

ABOUT ETHICS PAPER

The Ethics Paper is one of the key determinants of cracking the UPSC Civil Services Mains Examination or for that matter even getting in the top 100 of the final lists. This paper has the **potential of scores ranging from an average of 125 to a high of 160 marks**, as opposed to papers such as GS Papers 1 where the average hovers from 100 marks to a high of around 130 marks. Thus, its effective weightage in the total score is very high

Challenges Faced by Students

- Firstly, the challenge with the GS IV Paper is the **lack of a single source point or reference book** to comprehensively cover the entire syllabus. Students often get confused with the dispersed material present in different reference books.
- Secondly, it also has a very capacious and porous boundary given that anything under the sun can be asked in the Ethics Paper. While most candidates do not spend more than 15 days to prepare for the Ethics Paper, the wise utilisation of a brief period like a fortnight is also challenging due to the lack of clarity on what and how to study for this Paper.
- Thirdly, the ability to **answer quote-based questions**, which, to some extent, requires a wide reading base, creative thinking and conceptual understanding which may not materialize for most students immediately.
- Fourthly, we have seen that a large majority of our own students of MGP do not do justice to the paper, despite Mains experience and do poorly in GS IV Tests. This course tries to offer a solution to that.

Features of Ethics+ Classes

The Ethics+ Classes focus on the following aspects:

- Complete & Comprehensive Coverage of Ethics Terms & Terminologies
- Case Studies covered with scenarios of real life where a Civil Servant faces Ethical dilemma.
- Coverage of key issues and expected questions through Questions & Answers
- Quality Note Making & Answer Writing
- Every class will be supplemented with crisp and concise handouts.

Course Schedule:

- Regular classes will be held **3 days (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday)** in a week starting from **17 June, at 11 AM**.
- Each class will be of **2.5 to 3 hours** duration.
- The course will be completed by **5 August 2023**.

Why Ethics+ Classes?

We have guided hundreds of our students (like **Karnati Varun Reddy-Rank 7, 121 Marks** in GS IV, and **Minal Karanwal-Rank 35, 114 Marks** in GS IV) through the MGP and Ethics classes in a manner to approach the Ethics Paper, leading to good scores.

However, we have felt that with focus on answer writing, several students end up writing "Mann ki Baat" in Ethics answers even where questions have a definite theoretical answer. Ethics+ aims to build this theoretical base which is necessary when one delves into answer writing.

Online Live Classes & Offline Classes

- Classes are available in both Online & Offline Mode.
- Offline Students, who miss a class can reach support by raising a ticket for video access to classes they may miss because of unavoidable reasons. Maximum 5 classes video links will be provided.
- It is recommended that students based out of Old Rajinder Nagar attend the classes in offline mode.

Deliverables

- Class supplemented with **handouts**.
- **Ethics Red Book** hard copy to be couriered to online students.
- **Two sectional** and one **full length test** GS paper 4 tests with evaluation.
- **Regular answer writing assignments** in classes.

Fee Concession:

- Students of Current Affairs and Essay Program can avail a 10% fee concession.
- Students of Optional Foundation Program can avail a 20% fee concession.

Note: Fee concession can be availed by writing to admissions@forumias.academy. No other concession will be granted on any other ground.

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HOW TO ENROL?

Students can enroll in the program by paying the fees through the below mentioned means:

Visit website:

<https://academy.forumias.com>



- Net Banking • Debit Card • Credit Card • UPI
- By Visiting the Offline Center (Credit Card / Debit Card / Cheque / DD)
- By doing a NEFT / Cash Deposit in ICICI account.

Please note that you must retain the payment proof in case of Cash deposit / NEFT and send it to admissions@forumias.academy within 48 hours of making the payment for your course to be activated. While sharing screenshot do share your ForumIAS roll no. along with course paid for.

For any query you can call us at

+91 – 9311740400, 9311740900 or write to us at admissions@forumias.academy



FEE STRUCTURE

Course	Students	Total Fees
Ethics+ Module for CSE 2023	Non MGP, Non CGP Students	₹ 18,000/-
	Existing/Old MGP & CGP Students	₹ 12,000/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The program is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Each program of ForumIAS is linked to ForumIAS Account with a fixed mobile number. No sharing of any programs is allowed. If candidates are found sharing programs, ForumIAS shall be free to terminate that or all program access to the candidate without any refund to the candidate.
- ForumIAS shall have full rights to close admissions as per its capacity. ForumIAS shall be free to amend its schedule in case of any exigencies that may arise.
- You can make the payment online at <https://academy.forumias.com> (recommended) or by writing to us at admissions@forumias.academy.
- Please create an account on <https://academy.forumias.com> before enrolling either offline or online.
- This program will be valid till Mains 2023.
- All fees once paid are non-refundable in nature. The course is also non-transferable in nature to another person. By subscribing to the course, you agree to the terms and conditions mentioned above.

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Meaning of Ethics

- derived from Ethikos = custom or habit
- as study = part of moral philosophy
- as a practice = set of norms that aim to guide our conduct in right direction.

Approaches to the study of Ethics

- meta ethics
- descriptive ethics
- normative ethics

Sources of Ethics

- God & Religion → legitimacy to ethical rules + fear of punishment + brings uniformity in social + cultural practices, works as a glue to bind society;
- Intuition & Reason → sense of reasoning, critical thinking
- Politics & Constitution → set norms of right and wrong
- society → cultural norms of society define ethics - group and individual
- Law → codified societal ethics + violation of law is unethical
- for the society;
- Virtuous Persons → example of good human beings; (e.g. *Maryada Purushottam*)

Determinants of Ethics

- *sthan* → courageous in battlefield vs courage in road rage ;
- *kala* → nearly every cultural practice vilified now was once accepted and even held in high regard ; e.g. slavery in USA, untouchability, Sati in India etc.
- *patra* → person/ character, who we are;

Ethics & Morality → used interchangeably, but different. relative terms

Morality	Ethics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- private and intimate- arises from within- difficult to codify- private sphere- test of character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- public & societal- arises outside the self- more easily codified (professional code of ethics)- public sphere- concerns conduct


Ethics & Morality Conflict → reinforces each other as well as runs counter to each other. e.g. Copernicus.
TBD

Why should we study ethics?

Ethics helps	Ethics does not help
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- helps discover moral principles involved in an issue;- helps in identifying areas of disagreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- does not give one final answer- may lead to several answers- people guided by emotions, not only by

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|--|---------|
| - allows to exercise free will and assume responsibility | ethics; |
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? Does ethics always help in resolving moral dilemmas? If not, why should we study ethics?

Can one be ethical without studying ethics? 

Moral Absolutism

- moral principles are absolute, valid, and true irrespective of context and situation
- certain actions are inherently right or wrong;
- source of strength to the state - law making for all;
- gives strength to religion ;
- Criticisms → promotes absolutism, exclusivism, strong state, religious intolerance, fundamentalism, no scope of revision or reinterpretation, does not believe in social change, history is full of examples where entire societies have been wrong; War in the name of democracy propagation;

Moral Relativism

- moral propositions (such as do not steal) do not reflect objective moral reality; depend on culture, context etc.
- Concerns → problem of self contradiction (“all moral truths are relative”) ; used to justify War;
- Anthropocentric view, “Homo Mensura” → man is the measure of all things ;
- Positives → supports cultural diversity, cultural relativism, enshrines in doctrine of; at the core of Indian ethics, Jain doctrine of Anekantavada ; promotes religious tolerance ; check against terrorism/ fundamentalism ;

Final Position

- Madhyam marg of Buddha; Some laws are eternal = sanatan dharma; some change with time;
- for societal and political progress → relativism is necessary, to preserve society - some absolutism is needed.

? Do you agree with the view that moral principles are immutable, universal and eternal? Why or Why not?