

UPSC PREPARATION

ETHICS Examples

1. Government of Brazil runs a program known as 'Bolsa Família'- a conditional cash-transfer program that rewards families for sending their kids to school and taking them to regular health check-ups. In this context, answer following:
A. Is this not morally reprehensible 'bribe' to induce parents to do their basic duty?
B. If 'cash for schooling' is justified, can we also justify cash for sterilization and family planning?
2. "The only way out of the labyrinth of suffering is to forgive". Discuss this statement in context of the communal riots in India.
3. Scandinavian countries rank very high in Human development reports. One of the reasons being the lack of tolerance towards corruption in their society. In this regard:
A. List the factors responsible for relatively higher tolerance of Indian society against corruption
B. China too suffers from high level of corruption, yet ranks far ahead of India in HDI, then does it mean the two factors- corruption and development are not as correlated contrary to the popular perception?
4. "Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions."-Dalai Lama. But given that a public official's actions are always constrained by laws, rules and superiors' orders, can a public official be really happy? Examine in context of good governance.
5. As a consequence of global consumerism, the tendency to engage in blind imitation of the developed world's consumption patterns has risen in developing countries, especially junk food. How can school and society can help reversing this trend?
6. "Where the roots of private virtue are diseased, the fruit of public probity cannot but be corrupt." Elaborate.
7. With special reference to rural India, critically examine the factors that culminate into generation of fake news on whatsapp and the subsequent violence and mass hysteria. Suggest innovative reforms at individual level and institutional level to tackle this menace.
8. In recent months, there have been multiple incidents of newborn deaths in the government hospitals due to the lack of oxygen cylinders and proper treatment. Despite the existence of laws, rules and vigilance mechanisms why do such tragedies occur? Suggest remedies for improving the probity in hospital administration.
9. Enumerate the factors responsible for the prevalence of dynasties in politics and corporate sector of India. To what extent can they be blamed for India not achieving the status of a 'developed country' even after seven decades of independence?
10. Norwegian journalists prepare the obituaries of ailing celebrities in advance even before their death, to ensure that news can be published immediately after their death to beat the competing media houses in the race for "breaking news". These journalists maintain "There is nothing wrong in what we do! We prepare advance-news for both victory and defeat type outcomes for all sports tournaments and political elections. This is practice ensures fast and accurate delivery of news to people!" Do you think such type of 'professionalism' and 'efficiency' is justified? Explain your stand.
11. "Morality is not the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness." Immanuel Kant. Write your views in more than 150 words.

12. Do you agree with the perception that the influence of organized religion on India's political discourse has become more profound than ever? Examine in context of cow vigilantism and Triple Talaq controversies.

