

UnlockIAS

www.unlockias.in

UPSC CSE MAINS

Previous Year Questions

Probity in Governance — GS-IV

Previous Year Questions (verbatim, official syllabus)

27 Questions

Year range: 2014–2025

Verbatim from official UPSC papers

"Master Mains with PYQs — consistency is key"

— Neil Sir, Founder, UnlockIAS

UnlockIAS Test Series 2026

30+ Full-Length Prelims Tests • AI-Powered Analytics

Detailed Solutions • Performance Tracking

www.unlockias.in/test_series

Table of Contents

27 Questions across 4 Sections

1. Concept of public service; philosophical basis of ...	8Q
2. Information sharing and transparency; Right to Inf...	4Q
3. Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Chart...	7Q
4. Utilization of public funds, challenges of corrupt...	8Q

Concept of public service; philosophical basis of governance and probi...

2024 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q2. "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.

2023 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q8. 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss.

2023 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q9. Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance?

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q7. Write short notes on the following in 30 words each: (i) Constitutional morality (ii) Conflict of interest (iii) Probity in public life (iv) Challenges of digitalization (v) Devotion to duty.

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q5. What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q8. What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.

2018 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q10. What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q4. What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?

Information sharing and transparency; Right to Information

2021 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q13. An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q7. There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.

2018 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q12. "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone; it essentially redefines the concept of accountability." Discuss.

2015 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q12. Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized.

Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Q...

2025 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q12. It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place? (Answer in 150 words) 10

2024 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q10. The 'Code of Conduct' and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q9. What do you understand by the term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.

prelims practice with AI-powered analytics.

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q6. Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.

2018 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q11. Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.

2017 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.

2016 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q11. Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission.

Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption

2025 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q1. India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future?

2022 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q10. Whistle-blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle-blower?

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q9. Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.

2019 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q10. “Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption.” Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.

2016 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q12. “Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency, and obstruction in the path of national development.” Discuss Kautilya’s views.

www.unlockias.in/test_series

2015 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q13. Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. (b) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace.

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q8. There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility?

2014 GS-IV 10M · 150W

Q10. It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.