IDEAL CITIZEN

Who is an ideal citizen?

The definition of an ideal citizen is one who works for the development of his country and tries to make his country touch the high peak of glory. A good citizen has to follow certain rules and regulations for the prosperity of his country. He should treat all religions equally. An ideal citizen should be in touch with the happenings all over the world.

Man makes society to be civilised. So, in society, he should follow rules made by society. He should not disturb his neighbours and should live amicably with everybody. He should do his job honestly.

An ideal citizen knows his rights and responsibilities. He thinks of the nation first and of himself later. He respects the rights of others. He serves his country and his fellow-men.

He does not claim any special favor for himself. He respects the laws of the country. He has great civic sense.

An ideal citizen is a thorough gentleman. He is polite and courteous. He is cooperative and considerate does not hurt the feelings of others. An ideal citizen is valuable asset to the society.

Another important thing we have to remember for being a good citizen is to have an active participation in our community.

It is a misfortune that our world does not seem to be having a high percentage of ideal citizens. Ideally, all the citizens of a country should be ideal citizens. An ideal citizen considers his country above his personal interest.

He does not believe in narrow chauvinism, nor does he hate the people of other countries. He believes in the policy of “Live and let live”.

He applies the same principle to his neighbors whom he loves and helps in time of need. He has malice towards none.

An ideal citizen has a high civic sense. He does not believe in wastage and luxurious life. Simplicity is the hallmark of his life.

Trustworthiness, Honesty, Courtesy, Respect the rights of others responsibility and respecting the laws are all the personal traits an ideal citizen should have. To consider yourself an ideal citizen you would have to be a good person on the inside and outside. Ideal citizens are leaders who lead people the right way and help others make the right decisions towards others and the community. To lead others you would need those required personal traits to help your community and others become stronger and better.

An ideal citizen is a member of a political community. An ideal citizen knows his/her rights and responsibilities. An ideal citizen respects others and, respects the environment, and contributes to the society and the community. An ideal citizen helps the community to become a better place for the others. An ideal citizen has to be full of values, principles, and ethics.
MORAL VALUES OF AN IDEAL CITIZEN:

According to the researches, there are a lot of different rules to be an ideal citizen. Not only does being a good and an ideal citizen depend on the rules determined before by the governments, but also they are the moral values that are felt by the people who live in a society.

For this reason, we took a poll related to the subject of “Ideal Citizen” at our school and here are the moral values that an ideal citizen should have:

1. HONESTY
2. RESPECT AND LOVE
3. EMPATHY
4. TOLERANCE
5. GENEROSITY
6. RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST:
7. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

HONESTY:

Honesty is telling the truth and straightforward conduct. It is being sincere, truthful, trustworthy, honorable, fair, genuine, and loyal with integrity.

Honesty is the key to being a good citizen. Ethics and strong moral values are also a part of showing your honesty in who you are and what you stand for. Ethics is very important to carry with you. Ethics includes being a responsible individual who takes responsibility for his or her own actions. Morals are a part of ethics, if you have good morals you are an individual who does positive things. You must be proud of who you are and what you believe in.

Another important trait of a responsible citizen is being cooperative. Cooperation means one’s willingness to work together as a team. He should always make every effort to be hard working and willing to help at home, school, and work.

Respect is also an important quality to have. A responsible citizen exercises his right to vote. He should respect his freedom and always be patriotic to his country and its flag. An ideal citizen should always respect the rights and religious beliefs of others and never be a sore looser.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

Truth exists; only falsehood has to be invented. (George Braque)
The truth is more important than the facts. (Frank L. Wright)
In the mountains of truth, you never climb in vain. (Nietzsche)
If you tell the truth, you have infinite power supporting you. (Anonymous)
There is no wisdom like frankness. (Disraeli)
A harmful truth is better than a useful lie. (Thomas Mann)
Honesty is the best policy. (Anonymous)
Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. (Jefferson)
One falsehood spoils a thousand truths. (Ashanti proverb)
RESPECT AND LOVE:

The definition of RESPECT is to esteem, honor or show a sense of worth toward a person or personal quality. Every person deserves respect, and because they do not get it at crucial, formative times of their lives, they develop coping patterns which evolve into personally and collectively destructive behaviors.

Being an ideal citizen is the respect toward the people that live around us. We have to remember that as we have rights, they have them too. Respect is one of the most important bases when living in a society. We all have freedom, but it is restricted to certain point. We cannot consider a killer or thief good citizens as they have violated that restriction.

There is no one lifestyle or belief system that is right while all others are wrong. A person or group is extremely judgemental to think that their way is the only one that is right. When one person or group imposes their own standards on everyone else, this is disrespectful. Each individual should decide for himself what his own values and standards are, and live by them. But he should not think that he has the right to hold everyone else to those same standards. What is right for one person is not right for another.

It is clear, we all have our strengths as well as weaknesses. Mutual respect means having respect in our minds for everyone. Even if you are up against a person, wherein it is your honor against theirs, it is important to have mutual respect. It is this respect that makes us human. We need to respect our friends for their friendship and our enemies for their ability to be competitive and their conviction. Mutual respect is one of the crucial values in a relationship.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

“In the final analysis, true justice is not a matter of courts and law books, but of a commitment in each of us to liberty and mutual respect.” Jimmy Carter

“Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.” 14th Dalai Lama

“In the goodness of time, all peoples will come to live together in a peace guaranteed by the binding force of mutual respect and love.” Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Freedom goes hand-in-hand with mutual respect.” Xanana Gusmão

LOVE:

This may seem surreal, but honestly, love conquers all. With love in our hearts, we feel no need to harm another. We raise ourselves, rather than pull another down. We should give love to get love.

An ideal society is a place that is consisted of people who loves each other, respects each other, and care for one another. If we want to attain this kind of society, we should not just think of the characteristics of the society that we want, but also do the best that we can in order to have and reach the goal of our ideal society.

The ideal society is peaceful, and everyone lives in harmony. There are no wars that exist in this kind of community. Everyone will respect and love his or her parents, family, neighbors, friends, relatives and all the people around him or her. Unity is also present in the ideal society and all these can be possible with love and respect.

A citizen of our ideal society should learn to respect and love anyone that is also a citizen of our ideal society. Everyone should show love and concern to his or her
fellow. No one should have hatred in his heart. People should always be happy for the success of his or her fellow.

People should also be generous and learn to give way to others. If all people will be humble, loving, concern, generous and respectful; our ideal society will be made possible. Unity, happiness, love, respect and peace: these are the main characteristics of our ideal society and an ideal citizen should have them.

Everyone should love each other, respect each other, be patient with one another, and have all the good characteristics that a person should have so that the ideal society could be made possible. Everyone should exert effort; everyone should do his or her best to achieve the ideal citizen, ideal society, and its goals. The ideal society can be surely achieved if people will respect everyone’s rights and do not step on those rights. “Don’t do unto others what you don’t want others to do unto you.” (Mevlana).

If you respect a person, he or she would surely do the same too. If you show love and concern to him or her, he or she will also show his or her love and concern for you.

**QUOTES AND SAYINGS:**

“One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life: That word is love.” (Sophocles)

“Love is the master key that opens the gates of happiness.” (Oliver Wendell Holmes)

“Don’t do unto others what you don’t want others to do unto you.” (Mevlana).

**EMPATHY:**

It is the ability to see the world as another person, to share and understand another person’s feelings, needs concerns and emotional state.

The most important value in our life revolves around empathy. How can one concentrate on co-existing on the same planet, without a speck of empathy? We need to be able to accept others for what they are, not what they can do for us. We need to stop concentrating on how we can reduce competition and focus on how we can grow together. While we all have to look out for ourselves at the end of the day, we need to remember this quote, “The day we stop fighting for each other, we stop being humans!”

**QUOTES AND SAYINGS:**

“If your emotional abilities aren’t in hand, if you don’t have self-awareness, if you are not able to manage your distressing emotions, if you can’t have empathy and have effective relationships, then no matter how smart you are, you are not going to get very far.” Daniel Goleman

“The opposite of anger is not calmness, its empathy.” Mehmet Oz

“Empathy is really the opposite of spiritual meanness. It’s the capacity to understand that every war is both won and lost. And that someone else’s pain is as meaningful as your own.” Barbara Kingsolver

“Empathy is the most radical of human emotions.” Gloria Steinem

“The great gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy.” Merly Streep
TOLERANCE:

Lack of tolerance leads to fighting, violence, and finally it destroys the peace and security of society. When people fail in their arguments they become intolerant, and then they use force and aggression to support their point of view.

The word tolerance means the willingness to accept or to tolerate, especially opinions or behaviour you may not agree with, or to behave sensibly with those who are not like you. It means showing respect for the race, gender, opinions, religion and ideologies of other people or groups, and to admire the good qualities and good work of others. And to express one’s point of view in a decent and respectful way while respecting the sentiments of others. Tolerance is a value which can be taught in every part of our life, so Educators are instrumental in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence. For instance, schools that create a tolerant environment help young people respect and understand different cultures.

Maybe the best sentence explaining tolerance is from The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789), adopted by the National Constituent Assembly during the French Revolution, states in Article 10: "No-one shall be interfered with for his opinions, even religious ones, provided that their practice doesn't disturb public order as established by the law." ("Nul ne doit être inquiété pour ses opinions, mêmes religieuses, pourvu que leur manifestation ne trouble pas l'ordre public établi par la loi.")

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

What is tolerance? It is the consequence of humanity. We are all formed of frailty and error; let us pardon reciprocally each other's folly -- that is the first law of nature. (Voltaire)

“Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged” Mevlana

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools” Martin Luther King, Jr.

GENEROSITY:

Generosity is freely sharing what you have with others. It is being willing to offer money, help or time when it is needed. To be generous means giving something that is valuable to you without expectation of reward or return. Many traditions measure generosity not by the size of the gift, but by what it cost the giver.

Sometimes generosity requires pushing past a feeling of reluctance because we all instinctively want to keep good things for ourselves. Even so, we can structure our lives in ways that make generosity more spontaneous and fun. When we intentionally "live below our means" and avoid overcommitment, we cultivate a sense of bounty or surplus that makes us want to share. When we give, we reap the pleasure of knowing we have made someone else's life a little happier.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” John Homes

“Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.” Kahlil Gibran

“Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life.” Confucius
“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” John Bunyan

“Pride only helps us to be generous; it never makes us so, any more than vanity makes us witty.” George Eliot

RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST:

There are many qualities for a person to be a responsible citizen. A responsible citizen means to be a caring and giving citizen in his/her community, nation, and world.

Types of responsibilities

MORAL RESPONSIBILITY to other people, animals, and the earth. This means caring, defending, helping, building, protecting, preserving, and sustaining. You're accountable for treating other people justly and fairly, for honoring other living things, and for being environmentally aware.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY to the laws and ordinances of your community, state, and country. If there’s a law you believe is outdated, discriminatory, or unfair, you can work to change, improve, or eliminate it. You can't simply decide to disobey it.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY means treating your parents, siblings, and other relatives with love and respect, following your parents' rules, and doing chores and duties at home.

COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY. As a part of the community, you're responsible for treating others as you want to be treated, for participating in community activities and decisions, and for being an active, contributing citizen. Pick up trash to keep the community clean. Read local and community newspapers to stay informed. Vote in elections when you're old enough.

RESPONSIBILITY TO CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, BELIEFS, AND RULES. These might come from your family, your community, your heritage, or your faith. Learn what they are and do your best to respect and follow them.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. It's up to you to become a person of good character. Your parents, teachers, religious leaders, scout leaders, and other caring adults will guide you, but only you can determine the kind of person you are and ultimately become. So get organized, be punctual, and honor your commitments.

Trust is a central moral value too. Being trustworthy is an admirable character trait. It is being honest, reliable and responsible. Others will respect us more and want to continue relationships and dealing with us. Also, we will feel a sense of self-respect. People sould believe in themselves before trusting others,becuase the one who is suspicious from himself never trusts anybody.

As Dalai Lama said “We often talk about moral values, justice and trust, but the important thing is to put them into effect in our everyday lives."

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

“I have always acted according to the principle that it is better to lose money than trust.

Robert Bosch

“Responsibility educates.” Wendell Phillips

“The price of greatness is responsibility.” Winston Churchill
“I’m not upset that you lied to me, I’m upset that from now on I can’t believe you.” Friedrich Nietzsche

“To be trusted is a greater compliment than being loved.” George MacDonald

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS:

Environmental protection should not only be of concern to the government, but also of every individual. The success of a policy depends on public awareness.

There is a mutual impact between what the government and enterprises have done in environmental protection and the degree of self-discipline on the part of individuals in making their own contributions.

Environment is the surrounding of an object and it is an essential for all living things in this world and we, humans are part of the environment. Every living has the right to enjoy and nourish the natural environment. We are inherited the environment for our young generation. As for that, we are responsible to take care and protect our environment in order to live in a comfort and healthy environment. Clean environment will give us the lively and vibrant lifestyle.

QUOTES AND SAYINGS:

“To examine an individual’s environment consciousness is to recognize how the physical place is significant, and look at the people/place relationship” Leanne Rilvin

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.” Mahatma Gandhi

“The poetry of the earth is never dead.” John Keats

“What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?” Henry David Thoreau

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” Franklin D. Roosevelt