

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.

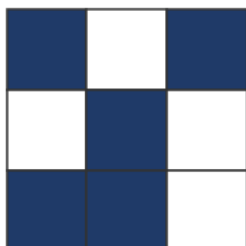
MOCK TEST 27

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

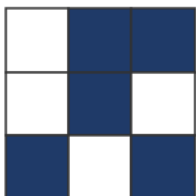
SECTION A - Objective (30 marks): Q1-14 carry 1 mark each, Q15-22 carry 2 marks each

1. In a queue, Meera is 6th from the front and 20th from the back. How many people are in the queue? [1 mark]
(1) 25 (2) 27 (3) 14 (4) 26
2. Warli art, known for simple geometric human figures in white on a mud background, belongs to [1 mark]
(1) Gujarat (2) Punjab (3) Maharashtra (4) Assam
3. In user-centred design, a 'prototype' is [1 mark]
(1) A type of font (2) A marketing slogan
(3) The final product on sale (4) An early sample used to test an idea
4. The figure shown is rotated 90° anticlockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

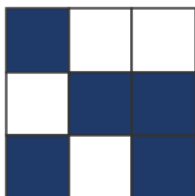
Given figure



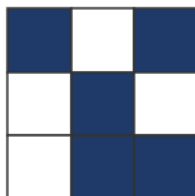
(1)



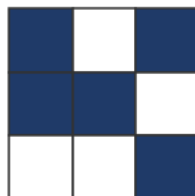
(2)



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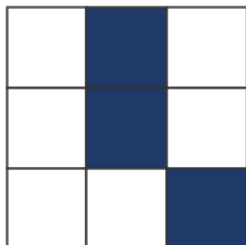


(4)

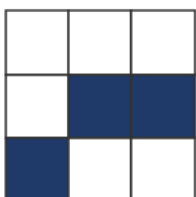


5. The figure shown is rotated 90° clockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

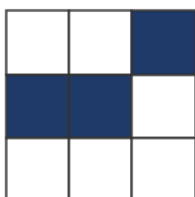
Given figure



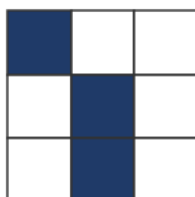
(1)



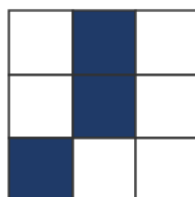
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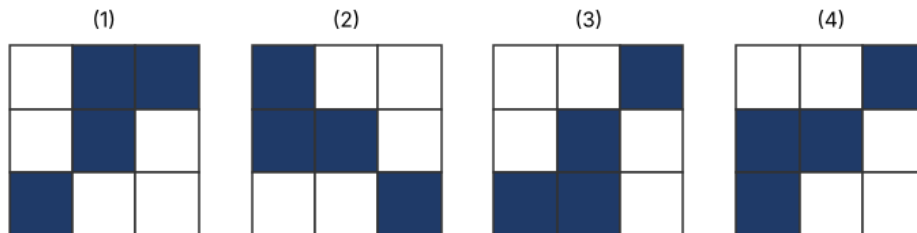
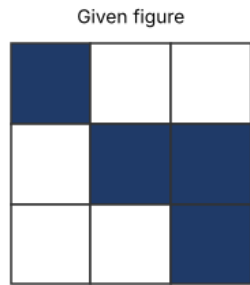
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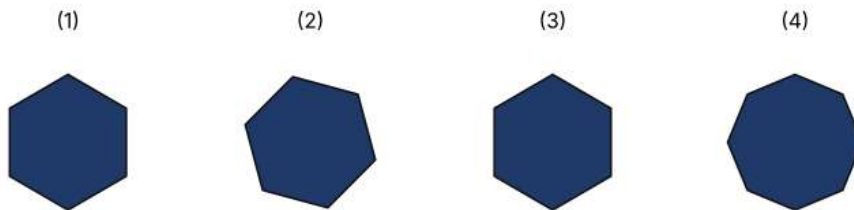
(4)



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



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



8. A designer walks 9 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 4 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

(1) 13 m (2) 17 m (3) 25 m (4) 3 m

9. Phulkari, an embroidery tradition, is native to [1 mark]

(1) Goa (2) Punjab (3) Kerala (4) Sikkim

10. Black and white are called neutral colours because they [1 mark]

(1) Are primary colours (2) Cannot be printed
(3) Are the brightest colours (4) Do not appear on the colour wheel

11. What is the height (in cubes) of the tallest stack in the solid? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes in each stack

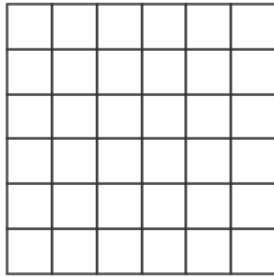
1	1	4
2	3	1
1	1	3

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

12. Which designer is known for the iconic Mumbai-linked 'Air India Maharajah' mascot? [1 mark]

(1) R. K. Laxman (2) Raghu Rai
(3) Satyajit Ray (4) Bobby Kooka and Umesh Rao

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



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

14. Find the next term of the series: 4, 14, 44, 134, 404, ? [1 mark]

- (1) 1213 (2) 1216 (3) 1215 (4) 1214

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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

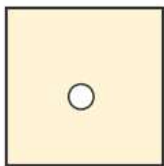
Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

1	0	0
0	4	1
4	1	1

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

16. 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) 3 (3) 2 (4) 4

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



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

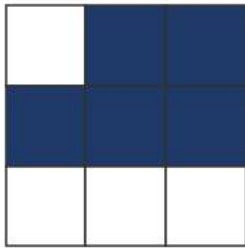


18. Which of the following is a renewable material? [2 marks]

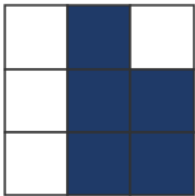
- (1) Plastic (virgin) (2) Petrol (3) Coal (4) Bamboo

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

Given figure



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



20. Find the next term of the series: 68, 85, 104, 125, 148, ? [2 marks]

- (1) 172 (2) 175 (3) 174 (4) 173

21. A product measuring 4000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 2. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

- (1) 4000 mm (2) 2000 mm (3) 80 mm (4) 1000 mm

22. A 40 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 3 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 15 cm (2) 21 cm (3) 30 cm (4) 25 cm

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

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

24. Design thinking. Redesign an everyday stapler for a hostel student. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual stapler. [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 'Planting trees' 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 cooking pot and a hand fan. (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 27

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (1) - 25

Total = (position from left) + (position from right) - 1 = 6 + 20 - 1 = 25.

Q2. Answer: (3) - Maharashtra

Warli art is practised by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra.

Q3. Answer: (4) - An early sample used to test an idea

Prototypes let designers test and improve ideas before final production.

Q4. 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.

Q5. Answer: (1)

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 (1) matches a pure 90° clockwise turn.

Q6. 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.

Q7. Answer: (4)

Three figures are hexagons (6 sides). Figure (4) has 8 sides, a octagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q8. Answer: (1) - 13 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (9 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is 9 - 4 = 5 m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13$ m.

Q9. Answer: (2) - Punjab

Phulkari ('flower work') is Punjabi embroidery.

Q10. Answer: (4) - Do not appear on the colour wheel

Neutrals (black, white, grey) are not hues on the colour wheel.

Q11. Answer: (2) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q12. Answer: (4) - Bobby Kooka and Umesh Rao

The Maharajah mascot was created for Air India by Bobby Kooka with artist Umesh Rao in 1946.

Q13. 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.

Q14. Answer: (4) - 1214

Each term = previous × 3 + 2. So the next term is 404 × 3 + 2 = 1214.

Q15. Answer: (2) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q16. Answer: (4) - 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).

Q17. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 90°, 0°, 270°, 180°). The next angle is 180° - 90° = 90°, which is option (2).

Q18. Answer: (4) - Bamboo

Bamboo regrows quickly; plastics, coal and petrol come from fossil fuels.

Q19. Answer: (2)

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

Q20. Answer: (4) - 173

The terms are the squares 64, 81, 100, 121, 144 plus 4. The next square is $169 + 4 = 173$.

Q21. Answer: (2) - 2000 mm

At a scale of 1 : 2, drawing length = actual length $\div$ 2 = $4000 \div 2 = 2000$ mm.

Q22. Answer: (4) - 25 cm

Total parts = $3 + 5 = 8$. One part = $40 \div 8 = 5$. The larger share = $5 \times 5 = 25$.

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 school playground at recess before drawing. For curiosity, 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 hostel student using a stapler. 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 'Planting trees' 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 cooking pot and of a hand fan, 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