Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Hatred is destructive of a person’s wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation’s spirit.” Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Clouding of reason, erosion of conscience, prejudice and discrimination, social polarisation, violence, constitutional morality, empathy, reconciliation, ethical leadership

Model Answer

Introduction

Hatred is a persistent feeling of hostility towards individuals or groups. I agree that it damages personal judgement and moral conscience and can weaken the ethical foundations of an entire nation.

How hatred destroys wisdom and conscience

- **Distorts rationality:** Prejudice encourages selective interpretation of facts and rejection of opposing viewpoints.
- **Weakens empathy:** Hatred makes people indifferent to the suffering and dignity of others.
- **Justifies wrongdoing:** Individuals may rationalise discrimination, humiliation or violence against perceived opponents.
- **Creates moral blindness:** Group loyalty may become more important than truth, fairness and justice.

How hatred poisons a nation's spirit

- **Social fragmentation:** Communal, caste and ethnic hostility erodes social trust and national unity.

- **Institutional discrimination:** Hatred can influence public decisions and undermine equality before law.
- **Economic consequences:** Conflict discourages investment, disrupts livelihoods and diverts public resources.
- **Democratic decline:** Intolerance weakens reasoned debate and respect for dissent.

Way forward

- Promote constitutional values, scientific temper and critical thinking.
- Encourage inter-community dialogue, empathy and peace education.
- Enforce laws impartially against hate-driven violence and discrimination.
- Ensure responsible political communication and ethical leadership.

Conclusion

A nation cannot achieve lasting progress through hostility. Replacing hatred with justice, compassion and dialogue protects individual conscience and strengthens India's pluralistic social fabric.

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