Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

Discuss how national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

National security, human rights, proportionality, rule of law, constitutional morality, surveillance, accountability, judicial oversight

Model Answer

Introduction

National security protects the collective right to life and liberty, while human rights protect individuals from arbitrary state power. Both are complementary rather than inherently contradictory.

1. Ethical Tension

Counter-terrorism, surveillance and emergency measures may restrict privacy, liberty and freedom of expression. However, unchecked restrictions can themselves undermine democratic security.

2. Principles for Balance

Restrictions should satisfy legality, legitimate necessity, proportionality and procedural safeguards. Measures must be targeted rather than indiscriminate, with special protection for vulnerable groups.

3. Institutional Safeguards

Independent judiciary, parliamentary oversight, transparent procedures, grievance mechanisms and accountable security agencies can prevent abuse. Intelligence operations should have appropriate legal and institutional supervision.

4. Constitutional Approach

Article 21 and other fundamental rights establish dignity and liberty as core constitutional values, while national security remains a legitimate state responsibility.

Conclusion

Sustainable security is achieved when the State protects citizens from both external threats and arbitrary exercise of power.

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