

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 21

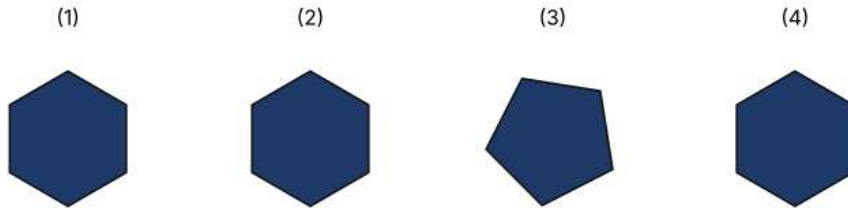
Time: 3 hours · Maximum marks: 100 · No negative marking

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

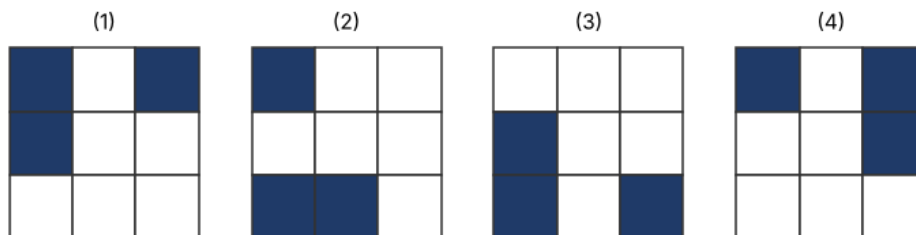
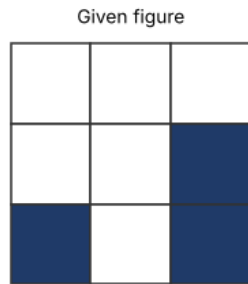
1. In user-centred design, a 'prototype' is [1 mark]

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

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



3. A mirror is placed on the right-hand side (a vertical mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [1 mark]



4. Which material is traditionally used for Channapatna toys? [1 mark]

- (1) Clay
- (2) Brass
- (3) Wood
- (4) Cloth

5. 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

6. In a queue, Meera is 19th from the front and 14th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]

- (1) 33
- (2) 5
- (3) 34
- (4) 32

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

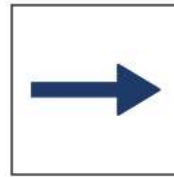


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



8. Which Indian city is known as the 'Blue City'? [1 mark]

(1) Jodhpur

(2) Ajmer

(3) Jaipur

(4) Bikaner

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

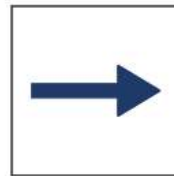


(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



10. In a code, SHAPE is written as VKDSH. How is FRAME written in the same code? [1 mark]

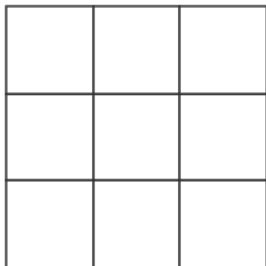
(1) IUDPH

(2) HTCOG

(3) JVEQI

(4) COXJB

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



(1) 9

(2) 11

(3) 17

(4) 14

12. Of 100 design students, 28 like sketching, 33 like clay modelling and 18 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

(1) 57

(2) 39

(3) 82

(4) 43

13. Cubism was pioneered by Pablo Picasso and [1 mark]

(1) Henri Matisse

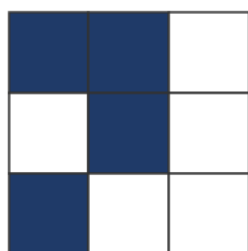
(2) Claude Monet

(3) Georges Braque

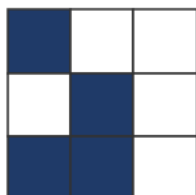
(4) Edvard Munch

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

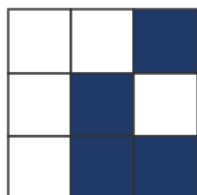
Given figure



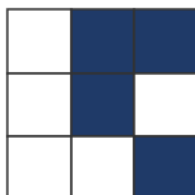
(1)



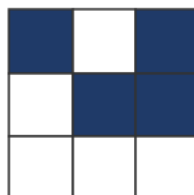
(2)



(3)



(4)



Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



16. A 32 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 3 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

(1) 12 cm

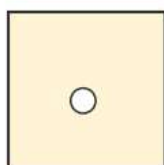
(2) 17 cm

(3) 24 cm

(4) 20 cm

17. 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) 5

(2) 2

(3) 4

(4) 3

18. 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) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 1

19. A poster is 20 cm by 5 cm. If its area is increased by 50%, the new area is [2 marks]

- (1) 151 cm² (2) 200 cm² (3) 155 cm² (4) 150 cm²

20. Find the next term of the series: 3, 11, 35, 107, 323, ? [2 marks]

- (1) 970 (2) 971 (3) 972 (4) 973

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

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

0	1	0
2	4	4
2	0	4

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

22. Which colour is the complement of blue on the traditional RYB colour wheel? [2 marks]

- (1) Purple (2) Orange (3) Green (4) Yellow

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

- 23.** Draw a quick scene of a rooftop at sunset. 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.** Design thinking. Redesign an everyday hand fan for a left-handed user. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual hand fan. [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 'Monsoon joy' 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 wall clock and a pencil sharpener. (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 21

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

Mock Test 22

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

Mock Test 23

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

Mock Test 24

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

Mock Test 25

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

Mock Test 26

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

Mock Test 27

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

Solutions - Mock Test 21

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (3) - An early sample used to test an idea

Prototypes let designers test and improve ideas before final production.

Q2. Answer: (3)

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

Q3. Answer: (3)

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

Q4. Answer: (3) - Wood

Channapatna (Karnataka) toys are lacquered wooden toys.

Q5. Answer: (3) - Charles and Ray Eames

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

Q6. Answer: (4) - 32

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = 19 + 14 - 1 = 32.

Q7. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 0°, 45°, 90°, 135°). The next angle is 135° + 45° = 180°, which is option (3).

Q8. Answer: (1) - Jodhpur

Many houses in old Jodhpur are painted blue.

Q9. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180°, 315°, 90°, 225°). The next angle is 225° + 135° = 0°, which is option (4).

Q10. Answer: (1) - IUDPH

Compare S → V: every letter moves 3 places forward in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to FRAME: F R A M E → I U D P H.

Q11. 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.

Q12. Answer: (1) - 57

Students who like at least one = 28 + 33 - 18 = 43. Neither = 100 - 43 = 57.

Q13. Answer: (3) - Georges Braque

Picasso and Braque developed Cubism around 1907-1914.

Q14. 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.

Q15. Answer: (2)

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° + 135° = 180°, which is option (2).

Q16. Answer: (4) - 20 cm

Total parts = 3 + 5 = 8. One part = 32 ÷ 8 = 4. The larger share = 5 × 4 = 20.

Q17. 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 × 4 = 4 holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q18. Answer: (1) - 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).

Q19. Answer: (4) - 150 cm²

Original area = $20 \times 5 = 100 \text{ cm}^2$. A 50% increase gives $100 \times 150/100 = 150 \text{ cm}^2$.

Q20. Answer: (2) - 971

Each term = previous $\times 3 + 2$. So the next term is $323 \times 3 + 2 = 971$.

Q21. Answer: (4) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q22. Answer: (2) - Orange

Complementary colours sit opposite each other. Opposite blue is 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 rooftop at sunset 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:

Empathise: imagine a day in the life of a left-handed user using a hand fan. 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 'Monsoon joy' 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 wall clock and of a pencil sharpener, 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