

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 14

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

Mock Test 15

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

Mock Test 16

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

Mock Test 17

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

Mock Test 18

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

Mock Test 19

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

Mock Test 20

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

MOCK TEST 14

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. Of 120 design students, 43 like sketching, 31 like clay modelling and 20 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

- (1) 100 (2) 54 (3) 66 (4) 46

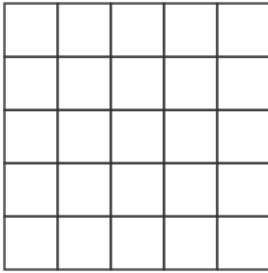
2. In a queue, Meera is 17th from the front and 10th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]

- (1) 26 (2) 27 (3) 28 (4) 7

3. The NID Ahmedabad campus is closely associated with the 1958 India report prepared by [1 mark]

- (1) Louis Kahn (2) Walter Gropius
(3) Charles and Ray Eames (4) Le Corbusier

4. How many squares of all sizes can be found in the 5×5 grid shown? [1 mark]

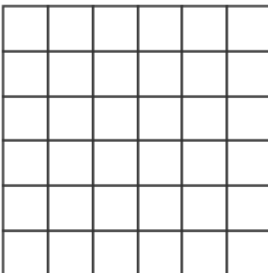


- (1) 25 (2) 55 (3) 50 (4) 60

5. The term 'ergonomics' in design deals with [1 mark]

- (1) Fitting products to human use and comfort
(2) Choosing colours for logos
(3) Printing methods
(4) Pricing of products

6. How many squares of all sizes can be found in the 6×6 grid shown? [1 mark]



- (1) 91 (2) 97 (3) 85 (4) 36

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

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

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

- (1) 6 (2) 4 (3) 5 (4) 3

8. The Bauhaus school was founded by [1 mark]

- (1) Le Corbusier (2) Frank Lloyd Wright (3) Walter Gropius (4) Charles Eames

9. Find the next term of the series: 5, 22, 10, 16, 15, ? [1 mark]

- (1) 10 (2) 12 (3) 9 (4) 11

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

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

- (1) 12 (2) 13 (3) 15 (4) 14

11. 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

0	0	0
0	2	3
0	3	2

- (1) 7 (2) 8 (3) 5 (4) 6

12. A 'mood board' is used by designers to [1 mark]

- (1) Measure room size
(2) Calculate costs
(3) Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme
(4) Print final designs

13. In user-centred design, a 'prototype' is [1 mark]

- (1) A marketing slogan (2) A type of font
(3) The final product on sale (4) An early sample used to test an idea

14. Find the figure that continues the series. [1 mark]



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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

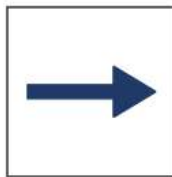


(1)

(2)

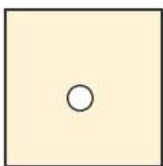
(3)

(4)



16. A square sheet of paper is folded twice (in half, then in half again) 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) 2

(2) 5

(3) 4

(4) 3

17. A designer walks 5 m north, turns right and walks 4 m, then turns right again and walks 2 m. How far is she from the starting point? [2 marks]

(1) 7 m

(2) 1 m

(3) 11 m

(4) 5 m

18. R. K. Laxman is best known as a [2 marks]

(1) Sculptor

(2) Architect

(3) Photographer

(4) Cartoonist

19. Of 60 design students, 30 like sketching, 28 like clay modelling and 12 like both. How many like neither? [2 marks]

(1) 14

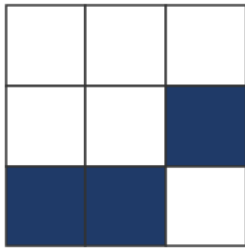
(2) 2

(3) 48

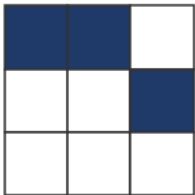
(4) 46

20. A mirror is placed on the bottom (a horizontal mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [2 marks]

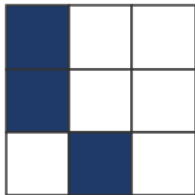
Given figure



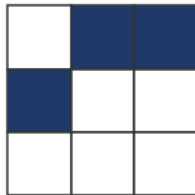
(1)



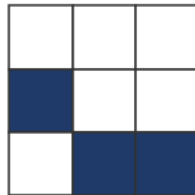
(2)



(3)



(4)



21. A solid is built by stacking unit cubes as per the top-view plan shown. How many cubes are used in all? [2 marks]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

1	4	3
0	2	4
0	1	2

(1) 17

(2) 18

(3) 19

(4) 16

22. A product measuring 2000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 5. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

(1) 400 mm

(2) 800 mm

(3) 100 mm

(4) 200 mm

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

23. Using only a square, a oval and a zig-zag line (you may repeat, resize or overlap them), build three different characters or objects that could belong in a scene of a bridge at night. Add simple lines, patterns or textures to finish each. Give each one a one-line caption. [15 marks]

24. Problem solving. A single ladder 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 crowded railway platform that begins calmly and ends with surprise. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]

26. Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Festival of lights' for a general audience on an A4-sized frame. Use at most three colours (green, pink and black). Include one strong central image, a short slogan (maximum 6 words) and a border or pattern. [20 marks]

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

Solutions - Mock Test 14

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (3) - 66

Students who like at least one = $43 + 31 - 20 = 54$. Neither = $120 - 54 = 66$.

Q2. Answer: (1) - 26

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = $17 + 10 - 1 = 26$.

Q3. Answer: (3) - Charles and Ray Eames

The Eames' 1958 'India Report' recommended an institute of design, leading to NID.

Q4. Answer: (2) - 55

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

Q5. Answer: (1) - Fitting products to human use and comfort

Ergonomics studies how people interact with products so they are comfortable, safe and efficient.

Q6. Answer: (1) - 91

Count squares by size. In an 6×6 grid there are $(6-k+1)^2$ squares of side k : $36 + 25 + 16 + 9 + 4 + 1 = 91$.

Q7. Answer: (2) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q8. Answer: (3) - Walter Gropius

Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus in 1919.

Q9. Answer: (1) - 10

Two interleaved series: terms 1, 3, 5 go up by 5 (5, 10, 15) and terms 2, 4, 6 go down by 6 (22, 16, ...). The 6th term is $16 - 6 = 10$.

Q10. Answer: (2) - 13

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 4, 3, 3, 3. Sum = 13.

Q11. Answer: (4) - 6

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 0, 3, 3. Sum = 6.

Q12. Answer: (3) - Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme

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

Q13. Answer: (4) - An early sample used to test an idea

Prototypes let designers test and improve ideas before final production.

Q14. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 135° , 45° , 315° , 225°). The next angle is $225^\circ - 90^\circ = 135^\circ$, which is option (4).

Q15. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180° , 270° , 0° , 90°). The next angle is $90^\circ + 90^\circ = 180^\circ$, which is option (4).

Q16. Answer: (3) - 4

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded twice (in half, then in half again), so 1 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 4 layers. Unfolding gives $1 \times 4 = 4$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q17. Answer: (4) - 5 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (5 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $5 - 2 = 3$ m, and the sideways movement is 4 m. Distance = $\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = 5$ m.

Q18. Answer: (4) - Cartoonist

R. K. Laxman created 'The Common Man' cartoons for The Times of India.

Q19. Answer: (1) - 14

Students who like at least one = $30 + 28 - 12 = 46$. Neither = $60 - 46 = 14$.

Q20. Answer: (1)

A mirror placed along the bottom (a horizontal mirror) reverses the figure top-to-bottom and leaves the other direction unchanged. Reverse each column of the grid to get option (1). The remaining options are rotations or the opposite flip, which a mirror cannot produce.

Q21. Answer: (1) - 17

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $1 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 4 + 1 + 2 = 17$.

Q22. Answer: (1) - 400 mm

At a scale of 1 : 5, drawing length = actual length $\div$ 5 = $2000 \div 5 = 400$ mm.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Look for hidden objects inside the shapes: a square can become a head, wheel, sun or fruit; a oval can be a body, roof or box; a zig-zag line can be a hat, flag or beak. Combine them so each drawing reads clearly at a glance. Keep all three drawings in the setting of a bridge at night (e.g. a figure holding an umbrella, a bus, a lamp-post). Fill with patterns (dots, stripes, scales) rather than adding new shapes.

Criterion	Marks
Creative, recognisable use of the given shapes only	6
Variety across the three drawings	4
Detail, pattern and texture	3
Captions linked to the scene	2

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Think of the ladder 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 (surprise). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a crowded railway platform, 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:

Brainstorm 5 quick thumbnails for 'Festival of lights' and pick the one with the simplest, boldest idea (a single symbol works better than a crowded scene). Place the image at the centre or on a rule-of-thirds point, and put the slogan in clear, large lettering above or below. Use green for the main shape, pink for emphasis and black for lettering and outlines. Finish with a repeating border or pattern that echoes the theme.

Criterion	Marks
Strong central concept linked to the theme	7
Composition and hierarchy (image, slogan, border)	5
Colour use within the limit	4
Lettering and finish	4