The Mains Examination is the most crucial stage and tests candidates' in-depth knowledge of various subjects.

It consists of nine papers, which can be categorized as follows:

a. Compulsory Papers: These include Essay Writing, English Language Comprehension, Precise Writing, and General Studies (four papers covering diverse topics such as Indian Heritage and Culture, Governance, International Relations, Ethics, and Integrity).

b. Optional Papers: Candidates need to choose two optional subjects from a list of available disciplines, such as History, Geography, Public Administration, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, and more.

1. Paper - 1 (Essay) - 250 marks

Candidates may require to prepare an essay on multiple topics as candidates may ask to write an essay on multiple topics given there.

1. Paper - 1 (Essay) - 250 marks

- Indian Heritage and Culture:
  - Salient features of Indian art, architecture, and literature from ancient to modern times.
  - Important sites, monuments, and their significance.
  - Major philosophical thinkers and their contributions.
  - Indian dances, music, and performing arts.
  - Indian languages and literature.
  - Cultural institutions and organizations in India.

- History and Geography of the World:
  - History of the world from the 18th century until the present, including events, personalities, and issues of importance.
  - Post-World War II developments and their impact on society.
  - Important events and their significance in world history.
  - Distribution of key natural resources across the world.
- Factors responsible for the location of industries and their impact.
- Important geographical features and their location.
- Various types of natural hazards and their mitigation strategies.

**History and Geography of the World:**
- Salient features of Indian society, diversity, and multiculturalism.
- Role of women and women’s organizations.
- Population and associated issues, poverty, and developmental issues.
- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.
- Salient features, changes, and challenges of urbanization.
- Social issues relating to health, education, and human resources.

3. Paper - 3: (General Studies II) - 250 marks

**Indian Constitution: Historical background, evolution, features, and amendments.**
- Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, Parliament, Judiciary, and Executive.
- Constitutional provisions for the marginalized sections of society.
- Structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.
- Issues and challenges pertaining to federalism, devolution of powers, and intergovernmental relations.
- Statutory, regulatory, and quasi-judicial bodies and their role in governance.

**Social Justice:**
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism, and secularism.
- Rights and issues related to vulnerable sections of society, such as women, children, the elderly, and differently-abled persons.
- Affirmative action policies, welfare schemes, and programs for the upliftment of marginalized communities.
- Mechanisms, laws, and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

**International Relations:**
- India's relations with neighboring countries and major world powers.
- Bilateral, regional, and global groupings and agreements involving India.
- India's role in international organizations, such as the United Nations, WTO, BRICS, etc.
- Important international institutions, agencies, and forums.
- India's foreign policy, its determinants, and challenges.
- Security challenges and their management in border areas and across the globe.

4. Paper- 4: (General Studies III) - 250 marks

- **Technology and Economic Development:**
  - Indian Economy: Planning, growth, development, and Employment.
  - Government Budgeting: Types of budgets, budgetary process, and fiscal policy.
  - Inclusive growth and issues related to poverty, inequality, and unemployment.
  - Science and Technology: Achievements, advancements, and their applications in everyday life.
  - Infrastructure: Energy, transportation, and communication systems.
  - Investment models, issues related to financing, and investment models for sustainable development.

- **Biodiversity and Environment:**
  - Conservation, environmental pollution, and degradation.
  - Environmental impact assessment, disaster, and disaster management.
  - Climate change and its impact on the environment.
  - Conservation and protection of flora and fauna, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries.
  - Environmental laws and regulations.

- **Security and Disaster Management:**
  - Various security forces and agencies and their mandate.
  - Internal security challenges, such as terrorism, insurgency, cyber threats, etc.
  - Disaster management: Concepts, strategies, and mitigation measures.
  - Disaster management agencies, policies, and practices in India.
  - Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

5. Paper - 5: (General Studies IV ) - 250 mark

- **Ethics and Human Interface:**
  - Essence, determinants, and consequences of ethics in human actions.
  - Dimensions of ethics: ethics in private and public relationships.
  - Human values: concepts, virtues, and their relevance in the context of governance and public service.
- Ethics in public administration: status, problems, and ethical dilemmas.
- Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions.

**Attitude:**
- Content, structure, and function of attitudes.
- Influence of attitudes on thoughts and behavior.
- Moral and political attitudes.
- Social influence and persuasion.
- Aptitude and foundational values for civil service.

**Emotional Intelligence:**
- Concepts and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Emotional intelligence and its relevance for the holistic development of an individual.
- Emotional intelligence and its relationship with empathy, compassion, and effective interpersonal relationships.

**Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers:**
- Important theories, thinkers, and philosophers in ethics and morality.
- Their contributions to society and governance.

**Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration:**
- Ethical governance and ethical considerations in public administration.
- Probity in Governance: concept, dimensions, and its Significance.
- Codes of conduct, rules, and regulations for public servants.
- Citizen-centric administration: ethical issues and challenges.
- Integrity, transparency, and accountability in administration.