

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 28

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. Of 120 design students, 30 like sketching, 43 like clay modelling and 9 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

- (1) 56 (2) 111 (3) 64 (4) 47

2. A designer walks 23 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 14 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

- (1) 15 m (2) 49 m (3) 21 m (4) 11 m

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

(1)



(2)



(3)

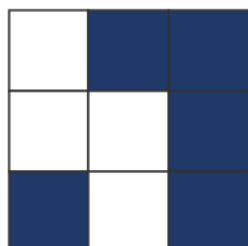


(4)

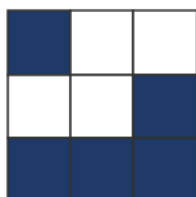


4. A mirror is placed on the bottom (a horizontal mirror) of the figure. Which option shows the mirror image? [1 mark]

Given figure



(1)



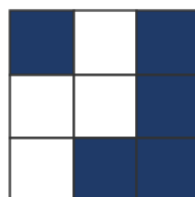
(2)



(3)



(4)



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

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

6. Pattachitra is a traditional scroll painting of [1 mark]

- (1) Karnataka (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Goa (4) Odisha

7. An 'infographic' is mainly used to [1 mark]

- (1) Record sound (2) Present information visually
(3) Print on fabric (4) Compress files

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



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



9. In a code, CRAFT is written as ETCHV. How is SHAPE written in the same code? [1 mark]

(1) QFYNC

(2) TIBQF

(3) VKDSH

(4) UJCRG

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



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



11. A solid is built by stacking unit cubes as per the top-view plan shown. How many cubes are used in all? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

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

(1) 33

(2) 35

(3) 34

(4) 36

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

(1) Orange, green and purple

(2) Cyan, magenta and yellow

(3) Red, yellow and blue

(4) Red, green and blue

13. The Madhubani painting style is traditionally associated with [1 mark]

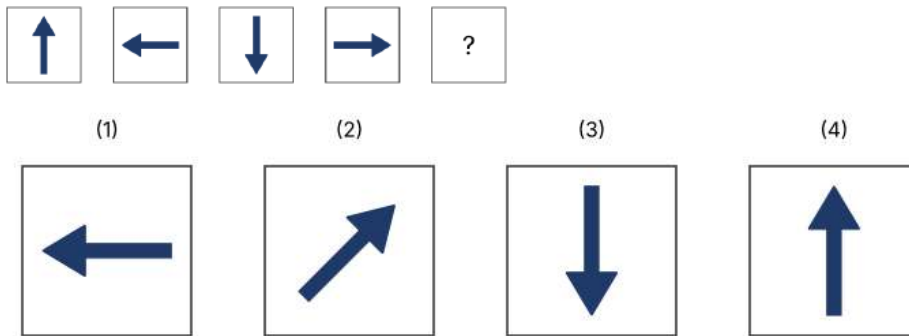
(1) Odisha

(2) Bihar

(3) Rajasthan

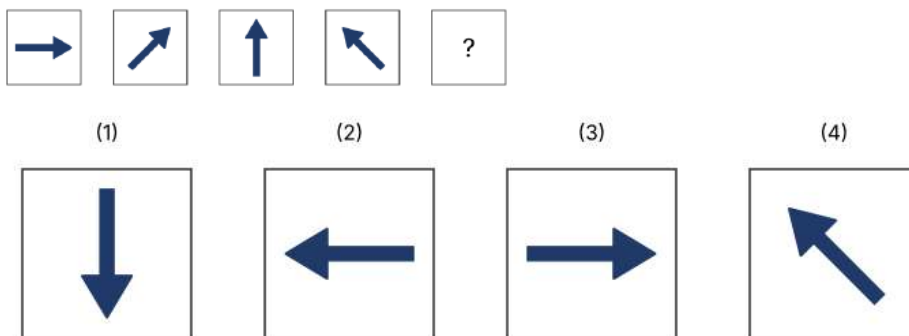
(4) Kerala

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



Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

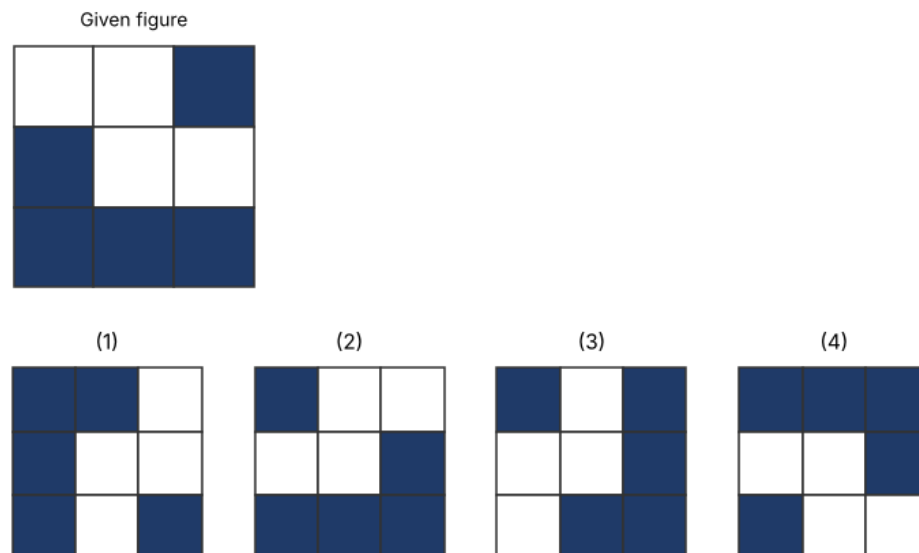
15. Find the figure that continues the series. [2 marks]



16. A poster is 11 cm by 10 cm. If its area is increased by 10%, the new area is [2 marks]

- (1) 120 cm² (2) 121 cm² (3) 131 cm² (4) 220 cm²

17. The figure shown is rotated 90° clockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [2 marks]



18. A designer walks 11 m north, turns right and walks 15 m, then turns right again and walks 3 m. How far is she from the starting point? [2 marks]

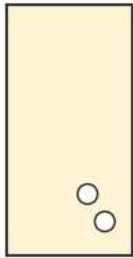
- (1) 17 m (2) 4 m (3) 23 m (4) 29 m

19. A 90 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 4 : 5. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 40 cm (2) 50 cm (3) 60 cm (4) 46 cm

20. A square sheet of paper is folded once (in half) 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) 5 (2) 2 (3) 3 (4) 4

21. 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

3	3	0
0	4	0
2	0	4

- (1) 11 (2) 10 (3) 13 (4) 12

22. Black and white are called neutral colours because they [2 marks]

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

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

- 23.** Observe a pencil sharpener 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.** Problem solving. A single table lamp 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 kitchen at dawn that begins calmly and ends with surprise. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]
- 26.** Imagination. Imagine a new object that combines a umbrella and a kettle. (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 28

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

Mock Test 29

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

Mock Test 30

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

Solutions - Mock Test 28

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (1) - 56

Students who like at least one = $30 + 43 - 9 = 64$. Neither = $120 - 64 = 56$.

Q2. Answer: (1) - 15 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (23 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $23 - 14 = 9$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{9^2 + 12^2} = 15$ m.

Q3. Answer: (3)

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

Q4. Answer: (4)

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

Q5. Answer: (2) - Maharashtra

Warli art is practised by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra.

Q6. Answer: (4) - Odisha

Pattachitra (cloth-based scroll painting) is from Odisha and West Bengal.

Q7. Answer: (2) - Present information visually

Infographics combine text, icons and data visuals so information can be understood quickly.

Q8. Answer: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are $135^\circ, 45^\circ, 315^\circ, 225^\circ$). The next angle is $225^\circ - 90^\circ = 135^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q9. Answer: (4) - UJCRG

Compare C $\rightarrow$ E: every letter moves 2 places forward in the alphabet. Apply the same shift to SHAPE: S H A P E $\rightarrow$ U J C R G.

Q10. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are $45^\circ, 270^\circ, 135^\circ, 0^\circ$). The next angle is $0^\circ - 135^\circ = 225^\circ$, which is option (2).

Q11. Answer: (3) - 34

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $3 + 2 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 3 + 1 + 1 + 4 + 4 + 2 + 3 = 34$.

Q12. Answer: (3) - 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.

Q13. Answer: (2) - Bihar

Madhubani (Mithila) painting comes from the Mithila region of Bihar.

Q14. Answer: (4)

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

Q15. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 45° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are $0^\circ, 45^\circ, 90^\circ, 135^\circ$). The next angle is $135^\circ + 45^\circ = 180^\circ$, which is option (2).

Q16. Answer: (2) - 121 cm^2

Original area = $11 \times 10 = 110 \text{ cm}^2$. A 10% increase gives $110 \times 110/100 = 121 \text{ cm}^2$.

Q17. 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.

Q18. Answer: (1) - 17 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (11 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $11 - 3 = 8$ m, and the sideways movement is 15 m. Distance = $\sqrt{8^2 + 15^2} = 17$ m.

Q19. Answer: (2) - 50 cm

Total parts = $4 + 5 = 9$. One part = $90 \div 9 = 10$. The larger share = $5 \times 10 = 50$.

Q20. Answer: (4) - 4

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

Q21. Answer: (1) - 11

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 3, 4, 4. Sum = 11.

Q22. Answer: (1) - Do not appear on the colour wheel

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

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Start with light construction shapes (a cylinder, box or cone) to block in the pencil sharpener, 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:

Think of the table lamp 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 (surprise). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a kitchen at dawn, 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:

List the main functions and shapes of a umbrella and of a kettle, 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