

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 29

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. Looking at the solid from the bottom edge of the plan (front view), how many unit squares of the front elevation are visible? [1 mark]

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

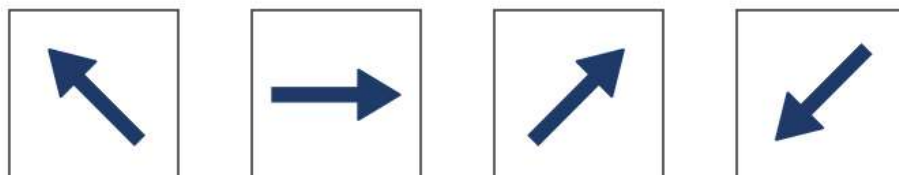
4	0	1	4
2	0	0	1
4	4	3	2
3	3	3	0

- (1) 17 (2) 14 (3) 15 (4) 16

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



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



3. The 'rule of thirds' is a guideline used in [1 mark]

- (1) Selecting fonts (2) Mixing colours
(3) Composition of images and layouts (4) Choosing paper size

4. B. V. Doshi, the Pritzker-prize winning architect, designed the campus of [1 mark]

- (1) CEPT University and IIM Bengaluru's campus
(2) India Gate
(3) IIT Delhi only
(4) Gateway of India

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

- (1) Henri Matisse (2) Claude Monet (3) Georges Braque (4) Edvard Munch

6. A designer walks 20 m north, turns right and walks 8 m, then turns right again and walks 14 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

- (1) 42 m (2) 12 m (3) 10 m (4) 14 m

7. The famous Mumbai Gateway of India monument is an example of which architectural style? [1 mark]

- (1) Art Deco (2) Brutalist
(3) Indo-Saracenic (4) Gothic Revival only

8. Find the next term of the series: 13, 20, 29, 40, 53, ? [1 mark]

(1) 68

(2) 67

(3) 70

(4) 69

9. A designer walks 16 m north, turns right and walks 8 m, then turns right again and walks 10 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

(1) 34 m

(2) 8 m

(3) 14 m

(4) 10 m

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

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



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



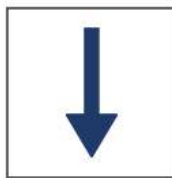
(1)



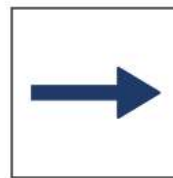
(2)



(3)



(4)



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

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



13. Universal design aims to make products [1 mark]

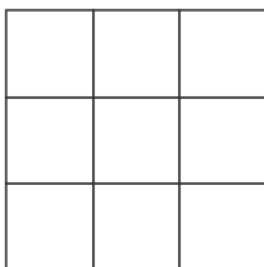
(1) Usable by people of all abilities

(2) Only for one region

(3) Only for experts

(4) Only for children

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



(1) 14

(2) 11

(3) 9

(4) 17

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. A 'mood board' is used by designers to [2 marks]

- (1) Measure room size
- (2) Calculate costs
- (3) Print final designs
- (4) Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme

16. 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) 1 m
- (2) 17 m
- (3) 39 m
- (4) 23 m

17. 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]

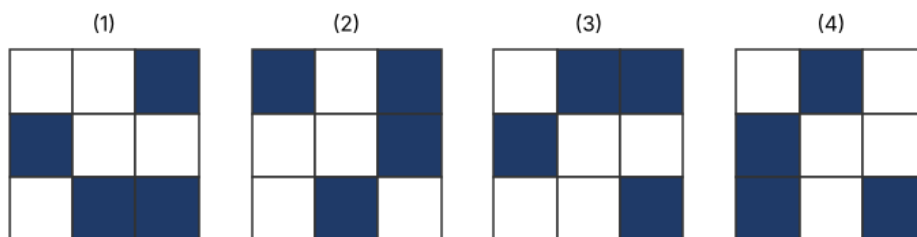
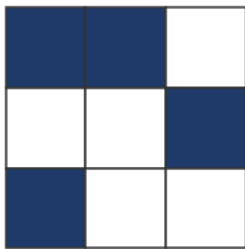
Sheet after folding,
with punched holes



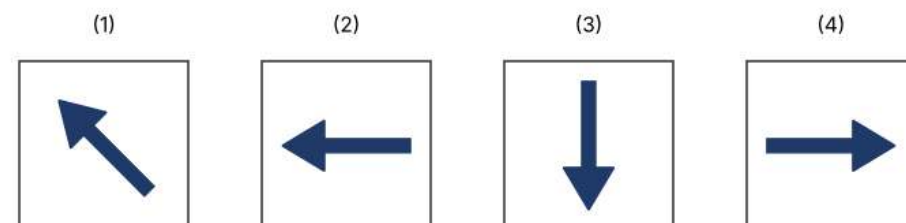
- (1) 2
- (2) 1
- (3) 3
- (4) 4

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

Given figure



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



20. A 40 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 1 : 4. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

- (1) 32 cm (2) 8 cm (3) 21 cm (4) 40 cm

21. A product measuring 3000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 10. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

- (1) 305 mm (2) 150 mm (3) 600 mm (4) 300 mm

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	1
1	2	1
1	2	0

- (1) 13 (2) 12 (3) 15 (4) 14

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

23. Using only a semicircle, a square and a dot (you may repeat, resize or overlap them), build three different characters or objects that could belong in a scene of a street food stall. Add simple lines, patterns or textures to finish each. Give each one a one-line caption. [15 marks]

24. Design thinking. Redesign an everyday ladder for a bus commuter. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual ladder. [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 'Festival of lights' 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 lunch spoon and a bench. (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 29

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (3) - 15

In the front view, each column shows only its tallest stack: 4, 4, 3, 4. Sum = 15.

Q2. Answer: (3)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 45° , 315° , 225° , 135°). The next angle is $135^\circ - 90^\circ = 45^\circ$, which is option (3).

Q3. Answer: (3) - Composition of images and layouts

It divides a frame into a 3×3 grid; placing key elements on the lines or intersections makes the composition more balanced.

Q4. Answer: (1) - CEPT University and IIM Bengaluru's campus

B. V. Doshi designed CEPT's campus, IIM Bangalore, and Sangath (his studio) among others.

Q5. Answer: (3) - Georges Braque

Picasso and Braque developed Cubism around 1907-1914.

Q6. Answer: (3) - 10 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (20 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $20 - 14 = 6$ m, and the sideways movement is 8 m. Distance = $\sqrt{6^2 + 8^2} = 10$ m.

Q7. Answer: (3) - Indo-Saracenic

The Gateway of India (1924) by George Wittet blends Gujarati Islamic and European elements, a style called Indo-Saracenic.

Q8. Answer: (1) - 68

The terms are the squares 9, 16, 25, 36, 49 plus 4. The next square is $64 + 4 = 68$.

Q9. Answer: (4) - 10 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (16 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $16 - 10 = 6$ m, and the sideways movement is 8 m. Distance = $\sqrt{6^2 + 8^2} = 10$ m.

Q10. Answer: (4)

Three figures are triangles (3 sides). Figure (4) has 6 sides, a hexagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q11. Answer: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° clockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180° , 90° , 0° , 270°). The next angle is $270^\circ - 90^\circ = 180^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q12. Answer: (1)

Three figures are hexagons (6 sides). Figure (1) has 5 sides, a pentagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q13. Answer: (1) - Usable by people of all abilities

Universal design makes things accessible and usable by as many people as possible.

Q14. Answer: (1) - 14

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

Q15. Answer: (4) - Collect images, colours and textures that express a theme

A mood board gathers visual inspiration to communicate the feel of a project.

Q16. Answer: (2) - 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.

Q17. 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).

Q18. Answer: (2)

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 (2) matches a pure 90° clockwise turn.

Q19. Answer: (2)

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 (2).

Q20. Answer: (1) - 32 cm

Total parts = 1 + 4 = 5. One part = $40 \div 5 = 8$. The larger share = $4 \times 8 = 32$.

Q21. Answer: (4) - 300 mm

At a scale of 1 : 10, drawing length = actual length $\div$ 10 = $3000 \div 10 = 300$ mm.

Q22. Answer: (1) - 13

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $3 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 2 = 13$.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Look for hidden objects inside the shapes: a semicircle can become a head, wheel, sun or fruit; a square can be a body, roof or box; a dot can be a hat, flag or beak. Combine them so each drawing reads clearly at a glance. Keep all three drawings in the setting of a street food stall (e.g. a figure holding an umbrella, a bus, a lamp-post). Fill with patterns (dots, stripes, scales) rather than adding new shapes.

Criterion	Marks
Creative, recognisable use of the given shapes only	6
Variety across the three drawings	4
Detail, pattern and texture	3
Captions linked to the scene	2

Q24 (20 marks). Approach:

Empathise: imagine a day in the life of a bus commuter using a ladder. 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 'Festival of lights' 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 lunch spoon and of a bench, 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