Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

"Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Corruption is not merely an administrative or legal failure; it reflects weakening of honesty, integrity, responsibility and public-mindedness. Its long-term prevention requires ethical education, exemplary leadership, institutional accountability, social awareness and cultivation of integrity from family to public institutions.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Corruption occurs when private interests override public duty. While weak institutions facilitate corruption, its deeper roots lie in declining values such as honesty, integrity, responsibility and respect for the common good.

Measures to Uplift Core Values:

Value-based education: Schools and universities should cultivate empathy, honesty, civic responsibility and ethical reasoning rather than focusing only on academic achievement.

Ethical leadership: Public representatives, administrators and corporate leaders must demonstrate integrity through personal example. Ethical conduct at the top creates institutional culture.

Strengthening institutions: Transparency, social audits, RTI, whistle-blower protection, independent vigilance mechanisms and time-bound punishment can reinforce ethical behaviour.

Family and community: Families should discourage status-seeking through illegitimate means, while communities should socially appreciate honesty and public service.

Reducing opportunities for corruption: Digitisation, simplified procedures, direct benefit transfers and reduced discretionary powers can complement moral reform.

Conclusion:

Laws can deter corruption, but sustainable change requires **character formation supported by ethical institutions**. Society must make integrity a source of respect rather than treating corruption as a shortcut to success.