Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them.” – Napoleon Bonaparte.

Stating examples mention the rulers

(i) who have harmed society and country,

(ii) who worked for the development of society and country.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ambition and character; ethical leadership; abuse of power; public welfare; historical examples; justice; human dignity; social development

Model Answer

Introduction

Ambition motivates achievement, but its consequences depend on the principles guiding its pursuit. Ethical ambition promotes welfare, whereas unchecked ambition can cause oppression.

(i) Rulers Who Harmed Society

- **Adolf Hitler:** His racist ideology and expansionist ambitions caused the Holocaust and immense destruction during World War II.
- **Joseph Stalin:** Political purges and repression caused widespread suffering.

Their actions demonstrate ambition detached from justice and human dignity.

(ii) Rulers Who Promoted Development

- **Ashoka:** Following the Kalinga War, he emphasised Dhamma, public welfare and moral governance.
- **Akbar:** His administrative reforms and policies of religious accommodation promoted stability and integration.

Conclusion

Leadership should be judged not merely by power or expansion but by justice, inclusion and public welfare. Ambition guided by ethical principles becomes a force for social progress.

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