

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 25

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. Warli art, known for simple geometric human figures in white on a mud background, belongs to [1 mark]

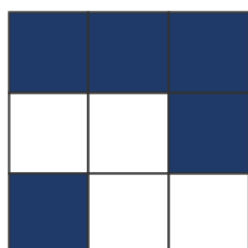
- (1) Maharashtra (2) Punjab (3) Gujarat (4) Assam

2. A designer walks 16 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 7 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

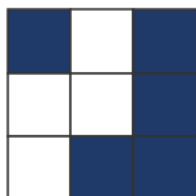
- (1) 15 m (2) 4 m (3) 21 m (4) 35 m

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

Given figure



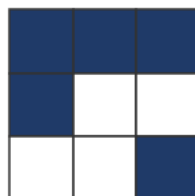
(1)



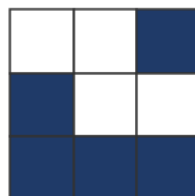
(2)



(3)



(4)



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

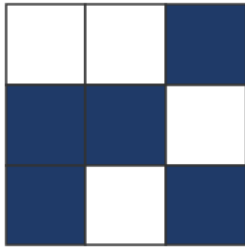
- (1) Fitting products to human use and comfort
(2) Pricing of products
(3) Choosing colours for logos
(4) Printing methods

5. The three primary colours of the traditional RYB (artist's) colour wheel are [1 mark]

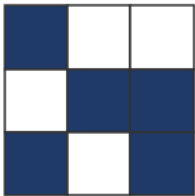
- (1) Cyan, magenta and yellow (2) Red, yellow and blue
(3) Orange, green and purple (4) Red, green and blue

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

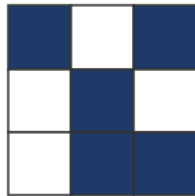
Given figure



(1)



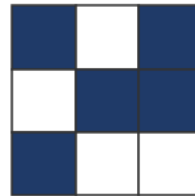
(2)



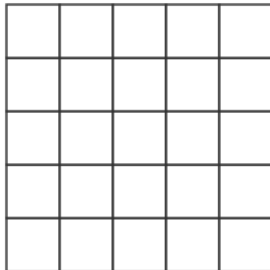
(3)



(4)



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



(1) 50

(2) 25

(3) 60

(4) 55

8. In a code, MODEL is written as JLABI. How is SHAPE written in the same code? [1 mark]

(1) QFYNC

(2) PEXMB

(3) ODWLA

(4) VKDSH

9. The CMYK colour model is mainly used for [1 mark]

(1) Photography lenses

(2) Sound design

(3) Screen display

(4) Printing

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

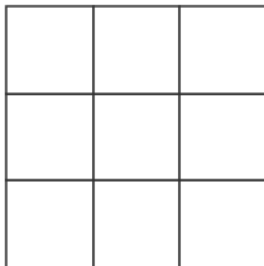
(1) HTCOCG

(2) DPYKC

(3) GSBNF

(4) IUDPH

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



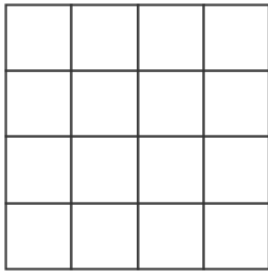
(1) 9

(2) 17

(3) 14

(4) 11

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

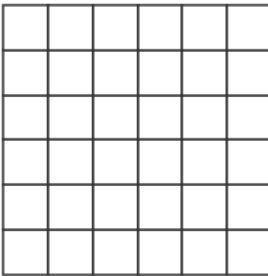


- (1) 16 (2) 26 (3) 34 (4) 30

13. Kalamkari, a hand-painted or block-printed textile art, is traditionally from [1 mark]

- (1) Punjab (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Gujarat (4) Manipur

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



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

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



16. 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? [2 marks]

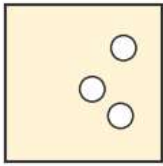
- (1) 33 m (2) 13 m (3) 17 m (4) 1 m

17. Which Indian city is known as the 'Blue City'? [2 marks]

- (1) Jodhpur (2) Bikaner (3) Ajmer (4) Jaipur

18. 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) 13 (2) 6 (3) 11 (4) 12

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



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



20. 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

4	4	0
3	3	1
2	2	4

- (1) 13 (2) 11 (3) 12 (4) 14

21. A 70 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 2 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 20 cm (2) 36 cm (3) 50 cm (4) 60 cm

22. A 50 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 1 : 4. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 40 cm (2) 50 cm (3) 10 cm (4) 26 cm

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

23. Observe a stapler carefully (from memory or from a real one near you). (a) Draw it from three different viewpoints: front, top and a 3/4 view. [9 marks] (b) Show two close-up details (e.g. a joint, handle, texture or pattern) and label what material you think each part is made of. [6 marks]

24. Design thinking. Redesign an everyday extension board for a trekker. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual extension board. [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 'Road safety' 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. Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Clean streets' 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.

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 25

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (1) - Maharashtra

Warli art is practised by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra.

Q2. Answer: (1) - 15 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (16 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $16 - 7 = 9$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{9^2 + 12^2} = 15$ m.

Q3. Answer: (2)

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 (2) matches a pure 90° anticlockwise turn.

Q4. Answer: (1) - Fitting products to human use and comfort

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

Q5. Answer: (2) - Red, yellow and blue

Artists' RYB primaries are red, yellow and blue. Red-green-blue is the additive light model, and cyan-magenta-yellow is the print model.

Q6. Answer: (2)

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 (2) matches a pure 90° anticlockwise turn.

Q7. Answer: (4) - 55

Count squares by size. In an 5×5 grid there are $(5-k+1)^2$ squares of side k: $25 + 16 + 9 + 4 + 1 = 55$.

Q8. Answer: (2) - PEXMB

Compare M $\rightarrow$ J: every letter moves 3 places back in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to SHAPE: S H A P E $\rightarrow$ P E X M B.

Q9. Answer: (4) - Printing

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

Q10. Answer: (1) - HTC OG

Compare S $\rightarrow$ U: every letter moves 2 places forward in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to FRAME: F R A M E $\rightarrow$ H T C O G.

Q11. Answer: (3) - 14

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

Q12. Answer: (4) - 30

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

Q13. Answer: (2) - Andhra Pradesh

Kalamkari is associated with Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Q14. Answer: (4) - 91

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

Q15. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 0° , 315° , 270° , 225°). The next angle is $225^\circ - 45^\circ = 180^\circ$, which is option (2).

Q16. Answer: (2) - 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.

Q17. Answer: (1) - Jodhpur

Many houses in old Jodhpur are painted blue.

Q18. Answer: (4) - 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).

Q19. Answer: (4)

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

Q20. Answer: (3) - 12

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 4, 4, 4. Sum = 12.

Q21. Answer: (3) - 50 cm

Total parts = $2 + 5 = 7$. One part = $70 \div 7 = 10$. The larger share = $5 \times 10 = 50$.

Q22. Answer: (1) - 40 cm

Total parts = $1 + 4 = 5$. One part = $50 \div 5 = 10$. The larger share = $4 \times 10 = 40$.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Start with light construction shapes (a cylinder, box or cone) to block in the stapler, check proportions by comparing parts (e.g. handle length against the body), then firm up the outline. For the top view imagine looking straight down and keep widths consistent with the front view. In the 3/4 view overlap forms to show depth. For the close-ups, enlarge a joint or surface and use hatching, dots or cross-lines to show texture. Label each material (e.g. steel, plastic, wood) and say why it suits the job.

Criterion	Marks
Accurate proportions and construction in the three views	5
Variety and clarity of viewpoints	4
Detail studies with texture and line quality	3
Labels showing material and function	3

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Empathise: imagine a day in the life of a trekker using an extension board. 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 'Road safety' 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:

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 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