Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Discuss Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of seven sins.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2016	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Gandhian ethics; seven social sins; moral responsibility; integrity; social justice; ethical leadership; public service; means and ends

Model Answer

Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi identified seven social sins that reveal how societies lose their moral foundations when power, wealth and achievement become detached from ethical responsibility.

Gandhi’s Seven Social Sins

1. **Politics without principle:** Power exercised without moral values encourages corruption and injustice.
2. **Wealth without work:** Unearned wealth promotes exploitation and weakens respect for honest labour.
3. **Pleasure without conscience:** Self-gratification without responsibility harms individuals and society.
4. **Knowledge without character:** Education without morality can enable manipulation and misuse of expertise.
5. **Commerce without morality:** Profit pursued through exploitation, fraud or unsafe practices violates social responsibility.
6. **Science without humanity:** Scientific progress without ethical safeguards can threaten life and dignity.
7. **Worship without sacrifice:** Religious practice without compassion, service and personal responsibility becomes hollow ritualism.

Contemporary Relevance

These principles apply to political corruption, corporate fraud, environmental damage and the misuse of technology. They emphasise that development must be guided by human welfare.

Conclusion

Gandhi's seven sins remind individuals and institutions that progress without ethics can become destructive. Moral responsibility must guide public life, economic activity and scientific advancement.

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