Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others.” — Swami Vivekananda.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Learning from others, individuality, adaptability, cultural confidence, critical assimilation, innovation, self-development

Model Answer

Introduction

The quotation emphasises that learning should lead to self-development rather than imitation. Individuals and societies should remain open to external knowledge while preserving their distinctive identity.

Body

Meaning: Vivekananda advocates **critical assimilation**. One should identify valuable ideas in other cultures, institutions or individuals, adapt them to one's own circumstances and transform them into one's own strengths.

In administration, a civil servant can learn successful practices from another State or country but must adapt them to local social, economic and cultural conditions. Blindly copying a policy may fail because institutions operate in different contexts.

The principle also promotes innovation. Scientific knowledge may be universal, but its application can be locally customised. Similarly, India's adoption of modern technology can coexist with indigenous knowledge and cultural traditions.

At the individual level, learning from mentors without losing one's moral identity develops confidence, creativity and independent judgement.

Conclusion

True learning is neither isolation nor imitation. It is the **assimilation of useful knowledge through one's own experience, values and creativity**, thereby converting borrowed ideas into original strengths.

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