# Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

**In what ways can an Indian Administrative Officer apply Gandhi's notion of 'trusteeship' to ensure fairness in governance?**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | GS - IV | Ethics & Morality |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Gandhian trusteeship, public interest, ethical leadership, distributive justice, welfare, transparency, responsible use of resources**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Gandhi's trusteeship views wealth, authority and resources as responsibilities to be exercised for the welfare of society rather than narrow self-interest.

### 1. Public Resources as Trust

An officer should treat public funds, land, information and institutional authority as assets held in trust for citizens. Personal or political interests must not influence their use.

### 2. Inclusive Governance

Trusteeship requires priority to vulnerable sections through equitable implementation of welfare schemes, fair access to public services and protection against exploitation.

### 3. Ethical Administration

Transparency, impartiality, probity and avoidance of conflicts of interest should guide decision-making. Procurement and recruitment should remain merit-based and corruption-free.

**4. Participatory Approach**

The officer should engage communities in planning and social audits, thereby making administration responsive and accountable.

**Conclusion**

By combining authority with humility, accountability and distributive justice, an administrator can transform trusteeship from a moral ideal into everyday public service.

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