Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in public servants.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Integrity, impartiality, objectivity, accountability, transparency, empathy, compassion, dedication to public service, tolerance, constitutional morality, code of conduct, ethics training, vigilance, whistle-blower protection, social audit

Model Answer

Introduction

An effective public servant combines administrative competence with strong ethical values to ensure that public authority is exercised in the public interest.

Ten Essential Values

1. Integrity
2. Impartiality
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Transparency

6. Empathy
7. Compassion
8. Dedication to public service
9. Tolerance
10. Commitment to constitutional values

Ways to Prevent Unethical Behaviour

- **Clear standards:** Enforce codes of conduct, conflict-of-interest rules and asset-disclosure requirements.
- **Ethics education:** Provide regular training in ethical reasoning, integrity and case-based decision-making.
- **Transparent processes:** Expand e-governance, digitised records and time-bound service delivery to reduce discretionary corruption.
- **Independent oversight:** Strengthen vigilance bodies, audits and disciplinary mechanisms.
- **Whistle-blower protection:** Provide safe channels for reporting wrongdoing and protect complainants against retaliation.
- **Accountability:** Ensure fair and timely investigations, proportionate penalties and consistent enforcement.
- **Citizen participation:** Encourage social audits, public hearings and grievance redressal.
- **Ethical leadership:** Senior officers must model honesty and refuse improper political or private influence.

Conclusion

Ethical public administration requires both virtuous individuals and strong institutions. A culture of integrity, supported by transparency and credible accountability, can prevent misconduct and strengthen public trust.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP