NID DAT PRELIMS EXAM PATTERN

NID 2026 – Exam Structure (New Pattern)
1. Two-Stage Process

NID conducts entry in **two stages**:

1. **DAT Prelims**

2. **DAT Mains**
   You must clear Prelims to be eligible for Mains.

DAT Prelims – First Stage

Pattern Highlights

- **Mode:** Pen-and-paper test

- **Duration:** ~3 hours (for B.Des)

- **Medium:** English

- **Marks: 100 marks**

- **Question Types:** Mix of **objective** (MCQs) + **subjective** questions involving **drawing, creativity, design thinking, observation, visuals, reasoning, etc.**

- **Negative Marking:** *No negative marking* reported in official outlines.

Purpose:
Prelims is mainly **for shortlisting candidates for Mains**, not directly included in final merit.

DAT Mains – Second Stage

If you qualify Prelims, you must appear for Mains.

Typical Mains Components

The Mains exam generally includes:
✔ Studio/Hands-on tests (drawing, model-making, creative tasks)
✔ In-Person Sensitivity / Personal Interaction tests
✔ Portfolio / interview or design presentations (especially for M.Des)
✔ Discipline-specific tests (especially for M.Des)

Important:

- The exact format, slots, and structure for Mains are detailed in the official NID *Admissions Handbook* but are usually released after Prelims results.

- Mains tests are **qualitative & practical** in nature and assess creativity, problem-solving, visual thinking, design sensitivity, material understanding, etc.

Marking & Weightage (What's New)

There have been important changes in how Prelims and Mains are valued:
Prelims Score:

- **Used only to shortlist** candidates for Mains — not counted toward final ranking.

Mains:

- Carry the **major weight** for final merit. In some reports, Mains may be split into different sensitivity tests with different weightage