

## 7.Quote based questions

### How to answer quote based quotations

1. Use **key words in the syllabus** to explain the meaning of the quote.
2. **Try to use similar Quotations** (Only applicable where ever its possible).
3. **Bring examples** from Current affairs or History.
4. **Bring alternative view point.**
5. **Conclude.**

### Live one day at a time emphasising ethics rather than rules

1. Rule are very important in leading one's life. They ensure **smooth running of society as well individual's life**. They inculcate good habits like **punctuality**, etc. But while rules are necessary, ethics are more important in day to day life. An **unethical and rule based life** is not worth living for. While an ethical and rule based one is most desired.
2. **Rules also cannot cover entire aspects** of humanity, they only guide. So **human face** in application of rules is very much necessary. One has to live life one day at a time in order to **utilise the present for enjoying life or to work** for a prosperous future.
3. Once **JRD Tata and Mother Teresa** were invited to be **chief guests** in a function. Near the venue, a **poor man had fallen unconscious** due to starvation. **JRD in order to be punctual** did not help the poor person. Mother Teresa on seeing the person **first ensured that he received help** and then went to the function and thus was considerably late. This **incident was told by JRD** who later repented his actions.
4. As can be seen above, **rules made a very kind person** and great philanthropist like JRD insensitive. Thus although rules and principles must be followed, **ethics are more important** and hence our actions must be determined by ethics not rules.

### An eye for an eye only ends up making the world blind

1. It means having a **revengeful attitude** of **disposing justice** in which, people retaliate toward any harm done to them by trying to cause equal harm. **Gandhi's advocacy for non-violence** and ultimate prevalence of truth, are two dominating force behind the idea.

2. The recent case of a **lynch mob in Dimapur** who **beat a rape convict to death is an example**. True, the rape convict has committed a crime but the crime needs to be proven in court of law. **Mob taking justice in their hands** is an revengeful attitude, which is very harmful.
3. We have become so **impatient** with each other that we are **trying to solve our** differences by using **violence** rather than through **peaceful dialogue** or logic. We do not respect others views or feelings and it is either my way or the highway. For instance there is **endless revenge in Gaza strip**, Yemen-Arabia, **Charlie hebdo** incidence, Syrian crisis etc.
4. Similarly in **social scenario**, illustrates same philosophy where in 2 parties, **Shia-Sunni**, **religious extremists** fights each other an unending and un conclusive war.
5. In economic scenario, companies these days take path of **destructive competitions** like **buying customers**, **buying all other companies**, providing **free services** and it becomes economic war between firms to shame and malign each other's reputation.

### **The straight trees are cut down, the crooked ones are left standing**

1. I think Kautilya said the above statement in the **context of attitude of human beings**. I agree with his thought of **being diplomatic rather than straight forward** because in practical life no one can survive with this nature. Assume straightforward a employee showing his **disliking feeling to his boss**, family showing their **irritation towards a ill member**, then what will happen, nothing but heart break, demoralisation, depression and finally disaster.
2. Same is **applicable in the context of public service** also because serving the practical duty is not a test with the pen and desk. Public servant has to **shed rigidity in rule application** and act with human face. Public servant has also to serve different groups with different needs at the same time which cant be done with straightforward attitude.
3. But this **not so straight forward nature** should not be applied when public interest is at stake. The high rise in **corruption** cases among officers is an incidence of it. They justify it by saying such **bending is required to survive in the office**. This cannot be justified and is unethical. So final it boils down to individual who want to apply the same.
4. Diplomacy should be adopted just to **ease the situation and to running**

the system smoothly, but if it adopted for wrong purposes i.e. fraud and undue benefits, then definitely it is unethical.

### **Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever**

1. It means that we have to live **every day like it is the last day**. You never know when you are going to die, so do as much as you can and never stop. So, as a result we can put **maximum effort** to achieve things we wanted to, as we **don't have another chance or opportunity** to live or to work tomorrow.
2. Similarly, a person who is going to die next day will **not crave for any material thing**, everybody considering himself in the same condition should never yearn for **luxurious life** and pass a simple life.
3. The second part means that you should **always learn something new each and everyday**. Learning is an important part of life and should **never stop** just because you think it is enough for your life time.
4. It also means that **every bit of knowledge** we learn should be learnt in such a manner so that it could last for **whole life** or even if we die we should record it in such a way (as writing a book) that coming generations could use it.

### **Necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing**

1. It means that if **good people sit on the sidelines**, and let the bad things happen without doing anything about it, then **evil wins**. And that is all that it takes for evil to win against good. **Anyone who is not against evil are in favour of it**.
2. If you see something that needs doing and you don't do it then you have let evil win. If there is a **woman getting raped in an alleyway** and she is screaming for help and you hear her and do nothing to help. If you do nothing then you let evil win. If you help then you have demonstrated your goodness.

### **More things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is.**

1. **One who is introspecting**, one who is self-critical, one who realises and accepts his mistakes, **possess a higher integrity** than that normal man.

2. In his autobiography, My Experiments with Truth, Gandhiji narrates all such incidents of his life when he felt **ashamed**, when he first **tried meat**, when he first entered a **brothel**, when he lied for the first time. Yet such splendid display of mistakes brought him only **more reverence**.
3. **We live in a world** where there is tremendous **pressure** on individuals to behave as **perfectly rational and ethical beings**. Individuals are expected to keep their heads high all the time. But, as psychology and philosophy tell us, **human beings are not entirely rational**. They take **irrational decisions**, some good, some bad and later repent. Yet this fact is not **appreciated socially**. Those who commit mistakes, the burden of wrongdoing and ethics brings a sense of guilt and heaviness.
4. But, as Nandan Nilekani says, **making mistakes is not the point**, accepting them (ashamed) and learning from them is. Yet accepting mistakes is one of the toughest things. **Those who can accept it** are naturally seen with **greater reverence**.