

Decoding the syllabus of General Studies Paper IV.

As per the syllabus given by UPSC, the GS IV Syllabus can be divided into eight topics as below.

Topic 1: Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Topic 2: Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.

Topic 3: Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.

Topic 4: Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

Topic 5: Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and the world.

Topic 6: Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.

Topic 7: Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.

Topic 8: Case Studies on above issues.

However, for our preparation, we can divide the syllabus into 4 broad frameworks / categories.

#1 Ethics Theoretical Framework - Derived from Moral Philosophy

#2 Behavioural Ethics - Derived from Psychology

#3 Administrative Ethics - Derived from Public Administration

#4 Applied Ethics - Case Studies

#5 Miscellaneous - Moral Thinkers, Quotes etc.

CATEGORY WISE BREAKUP OF SYLLABUS

#1 Ethics Theoretical Framework : Topic 1

Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values – lessons

from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values. (Topic 1)

#2 Psychology / Behavioural Ethics : Topic 2 & Topic 4 :

Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion. (Topic 2)

Emotional intelligence—concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance. (Topic 4)

#3 Administrative Ethics : Topic 3 , 6, 7

Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections. (Topic 3)

Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance. (Topic 6)

Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption. (Topic 7)

#4 Applied Ethics : Topic 8

Case Studies on above issues.

#5 Miscellaneous : Topic 5

Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world ; quotation-based questions.