

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 6

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 tool is used to draw perfect circles? [1 mark]

- (1) Compass (2) Set square (3) Protractor (4) French curve

2. Which of the following is a renewable material? [1 mark]

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

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



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

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

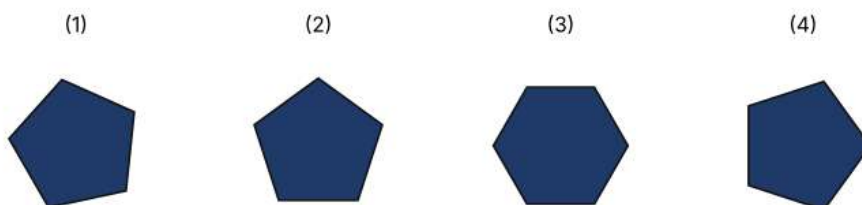
1	0	2
2	1	0
1	1	2

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

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

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

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



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



(1)



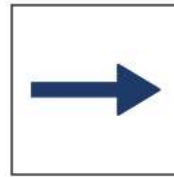
(2)



(3)



(4)



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

(1) Red, green and blue

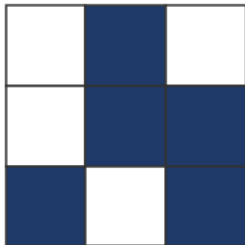
(2) Orange, green and purple

(3) Cyan, magenta and yellow

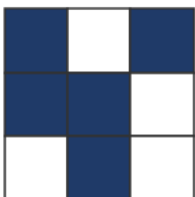
(4) Red, yellow and blue

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

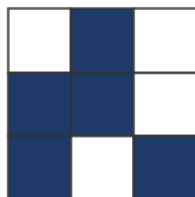
Given figure



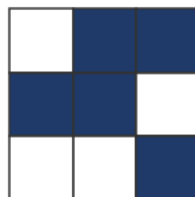
(1)



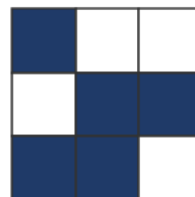
(2)



(3)

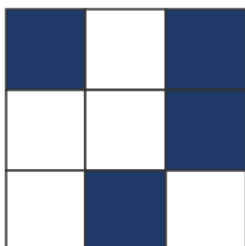


(4)

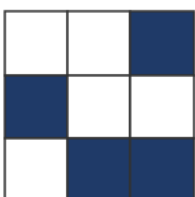


10. The figure shown is rotated 90° anticlockwise about its centre. Which option shows the result? [1 mark]

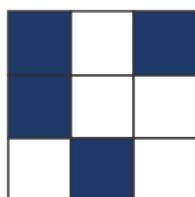
Given figure



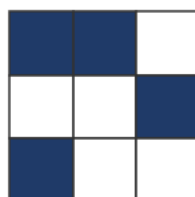
(1)



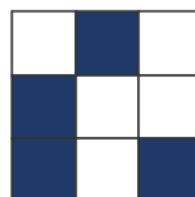
(2)



(3)



(4)



11. A designer walks 24 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 15 m. How far is she from the starting point? [1 mark]

- (1) 12 m (2) 21 m (3) 51 m (4) 15 m

12. 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) 25 m (2) 3 m (3) 13 m (4) 17 m

13. Of 80 design students, 42 like sketching, 36 like clay modelling and 16 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

- (1) 2 (2) 64 (3) 18 (4) 62

14. The golden ratio is approximately [1 mark]

- (1) 1.618 (2) 1.414 (3) 2.718 (4) 3.142

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

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



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



16. A 30 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 1 : 4. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

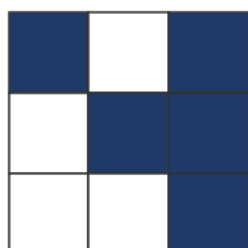
- (1) 30 cm (2) 24 cm (3) 16 cm (4) 6 cm

17. A product measuring 4000 mm is drawn to a scale of 1 : 5. Its length on the drawing is [2 marks]

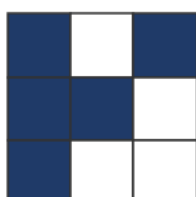
- (1) 800 mm (2) 1600 mm (3) 200 mm (4) 400 mm

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

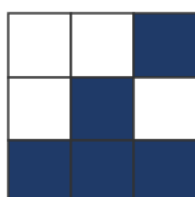
Given figure



(1)



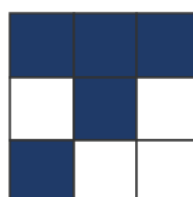
(2)



(3)

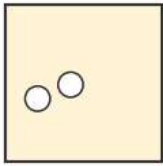


(4)



19. A square sheet of paper is folded twice (in half, then in half again) 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) 4 (2) 8 (3) 9 (4) 7

20. The NID Ahmedabad campus is closely associated with the 1958 India report prepared by [2 marks]

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

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

Top view: number of cubes
in each stack

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

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

22. A designer walks 11 m north, turns right and walks 12 m, then turns right again and walks 2 m. How far is she from the starting point? [2 marks]

- (1) 1 m (2) 25 m (3) 21 m (4) 15 m

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

- 23.** Draw a quick scene of a quiet pond. Include at least five different objects, three kinds of people or animals, and one detail that shows the feeling of joy. Use line quality and shading (no colour needed) to show depth: foreground, middle ground and background. [15 marks]
- 24.** Problem solving. A single suitcase 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 village well that begins calmly and ends with curiosity. Number the panels and vary the viewpoint (close-up, wide shot, from above). [15 marks]
- 26.** Poster. Create a poster on the theme 'Festival of lights' for a general audience on an A4-sized frame. Use at most three colours (red, yellow and black). 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.

ANSWER KEY – SECTION A

Each entry is the number of the correct option, (1) to (4). Section B has no fixed answer key; see the approach and rubric in the solutions.

Mock Test 1

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

Mock Test 2

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

Mock Test 3

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

Mock Test 4

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

Mock Test 5

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

Mock Test 6

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

WORKED SOLUTIONS

Section A solutions give the correct option and the reasoning. Section B gives an approach and a marking rubric.

Solutions - Mock Test 6

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (1) - Compass

A compass draws circles and arcs. A protractor measures angles.

Q2. Answer: (3) - Bamboo

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

Q3. Answer: (4)

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

Q4. Answer: (3) - 2

The largest number in the plan is 2.

Q5. Answer: (2) - Fitting products to human use and comfort

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

Q6. Answer: (3)

Three figures are pentagons (5 sides). Figure (3) has 6 sides, a hexagon, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q7. Answer: (2)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 90° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 45° , 135° , 225° , 315°). The next angle is $315^\circ + 90^\circ = 45^\circ$, which is option (2).

Q8. Answer: (4) - 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.

Q9. Answer: (4)

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 (4) matches a pure 90° clockwise turn.

Q10. Answer: (3)

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 (3) matches a pure 90° anticlockwise turn.

Q11. Answer: (4) - 15 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (24 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $24 - 15 = 9$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{9^2 + 12^2} = 15$ m.

Q12. Answer: (3) - 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.

Q13. Answer: (3) - 18

Students who like at least one = $42 + 36 - 16 = 62$. Neither = $80 - 62 = 18$.

Q14. Answer: (1) - 1.618

The golden ratio $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \approx 1.618$. $\sqrt{2} \approx 1.414$, $e \approx 2.718$, $\pi \approx 3.142$.

Q15. Answer: (4)

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 (4).

Q16. Answer: (2) - 24 cm

Total parts = $1 + 4 = 5$. One part = $30 \div 5 = 6$. The larger share = $4 \times 6 = 24$.

Q17. Answer: (1) - 800 mm

At a scale of $1 : 5$, drawing length = actual length $\div 5 = 4000 \div 5 = 800$ mm.

Q18. Answer: (4)

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 (4) matches a pure 90° anticlockwise turn.

Q19. Answer: (2) - 8

Each fold doubles the layers punched through. The sheet is folded twice (in half, then in half again), so 2 hole(s) in the folded sheet go through 4 layers. Unfolding gives $2 \times 4 = 8$ holes (each hole is mirrored across every crease).

Q20. Answer: (2) - Charles and Ray Eames

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

Q21. Answer: (2) - 4

The largest number in the plan is 4.

Q22. Answer: (4) - 15 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (11 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $11 - 2 = 9$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{9^2 + 12^2} = 15$ m.

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 quiet pond before drawing. For joy, 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 suitcase 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 (curiosity). Use panel 1 as a wide shot to show a village well, 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 'Festival of lights' 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 red for the main shape, yellow for emphasis and black 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