Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

What do you understand by the term ‘public servant’? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Public service; constitutional values; impartiality; accountability; transparency; compassion; rule of law; citizen-centric governance

Model Answer

Introduction

A public servant is an individual entrusted with public responsibilities who exercises authority or delivers services on behalf of the state. The role involves serving citizens rather than pursuing private interests.

Expected Role of a Public Servant

1. Constitutional Responsibility

A public servant must uphold constitutional values, fundamental rights, equality and the rule of law.

2. Impartiality and Integrity

Decisions should be free from personal bias, political favouritism, discrimination and corruption.

3. Efficient Service Delivery

Public officials must implement policies effectively, use public resources responsibly and ensure timely delivery of essential services.

4. Accountability and Transparency

They should explain their decisions, maintain accurate records and remain answerable to citizens and lawful oversight institutions.

5. Empathy and Compassion

Sensitivity towards vulnerable groups enables inclusive administration and humane implementation of welfare schemes.

6. Responsiveness and Innovation

Public servants should address grievances promptly, adopt appropriate technology and improve administrative processes.

7. Political Neutrality

They must provide impartial advice to elected representatives and implement lawful decisions irrespective of political changes.

Conclusion

A public servant is a trustee of public authority and resources. Professional competence combined with integrity, empathy and constitutional commitment makes administration effective, ethical and citizen-centric.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP