

2022 – 2026 UPSC MAINS ETHICS ANALYSIS OF REPEATED THEMES

Question	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
1(a)	AI vs Academic Integrity	Social Media Ethics & Dilemmas	AI as Rational Decision Making Tool	Corporate Governance: Prof Efficiency & Integrity	BA vs DA: Core vs Periphery
1(b)	Biz Expansion vs Forest Community	Constitutional Morality - A/Cy & Governance	Dimensions of Ethics - Ethical Decision Making	IR: International Aid Ethics	C.S. Needs: IQ + Morals + Empathy + Compassion
2(a)	Clinical Trials: Medical/Adm Ethics	IR: War vs Diplomacy	IR: Wars - Weapons Sale - Self-interest	Corruption vs Core Values	BA vs DA: Positive Attitude & Rules Interpretation
2(b)	National Security vs Human Rights	National Security vs Environment in ESAs	Greed - Environment vs Human Dev	Work Culture: Coercion vs Undue Influence	Role of Ethics
3(a)	Civil Disobedience Ethical Dilemmas	Quote: Fortitude	Quote: Learn - Adapt vs Adopt	Quote: Kindness vs Prayers	Quote: Rights vs RTD
3(b)	Trusteeship in Governance	Quote: Alter Attitude --> Alter Life	Quote: Faith & Strength	Quote: Effect of Women Empowerment	Quote: Corruption - Role of Parents/Teachers
3(c)	Quote: Means vs Ends	Quote: Laws vs Ethics	Quote: Law vs Ethics	Quote: Love vs Hate	Quote: Means vs Ends
4(a)	Medical Procedure Ethics	Social Re-engg - Reason - Critical Thinking - Ethics	Evolving Values/Justice	EQ vs IQ	E-gov Ethics / +ve / -ve
4(b)	Efficiency vs Effectiveness	Mahavir's Teachings + Relevance	BA vs DA: Rules vs Intent	Moral Intuition vs Reasoning	E-gov - Vulnerable Sections
5(a)	BA vs DA: Rules vs Intent	Duty - Sense of Responsibility - Personal Fulfilment	Conduct Rules & Frame Code of Ethics	Conscience vs LRR: Ethical Source?	IR: Wars - Self-interest
5(b)	IR: Strategic Interests	Civil Servant: Enabler + Facilitator + Regulator	BNS: Doctrine of Punishment --> Justice	Probity - Governance & Development	Constitutional Morality, Conflict of Interest, Probity, Digitalization, Devotion to Duty
6(a)	Empathy vs Rules/Integrity	Code of Ethics - Work Culture	Gender Equality: Women Officers Issues, Efficiency, Probity	Nanak's Teachings + Relevance	Whistleblower Safeguards
6(b)	Duty vs Charity	Mis/Under-utilization of Funds - Accountability	Mission Karmayogi - Productive Efficiency, Service Delivery	Social Capital & Good Governance	Biz vs Environment & CSR
Case 1	Medical Procedure Ethics	Disaster Management - Duty vs Family	AI vs Environment vs Business Ethics	Empathy vs Rules/Integrity	Info Leaks vs Confidentiality
Case 2	AI - Policing Ethics	DPSP - Social Welfare - Environment vs Human Dev	DG/DIG - Social Media Terror Recruitment - Policing	BA vs DA: Rules vs Emergency Needs	Cross-border Infiltration
Case 3	Nexus/Corruption	Dept Project - Info Leaks vs Confidentiality vs Political Neutrality	SP/IG - Naxal Operation & Mob - Policing	Work Ethics: Duty vs Family	Media Ethics - Policing
Case 4	E-gov Ethics	Seniority vs Rules - ACR / GFR / Procurement	Medical Equipment Tender- Conflict of Interest	Nexus/Corruption	Business Ethics - Reputation / STG
Case 5	Protest Ethics	MGNREGA	Water Conservation - Farmers vs Business	Work Culture: Team Work	Compensation Demand vs Strike
Case 6	Weapons Sale Ethics	Cross-border Infiltration	Clinical Trials: Data/Drug Ethics	Social Media Ethics - Fake Propaganda	Business vs Environment / LRR Violations