MODEL PRACTICE QUESTION (23.07.2025)

1. DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ETHICS IN PRIVATE LIFE AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE WITH SUITABLE **EXAMPLES.**

Answer:

Introduction:

Ethics in private life refers to the moral principles that guide an individual's personal behavior, while ethics in public life pertains to the standards and principles governing behavior in professional or public roles. While both are rooted in values like honesty and integrity, their scope, impact, and priorities differ significantly.

Ethics in Private Life:

1. Focus on Personal Relationships:

Ethics in private life primarily governs interactions with family, friends, and the community. Personal honesty, compassion, and loyalty are emphasized. For example, a person may prioritize helping a friend in need as a moral obligation.

2. Individual Accountability:

Private ethics is often about individual choices and accountability. For instance, choosing to recycle waste at home reflects personal environmental responsibility.

3. Minimal Public Impact:

Unethical behavior in private life, such as breaking a personal promise, usually has limited societal consequences.

4. Freedom of Choice:

Ethics in private life is less regulated by external frameworks, allowing greater freedom in decisionfor UPSC/OPSC making based on personal values and beliefs.

Ethics in Public Life:

1. Focus on Public Welfare:

Ethics in public life is centered on the larger good, emphasizing impartiality, transparency, and accountability. For example, a public servant must ensure fair allocation of resources without favoritism.

2. Institutional Accountability:

In public life, individuals are accountable to laws, institutions, and the public. A violation of ethical standards, such as misuse of authority, can lead to legal and reputational consequences.

3. Broader Impact:

Unethical behavior in public life, such as corruption, can harm society at large, eroding trust in institutions and affecting governance.

4. Adherence to Codes of Conduct:

Public officials must follow professional codes of ethics. For instance, civil servants are bound by principles of neutrality and integrity while implementing government policies.

Key Differences with Examples:

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Aspect	Private Ethics	Public Ethics
Focus	Personal relationships and well- being	Public welfare and societal impact
Accountability	Individual accountability	Accountability to laws and public institutions
Scope of Impact	Limited to personal circles	Broad societal implications
Regulation	Self-regulated	Regulated by laws, rules, and codes



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Example	Keeping a personal promise	Ensuring unbiased implementation of a
		policy

Conclusion:

While ethics in private life is guided by personal values and relationships, ethics in public life prioritizes societal welfare and institutional accountability. Both are essential for a harmonious and progressive society. A balance between private and public ethics ensures individuals act responsibly in both personal and professional domains, upholding the principles of integrity and fairness.

