

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 7

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

(1) 13 m

(2) 5 m

(3) 17 m

(4) 21 m

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

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



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

(1) Cannot be printed

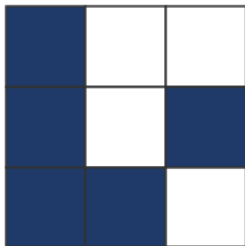
(2) Do not appear on the colour wheel

(3) Are primary colours

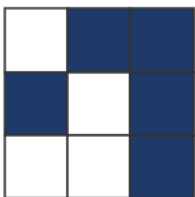
(4) Are the brightest colours

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

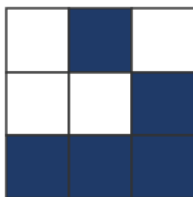
Given figure



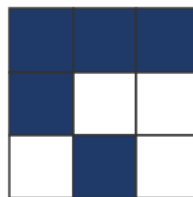
(1)



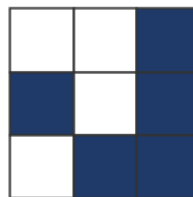
(2)



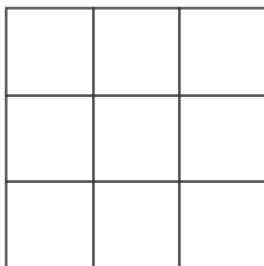
(3)



(4)



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



(1) 11

(2) 17

(3) 9

(4) 14

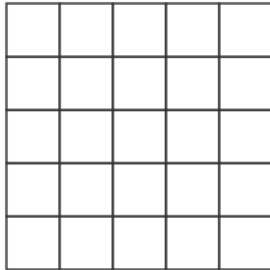
6. A pictogram or symbol, like those used on airport signs, is designed to [1 mark]

- (1) Decorate walls (2) Show a company's history
(3) Communicate without relying on language (4) Replace colours

7. Which of the following is a principle of design? [1 mark]

- (1) Form (2) Line (3) Texture (4) Contrast

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



- (1) 50 (2) 55 (3) 60 (4) 25

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



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



10. Which of these is a warm colour? [1 mark]

- (1) Violet (2) Red (3) Blue (4) Green

11. Of 100 design students, 34 like sketching, 42 like clay modelling and 14 like both. How many like neither? [1 mark]

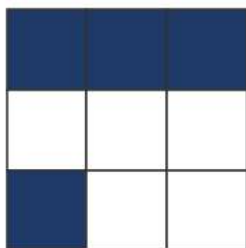
- (1) 24 (2) 38 (3) 62 (4) 86

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

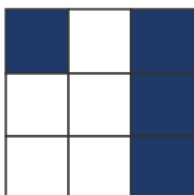
- (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Odisha (3) Goa (4) Karnataka

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

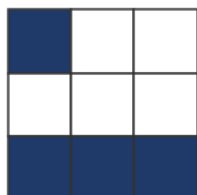
Given figure



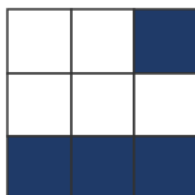
(1)



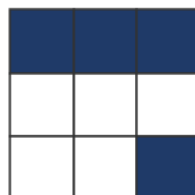
(2)



(3)



(4)



14. Find the next term of the series: 4, 9, 17, 28, 42, ? [1 mark]

(1) 61

(2) 59

(3) 58

(4) 60

Questions 15 to 22 carry 2 marks each.

15. 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

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

(1) 23

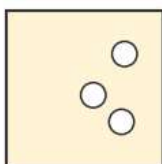
(2) 21

(3) 22

(4) 24

16. 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) 12

(2) 13

(3) 6

(4) 11

17. Mixing equal amounts of red and yellow paint (traditional RYB colour wheel) gives [2 marks]

(1) green

(2) purple (violet)

(3) brown

(4) orange

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



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



19. The first step of the 'design thinking' process is usually [2 marks]

(1) Fix the price

(2) Print the packaging

(3) Test the final product

(4) Empathise with users

20. A 15 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 1 : 4. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

(1) 3 cm

(2) 15 cm

(3) 12 cm

(4) 8 cm

21. A 25 cm strip of fabric is cut in the ratio 2 : 3. The longer piece measures [2 marks]

(1) 20 cm

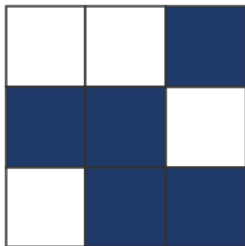
(2) 13 cm

(3) 15 cm

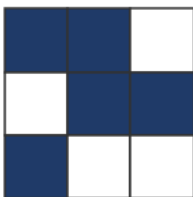
(4) 10 cm

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

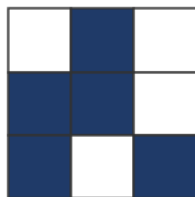
Given figure



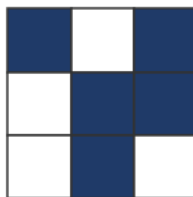
(1)



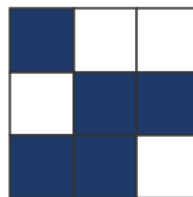
(2)



(3)



(4)



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

23. Observe a tiffin box 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 desk organiser for a delivery rider. (a) Write 3 problems this user faces with the usual desk organiser. [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 'Wonders of the night sky' 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 'Migrating birds' 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.

Mock Test 7

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

Mock Test 8

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

Mock Test 9

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

Mock Test 10

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

Mock Test 11

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

Mock Test 12

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

Mock Test 13

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

WORKED SOLUTIONS

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

Solutions - Mock Test 7

SECTION A

Q1. Answer: (1) - 13 m

Take the start as the origin. After the first leg (7 m) and the turns, the net movement along that line is $7 - 2 = 5$ m, and the sideways movement is 12 m. Distance = $\sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13$ m.

Q2. Answer: (2)

Three figures are quadrilaterals (4 sides). Figure (2) has 3 sides, a triangle, so it is the odd one out (rotation of a shape does not change its type).

Q3. Answer: (2) - Do not appear on the colour wheel

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

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: (4) - 14

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

Q6. Answer: (3) - Communicate without relying on language

Pictograms convey meaning quickly across language barriers.

Q7. Answer: (4) - Contrast

Principles describe how elements are organised: balance, contrast, emphasis, rhythm, unity, proportion. Line, texture and form are elements.

Q8. Answer: (2) - 55

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

Q9. Answer: (1)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 180° , 315° , 90° , 225°). The next angle is $225^\circ + 135^\circ = 0^\circ$, which is option (1).

Q10. Answer: (2) - Red

Warm colours (red, orange, yellow) suggest energy and warmth. Blue, green and violet are cool.

Q11. Answer: (2) - 38

Students who like at least one = $34 + 42 - 14 = 62$. Neither = $100 - 62 = 38$.

Q12. Answer: (2) - Odisha

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

Q13. Answer: (2)

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

Q14. Answer: (2) - 59

Differences between terms: 5, 8, 11, 14 (each larger by 3). The next difference is 17, so the missing term is $42 + 17 = 59$.

Q15. Answer: (3) - 22

Add the numbers in all cells of the plan: $2 + 4 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 1 = 22$.

Q16. Answer: (1) - 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).

Q17. Answer: (4) - orange

In the traditional (RYB) subtractive pigment model, red + yellow = orange.

Q18. Answer: (4)

Compare consecutive boxes: the arrow turns 135° anticlockwise each time (the arrow angles, measured anticlockwise from the right, are 90° , 225° , 0° , 135°). The next angle is $135^\circ + 135^\circ = 270^\circ$, which is option (4).

Q19. Answer: (4) - Empathise with users

Design thinking usually runs empathise → define → ideate → prototype → test.

Q20. Answer: (3) - 12 cm

Total parts = $1 + 4 = 5$. One part = $15 \div 5 = 3$. The larger share = $4 \times 3 = 12$.

Q21. Answer: (3) - 15 cm

Total parts = $2 + 3 = 5$. One part = $25 \div 5 = 5$. The larger share = $3 \times 5 = 15$.

Q22. 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.

SECTION B - approach and marking rubric

Q23 (15 marks). Approach:

Start with light construction shapes (a cylinder, box or cone) to block in the tiffin box, 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 delivery rider using a desk organiser. 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 'Wonders of the night sky' 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 'Migrating birds' 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