Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

"One who is devoted to one's duty attains highest perfection in life." Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Duty, Nishkama Karma, responsibility, accountability, public trust, impartiality, excellence, self-realisation, integrity, citizen-centric administration

Model Answer

Introduction

The statement reflects the principle of duty-oriented action found in the Bhagavad Gita. For a civil servant, devotion to duty means performing public responsibilities with integrity, competence and commitment rather than seeking personal rewards.

Sense of Responsibility

1. Constitutional duty: An officer must uphold law, rights and constitutional values.
2. Citizen-centricity: Public office should be treated as a responsibility towards citizens, particularly vulnerable groups.
3. Impartiality: Duty demands decisions based on merit and law rather than personal, political or social pressures.

4. Accountability: Officials must accept responsibility for decisions and outcomes.

Personal Fulfilment

Duty-oriented service can provide intrinsic satisfaction through meaningful contribution to society. Solving a citizen's grievance, improving public infrastructure or ensuring relief during a disaster can generate a sense of purpose beyond monetary rewards.

Necessary Balance

Duty should not become mechanical rule-following. Ethical civil service requires compassion, contextual judgement and sensitivity to human consequences.

Conclusion

Devotion to duty transforms public office into public service. When responsibility, integrity and empathy guide administrative action, professional excellence and personal fulfilment reinforce each other.

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