



## Mains Practice Question

**Q.** 'Probity is essential for an effective system of government and socio-economic development.' Discuss. (Answer in 150 words, UPSC Mains 2023)

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### Approach

- Begin by defining probity and its significance for good governance.
- Discuss how probity in governance affects various aspects of socio-economic development.
- Conclude by emphasizing the importance of probity for good governance.

### Introduction

Probity means adherence to the highest principles and ideals. It is the foundation of moral principles like honesty and integrity. It's crucial for good governance and socio-economic progress, as it ensures officials prioritize the public, adhere to the law, and uphold transparency and accountability.

### Body

Probity in governance affects various aspects of socio-economic development:

- **Resource allocation:** Probity in governance means efficient and corruption-free resource allocation.
- **Promotes competition:** Probity fosters innovation and fair competition, eliminating cronyism, nepotism, and favoritism for an equitable economy.
- **Equity:** It ensures fair, impartial policies, respecting all citizens, especially the marginalized.
- **Reduces inequalities:** Probity reduces inequality by preventing public officials from using their power for personal gain.
- **Inclusion:** It ensures that public services and facilities are accessible and affordable to all citizens, without any discrimination or exclusion.
- **Sustainability:** Probity in governance means making decisions that consider environmental, social, and economic sustainability for both current and future generations.
- **Enhances resilience:** It boosts society's resilience by preparing officials to handle natural disasters, climate change, and pandemics effectively.

### Conclusion

Probity in governance is vital for effective government, trust, transparency, and societal progress. All stakeholders, including officials, civil society, media, and citizens, should promote and protect it.

