



Mains Practice Question

Q. In what ways do ethical considerations vary between private and public relationships, and what guiding principles should individuals follow when addressing ethical challenges in each domain? (150 Words)

11 Jan, 2024 GS Paper 4 Theoretical Questions

Approach

- Start the answer with a discussion that sets a context for the question.
- Discuss the ethical considerations between private and public relationships.
- Discuss the guiding principles when addressing ethical challenges in each domain.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

Ethics in private life involves personal values in family and friendships, while ethics in public relationships pertains to moral standards in professional interactions and business dealings. Ethical considerations can vary between private and public relationships due to differences in power dynamics, accountability structures, and the nature of the relationships involved.

Body

Key distinctions in ethical considerations :

Ethics in Private Life	Ethics in Public Life
Personal Morality: Individuals in private relationships may rely more on an individual's internal set of principles, values, and beliefs.	Objectivity: It refers to the ability to make decisions based on facts and information without being unduly influenced by personal feelings, biases, or opinions.
Social Norms: These are widely accepted rules or expectations within a society that guide and regulate individuals' private behavior.	Public Interest: Public life should consider the broader impact on society and prioritize the well-being of the community.
Privacy: It involves safeguarding confidential matters within trusted relationships and emphasizes the importance of respecting individual boundaries.	Openness: Public life should prioritize transparency by openly sharing their decisions and actions, providing reasons for their choices, and limiting the withholding of information.
Autonomy: It involves recognizing and respecting the autonomy and choices of individuals.	Accountability: Public relationships involve a greater degree of accountability to the community or stakeholders.
Loyalty: It fosters mutual trust in relationships, creating a foundation of reliability and mutual understanding.	Selflessness: Holders of public office should make decisions solely in terms of public interest. Public Interest:
Support: It entails motivating and offering assistance to those close to them.	Leadership: It serves as the ethical role model for decision-making processes in public organizations.

Key guiding principles while addressing challenges :

Guiding Principles in Private Life	Guiding Principles in Public Life
Maintain personal integrity by aligning actions with ethical values and principles.	Uphold a high standard of integrity, acting consistently with ethical principles in all professional dealings.
Demonstrate respect for the autonomy and feelings of individuals in personal relationships	Show respect for diverse perspectives and cultural differences in public interactions.
Communicate openly with those involved, fostering trust and understanding in personal relationships.	Publicly disclose personal interests to mitigate potential conflicts between public duties and personal gain
Acknowledge personal responsibility, learn from mistakes, and strive for personal growth.	Enforce the established ethical codes, including measures to investigate and address violations and maintain public trust
Embrace continuous self-reflection and learning to enhance personal ethical awareness and growth.	Create a structured framework for ethical norms to guide the behavior of public officials, ensuring a clear Code of Conduct.

Conclusion

Embracing ethical principles empowers individuals to foster a virtuous and responsible community, navigate challenges with resilience, and safeguard the well-being of both public and private domains.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/mains-practice-question/question-8114/pnt>

