

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.

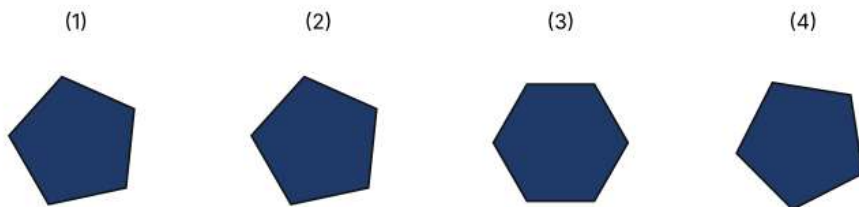
These are original practice questions, not official NID papers.

MOCK TEST 15

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. Which figure is the odd one out? [1 mark]



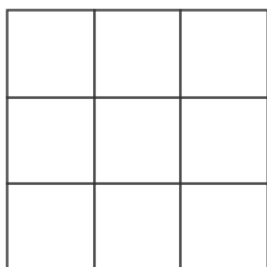
2. A pictogram or symbol, like those used on airport signs, is designed to [1 mark]

- (1) Communicate without relying on language (2) Show a company's history
(3) Replace colours (4) Decorate walls

3. Of 80 design students, 34 like sketching, 42 like clay modelling and 7 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

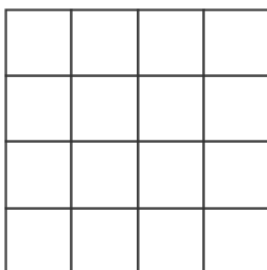
- (1) 73 (2) 69 (3) 11 (4) 4

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



- (1) 17 (2) 9 (3) 11 (4) 14

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



- (1) 30 (2) 34 (3) 16 (4) 26

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

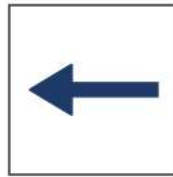
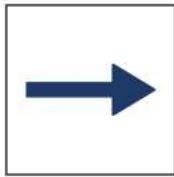


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



7. 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

1	3	0
2	1	1
3	4	0

(1) 7

(2) 9

(3) 8

(4) 10

8. Which of the following is NOT an element of design? [1 mark]

(1) Harmony

(2) Line

(3) Shape

(4) Texture

9. A logo made only from the name of a company in a distinctive typeface is called a [1 mark]

(1) Emblem

(2) Pictorial mark

(3) Mascot

(4) Wordmark

10. Find the next term of the series: 52, 67, 84, 103, 124, ? [1 mark]

(1) 147

(2) 146

(3) 149

(4) 148

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



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



12. Of 80 design students, 35 like sketching, 42 like clay modelling and 18 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

(1) 3

(2) 59

(3) 62

(4) 21

13. Which colour is the complement of blue on the traditional RYB colour wheel? [1 mark]

(1) Yellow

(2) Green

(3) Orange

(4) Purple

14. Which Indian city is known as the 'Pink City' for its architecture? [1 mark]

- (1) Udaipur (2) Jaisalmer (3) Jodhpur (4) Jaipur

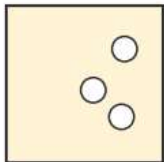
Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. A 42 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 2 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 12 cm (2) 30 cm (3) 22 cm (4) 36 cm

16. A square sheet of paper is folded twice (in half, then in half again) and 3 holes are 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) 12 (2) 6 (3) 11 (4) 13

17. 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	2	4
4	2	2	4
0	3	4	0
2	1	3	3

- (1) 41 (2) 39 (3) 38 (4) 40

18. 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

1	3	1
2	0	3
1	4	3

- (1) 11 (2) 9 (3) 8 (4) 10

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

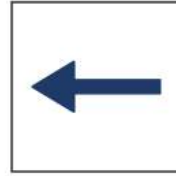
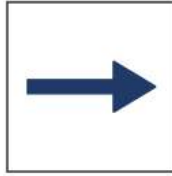


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



20. A product measuring 1000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 20. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

(1) 100 mm

(2) 50 mm

(3) 25 mm

(4) 200 mm

21. An 'infographic' is mainly used to [2 marks]

(1) Print on fabric

(2) Record sound

(3) Compress files

(4) Present information visually

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

(1) green

(2) brown

(3) orange

(4) purple (violet)

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

23. Draw a quick scene of a street food stall. Include at least five different objects, three kinds of people or animals, and one detail that shows the feeling of joy. Use line quality and shading (no colour needed) to show depth: foreground, middle ground and background. [15 marks]

24. Design thinking. Redesign an everyday toothbrush holder for a first-time visitor to a city. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual toothbrush holder. [4 marks] (b) Sketch three different design ideas with short notes. [8 marks] (c) Choose one and draw a final, annotated sketch showing materials, size and how it is used. [8 marks]

25. Visual metaphor. Create a 4-frame sequence (like a flip-book) that shows the idea 'Migrating birds' changing from beginning to end. Use only simple shapes and lines. Below the frames, write one sentence saying what your sequence means. [15 marks]

26. Imagination. Imagine a new object that combines a teapot and a stapler. (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 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		

Solutions - Mock Test 15

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (3)

Three figures are pentagons (5 sides). Figure (3) has 6 sides, a hexagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q2. Answer: (1) - Communicate without relying on language

Pictograms convey meaning quickly across language barriers.

Q3. Answer: (3) - 11

Students who like at least one = $34 + 42 - 7 = 69$. Neither = $80 - 69 = 11$.

Q4. Answer: (4) - 14

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

Q5. Answer: (1) - 30

Count squares by size. In an 4×4 grid there are $(4-k+1)^2$ squares of side k : $16 + 9 + 4 + 1 = 30$.

Q6. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 0° , 135° , 270° , 45°). The next angle is $45^\circ + 135^\circ = 180^\circ$, which is option (3).

Q7. Answer: (3) - 8

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 3, 4, 1. Sum = 8.

Q8. Answer: (1) - Harmony

Elements are the building blocks (line, shape, form, colour, texture, space, value). Harmony is a principle of design.

Q9. Answer: (4) - Wordmark

A wordmark (logotype) is text-only; a pictorial mark uses an icon.

Q10. Answer: (1) - 147

The terms are the squares 49, 64, 81, 100, 121 plus 3. The next square is $144 + 3 = 147$.

Q11. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 45° , 180° , 315° , 90°). The next angle is $90^\circ + 135^\circ = 225^\circ$, which is option (2).

Q12. Answer: (4) - 21

Students who like at least one = $35 + 42 - 18 = 59$. Neither = $80 - 59 = 21$.

Q13. Answer: (3) - Orange

Complementary colours sit opposite each other. Opposite blue is orange.

Q14. Answer: (4) - Jaipur

Jaipur's old city was painted pink in 1876 to welcome the Prince of Wales.

Q15. Answer: (2) - 30 cm

Total parts = $2 + 5 = 7$. One part = $42 \div 7 = 6$. The larger share = $5 \times 6 = 30$.

Q16. Answer: (1) - 12

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded twice (in half, then in half again), so 3 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 4 layers. Unfolding gives $3 \times 4 = 12$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q17. Answer: (2) - 39

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $1 + 4 + 2 + 4 + 4 + 2 + 2 + 4 + 3 + 4 + 2 + 1 + 3 + 3 = 39$.

Q18. Answer: (2) - 9

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

Q19. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180° , 45° , 270° , 135°). The next angle is $135^\circ - 135^\circ = 0^\circ$, which is option (3).

Q20. Answer: (2) - 50 mm

At a scale of 1 : 20, drawing length = actual length $\div$ 20 = $1000 \div 20 = 50$ mm.

Q21. Answer: (4) - Present information visually

Infographics combine text, icons and data visuals so information can be understood quickly.

Q22. Answer: (3) - orange

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

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Plan with three bands: put the largest, darkest elements in the foreground, medium-size items in the middle and small, light details in the background. List five objects typical of a street food stall before drawing. For joy, use posture, expression, light or empty space (e.g. a single figure and long shadows). Add texture with hatching and keep line weight thicker in front, thinner behind.

Criterion	Marks
Observation and completeness (objects, people/animals)	5
Depth through overlap, size change and shading	5
Expressing the stated feeling	3
Neatness and confident line	2

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Empathise: imagine a day in the life of a first-time visitor to a city using a toothbrush holder. Note real problems (weight, grip, reach, safety, cost, storage). Ideate: push for variety, e.g. change the form, the material, and the way it is held or used. Select with a quick check against the problems you listed. Final sketch: show at least two views, a dimension or two (e.g. 'handle 30 mm thick'), the materials and one feature that directly solves a stated problem.

Criterion	Marks
Insightful user problems (empathy)	4
Three clearly different ideas	8
Final design: logic, annotation, materials and size	6
Drawing quality and presentation	2

Q25 (15 marks). Approach:

Pick one object that can transform, e.g. for 'Migrating birds' a tap, a seed, a bulb or a bird. Frame 1: the starting situation; frames 2 and 3: gradual changes (size, position, number); frame 4: the end state. Keep the background fixed so that the viewer sees only the change. Write a sentence that names the message (for example, 'small steps make a big change').

Criterion	Marks
Clear idea of change across frames	6
Smart, simple use of shapes/lines	4
Consistency of style	3
Explanatory sentence	2

Q26 (20 marks). Approach:

List the main functions and shapes of a teapot and of a stapler, 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