Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour.” Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions. Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ethical dimensions, values, morality, duty, consequences, virtue, justice, empathy, professional ethics, ethical decision-making

Model Answer

Introduction

Ethics provides principles for distinguishing right from wrong and guides individuals and institutions towards morally responsible conduct. It operates through several interconnected dimensions.

Body

Key Dimensions of Ethics: Deontological ethics emphasises duties and rules; **consequentialism** evaluates actions by their outcomes; **virtue ethics** focuses on character traits such as honesty and courage; **justice and fairness** demand impartial treatment; and **care and empathy** recognise human relationships and vulnerability.

These dimensions influence human actions by shaping values, intentions, choices and responsibilities towards others.

Professional Context: A civil servant deciding whether to disclose confidential information must balance duty and public interest. A procurement officer must combine legal compliance with fairness and avoidance of conflicts of interest. A manager facing retrenchment may consider not only organisational efficiency but also consequences for employees and their families.

Conclusion

Ethical decision-making therefore requires more than mechanical rule-following. A professional should integrate **duty, consequences, character, justice and compassion** to arrive at decisions that are lawful, fair and socially responsible.

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