



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** Differentiate between Personal ethics and Professional ethics. Give examples.

21 Oct, 2021 GS Paper 4 Theoretical Questions

### Introduction

Ethics means the **rules and principles regulating the behaviour of individuals**. It is the study of what is right or wrong in human conduct. Ethics states the dos and don'ts in a specific setting.

**The differences** between Personal and Professional Ethics are:

<b>Personal Ethics</b>	<b>Professional Ethics</b>
Personal ethics refers to the sense of rights and wrongs of a person.	Professional ethics refers to the strict <b>code of conduct</b> and guidelines that are imposed on employees within the industrial setting.
Learned from <b>family, friends and relatives since childhood</b> .	Learned when <b>one becomes part of corporate world</b> .
They relate to your <b>deep-rooted principles</b> , and how religiously you follow them determines the kind of person you are.	How well you <b>follow the protocol</b> of the company is what will matter here.
An individual has the <b>choice of changing</b> his personal ethics.	An individual <b>does not have the choice</b> of changing his professional ethics.
The <b>accountability is on the individual</b> alone.	The accountability is not only on the individual but <b>also the organization</b> as well.
<b>Non-compliance</b> with them causes <b>mental disharmony and personal dilemma</b> .	<b>Non-compliance</b> to such rules may <b>risk your reputation</b> , as your behavior will immediately be reported as unprofessional.
<b>Example:</b> Openness, Honesty, Friendliness, Respect for Others, Loyalty, Fairness, Integrity.	<b>Example:</b> Abiding by the law, Industry Standards, Worker Treatment, Confidentiality, Worker Safety.

### Examples of Conflict

1. A police officer's personal ethics may consider a law to be wrong. However, under Conduct Rules (professional ethics), he is required to obey and apply the law unless there is good and sufficient cause to do otherwise.
2. A doctor may not personally believe that the course of medical treatment chosen by a patient is the right one. However, under the Code of Ethics for the Medical Association, she must respect the rights, autonomy and freedom of choice of the patient.

### Conclusion

One can differentiate between personal and professional ethics by viewing a personal ethical system as a **person's conscience**, while professional ethics are viewed as a set **code of conduct** that must be

adhered to in the workplace.

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