Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Common good; constitutional values; legality; fairness; transparency; evidence-based decisions; accountability; citizen welfare

Model Answer

Introduction

Public interest refers to the collective welfare and legitimate interests of society rather than the narrow benefit of an individual, group or political authority.

Principles to Be Followed

1. **Constitutional morality:** Uphold justice, equality, liberty and dignity.
2. **Legality:** Act within statutory authority and established procedures.
3. **Impartiality:** Avoid discrimination, favouritism and conflicts of interest.
4. **Transparency:** Provide reasons for decisions and disclose information as required by law.
5. **Proportionality:** Ensure that restrictions and administrative actions are appropriate to the public purpose.
6. **Accountability:** Accept responsibility and remain answerable for decisions.
7. **Inclusiveness:** Consider the interests of vulnerable groups and future generations.

Procedures

1. Identify the public problem and the stakeholders affected.
2. Collect reliable evidence and examine alternative solutions.
3. Conduct social, environmental and financial impact assessments where necessary.
4. Consult affected communities and relevant experts.
5. Make a reasoned decision consistent with law and constitutional principles.
6. Maintain records, establish review mechanisms and monitor outcomes.

Conclusion

Public interest must be determined through lawful, transparent and evidence-based processes. Civil servants should balance competing interests fairly, protect vulnerable citizens and remain accountable for the consequences of their decisions.

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