

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.

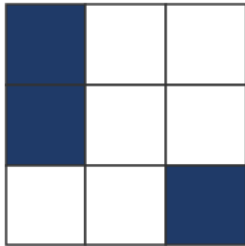
MOCK TEST 2

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

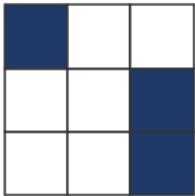
SECTION A - Objective (30 marks): Q1-14 carry 1 mark each, Q15-22 carry 2 marks each

1. A mirror is placed on the bottom (a horizontal mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [1 mark]

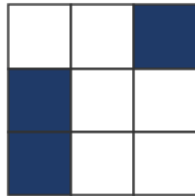
Given figure



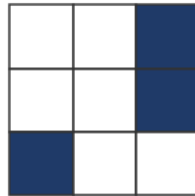
(1)



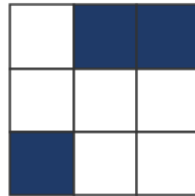
(2)



(3)

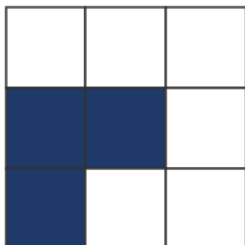


(4)

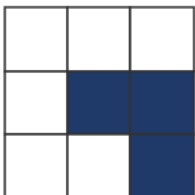


2. The figure shown is rotated 90° anticlockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

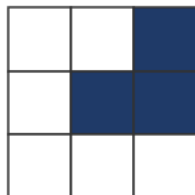
Given figure



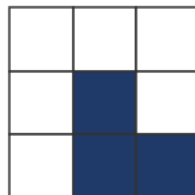
(1)



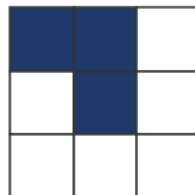
(2)



(3)



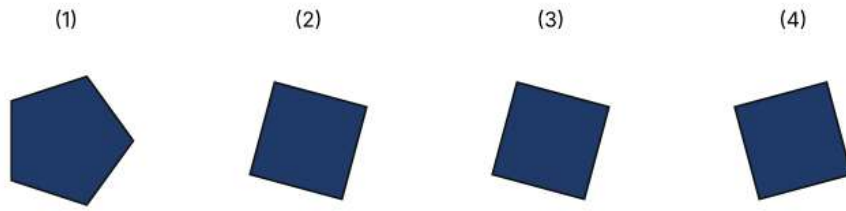
(4)



3. B. V. Doshi, the Pritzker-prize winning architect, designed the campus of [1 mark]

- (1) Gateway of India
- (2) CEPT University and IIM Bengaluru's campus
- (3) IIT Delhi only
- (4) India Gate

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



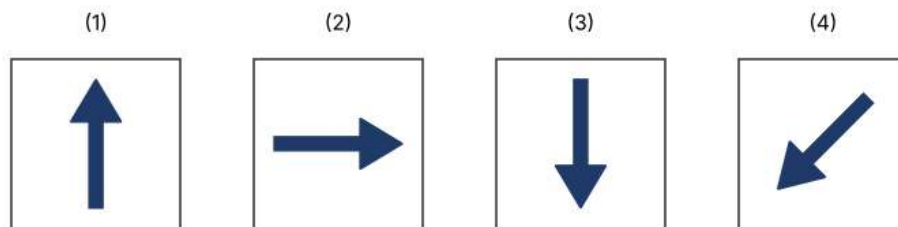
5. The first step of the 'design thinking' process is usually [1 mark]

- (1) Fix the price (2) Print the packaging
(3) Empathise with users (4) Test the final product

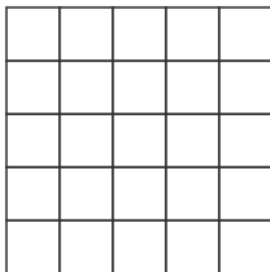
6. Shades are made by adding ____ to a pure hue. [1 mark]

- (1) Grey (2) Red (3) Black (4) White

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



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



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

9. In a code, POSTER is written as NMQRCP. How is SKETCH written in the same code? [1 mark]

- (1) QICRAF (2) RJDSBG (3) PHBQZE (4) UMGVEJ

10. In typography, a typeface without small decorative strokes at the ends of letters is called [1 mark]

- (1) Serif (2) Script (3) Sans serif (4) Slab

11. A designer walks 13 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 8 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

- (1) 17 m (2) 33 m (3) 1 m (4) 13 m

12. An 'isometric' drawing shows an object with axes drawn at [1 mark]

- (1) 120° to each other (2) 45° to each other (3) 60° and 30° only (4) 90° only

13. Of 120 design students, 45 like sketching, 45 like clay modelling and 19 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

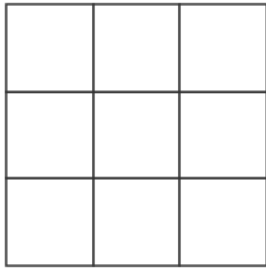
- (1) 30 (2) 101 (3) 49 (4) 71

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

- 23.** Using only a circle, a triangle and a square (you may repeat, resize or overlap them), build three different characters or objects that could belong in a scene of a rooftop at sunset. Add simple lines, patterns or textures to finish each. Give each one a one-line caption. [15 marks]
- 24.** Problem solving. A single helmet 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 calm. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]
- 26.** Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Wonders of the night sky' for a general audience on an A4-sized frame. Use at most three colours (blue, orange and white). 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.

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



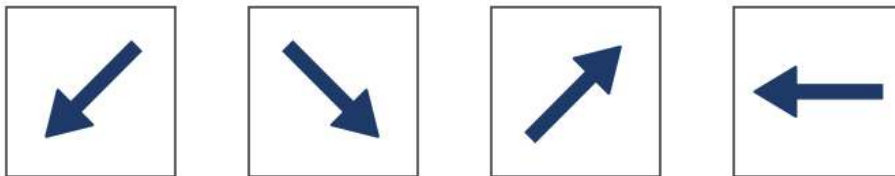
- (1) 11 (2) 17 (3) 14 (4) 9

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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

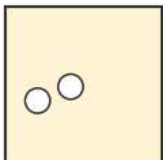


- (1) (2) (3) (4)



16. A square sheet of paper is folded twice (in half, then in half again) and 2 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) 8 (2) 9 (3) 4 (4) 7

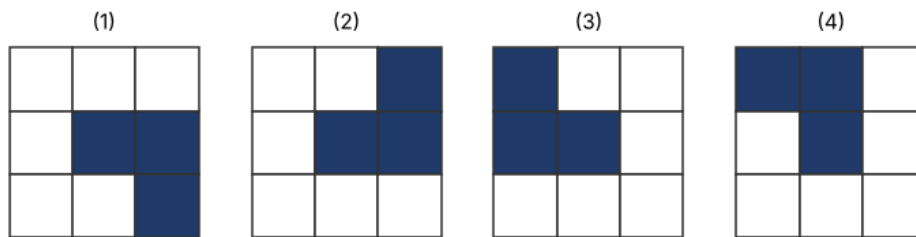
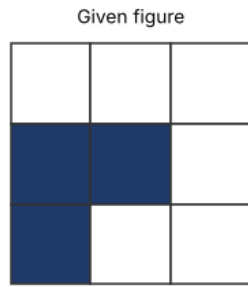
17. A solid is built by stacking unit cubes as per the top-view plan shown. How many cubes are used in all? [2 marks]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

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

- (1) 38 (2) 39 (3) 37 (4) 36

18. A mirror is placed on the right-hand side (a vertical mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [2 marks]



19. Of 100 design students, 44 like sketching, 32 like clay modelling and 9 like both. How many like neither? [2 marks]

- (1) 91 (2) 67 (3) 33 (4) 24

20. The CMYK colour model is mainly used for [2 marks]

- (1) Printing (2) Sound design (3) Photography lenses (4) Screen display

21. Of 80 design students, 37 like sketching, 32 like clay modelling and 19 like both. How many like neither? [2 marks]

- (1) 11 (2) 30 (3) 50 (4) 61

22. A poster is 6 cm by 6 cm. If its area is increased by 50%, the new area is [2 marks]

- (1) 60 cm² (2) 54 cm² (3) 72 cm² (4) 86 cm²

WORKED SOLUTIONS

Section A solutions give the correct option and the reasoning. Section B gives an approach and a marking rubric.

Solutions - Mock Test 2

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (2)

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

Q2. Answer: (3)

Rotate the whole grid 90° anticlockwise: the top row moves to the left 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° anticlockwise turn.

Q3. Answer: (2) - CEPT University and IIM Bengaluru's campus

B. V. Doshi designed CEPT's campus, IIM Bangalore, and Sangath (his studio) among others.

Q4. Answer: (1)

Three figures are quadrilaterals (4 sides). Figure (1) has 5 sides, a pentagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q5. Answer: (3) - Empathise with users

Design thinking usually runs empathise → define → ideate → prototype → test.

Q6. Answer: (3) - Black

Shade = hue + black.

Q7. Answer: (3)

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 (3).

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: (1) - QICRAF

Compare P → N: every letter moves 2 places back in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to SKETCH: S K E T C H → Q I C R A F.

Q10. Answer: (3) - Sans serif

'Sans' means 'without'. Sans-serif letters lack the small finishing strokes (serifs).

Q11. Answer: (4) - 13 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (13 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $13 - 8 = 5$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13$ m.

Q12. Answer: (1) - 120° to each other

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

Q13. Answer: (3) - 49

Students who like at least one = $45 + 45 - 19 = 71$. Neither = $120 - 71 = 49$.

Q14. Answer: (3) - 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: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 45°, 0°, 315°, 270°). The next angle is $270^\circ - 45^\circ = 225^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q16. Answer: (1) - 8

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded twice (in half, then in half again), so 2 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 4 layers. Unfolding gives $2 \times 4 = 8$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q17. Answer: (3) - 37

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $4 + 3 + 4 + 2 + 2 + 1 + 3 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 3 + 3 + 1 + 2 + 2 = 37$.

Q18. Answer: (1)

A mirror placed along the right-hand side (a vertical mirror) reverses the figure left-to-right and leaves the other direction unchanged. Reverse each row of the grid to get option (1). The remaining options are rotations or the opposite flip, which a mirror cannot produce.

Q19. Answer: (3) - 33

Students who like at least one = $44 + 32 - 9 = 67$. Neither = $100 - 67 = 33$.

Q20. Answer: (1) - Printing

CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow, key/black) is the subtractive ink model used in printing; RGB is used for screens.

Q21. Answer: (2) - 30

Students who like at least one = $37 + 32 - 19 = 50$. Neither = $80 - 50 = 30$.

Q22. Answer: (2) - 54 cm²

Original area = $6 \times 6 = 36 \text{ cm}^2$. A 50% increase gives $36 \times 150/100 = 54 \text{ cm}^2$.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Look for hidden objects inside the shapes: a circle can become a head, wheel, sun or fruit; a triangle can be a body, roof or box; a square 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 rooftop at sunset (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 helmet 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 (calm). 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 'Wonders of the night sky' 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 blue for the main shape, orange for emphasis and white 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

ANSWER KEY – SECTION A

Each entry is the number of the correct option, (1) to (4). Section B has no fixed answer key; see the approach and rubric in the solutions.

Mock Test 1

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

Mock Test 2

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

Mock Test 3

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

Mock Test 4

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

Mock Test 5

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

Mock Test 6

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