



UPSC – CSE

Civil Services Examinations

Union Public Service Commission

General Studies

Paper 4 – Volume - 1

**ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND ESSAY
WRITING**



G.S. PAPER – 4 VOLUME – 1

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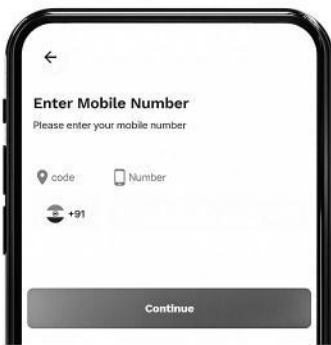
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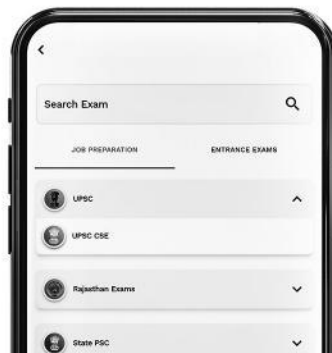
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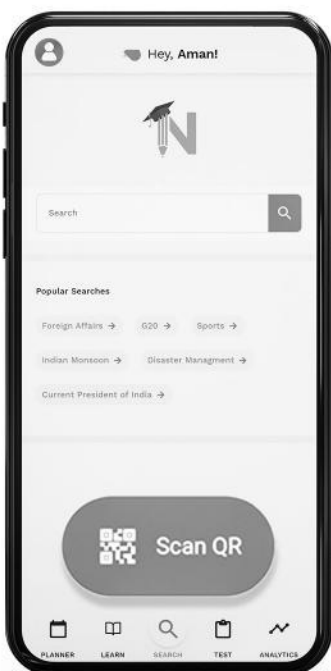
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1 CHAPTER

Introduction to Ethics – Ethics and Human interface

- “Ethics” = Greek word “Ethos” = Character, Habit, Customs or Way of behaviour, etc.
- Defined as **Systematic study of human actions** based on their **rightfulness**.
- “A set of principles which guides us what to do and what not to do the way acceptable to the society.”

Basic concepts

Morality and Value

Morality	Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principles of right and wrong held by an individual. ● Standards of behaviour pertaining to an individual and not social conduct. ● Arise from personal experience, character, conscience and so on. ● Ex: Homosexuality can be moral for an individual but unethical in society’s perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualities instrumental to us. ● Standard to measure desirability of an action. ● Act as an internal compass which help a person evaluate different choices of conduct and behaviour. ● Ex: honesty, integrity, empathy, courage, dedication, compassion etc.

Belief

- Explains **behavioural component of a person**.
- An internal **feeling that something is true, even though that belief may be unproven and irrational**.
- **Eg.** Gandhiji believed that swaraj can be attained within one year of launching non-cooperation movement.
- Can be **peripheral (weak)** and **core (strong)**.
- **Beliefs** formed by **direct interaction** are **generally strong**.
- aka **cognition**.

Ethics in public life

- In a **democracy**, all **public functionaries** are **trustees of the people**.
- **trusteeship relationship** b/w public & officials **requires** that **authority entrusted to officials** be **exercised in 'public interest'**.
- Committee on Standards in Public Life in the United Kingdom/ **Nolan Committee** outlined the following **seven principles of public life** (OHIOSAL).
 - Objectivity
 - Honesty
 - Integrity

- Openness
- Selessness
- Accountability
- Leadership

Freedom and Discipline

- Freedom is the **basic human value** i.e.
 - **Every living being** who has come on Earth **wants to remain free**. They **always dislike bondage and restrictions**.
 - **Saying – A man is born free but everywhere he is in chains**.

Different perspectives of freedom

Individual Freedom	Required as every individual is unique .
Intellectual Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freedom of mind, knowledge, freedom to question the old ideas and to create new ones, freedom to think unthinkable, freedom to explore the unexplored, freedom to reach unreachable. ● Tagore – Where the mind is without fear , where streams of human reason are not lost in the gravy dead sand of dead habits , in that light my country awakes. ● Necessary to question the status quo
Freedom of will	Denotes freedom to choose between alternatives

Duties and Rights

Concept of Duties

- As **citizens**, there exists a **wide range of duties that bind us in everyday life**.
- These duties are **owed to state** and to **individuals**.
- There is a **legal duty** to pay taxes, to refrain from committing violence against fellow-citizens, and to follow other laws that Parliament has enacted.
- **Breach** of these legal duties **triggers financial consequences** (fines), or **punitive measures** like imprisonment.
- Duties **follow a simple logic** that, **peaceful co-existence requires** a degree of **self-sacrifice**, and **must be enforced through the set of sanctions**.

Concept of Rights

- **Rights are formulated to ascertain twin principles viz. Anti-dehumanisation and Anti-hierarchy**.
- In **India**, this can be **reflected in a chapter on Fundamental Rights** in the constitution.
- **Rights as a bulwark against dehumanisation:**
 - **Framers** of the Indian Constitution while deliberating on Fundamental Rights were of the **view that every human being should have access to basic dignity and equality that can not be taken away the State**.
 - The **necessity for Fundamental Rights** in India **originated** from the experiences under the **colonial regime** where Indians had been treated as subjects.
 - **For example**, the **colonial government declared** some group of **people as Criminal Tribes**, who were treated as less than human.

Virtue Ethics

- Helps a person **become a better person through self-improvement.**
- **Socrates** thought that **knowledge is virtue**, and **virtue leads to happiness.**
- **Knowledge of right or wrong makes taking right choices easier**
- **beliefs** about right and wrong **influence our decisions.**
- **If we believe it's right to help a drowning child**, then it would be **fairly shocking** to decide **not to do so** and it would be **less surprising** when we decide **to help the child.**
- **Virtue always leads to happiness.**
- **Criminals commit crimes that hurt others.** However, **helping others can make us happy**, so **doing the right thing** might be **more fulfilling than committing crimes.**

Essence of ethics

Essence - intrinsic quality of something that determines its character.

- **Ethics originate** from the **sense of justice** prevailing in a particular society.
- **Operates at different levels** like individual, organisation, socio-cultural, political and international. **Ethics at each level affect each other.**
- **Interrelated** to each other. **E.g.** – honesty, truthfulness, integrity; values of **equality and justice cannot exist without tolerance** etc
- **Ethical behavior** leads to **various benefits for an individual** as well as the **society** at large. **Ethics** leads to **peace, harmony, respect, justice** etc.
- **Preach** a certain kind of **behaviour** to us. It **tells us how should people behave.**
- **Abstract** and **subjective** in nature i.e., they are **affected by individual's emotion and perception.**
- **Determined in a social setting** at a given point of time. A **society's history, culture, values** etc. **determine ethical standards** which may **vary from society to society.**
- **Not an objective universal concept.** Its **understanding varies** from time to time, person to person, society to society.
- **Ethical standards** may **transcend the narrow stipulations of law and code of regulations.**

Components

- **Choices** - **Certain preferences and priorities** make us decide what we want. Such choices which we made **reflect in our actions**
- **Actions** - Choices in turn shown through our actions **physically.**
- **Behaviour** - It is the way we act or conduct ourselves. The behaviour in which we exhibit is influenced by choices we made and acts we did. If it's ethical, it is called ethical behaviour for example, treating others with respect or no respect.

Determinants and Consequences of Ethics

- **Person:**
 - Depends on **mental make-up of individual.**
 - Also depends upon how the person has **internalised personal attitudes and values regarding ethical behaviour.**
- **Place:**
 - Refers to the **external environment** which includes **family, school, etc.**

- **Eg**, as kids we were told by our parents and teachers to not to steal things.
- As we grow up we **tend to carry such knowledge** and **apply it to real world**.
- Similarly, **work place teaches** us ethics of **teamwork, punctuality, responsibility**, etc.
- **Time:**
 - Different individuals, societies & culture have **different set of moral codes at different times**.
 - **Eg**. It was once ethical to own a slave but today it is unethical.
- **Circumstances:**
 - **Stealing is unethical**. But a **poor person stealing to feed her children reduces unethicallity** of the act. Such **situational ethics bring subjectivity** as it often **makes morality subjective**.
- **End purpose:**
 - **To give donation to a poor person is good** but if such **donation is to lure poor person to do something** for you, then it **becomes immoral**.
- **Culture:**
 - Has **profound effect on shaping individual values**.
 - As **western culture surrounds around individualistic** and **Indian culture based on universalism**.
- **Constitution:**
 - A way to **establish moral disposition of their society**.
- **God & Religion:**
 - **Advocate universal peace** and **ethical practices**.
 - **Religious textbooks teach** how one should **behave** in a **society** and **how the society should be**.
- **Conscience & Intuition:**
 - A **person who follows his conscience & intuition feel** that **what is good is good because it is good** and what is **bad is bad because it is bad**.
 - **Intuition don't need any justification** while following its actions.
 - But **conscience is justified** based on his actions because of its moral nature and it has reasoning and justification.
- **Family:**
 - **First interaction where a children personality develops since his birth**.
 - **Today's Children are tomorrow's citizens**.
 - Therefore, its **utmost important** that **Family environment teaches what is ethically correct**.

Consequences of Ethics

- **Consequences of human actions** which are **guided by ethical practices**.
- **Plays an instrumental role** in **human life** and **society**.
- **Helps in arriving at decisions** more **quickly** as it assist making choices.
- **Reveals the value dimension of a decision** that would **otherwise seems value free**.

Consequences of loss of ethics

Dimensions	Consequences
Individual level	Petty crimes, domestic violence, urinating and spitting on public spaces, abusive and filthy language, crime against the aged, jumping red light.

Social level	Corruption, Rise in crime rate, acknowledging goons and mafias, joint family, parent's respect, drug addiction, regionalism, castes.
Organizational level	Nepotism, Corruption, rise in inequalities, loss of trust, decrease in efficiency, economy and effectiveness, destruction of work culture, loss of trust in the administration, lawlessness.
Political level	Hung parliament, corruption, criminalisation of politics, Coalition govt.
International level	Trust deficit, frictions, disputes, unhealthy competition, damage to the environment and unsustainable development, disregard to international conventions and laws.
Bioethical level	Abortion, animal rights, cloning, artificial intelligence, consent, confidentiality, GM organisms, Suicide.
Environmental level	Loss of flora and fauna, unsustainable development, polluter shall pay principle is diminishing, increase in pollution levels, disregard to Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)

Morality and Moral Values

Morals

- **Ethics, Morals and Values** often interchange.
- **Morals** are **part ethics based on** concept of **goodness**.
- Here **Bad part of ethics excluded**.
- **Morality** is **standards** of individuals **for right and wrong**.
 - **Derived from** Latin word '**Moralitus**' which **means character**.
- **Eg:** Being Honest, Transparency, Fair choice to everyone in recruitment exam etc

Types :

Private Morality	Public Morality	Political Morality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Inter personal Morality • Obligations to our children, spouse, parents, teachers and relatives. • Here Morality is guided by unarticulated emotions among members of family. • We have a duty towards those under our special care, including the aged, 'servants', animals and, occasionally, strangers. • We can't completely escape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter group Morality • Harmony between different religious-philosophical groups generated by the exercise of self-restraint. • As there is no personal attachments, Individual goals and self-interest guides morality. There is no commonly held ethic either. • Neither hate speech nor speech glorifying oneself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morality among leaders. • It specifies what rulers and the ruled owe one another and also subjects obedience to their leader. • Values such as political freedom, solidarity, shared traditions and cultural heritage guides morality as citizens are subjects of political state. • The core of political morality is a commitment to justice &

<p>from being impartial because of obligations towards our personal relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One's private life automatically guarantees high moral stature in political life. 	<p>was acceptable as part of public morality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some degree of partiality exists. ● Public morality transforms to elect morally correct leaders. 	<p>impartiality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have to overcome our loyalty to blood relations, not pursue only our private interests, using power grounded in shared principles and complete impartiality with no discrimination. ● Need not be shown after assuming the power.
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Constitutional morality

- A **substantive content of the constitution** in the form of **Ethical Ideas** that **underlines** formal provisions.
- **Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity** are **elements** of modern constitutional morality.
- **Ambedkar - Constitution** could at best **provide** a **legal framework**, a **necessary** but not sufficient **condition** for such a transformation.
- **To be effective, constitutional laws** have to **rest upon substratum of Constitutional morality**. It is **not a natural sentiment** but **has to be cultivated**.

Characteristics :

- **Enhances values** like liberty, equality and fraternity
- **Secularism** i.e., respect for plurality
- **Political, social and economic justice**
- **Open culture of dissent** and **constructive criticism**
- **Tolerance, restraint and mutual accommodation** in public life
- **Respect for formally prescribed rules and procedures**
- **Constitutional morality** is the **basis for** which any **statutory acts** should be made.

Conscience

- A **portion of our subconscious mind** that **tells us to act in a certain way**.
- **ability** to make **value-based decisions**. Here, **ends** have taken **precedence over means**.
- The **ability to make a practical judgement based on ethical beliefs and principles** is known as the **voice of conscience**.
- The **moral compass** of **right and wrong**, as well as the **awareness of one's conduct**, is the **voice of conscience**. It's a **quiet voice from within**, as well as the **voice of God**. But, most of the time, **we ignore such voices and make poor decisions** as a result.
- **Man loses his state of mind** and **acts for a short time** before **realising his mistake** and **receiving punishment**. Many **criminal situations occur** when a **person loses his or her mind** and **refuses to listen to his or her conscience**.
- **Eg:**
 - **When faced with a decision between family and organization** in a case involving family members, it is the **conscience** that **guides us**.

- When **Ramakrishna paramahansa** appointed **Vivekananda** as his principal pupil, he **urged** him **to steal food** from his home with no one looking, but **Vivekananda said**, "his **inner conscience** is always **watching himself**."
- **Indrani Mukherjee**, a well-known businesswoman, and her husband **murdered her own daughter**. Only snakes kill their own babies in this world, as their inner conscience has become blind.

Components of Inner Conscience

Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To get inspiration, it is beneficial to be in a calm, thoughtful, and prayerful state. ● Reading something inspiring, such as a holy book from your or any other faith that appeals to you, a speech that has inspired you, or an article in a magazine or newspaper that has boosted your spirits. ● This aids in the development of a connection with your inner Self, Higher Wisdom, or the Divine (what you call it is not as important as knowing it inspires).
Correction	Amending actions based on self analysis and understanding of implications
Direction	Channelizing actions for a greater good

Ethics Vs Morality

Ethics	Morality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standards of human conduct that society adopts for itself. ● Set of dos and don'ts that govern human conduct in a social setting. ● Standards of "good and bad" distinguished by a certain community or social setting. ● A term used in conjunction with business, medicine, or law. ● Uniform across the cultures ● Eg: Ethically adultery is wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principles of right and wrong held by an individual. ● Self-regulation in a personal life. ● Personal and normative. ● Moral connotation links theology and spirituality. ● Vary person to person and culture to culture. ● But at personal level you may either support to adultery or you feel it's wrong.

Ethics in Private and public relations

Ethics in Private Relationship

- Ethical and moral values **adopted by person during his personal dealings**.
- **Varies from person to person**.
- **Freedom of Will** forms the **basic foundation** of Private Ethics. It **means freedom to act or not to act**.
- **Eg** : One should speak Truth but you are at full freedom to speak lie as well.
- **Private Relationships** are
 - One to One and based on emotions
 - Informal in nature
 - Internal control instead of external control (law, rules etc)

- **Ethicality of Action in Private life** can be **checked** only if
 - There must be some human knowledge of the consequences of that action
 - Action should be done voluntarily ie no compulsion
 - There should be presence of different choices

Some common underlying principles

- **Law of Integrity** : Person shouldn't lie and keep his promises
- **Law of Improvement** : If mistake has been committed, person should try to improve that
- **Gratitude** : If other person has helped him, person should keep that in mind
- **Helping others**
- **Justice**
 - Self Improvement
 - Don't damage others
- **Loyalty** – loyalty to one's partner and to the family members
- **Love** – loving all even with their imperfections

Ethics in Public Relationships

- Ethics that a **person may adhere to in respect of their interactions and business dealings** in their professional life.
- **Main principles:**
 - **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
 - **Integrity** : Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations
 - **Objectivity** : In carrying out public business, holders of public office should make choices on merit
 - **Accountability** – for your actions taken in respect of your position in public service
 - **Openness** : Holders of public office should be as open as possible
 - **Honesty:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties
 - **Loyalty to the Organisation**
 - **Spirit of service**
 - **Fairness & Justice**
- When somebody enters into public life by election system (**MP/MLAs**) or Selection System (**Civil Servants**) then **there has to be some special ethics** for such persons .
- Hence, **ethical framework has been prepared for the people** in public life .
- **Supposed to be strictly guided by that ethical framework**

Reasons for moral erosion

- **Lack of accountability and responsibility:** If anything goes well , there is no dearth of people to claim that they are the people behind that but if anything goes wrong, nobody is ready to take responsibility.
- **Sacrificing ethics, values , integrity and spiritualism:** for materialism & wordly success
- **Social Acceptance:** society has started to accept the people who are corrupt. So social pressure to wrong attitudes and behavior is gone.

- **Failure on the part of family, schools, society and institutions wrt inculcating values**
- **Mega Administration, slow methodology and delay in decision making:** There is growth of each department and institutions both vertically and horizontally. This has created confusion in hierarchy leading to delay in decision making.
- **Soft Society, tolerant public opinion and politico-business-bureaucracy nexus:** Public don't resent & tolerate the wrong doings. This give decision makers more liberty against not doing such crimes in future.

Dimensions of Ethics

Meta-Ethics

- aka as the 'ethics of ethics'.
- **Deal with the questions which determine** if a raised subject or matter is **morally right** or **morally wrong**.
- Asks **about our understanding**- how we **interpret** if a **decision, action** or a **motive** is good and bad.
- From **ancient times, philosophers** have been **trying** to give a **definitive description** to meta-ethics. **Aristotle** had **theorised** that our **interpretation of right and wrong** is **based on our understanding of other subjects** and **relative ethical wisdom** that we **passively gain from it**.
- **Eg**, the differentiation of healthy food items from junk food items is on the basis of our understanding of factors like taste, appetite and effects on our body.
- **Aristotle** also **claimed** that **acculturation plays an important role** to **influence our thoughts and ideologies** regarding a subject.
- When **two or more cultures combine** in a geographical region to **co-exist**, the **various aspects** of every culture are **integrated in their daily lives** and **broaden their horizon of knowledge** and **influence their understanding of good and bad**.

Prescriptive Ethics

- Deals with the **study of ethical action**.
- Extensively **investigates questions** which ask **whether the action one implements is actually right or not**.
- aka normative ethics.
- A **vast subject** and is **conveniently divided into sub-divisions** that **helps in better organisation and analysis of questions** and **ideas raised**:
 - **Virtue ethics/ ethics of Socrates** - describes the character of a moral agent as the driving force behind ethical behaviour.
 - Other classifies the **subject under consequentialism** - moral theories that hold the consequences of a certain action as the foundation for any relevant moral judgement regarding the particular action.
 - Easily understood in the aphorism- '**The ends justify the means.**'
- Further branches of **Deontology, pragmatic ethics** and **anarchist ethics** further **classify prescriptive ethics on the basis of a multitude of factors** that determine the answer to '**is the action or decision being implemented is wrong?**'

Descriptive Ethics

- **Least philosophical end** of the spectrum of ethics.
- **Seeks information on how people live; observe the patterns of situations** arising in their surroundings and **draw general conclusions based on these observations.**
- **Identify** more as a **branch of social science rather than human morality**, by **offering a value-free perspective** of ethics.
- **Does not start with preconceived theories and hypotheses** but rather prefer to **thoroughly investigate the existing facts and cases relating to the subject- making observations** of actual choices which are **made by moral agents** in a **practical world.**
- **Study includes various fields of examinations** ranging from **ethical codes** that lay down **rules and regulations for the society, informal theories** on etiquette, **practices of law and arbitration** and finally, **observing choices** made by ordinary people **without the assistance or advice of an expert.**

Applied Ethics

- **Used in practical life** in various fields of work and life.
- Applies **ethical philosophy in real-life situations.**
- Some **common fields of specialised applied ethics** include engineering ethics, bioethics, geoethics, military ethics, public services ethics and business ethics.
- Under this discipline, **various specific questions** have been **raised which require a philosophical approach** rather than technical interpretation **to satisfy the morality of the human nature.**
- Many **public policies** are **decided upon the answers to such questions.**
- **Eg-** is abortion immoral? Should euthanasia be legalised? What are the fundamental human rights? – And others.
- **While dichotomies** are **preferred** due to the convenience of taking a decision, **most** of the **questions** raised are **generally multifaceted** in nature and the **most efficient answers** are able to **solve many areas coherently.**

Approaches to the dimensions of ethics

- *Utilitarian Approach*
 - **Conceived** in the 1800's by famous philosophers **Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill.**
 - **Used by the legislators to determine** which **laws** were **morally upright** and which ones were **not.**
 - **Foundation** lies on the fact that the **laws are to be formulated to provide the best balance between right and wrong.**
 - **Eg,** ethical warfare is trying to curb terrorism for the greater good by killing and destroying the terrorist organisations.
- *Rights Approach*
 - **Stems from the philosophy of Immanuel Kant** which **focused on the rights** of a person **to choose from their free will.**
 - **Stresses** on the fact **that humans are not a subject to manipulation** and **their dignity and decisions** should be **respected.**
 - Many **fundamental and legal rights** like right to privacy, right of freedom, etc. **find their roots** in this form of approach.

- *Fairness or justice approach*
 - Described by **Aristotle** and his contemporary philosophers.
 - **Propagates the idea of equality** to all irrespective of their origins or creed in every aspect of life.
- *Common goods approach*
 - First described by the **Greek philosophers**.
 - **Denotes life** in a society as a **good commodity** in itself and the **actions** of each and every individual **should contribute to this common good**.
 - **Modern philosopher John Rawls** gives a **better definition of common good** as 'certain general conditions those are equally applicable to everyone's advantage.'
 - **Eg.** Affordable healthcare, transparent administration, environmental uplifting.
- *Virtue Approach*
 - **Most primitive approach** in the list.
 - **Adheres** to the fact that **ethical actions** are **supposed to be consistent** and **at par with certain ideal virtues** that **provide for the holistic development of our humanity**.
 - **Temperaments** and **practices of day to day lives** that enable us to act according to the highest potential of our character and propagate the moral values.
 - **Eg of virtues.** Honesty, courage, compassion, generosity, tolerance, love fidelity, integrity, fairness, self-control, and prudence.

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CHAPTER

Ethical Qualities - Human Values

- **Main theme** of Ethics - **virtues** and **vices**.
- **Virtue**
 - **Acquired power** or capacity for moral action.
 - **Cultivated** through **moral exertion**.
 - **Eg**, courage, compassion, etc
- **Vice**
 - **aka** fault, depravity, sin, iniquity, wickedness, and corruption.
 - A **practice, behaviour, or habit** generally considered **immoral, depraved, or degrading**.
 - A **negative character trait**, a defect, or an infirmity.
 - **Eg**, gambling, smoking etc
 - **Ethical texts** contain long lists of **virtues and vices**, many of which are quite **similar** having the same moral concept.
 - Moral philosophers divide vices into major and minor categories.
 - **Major vices** - deadly or mortal sins.
 - **Eg**. anger, vanity, avarice, lust, sloth, envy etc.
 - **Allied qualities** - Love, mercy, benevolence, consideration for others, altruism and kindness.

Ethical Qualities

Kindness

- As a virtue, kindness is **other-regarding**.
 - **Tiruvalluvar**- Those who perform kind deeds seek no return.
 - **Dalai Lama** - kindness is the essence of religion.
 - **Hinduism** emphasises on **Daya** or **Anukampa** i.e. kindness.
 - Similarly, **Buddhism** focuses on **Karuna**.
 - **Islam** - concept of **Reham** or mercy.
 - **Jainism** - **kindness towards all living creatures** –abjuring all forms of violence against living creatures.
 - **Non-violence**- **chief component** of kindness.
 - **St. Paul** - Kindness is the **bond of perfectness**.
 - **Arises from** human sentiments and feelings - **empathy** which enables them to experience by a kind of **association with the emotions, pleasures and pains of others**.
 - **Humans share** a sense of **fellow feeling with others** in virtue of their common humanity.
 - **Feel saddened by** the **sufferings of others** and try to alleviate their pains.
 - Kindness is the **outcome of social conscience**.
 - **More than** mere **charity** which provides for the physical necessities of the destitute and the needy.
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- Most **religions consider forbearance and forgiveness** as a special form of **practical kindness**.
- **Moral principles** falling within practical kindness:
 - One should **not speak evil** of others.
 - One should be **gentle and humble**.
 - One should **live peaceably with all** avoiding anything which may lead to strife.
 - One should **tolerate and forgive** one another.
- **Plato's observation** on kindness:
 - Plato asks to be **considerate towards others** as they may be facing tougher situations than us.
 - **May be not true.**
 - One has to invariably **act kindly towards others**.
 - Becomes a **permanent attribute of one's moral being**.
- **Mother Teresa's observation**:
 - One should be **kind and compassionate even** at the risk of **making mistakes**.
 - This way, **we will never harm or hurt anyone physically or psychologically** even some immoral or undeserving persons.

“Work miracles in unkindness and hardness”

- Many **interpretations**.
 - **Ambitious parents** may put **children** through **harsh educational grind** causing **psychological damage**.
 - **Legal systems** may impose **harsh penalties** on **offenders** – without tampering justice with mercy.
 - May also be referred to many **means through which men try to achieve supposedly high ends**.
 - Eg. as in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia or Communist China – which aimed at total social transformation.
 - In the process, they **killed, and maimed millions of people**.

- **Mark Twain's observations**:
 - Kindness is a **feeling** which can be **conveyed without using any words**.
 - **People can** readily see and **sense** kind words and deeds.
 - A sentiment which **passes from one person to another without** the need for an **intervening medium**.
 - **No special** faculties or **skills** are **needed** for conveying or sensing kind sentiments.
 - Even **illiterate persons** are **capable of being kind**.
- Kindness is **part of man's original and natural emotional make up**.
- **Harsh circumstances** may **destroy this** quality - can be **revived through teachings** of **religious and philosophical texts**.
- A **central moral tenet** of all **religious** thoughts.
- If **not present**, **human beings** become **bestly, cruel, ruthless** and **pitiless**.
- **Need** for kindness is **seen from the violent conflicts** which are **currently tearing apart many nations** of the world.
- **Eg.** in Afghanistan (Taliban rule), Myanmar (Rohingya crisis) etc

Forgiveness

- **Pardoning of an offence**, wrongdoing, or obligation.
- The concept can be **summarised by the phrase ‘forgive and forget’**.
- May extend to groups when the **wronged group excuses the other**.
- In the **current** era, **governments** have started **setting up commissions** to establish truth and **bring** about **reconciliation between perpetrators** and **victims** of historical wrongs.
 - **Eg.** Information commission, Central Vigilance Commission etc.
- **Benefits** of forgiveness:
 - Ensuring that **personal relationships go on smoothly**.
 - **Wiping negative thoughts** which could harm the wronged individual.
 - **Helping faulters** by **freeing them from blame** and **hostility**, and by enabling them to start all over again.
- Involves **re-establishment of a relationship** ruptured by wrongdoing.
- **Forgiving enables** the **victim to give up resentment** against the offender. The **faulter atones** for his wrongs and seeks forgiveness.
- **Many other philosophers** have **postulated** that **forgiveness can be misdirected**, and also **reflects** an **individual’s weakness** of character.
 - **Eg.** a woman in an abusive relationship may continually forgive the wrongdoer for no reason.
 - **Thus**, forgiveness has to be **based on morally valid reasons**.
- can be **justified only when** the **wrongdoer displays genuine guilt**.
- A **tendency to forgive may reflect servility** (lack of self-respect) which is a **vice**.
- **Aristotle** - any person who lacks appropriate anger is “unlikely to defend himself” and “endure being insulted” and is for this reason a “fool”.
- **Kant** - a person who fails to become angry at injustices done to him lacks dignity and self-respect.
- **Hume** - forgiveness is justified only under certain circumstances.
- **process of getting over resentment** (anger that is felt on behalf of one’s own self).

Difference between Anger and Resentment

Anger

- **Sudden** and **instinctive**.
- May be **deliberate** and **sustained over time**.
- A “**reactive attitude**,” provoked by beliefs about the intentions, attitudes, and actions of others towards us.

Resentment

- Involves **taking offence**, umbrage, or exception to the **deeds and intentions of others**.

- **based on moral principles** as they help a person in overcoming resentment that he feels towards a person who has hurt him.
- Also **involves overcoming** other “**retributive emotions**” like indignation, contempt, or hatred.
- **Moral thinkers contend** whether **forgiveness** should be **unconditional** or be **based on the behaviour of the wrongdoer**.
- **Wrongdoer** should **confess** his wrong, **apologise**, **show remorse** or attempt to **atone for it** by accepting the **right punishment**.

- **Religious ideas** (especially Christian) hold that **we should forgive others** their wrongs as **our own forgiveness by God depends only on it**.
- Some **philosophers consider forgiveness** as a **duty** or what one ought to do. **Others** consider **forgiveness** as **non-obligatory but desirable**.
- As **time** is a **great healer** and **resentment** also **dissipates over time**.
- There are **many offences** which **people readily forgive** in the ordinary course of business.
- Hence we should not **bear grudges** for **trivial offenses**
- sometimes **forgiveness** becomes **difficult & involves mental struggle**.
- **Self-control** and **strength of will** are **necessary** in order to **manage temper** and **not hold grudges** against wrongdoers.

Self-Control and Good Temper

- **Plato** - **display of anger reflects** the vice of **intemperance**.
- **Anger** has to be **rationaly controlled**.
- **Aristotle** - “**good temper**” is the **mean between** the extremes of **irascibility** (marked by hot temper and easily provoked anger) , **anger**, and total **placidity** (tranquillity).
- A **good-tempered person** “**is not revengeful, but rather tends to forgive**”.
- **Aristotle** - **morally appropriate anger** is **shown by** the **virtuous person** who is “**angry at the right things and with the right people**”.
- **Christianity** - **based on** an ethic of **love** that **focuses** on the need to **respond to wrongdoing by accepting it, turning the other cheek, and re-embracing the offender** in an **act of love or compassion**.
- **2 views** on anger:
 - **Anger** appropriately **mediated by reason** is a **virtue**.
 - **Transcending anger** in an **act of love** is a **virtue**.
- **Uncontrolled anger** - **vice**.
 - **Eg.** Teachers who lose self-control and thrash children in a fit of rage. Anyone who is angrily obsessed by someone’s wrongdoing may be harming himself since pent up anger produces adverse biochemical effects on the body.
- It may be **desirable to release anger into harmless channels**.
- However, it is **better to control intense anger rather to release it freely**.
- **Anger** may **sometimes be the initial trigger** for seeking **constructive solutions** to **personal or political problems**- more likely to be **harmful to those expressing it** and to those around them.
- All forms of anger are **inconsistent with moral life** since they **dispose us to cruelty and vengeance**.
- These passions **encourage us to see other people as less than fully human**.
- So, a **person of virtue strives to extirpate anger** in all its forms.
 - Has **influenced** many great **moral leaders like Gandhi**.

Fortitude

- **Aristotle** - **fortitude** is the **means by which men can control their fear of death**. **Soldiers** often **face threats** to life in battle fields.
- **Enables one to contain this fear** by the dictate of the reason.
- **Soldiers without fortitude** will **desert the battle field**.