

UPSC Preparation

Questions on Moral Thinkers and Philosophers (Year-Wise)

2019 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophers Questions Theory-Based

1. What does the quotation mean to you? “An unexamined life is not worth living”. – Socrates
2. What does the quotation mean to you? A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes.” – M.K. Gandhi
3. What does the quotation mean to you? “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is an order in the nation. When there is an order in the nation, there is peace in the world” – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

2018 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophers Questions Theory-Based

1. “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. (150 words)
2. What does each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context?
 1. “The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded.” Abraham Lincoln (150 words)
 2. “Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding.” – Mahatma Gandhi
 3. “Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in the unblemished common good.” – Tirukkural

2017 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophers Questions Theory-Based

1. “Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. It all depends on the principles which direct them.” – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country.
2. “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are father, mother, and teacher.” – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.

2015 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophers Questions Theory-Based

1. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these bring out what it means to you in the present context.
 1. “The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong.”

2. "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light"

2014 – Moral Thinkers and Philosophers Questions Theory-Based

1. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context:
 1. "There is enough on this earth for everyone's need but for no one's greed." Mahatma Gandhi.
 2. "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."—Abraham Lincoln.
 3. "I count him as a braver who overcomes his desires than he who overcomes his enemies."—Aristotle.

