Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Should impartiality and being non-partisan be considered indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Impartiality, political neutrality, non-partisanship, rule of law, equality before law, merit-based decisions, public trust, constitutional morality, administrative accountability, ethical dilemmas

Model Answer

Introduction

Impartiality and non-partisanship are indispensable qualities of a civil servant because public authority must be exercised according to law and public interest, not personal preferences or party loyalties.

Importance of Impartiality

- **Equal treatment:** Citizens must receive services without discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, wealth or political affiliation.
- **Objectivity:** Decisions based on evidence and established criteria reduce arbitrariness and favouritism.
- **Rule of law:** Consistent enforcement of rules strengthens justice and institutional credibility.
- **Public trust:** Citizens are more likely to trust administration when they believe decisions are fair.

Importance of Non-Partisanship

- **Political neutrality:** Civil servants must implement the lawful policies of the elected government without becoming partisan political actors.

- **Continuity of administration:** Professional neutrality enables stable governance despite changes in government.
- **Fair elections:** Officials involved in electoral administration must act impartially and prevent misuse of state machinery.

Illustration

A district officer allocating relief after a flood must use transparent criteria based on damage and vulnerability rather than political connections. Similarly, an election official must enforce the Model Code of Conduct consistently for all parties.

Critical Dimension

Non-partisanship does not mean passivity or blind obedience. A civil servant must respectfully resist unlawful orders, expose improper conduct through appropriate channels and uphold constitutional values.

Conclusion

Impartiality ensures fairness in individual decisions, while non-partisanship protects the neutrality of public institutions. Together, they are essential to professional, credible and democratic administration.

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