

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.

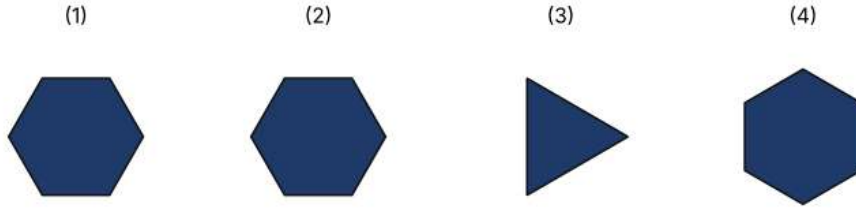
These are original practice questions, not official NID papers.

MOCK TEST 24

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

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

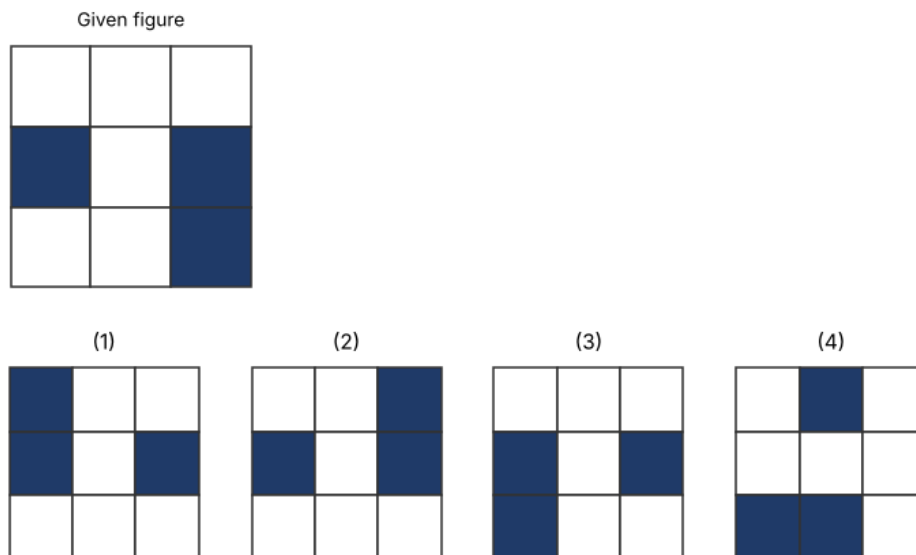
3. The 'Mona Lisa' was painted by [1 mark]

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

4. The National Institute of Design (NID) was set up in India in the early 1960s in [1 mark]

- (1) Delhi
- (2) Ahmedabad
- (3) Mumbai
- (4) Bengaluru

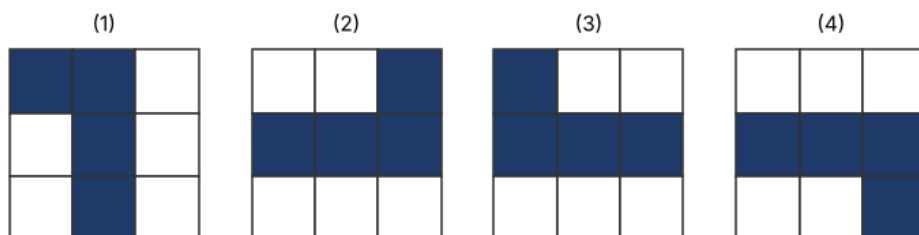
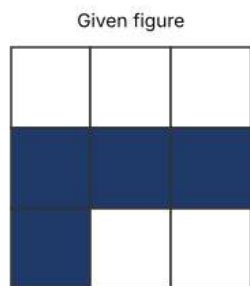
5. A mirror is placed on the bottom (a horizontal mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [1 mark]



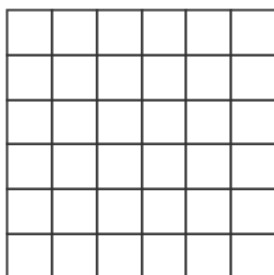
6. 'Guernica' is a famous painting by [1 mark]

- (1) Paul Cézanne
- (2) Salvador Dalí
- (3) Rembrandt
- (4) Pablo Picasso

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



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



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

9. In a queue, Meera is 15th from the front and 11th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]

- (1) 27 (2) 26 (3) 25 (4) 4

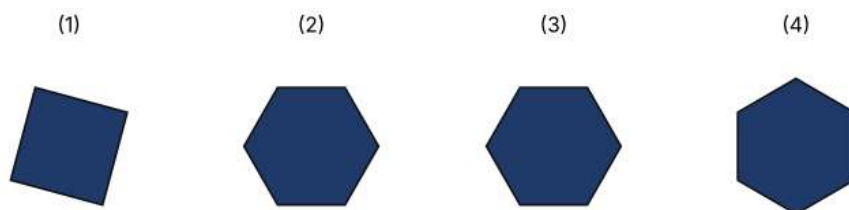
10. The NID Ahmedabad campus is closely associated with the 1958 India report prepared by [1 mark]

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

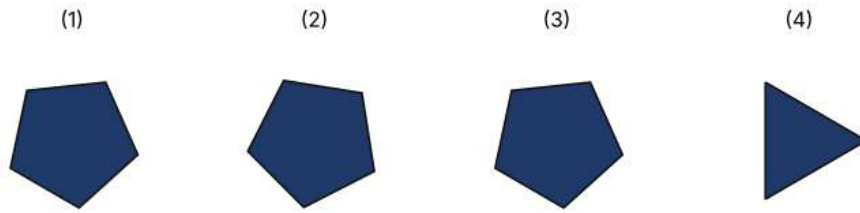
11. In a queue, Meera is 14th from the front and 8th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]

- (1) 21 (2) 23 (3) 6 (4) 22

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



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

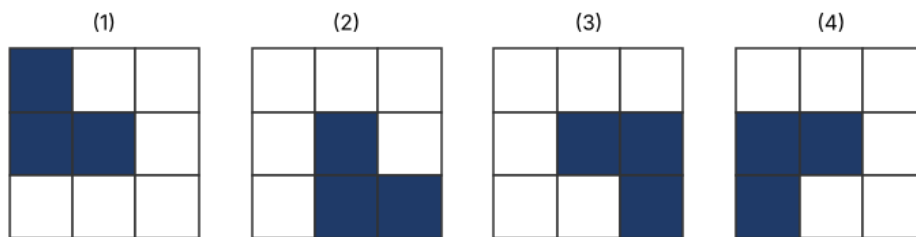
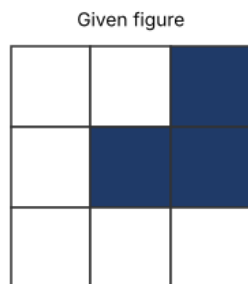


14. In a code, SHAPE is written as RGZOD. How is LAYOUT written in the same code? [1 mark]

- (1) KZXNTS (2) LAYOUT (3) MBZPVU (4) JYWMSR

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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



16. A product measuring 2000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 20. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

- (1) 50 mm (2) 400 mm (3) 100 mm (4) 200 mm

17. Find the next term of the series: 5, 18, 57, 174, 525, ? [2 marks]

- (1) 1579 (2) 1577 (3) 1578 (4) 1580

18. Charles Correa, a famous Indian architect, designed the [2 marks]

- (1) Red Fort (2) Victoria Memorial
(3) Gateway of India (4) Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

19. 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) 1 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 2

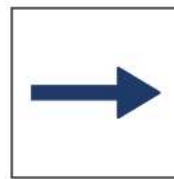
20. A designer walks 16 m north, turns right and walks 15 m, then turns right again and walks 8 m. How far is she from the starting point? [2 marks]

- (1) 23 m (2) 1 m (3) 39 m (4) 17 m

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



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



22. 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

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

- (1) 43 (2) 42 (3) 41 (4) 40

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

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

24. Problem solving. A single shopping bag 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 excitement. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]

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

Solutions - Mock Test 24

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (3)

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

Q2. Answer: (2) - Fitting products to human use and comfort

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

Q3. Answer: (4) - Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci painted it in the early 1500s.

Q4. Answer: (2) - Ahmedabad

NID's main campus is in Paladi, Ahmedabad (set up in 1961).

Q5. 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.

Q6. Answer: (4) - Pablo Picasso

Picasso painted Guernica (1937) in response to the bombing of the Spanish town.

Q7. Answer: (4)

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

Q8. Answer: (3) - 91

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

Q9. Answer: (3) - 25

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = $15 + 11 - 1 = 25$.

Q10. Answer: (2) - Charles and Ray Eames

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

Q11. Answer: (1) - 21

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = $14 + 8 - 1 = 21$.

Q12. Answer: (1)

Three figures are hexagons (6 sides). Figure (1) has 4 sides, a quadrilateral, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q13. Answer: (4)

Three figures are pentagons (5 sides). Figure (4) has 3 sides, a triangle, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q14. Answer: (1) - KZXNTS

Compare S → R: every letter moves 1 place back in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to LAYOUT: L A Y O U T → K Z X N T S.

Q15. 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.

Q16. Answer: (3) - 100 mm

At a scale of 1 : 20, drawing length = actual length ÷ 20 = $2000 \div 20 = 100$ mm.

Q17. Answer: (3) - 1578

Each term = previous × 3 + 3. So the next term is $525 \times 3 + 3 = 1578$.

Q18. Answer: (4) - Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

Charles Correa designed Jawahar Kala Kendra (1991) in Jaipur.

Q19. Answer: (4) - 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).

Q20. Answer: (4) - 17 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (16 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $16 - 8 = 8$ m, and the sideways movement is 15 m. Distance = $\sqrt{8^2 + 15^2} = 17$ m.

Q21. Answer: (4)

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

Q22. Answer: (3) - 41

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $3 + 2 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 4 = 41$.

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 kitchen at dawn before drawing. For pride, 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 shopping bag 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 (excitement). 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 'Clean streets' 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 purple for the main shape, yellow 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

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		