Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Integrity; moral consistency; resistance to inducements; ethical courage; impartiality; public interest; real-life example; accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Integrity means consistency between ethical principles, words and actions. It requires refusing improper inducements or pressure even when compromise offers personal benefits.

Integrity in Practice

An officer demonstrates integrity by refusing bribes, resisting political interference, following due process and prioritising public interest over personal advancement. Such conduct strengthens institutional credibility.

Real-Life Example

T. N. Seshan, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, is remembered for asserting the Election Commission's authority and taking a firm stand against electoral malpractice despite political resistance. His tenure illustrates the importance of upholding institutional rules rather than yielding to pressure.

Integrity must, however, be exercised within constitutional limits and through fair procedures.

Conclusion

The true test of integrity arises when ethical conduct carries personal costs. An uncompromising commitment to honesty and lawful duty strengthens public trust and promotes ethical governance.

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