

NID DAT PRELIMS 2027

B.Des Mock Test Series

30 Full-Length Mock Tests · Answer Key · Worked Solutions

Tests	30 mock tests (Test 1 to Test 30)
Mode and time	Pen-and-paper style · 3 hours per test
Total marks	100 per test, no negative marking
Section A (30 marks)	22 objective questions: Q1-14 carry 1 mark each (14), Q15-22 carry 2 marks each (16)
Section B (70 marks)	4 subjective drawing and design questions: Q23 (15), Q24 (20), Q25 (15), Q26 (20)
Topics	Visualisation and spatial ability · logical and analytical reasoning · design awareness, colour, typography, craft and architecture · drawing, observation, design thinking, storytelling
Included for every test	Answer key for Section A, a worked solution for every question, and an approach plus marking rubric for each Section B question

About the pattern. NID has not published a detailed paper structure that I could confirm, and websites disagree. Reports agree on a 100-mark, 3-hour, pen-and-paper paper with no negative marking, an objective Section A worth roughly 20 to 30 marks (one site says 19 questions for 25 marks) and a subjective Section B worth roughly 70 to 80 marks. These mocks use 22 MCQs (30 marks) plus four subjective questions (70 marks). Others say the 2026 Prelims was drawing and design-thinking questions only, with the objective section removed, and that the objective section may or may not return. These mocks follow the first description because it covers both kinds of skill. If your paper turns out to be subjective only, use Section B of each test and ignore Section A. Prelims is a qualifier for shortlisting to Mains (Studio Sensitivity Test and In-Person Sensitivity Test), so it does not count in the final merit list as per current reports. Check the official NID Admissions Handbook 2027-28 at admissions.nid.edu for the final pattern.

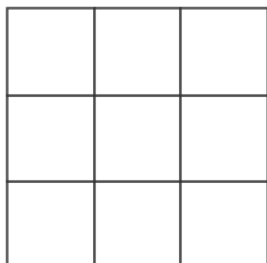
These are original practice questions, not official NID papers.

MOCK TEST 10

Time: 3 hours · Maximum marks: 100 · No negative marking

SECTION A - Objective (30 marks): Q1-14 carry 1 mark each, Q15-22 carry 2 marks each

1. How many squares of all sizes can be found in the 3×3 grid shown? [1 mark]

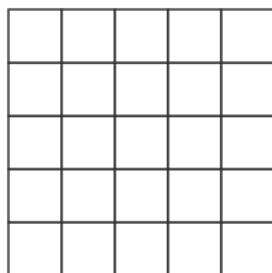


- (1) 11 (2) 9 (3) 17 (4) 14
2. Find the next term of the series: 5, 4, 9, 13, 22, ? [1 mark]
- (1) 37 (2) 35 (3) 34 (4) 36
3. Looking at the solid from the bottom edge of the plan (front view), how many unit squares of the front elevation are visible? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

3	1	4
0	2	2
0	1	1

- (1) 9 (2) 11 (3) 10 (4) 8
4. Warli art, known for simple geometric human figures in white on a mud background, belongs to [1 mark]
- (1) Punjab (2) Assam (3) Maharashtra (4) Gujarat
5. How many squares of all sizes can be found in the 5×5 grid shown? [1 mark]



- (1) 55 (2) 60 (3) 25 (4) 50

- 6.** A solid is built by stacking unit cubes as per the top-view plan shown. How many cubes are used in all? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

4	4	0
0	0	3
3	2	2

- (1) 18 (2) 20 (3) 17 (4) 19
- 7.** Find the next term of the series: 20, 29, 40, 53, 68, ? [1 mark]
(1) 87 (2) 84 (3) 86 (4) 85
- 8.** An 'isometric' drawing shows an object with axes drawn at [1 mark]
(1) 90° only (2) 60° and 30° only (3) 120° to each other (4) 45° to each other
- 9.** Charles Correa, a famous Indian architect, designed the [1 mark]
(1) Red Fort (2) Gateway of India
(3) Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur (4) Victoria Memorial
- 10.** Looking at the solid from the bottom edge of the plan (front view), how many unit squares of the front elevation are visible? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

3	3	3	1
4	4	2	2
1	4	4	3
1	4	2	1

- (1) 16 (2) 14 (3) 17 (4) 15
- 11.** Ajrakh, a resist-dyed and block-printed textile, is traditionally linked to [1 mark]
(1) Kashmir (2) Kerala (3) Kutch (Gujarat) (4) Assam
- 12.** Of 100 design students, 30 like sketching, 45 like clay modelling and 16 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]
(1) 41 (2) 25 (3) 84 (4) 59

13. What is the height (in cubes) of the tallest stack in the solid? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

1	3	3	1
4	1	2	0
2	2	1	2
3	3	1	3

(1) 5

(2) 6

(3) 4

(4) 3

14. The golden ratio is approximately [1 mark]

(1) 2.718

(2) 1.414

(3) 3.142

(4) 1.618

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. A 50 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 2 : 3. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

(1) 26 cm

(2) 20 cm

(3) 40 cm

(4) 30 cm

16. A square sheet of paper is folded once (in half) and 1 hole is punched through all layers as shown. How many holes will the sheet have when fully unfolded? [2 marks]

Sheet after folding,
with punched holes



(1) 4

(2) 3

(3) 2

(4) 1

17. What is the height (in cubes) of the tallest stack in the solid? [2 marks]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

0	2	0
4	1	3
2	0	3

(1) 6

(2) 4

(3) 5

(4) 3

18. Find the figure that continues the series. [2 marks]

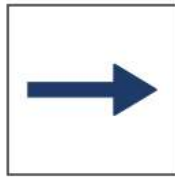


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



19. Looking at the solid from the bottom edge of the plan (front view), how many unit squares of the front elevation are visible? [2 marks]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

0	2	2	1
0	1	0	3
3	3	0	2
2	1	0	4

(1) 11

(2) 12

(3) 14

(4) 13

20. Mixing equal amounts of red and yellow paint (traditional RYB colour wheel) gives [2 marks]

(1) orange

(2) green

(3) brown

(4) purple (violet)

21. A 'mood board' is used by designers to [2 marks]

(1) Measure room size

(2) Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme

(3) Calculate costs

(4) Print final designs

22. Find the next term of the series: 85, 104, 125, 148, 173, ? [2 marks]

(1) 202

(2) 199

(3) 200

(4) 201

SECTION B - Subjective (70 marks): answer all four questions on separate sheets

23. Observe a backpack carefully (from memory or from a real one near you). (a) Draw it from three different viewpoints: front, top and a 3/4 view. [9 marks] (b) Show two close-up details (e.g. a joint, handle, texture or pattern) and label what material you think each part is made of. [6 marks]

24. Problem solving. A single stapler must be shared by many users in a public place (such as a railway station or a school). (a) List three ways it could be misused or damaged. [4 marks] (b) Sketch a design that prevents or reduces these problems. [10 marks] (c) Explain in 3 to 4 lines why your design is sustainable and who benefits. [6 marks]

25. Storyboard. In six panels (no words, or at most two words per panel), tell a short story set at a rooftop at sunset that begins calmly and ends with pride. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]

26. Imagination. Imagine a new object that combines a stapler and a kettle. (a) Draw it in colour, showing how it works. [10 marks] (b) Write three lines about who would use it and why. [4 marks] (c) Design a simple logo and name for it. [6 marks]

Marks: Q23 = 15, Q24 = 20, Q25 = 15, Q26 = 20. Use A4 sheets for each answer.

Mock Test 7

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	1	5	4	9	1	13	2	17	4	21	3
2	2	6	3	10	2	14	2	18	4	22	3
3	2	7	4	11	2	15	3	19	4		
4	2	8	2	12	2	16	1	20	3		

Mock Test 8

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	2	9	3	13	4	17	2	21	3
2	2	6	2	10	4	14	2	18	1	22	1
3	2	7	1	11	2	15	2	19	4		
4	1	8	1	12	1	16	4	20	3		

Mock Test 9

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	3	9	3	13	1	17	1	21	1
2	3	6	4	10	2	14	2	18	1	22	1
3	2	7	3	11	3	15	2	19	3		
4	4	8	3	12	2	16	4	20	2		

Mock Test 10

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	4	5	1	9	3	13	3	17	2	21	2
2	2	6	1	10	4	14	4	18	4	22	3
3	1	7	4	11	3	15	4	19	2		
4	3	8	3	12	1	16	3	20	1		

Mock Test 11

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	2	5	3	9	1	13	3	17	1	21	1
2	4	6	4	10	3	14	1	18	1	22	1
3	1	7	3	11	4	15	2	19	1		
4	1	8	2	12	1	16	2	20	1		

Mock Test 12

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	3	5	4	9	2	13	2	17	1	21	3
2	1	6	4	10	1	14	3	18	2	22	3
3	2	7	3	11	4	15	4	19	4		
4	2	8	1	12	1	16	3	20	1		

Mock Test 13

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	1	5	1	9	4	13	4	17	4	21	1
2	3	6	3	10	3	14	1	18	4	22	1
3	3	7	1	11	2	15	1	19	2		
4	2	8	4	12	2	16	2	20	1		

Solutions - Mock Test 10

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (4) - 14

Count squares by size. In an 3×3 grid there are $(3-k+1)^2$ squares of side k : $9 + 4 + 1 = 14$.

Q2. Answer: (2) - 35

Each term is the sum of the two terms before it: $13 + 22 = 35$.

Q3. Answer: (1) - 9

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 3, 2, 4. Sum = 9.

Q4. Answer: (3) - Maharashtra

Warli art is practised by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra.

Q5. Answer: (1) - 55

Count squares by size. In an 5×5 grid there are $(5-k+1)^2$ squares of side k : $25 + 16 + 9 + 4 + 1 = 55$.

Q6. Answer: (1) - 18

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $4 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 2 + 2 = 18$.

Q7. Answer: (4) - 85

The terms are the squares 16, 25, 36, 49, 64 plus 4. The next square is $81 + 4 = 85$.

Q8. Answer: (3) - 120° to each other

In isometric projection the three axes are 120° apart, with equal foreshortening on each.

Q9. Answer: (3) - Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

Charles Correa designed Jawahar Kala Kendra (1991) in Jaipur.

Q10. Answer: (4) - 15

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 4, 4, 4, 3. Sum = 15.

Q11. Answer: (3) - Kutch (Gujarat)

Ajrakh is a block-printed cloth of Kutch and Sindh.

Q12. Answer: (1) - 41

Students who like at least one = $30 + 45 - 16 = 59$. Neither = $100 - 59 = 41$.

Q13. Answer: (3) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q14. Answer: (4) - 1.618

The golden ratio $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \approx 1.618$. $\sqrt{2} \approx 1.414$, $e \approx 2.718$, $\pi \approx 3.142$.

Q15. Answer: (4) - 30 cm

Total parts = $2 + 3 = 5$. One part = $50 \div 5 = 10$. The larger share = $3 \times 10 = 30$.

Q16. Answer: (3) - 2

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded once (in half), so 1 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 2 layers. Unfolding gives $1 \times 2 = 2$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q17. Answer: (2) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q18. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 90° , 45° , 0° , 315°). The next angle is $315^\circ - 45^\circ = 270^\circ$, which is option (4).

Q19. Answer: (2) - 12

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 3, 3, 2, 4. Sum = 12.

Q20. Answer: (1) - orange

In the traditional (RYB) subtractive pigment model, red + yellow = orange.

Q21. Answer: (2) - Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme

A mood board gathers visual inspiration to communicate the feel of a project.

Q22. Answer: (3) - 200

The terms are the squares 81, 100, 121, 144, 169 plus 4. The next square is $196 + 4 = 200$.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Start with light construction shapes (a cylinder, box or cone) to block in the backpack, check proportions by comparing parts (e.g. handle length against the body), then firm up the outline. For the top view imagine looking straight down and keep widths consistent with the front view. In the 3/4 view overlap forms to show depth. For the close-ups, enlarge a joint or surface and use hatching, dots or cross-lines to show texture. Label each material (e.g. steel, plastic, wood) and say why it suits the job.

Criterion	Marks
Accurate proportions and construction in the three views	5
Variety and clarity of viewpoints	4
Detail studies with texture and line quality	3
Labels showing material and function	3

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Think of the stapler in rough public use: heavy use, theft, weather, dirt, children. Pick materials and forms that resist these (durable, repairable, fixed down, easy to clean). Show your idea with a main sketch plus one detail view. For sustainability mention locally available materials, long life, repair rather than replacement and low cost, and say who gains (users, maintenance staff, the environment).

Criterion	Marks
Realistic misuse list	4
Design response that clearly addresses the list	10
Sustainability and benefits reasoning	4
Clarity of sketches and notes	2

Q25 (15 marks). Approach:

Plan the story in one line first: setup, a small surprise, a turning point and the result (pride). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a rooftop at sunset, panel 3 or 4 as a close-up of a face or hand, and a high angle for the turning point. Keep one recognisable character (same clothes or shape) in every panel, and make each panel readable without text.

Criterion	Marks
Clear beginning, middle and end	5
Variety of viewpoints and framing	4
Character/expression clarity	3
Neat, consistent panels	3

Q26 (20 marks). Approach:

List the main functions and shapes of a stapler and of a kettle, then look for an overlap (a shared shape or action) to join them naturally. Draw with arrows showing how it works. Name a real user group and the problem it solves. For the logo keep one simple shape and a short, memorable name.

Criterion	Marks
Originality and logic of the combined object	8
Drawing, colour and clarity of working	4
User and purpose reasoning	4
Name and logo	4