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we obtain peace within ourselves

3(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Erik Erikson quote: Life doesn't make any sense without interdependence

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Attitude & Emotional Intelligence [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Attitude as input in human development & building suitable attitude for a public servant

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Emotional intelligence helping overcome crisis of conscience without compromising moral stand

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Ethical dimension of turning back refugees facing persecution or human rights violations

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Impartial and non-partisan qualities as indispensable for a successful civil servant

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Independent and empowered social audit mechanism in every sphere of public service including judiciary

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Integrity is a value that empowers the human being

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Young civil servant Sunil raiding illegal sand mining mafia in tribal district; mafia & office insiders stalk his family and threaten his life

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Degree college Vice Principal pressured by management (linking promotion to Principal) to settle flying squad catching politician's & donor's sons cheating

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Elevated corridor project manager noticing pier crack requiring 4–6 month rebuild, overruled by Chief Engineer ahead of pre-election CM inauguration

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Public hospital administrator during COVID-19 surge deciding criteria to deploy clinical/non-clinical staff with scarce resources (vs private hospital)

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Indian food company selling substandard and rejected export products domestically — regulatory action, corporate crisis recovery & ethical dilemma

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
State government officer Pawan facing toxic harassment and public humiliation from insensitive senior officer spilling over into his family life

UPSC CSE Mains 2020 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: URC-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Role of ethics & values in enhancing Comprehensive National Power (human capital, soft power, social harmony)

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
Examine NEP 2020 in light of education as effective tool for all-round development & social transformation

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Hatred as destructive of wisdom and conscience poisoning a nation's spirit

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Critically Examine | Static / Evergreen]
Main components of emotional intelligence (EI) & whether they can be learned

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
Teachings of Buddha most relevant today and why

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Will to power tamed and guided by rationality and moral duty in international relations

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish between laws and rules; role of ethics in formulating them

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Attitude & Emotional Intelligence [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Positive attitude of civil servant under extreme stress & what contributes to it

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Main factors for gender inequality in India & contribution of Savitribai Phule

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Current internet expansion instilling cultural values often in conflict with traditional values

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Swami Vivekanand quote: Condemn none: stretch out a helping hand or bless your brothers

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Mahatma Gandhi quote: The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others

6(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]

Socrates quote: A system of morality based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Rajesh Kumar (Head, Budget Division) facing ■6000 cr re-appropriation from National Housing Scheme to SEZ & PSU gas grid project

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Chairman of Bharat Missiles Ltd (BML) weighing ethics of arms trade & five ethical factors for exporting ATGMs to foreign govts

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District Collector of tribal Rampura addressing child labour of minor girls sent to neighbouring state's Bt Cotton farms & district poverty

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Municipal Commissioner probing fatal mall roof collapse uncovering builder-official nexus, friend's approval, bribe offer & false POSH threat

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Amria Plastic Works (APW) in backward Parmal district — local employment, CSR, unauthorized excess power causing fire, lockdown pay

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Migrant workers' crisis during nationwide lockdown — ethical issues, ethical care-giving state & civil society assistance

UPSC CSE Mains 2019 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: SDF-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Basic principles of public life; illustrate any three with examples

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'public servant' & expected role of public servant

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Analyze | Current-Affairs Linked]
Reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds & implications

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Non-performance of duty by a public servant as a form of corruption

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'constitutional morality' & how one upholds it

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Meaning of 'crisis of conscience' & how it manifests in the public domain

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Basic principles of citizens charter movement & its importance

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Official Secrets Act as an obstacle to implementation of Right to Information Act

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Probity in governance & measures for ensuring probity in government

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Emotional Intelligence as ability to make emotions work for you instead of against you

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Socrates quote: An unexamined life is not worth living

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
M. K. Gandhi quote: A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes

6(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam quote: Righteousness in heart -> beauty in character -> harmony in home -> order in nation -> peace in world

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Heading rescue operations in severe natural calamity where angry locals assault team members & team pleads to stop

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Current-Affairs Linked]
Honest civil servants implicated/prosecuted for bonafide mistakes — impact on civil services & protective measures

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Apparel company offering hefty sum to woman employee to withdraw sexual harassment complaint & FIR against star marketing executive

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Politicization of bureaucracy — changing relationship between political and permanent executive & consequences

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Disaster, Law & Order & National Security [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Woman IPS officer appointed SP in frontier district with rampant narcotics, poppy farming, arms smuggling & suspected political/police patronage

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Institutional measures to internalize civil service ethics: anticipating threats, ethical competence & ethical administrative processes

UPSC CSE Mains 2018 — GS Paper 4 (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude) (19 Qs | Code: EGT-G-GSF)

1(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Three universal basic values in civil services & their importance

1(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Distinguish between 'Code of ethics' and 'Code of conduct' with examples

2(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Public interest: principles and procedures to be followed by civil servants

2(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Explain | Static / Evergreen]
RTI Act essentially redefines accountability beyond citizens' empowerment

3(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Conflict of interest: difference between actual and potential conflicts with examples

3(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Warren Buffett quote on integrity, intelligence, and energy in hiring

4(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Foundational & Civil Service Values [Discuss | Current-Affairs Linked]
In doing a good thing, everything not expressly/impliedly prohibited is permitted — public servant context

4(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Morality of actions: means paramount vs ends justify means

5(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Ethics & Human Interface [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Rational policy for unforeseen contingencies in dam construction in forested ethnic mountain valley

5(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Ethics Theory → Probity & Corporate Governance [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration

6(a) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Compare | Static / Evergreen]
Abraham Lincoln quote on preponderance of good vs evil in governmental policy

6(b) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]

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Mahatma Gandhi quote: Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding

6(c) • 10 Marks • 150 Words • Thinker Quotes → Quote-Based Questions Vault [Discuss | Static / Evergreen]
Tirukkural quote: Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good

7 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Workplace Ethics, Medical & Administrative Integrity [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
District officer Rakesh & elderly childless couple meeting all criteria except reserved community for senior healthcare scheme

8 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior Ministry officer pressured by Minister to realign mega road project near Minister's 20-acre farmhouse + offer of cheap land in wife's name

9 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
SP in a prohibition state tackling persistent illicit liquor distillation in backward district — new approach beyond raids/arrests

10 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Development vs. Environment & Displacement [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Senior officer addressing closure of polluting chemical plant causing job losses in factory & ancillary units

11 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Corruption, Probity & Conflict of Interest [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Tax investigation agency head weighing substantial vs purely technical tax defaults of Dr. X building charitable super-speciality hospital

12 • 20 Marks • 250 Words • Case Studies → Tech, AI & Data Ethics [Case Study | Static / Evergreen]
Edward Snowden whistleblowing case: ethical justification vs legal prohibition & national security

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