

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 18

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. In a queue, Meera is 16th from the front and 19th from the back. How many people are in the queue?

[1 mark]

- (1) 36 (2) 35 (3) 3 (4) 34

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

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

3. 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

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

- (1) 39 (2) 38 (3) 40 (4) 37

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

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

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



(1)



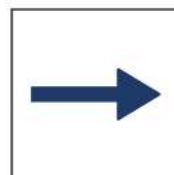
(2)



(3)



(4)



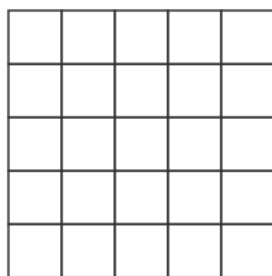
6. The Bauhaus school was founded by [1 mark]

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

7. A designer walks 18 m north, turns right and walks 15 m, then turns right again and walks 10 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

- (1) 43 m (2) 3 m (3) 17 m (4) 23 m

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



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

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

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

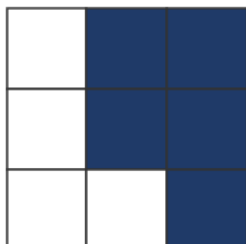


10. The 'Mona Lisa' was painted by [1 mark]

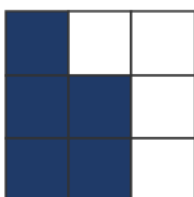
- (1) Vincent van Gogh (2) Michelangelo (3) Raphael (4) Leonardo da Vinci

11. The figure shown is rotated 90° clockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

Given figure



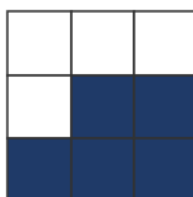
(1)



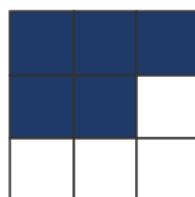
(2)



(3)



(4)



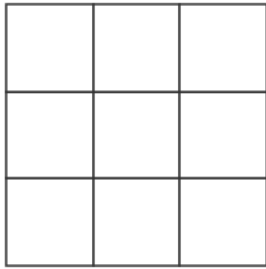
12. Which of the following is a principle of design? [1 mark]

- (1) Form (2) Line (3) Texture (4) Contrast

13. Find the next term of the series: 2, 7, 17, 37, 77, ? [1 mark]

- (1) 159 (2) 158 (3) 157 (4) 156

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



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

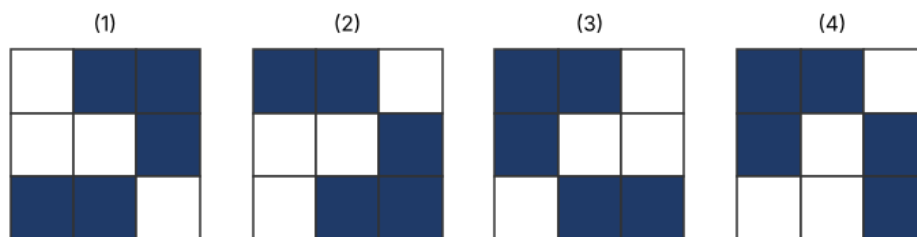
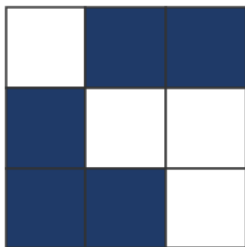
Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. A product measuring 2500 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 25. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

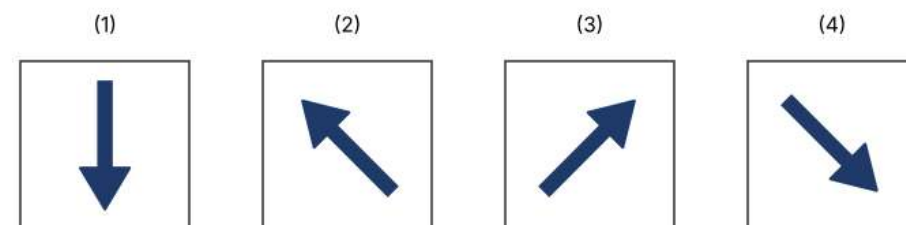
- (1) 625 mm (2) 50 mm (3) 200 mm (4) 100 mm

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

Given figure



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

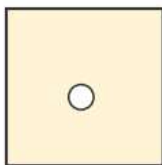


18. A poster is 10 cm by 6 cm. If its area is increased by 10%, the new area is [2 marks]

- (1) 72 cm² (2) 70 cm² (3) 120 cm² (4) 66 cm²

19. 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) 4 (2) 3 (3) 5 (4) 2

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

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

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

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

21. A 72 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 4 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 37 cm (2) 48 cm (3) 40 cm (4) 32 cm

22. In photography, a long exposure of moving water makes it look [2 marks]

- (1) Frozen and sharp (2) Black and white (3) Smooth and blurred (4) Upside down

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

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

24. Problem solving. A single pair of scissors 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 bus stop in the rain that begins calmly and ends with loneliness. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]

26. Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Local food' for a general audience on an A4-sized frame. Use at most three colours (red, yellow 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.

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 18

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (4) - 34

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = 16 + 19 - 1 = 34.

Q2. Answer: (4) - Fitting products to human use and comfort

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

Q3. Answer: (2) - 38

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: 2 + 2 + 1 + 3 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 38.

Q4. Answer: (1) - Charles and Ray Eames

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

Q5. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 90°, 315°, 180°, 45°). The next angle is 45° - 135° = 270°, which is option (2).

Q6. Answer: (4) - Walter Gropius

Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus in 1919.

Q7. Answer: (3) - 17 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (18 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is 18 - 10 = 8 m, and the sideways movement is 15 m. Distance = $\sqrt{8^2 + 15^2} = 17$ m.

Q8. 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.

Q9. Answer: (4)

Three figures are quadrilaterals (4 sides). Figure (4) has 3 sides, a triangle, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q10. Answer: (4) - Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci painted it in the early 1500s.

Q11. Answer: (3)

Rotate the whole grid 90° clockwise: the top row moves to the right column, so every shaded square moves one quarter-turn about the centre. Rotating the other way, by 180°, or flipping (mirror) gives the other options. Only option (3) matches a pure 90° clockwise turn.

Q12. Answer: (4) - Contrast

Principles describe how elements are organised: balance, contrast, emphasis, rhythm, unity, proportion. Line, texture and form are elements.

Q13. Answer: (3) - 157

Each term = previous × 2 + 3. So the next term is 77 × 2 + 3 = 157.

Q14. 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.

Q15. Answer: (4) - 100 mm

At a scale of 1 : 25, drawing length = actual length ÷ 25 = 2500 ÷ 25 = 100 mm.

Q16. Answer: (3)

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 (3). The remaining options are rotations or the opposite flip, which a mirror cannot produce.

Q17. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 135°, 180°, 225°, 270°). The next angle is 270° + 45° = 315°, which is option (4).

Q18. Answer: (4) - 66 cm²

Original area = 10 × 6 = 60 cm². A 10% increase gives 60 × 110/100 = 66 cm².

Q19. Answer: (1) - 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).

Q20. Answer: (3) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q21. Answer: (3) - 40 cm

Total parts = $4 + 5 = 9$. One part = $72 \div 9 = 8$. The larger share = $5 \times 8 = 40$.

Q22. Answer: (3) - Smooth and blurred

A long shutter time blurs motion, giving a silky look to water.

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 busy bazaar before drawing. For calm, 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:

Think of the pair of scissors 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 (loneliness). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a bus stop in the rain, 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 'Local food' 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 red for the main shape, yellow 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