



Mains Practice Question

Q. Differentiate 'moral intuition' from 'moral reasoning' with suitable examples. (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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Approach

- Start the answer by briefly defining both the concepts of moral intuition and moral reasoning.
- Differentiate between them with suitable examples.
- Conclude by summarizing the key points.

Introduction

Moral intuition is the immediate and instinctive feeling of right or wrong that we have when we face a moral dilemma. While, moral reasoning is the process of using logical arguments and principles to justify or criticize a moral judgment.

Body

Moral Intuition	Moral Reasoning
Involves immediate, gut-level responses to ethical dilemmas without conscious deliberation.	Involves a conscious and rational evaluation of ethical choices.
Relies on deeply ingrained moral values and emotions.	Utilizes logical arguments and principles to arrive at a moral decision.
Examples	
Feeling empathy and helping a homeless person on the street without thinking.	Deciding to donate to a charity after researching its impact and effectiveness.
Automatically feeling a sense of responsibility to protect the environment.	Engaging in a structured debate to discuss the pros and cons of a proposed environmental policy.
Experiencing a sense of guilt after breaking a promise to a friend.	Analyzing the consequences and ethical implications of breaking a promise in a specific situation.
Instinctively respecting the dignity of elders.	Engaging in a philosophical discussion to justify the principles of dignity.
Reacting with anger when witnessing an act of discrimination.	Formulating an argument against discriminatory practices using legal and ethical reasoning.
Automatically feeling discomfort or aversion towards LGBTQIA+ individuals without thinking.	Individuals may consciously assess their attitudes toward LGBTQIA+ individuals , with or without experiencing immediate emotional discomfort.

Conclusion

Moral intuition is often relied upon in situations where quick decisions are needed or where explicit moral rules may not be readily available. Moral reasoning is essential in complex, unfamiliar, or morally ambiguous situations.

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