Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Differentiate ‘moral intuition’ from ‘moral reasoning’ with suitable examples.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2023	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Moral intuition is an immediate, largely spontaneous ethical response, whereas moral reasoning is a conscious and reflective process of evaluating principles, consequences, duties and competing values before reaching an ethical judgment.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Moral judgment can arise either from an immediate sense of right and wrong or from deliberate ethical analysis. These are broadly described as moral intuition and moral reasoning.

Moral Intuition:

Moral intuition is an **instantaneous ethical feeling or judgment** without extensive conscious analysis. For example, seeing a child in danger may immediately evoke the feeling that one must help.

Moral Reasoning:

Moral reasoning involves **deliberately examining facts, principles, duties and consequences** before deciding. For example, an administrator deciding whether to disclose confidential information may weigh privacy, public interest, legal obligations and potential harm.

Key Difference:

Intuition is generally **rapid, emotional and experience-driven**, whereas reasoning is **deliberate, analytical and reflective**. Intuition can be useful in emergencies, but it may be influenced by prejudice or personal bias. Reasoning can reduce such biases but may be slower and sometimes indecisive.

Conclusion:

Ethical maturity requires a constructive combination of both: intuition can identify a moral concern quickly, while reasoning can **test, refine and justify** the resulting judgment.

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