NIFT Entrance Guide

Design

B.Des and M.Des

Includes online mocks (QR)

NIFT Entrance Guide: Design
B.Des and M.Des

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Source of exam facts. The exam structure, section names, weightage and eligibility described here follow the pattern NIFT published in its Prospectus and Admission Guidelines as available when this edition was prepared. NIFT may revise them. Dates, fees and deadlines change every year, so they are not printed here: use the “Check every year” table in this book and confirm everything on www.nift.ac.in before you register and before the test.

Original questions. All practice questions, cases and creative briefs in this book are original and written for this book. They are not reproductions of past NIFT papers.

Facts that change. Current-affairs and industry data are dated; this book teaches you to build dated notes and keeps only stable background. Preparation material cannot guarantee a rank, a score or admission.

Corrections and comments: editor@bodhverse.com · bodhverse.com

Contents

Preface v
How to Use This Book vi
The Exam at a Glance vii
What Is in This Book ix
Study Plans x
Instructions for the Practice Sets xii
Full-Length Mock Tests on the Web xiii

Part A1: English, Communication Ability and Comprehension **1**
Chapter 1: Word Power 2
Chapter 2: One-Word Substitutes, Idioms and Phrases 11
Chapter 3: Spelling and Number 21
Chapter 4: Grammar and Usage 27
Chapter 5: Sentence and Paragraph Order 38
Chapter 6: Reading Comprehension 44
Chapter 7: Communication in Daily Situations 55

Part A2: Quantitative Ability **61**
Chapter 1: Number Operations 62
Chapter 2: Fractions and Decimals 69
Chapter 3: Percentage 73
Chapter 4: Ratio and Proportion 81
Chapter 5: Rate of Interest 89
Chapter 6: Work and Task 94
Chapter 7: Distance 100
Chapter 8: Mensuration and Data 107

Part A3: Analytical and Logical Ability **117**
Chapter 1: Patterns 118
Chapter 2: Arrangements and Relationships 128
Chapter 3: Inference and Logic 139
Chapter 4: Visual Reasoning 152
Chapter 5: Problem Identification and Lateral Thinking 161

Part A4: General Knowledge and Current Affairs **171**
Chapter 1: Static General Knowledge 172
Chapter 2: Fashion, Textile and Craft GK 185
Chapter 3: NIFT and the Fashion Industry 198
Chapter 4: Art, Design and Culture 202
A4 Chapter 5: Current Affairs 212

Part C: Creative Ability Test (CAT) **217**
C1. What the paper rewards 218

C2. Your kit and set-up 218
C3. Skill modules with steps 218
C4. Practice briefs 220
C5. Self-marking sheet (copy one per attempt) 222
C6. Twelve-week plan 222
C7. Common errors 223

Part D: Situation Test (B.Des) **225**
D1. The test in one view 226
D2. Method in seven steps 226
D3. Material handling skills 226
D4. Time plan (adjust to the announced duration) 227
D5. Write-up template 227
D6. Practice situations (original) 227
D7. Self-marking sheet 229
D8. Common errors 229

Part E: Personal Interview **231**
E1. How the interview is judged 232
E2. Preparation plan 232
E3. The two-minute introduction 233
E4. Answer frameworks 233
E5. Question bank 233
E6. Mock interview scoring sheet (practice weights) 235

Part F: Interview Mock Script (M.Des) **237**
How to use a script 238
Script 1: M.Des (design) 239
After the mock: a feedback routine 241

Appendix **243**
Appendix A. Answer-key index 244
Appendix B. Abbreviations 245

Preface

Every year a great many students sit the NIFT entrance test for design. Most of them can draw. A good number lose their place not on the drawing sheet but in the General Ability Test, on a percentage sum or a reasoning question that would have taken a minute if they had practised it. This book has been written to close that gap.

The design courses give the largest share of marks to the creative paper: 50 per cent for B.Des and 40 per cent for M.Des. The General Ability Test carries 30 per cent in both, and it is the same test for everyone, so a weak score there cannot be made up by a good sketch. You need both, and this book takes you through both.

The book follows the examination in the order you will meet it. First comes the General Ability Test: English, Quantitative Ability, Analytical and Logical Ability, and General Knowledge. Then the Creative Ability Test. Then the Situation Test, which is meant for B.Des candidates, and the Personal Interview, which is meant for M.Des candidates. Every chapter has the same plan. It tells you where the topic comes in the paper, gives the rules in short form, works out examples step by step, and then gives you two practice sets with answers. The creative and hands-on chapters give briefs, steps and marking guides. A pencil, a few sheets of paper and some cheap materials from a stationery shop are all you need to practise them.

A word about what we do not know. The Information Bulletin lists three questions and three hours for the B.Des Creative Ability Test, but it does not give the marks for each question, say what materials will be given for the Situation Test, or show how the interview marks are divided. Where we have had to make a sensible guess, we have said so in the text. Please do not take such a guess as a promise about the paper. Read the current Information Bulletin when it comes out and trust it over any book, this one included. Preparation material cannot guarantee a rank, a score or admission.

We have tried to keep the book free of mistakes, but some may remain. If you find one, please write to editor@bodhverse.com, and we shall correct it in the next printing.

We wish you success.

The Authors

How to Use This Book

Please read this page before you begin. It will save you time later.

1. Look at the plan of a chapter. Every chapter begins with a short note, *Where it appears*, which tells you which part of the examination the topic belongs to and which courses it is meant for. If it is not meant for your course, leave it and go on.

2. Learn the rules from the tables. The rules and facts are given in tables so that you can revise them quickly on the last day. Do not try to learn a table at one sitting. Read it, cover it, and write it from memory.

3. Work through the solved examples with a pencil. Do not merely read them. Cover the solution, try the example yourself, and then compare your steps with ours. This is the quickest way to learn a method.

4. Attempt the two practice sets. Practice Set 1 is of the foundation level. Practice Set 2 is harder and is meant for the time when you are sure of the basics. The answers, with notes and workings, are given at the end of each chapter.

5. Score yourself honestly. At the end of each chapter there is a small table of score bands. It tells you whether to go on to the next chapter or to read this one again. Please follow it. Students who skip this step are the ones who are surprised on the day of the test.

Marking used in this book. Every correct answer carries 1 mark and every wrong answer loses one quarter of a mark, which is the scheme stated in the prospectus. A question left unattempted carries no marks, positive or negative. All the practice sets and mocks in this book are marked in the same way.

The Exam at a Glance

Programmes covered. B.Des (Bachelor of Design): Accessory Design, Fashion Communication, Fashion Design, Fashion Interiors, Knitwear Design, Leather Design and Textile Design; M.Des (Master of Design): Design.

Eligibility

As described in the NIFT prospectus; confirm each year.

The **Information Bulletin** is issued by the National Testing Agency for each cycle; the **Prospectus** and **Admission Guidelines** are issued by NIFT. This book follows the Bulletin, Prospectus and Guidelines that were available when this edition was prepared. Exam details can change, so confirm everything in the current documents. Bachelor's programmes have an age limit: under 24 years on 1 August of the year of admission, with 5 years' relaxation for SC, ST and PwD candidates. Not every campus offers every programme, and offerings change; check the current Prospectus.

Programme	Qualifying examination
B.Des	10+2 from a recognised board (or equivalent: NIOS with five subjects, a 3 or 4 year diploma after Class 10 recognised by AICTE or a State Board of Technical Education, an AIU-recognised equivalent, GCE A level or IB)
M.Des	Undergraduate degree in any discipline from a recognised institute or university in India, or a three-year undergraduate diploma from NIFT or NID. No age limit applies; final-year candidates may apply, subject to proof of qualification at admission

What you will sit

Component	Mode	B.Des	M.Des
GAT Section A	Computer-based	Yes	Yes
Creative Ability Test (CAT)	Paper-based	Yes	Yes
Situation Test	Hands-on, shortlisted candidates	Yes	No
Personal Interview	Shortlisted candidates	No	Yes

Weightage in the final score

Programme	Weights
B.Des	GAT 30%, Creative Ability Test 50%, Situation Test 20%
M.Des	GAT 30%, Creative Ability Test 40%, Personal Interview 30%

GAT structure (number of questions)

Item	B.Des	M.Des
Duration	120 min	120 min
Communication Ability and English Comprehension	40	50
Quantitative Ability	20	20
Analytical and Logical Ability	15	25
General Knowledge and Current Affairs	25	25
Total	100	120

The prospectus notes that numbers of questions and difficulty may vary by year and programme.

Check every year

Dates, fees and deadlines are announced afresh for each admission cycle, so this book does not print them. Fill this table from the current Information Bulletin on www.nift.ac.in as soon as it is published.

What to check	Where to look	Write it here
Written test date	Information Bulletin, NIFT website	
Registration opening and closing dates; late-fee window	Information Bulletin	
Application fee for your category and number of programmes	Information Bulletin	
Admit card release	NIFT website / testing agency portal	
Test duration and question counts for your programme (compare with the table above)	Information Bulletin	
Later stages after the written test and their months	Information Bulletin	
Any change in weightage or eligibility	Information Bulletin	
Reporting time and what you may carry	Admit card	

Rules that cost candidates dearly

1. **Anonymity.** On the CAT answer sheet and on the Situation Test model, design and write-up, never write a name, roll number, coaching-centre name or logo, or place any identification mark. The prospectus provides for disqualification.
2. **English write-up.** In the Situation Test the write-up must be in English; no marks are given for another language.
3. **Documents.** Keep qualifying-degree mark sheets and category documents ready for verification at seat allocation.

What Is in This Book

Part	Title	For
A1	English: Communication Ability and Comprehension (7 chapters)	All
A2	Quantitative Ability (8 chapters)	All
A3	Analytical and Logical Ability (5 chapters)	All
A4	General Knowledge and Current Affairs (5 chapters)	All
C	Creative Ability Test	B.Des, M.Des
D	Situation Test	B.Des
E	Personal Interview (E1 to E6)	M.Des
F	Interview mock script	M.Des
Mocks	Full-length mocks on the web (QR codes)	As marked
Appendix	Answer-key index; abbreviations	As needed

You are applying for	Read
B.Des only	Opening matter, A1 to A4, C, D,
M.Des only	Opening matter, A1 to A4, C, E (E1 to E6), Part F mock script
B.Des and M.Des	Everything

If you are also applying for B.F.Tech, MFM or M.F.Tech, you will need the companion book, *NIFT Entrance Guide: Fashion Management and Technology*, for the case study; the GAT core is the same.

Study Plans

Every student has a different number of weeks in hand, so we give plans of 12, 8 and 4 weeks. Count back from the date of your test and choose the plan that fits. Whatever the plan, keep to this rule: in each week, study on five days, take a mock test or revise on the sixth, and rest on the seventh. A tired student learns very little, and a day's rest is not a day wasted.

12-week plan (B.Des)

Weeks	GAT work	Creative work
1 to 2	A1 Ch 1 to 3; A2 Ch 1 to 2	C Module 1 daily (10 min)
3 to 4	A1 Ch 4 to 5; A2 Ch 3 to 5	C Module 2 and observation
5 to 6	A1 Ch 6 to 7; A2 Ch 6 to 8	C Modules 3 and 4
7	A3 Ch 1 to 3	C Module 5
8	A3 Ch 4 to 5; A4 Ch 1	C Modules 6 and 7
9	A4 Ch 2 to 4	D skills (D3); D practice situations 1 to 12
10	A4 Ch 5, full GAT mock	Timed mixed CAT sets; D practice situations 13 to 30
11	Weak-area sets	Two full CAT simulations
12	Revision, current-affairs refresh	Situation Test dry run; rest

12-week plan (M.Des)

Weeks	GAT work	Creative work
1 to 2	A1 Ch 1 to 3; A2 Ch 1 to 2	C Module 1 daily
3 to 4	A1 Ch 4 to 7	C Modules 2 and 3
5 to 6	A2 Ch 3 to 8	C Modules 4 to 6
7	A3	C Module 7; portfolio and project walk-through
8	A4	Timed mixed CAT sets
9	Full GAT mock	Full CAT simulation
10	Weak areas	Interview preparation E1 to E5
11	Mock interviews	Second CAT simulation
12	Revision, A4 Ch 5 refresh	Rest

8-week and 4-week versions

Undergraduate programmes.

Plan	How to compress
8 weeks	Do each module once; skip Practice Set 2 except in your two weakest chapters; keep daily 10-minute observation drawing (B.Des) or one case a day (B.F.Tech)
4 weeks	Take the score-yourself bands as a diagnosis: study only chapters where you score below the “Good” band; do one full timed GAT mock a week; for B.Des, one CAT task and one hands-on build a week

Postgraduate programmes.

Plan	How to compress
8 weeks	Do each module once; skip Practice Set 2 except in your two weakest chapters; one case a day; two mock interviews
4 weeks	Use score-yourself bands as a diagnosis; study only chapters below the “Good” band; one timed GAT mock a week; one mock interview a week

Weekly rhythm

Day	Task
Mon to Fri	One chapter session (60 to 90 min) and 20 min current affairs
Sat	Timed mock or mixed set; mark and review
Sun	Rest or light revision

Instructions for the Practice Sets

A practice set is useful only if it is attempted properly. Please follow these instructions.

1. Sit down with a watch. Give yourself the time that the exam would give for that number of questions, and attempt the whole set at one sitting. Do not look at your notes or at the answers.
2. When the time is over, mark your paper with the key. Count the right answers, the wrong answers and the questions you left out.
3. Work out your score: the number of right answers, less one quarter of the number of wrong answers.
4. Against every mistake write one line giving the cause. It will be one of four: you did not know the concept, you made a careless slip, you ran short of time, or you guessed. After a week you will see which of the four is costing you the most.
5. Read the explanation of each question that you got wrong, even if you think you understand it.
6. After three days, attempt only the questions you got wrong. Do not repeat the whole set.

A few hints for the examination hall.

- Read each question completely before you look at the choices.
- If a question is taking more than a minute or so, mark it, leave it and come back to it if time remains.
- Because a wrong answer costs a quarter mark, do not guess blindly. If you can rule out at least one of the four choices, answer; if you can rule out two, always answer. If you can rule out none, leave the question.
- Keep a few minutes at the end to look again at the questions you marked.
- On the creative and hands-on papers, never write your name, roll number or any mark of identification on the answer sheet or on your work, unless you have been told to. The prospectus provides for disqualification.

Full-Length Mock Tests on the Web

Besides the practice sets in the chapters, this book gives you full-length mock tests, which you take on a phone, tablet or computer. Scan the code with your phone camera, or type the address printed beside it into your browser.



B.Des GAT Mocks

Mocks 1 to 4. Each has 100 questions (English 40, Quantitative 20, Analytical 15, General Knowledge 25) to be done in 120 minutes.

`bodhverse.com/mocks/ug-gat.html`



M.Des GAT Mocks

Mocks 1 to 3. Each has 120 questions (English 50, Quantitative 20, Analytical 25, General Knowledge 25) to be done in 120 minutes.

`bodhverse.com/mocks/pg-gat.html`

Instructions for the Mock Tests

1. Take each mock at one sitting, in the time given for it. Keep your notes closed and do not use the phone for anything else.
2. Each correct answer carries 1 mark and each wrong answer loses one quarter of a mark. Questions left unattempted carry nothing.
3. The clock goes on running even if you close the page. Your answers are kept in the same browser, so if you are interrupted, open the mock again on the same device and the same browser and carry on.
4. At the end you will be shown your score in each section, a table naming the chapter of this book you should go back to for the questions you missed, and the correct answer to every question, with a written explanation for each. Read the explanations. That is where the mock does its teaching.
5. To open a particular mock directly, add its number to the address, for example #mock1 or #mock2.
6. Do not take two mocks on the same day. Mark and study the first one properly before you take the next.

What is printed in this book instead. The Creative Ability Test briefs (Part C), the Situation Test briefs (Part D), interview practice and the M.Des mock interview script (Part E), because these are drawn, hands-on or spoken tasks.

If a code does not scan, use the printed address.

Part A1: English, Communication Ability and Comprehension

Seven chapters on vocabulary, idioms, spelling, grammar, sentence order, comprehension and work-place communication.

Chapter 1: Word Power

Part A1, Communication Ability and English Comprehension. This chapter belongs to the General Ability Test core, which is the same in every book in this series.

Where this chapter appears

Vocabulary questions sit in the Communication Ability and English Comprehension section of the General Ability Test. That section is the largest in every paper: 40 questions for B.Des and B.F.Tech, 50 for M.Des and MFM, and 45 for M.F.Tech. It is also the first section used to break a tie between two candidates with equal GAT scores.

The prospectus names synonyms, antonyms and “words with corresponding meanings” among the topics. Expect them as direct questions and inside reading passages.

How vocabulary questions are set

You will meet four types:

1. **Synonym.** Pick the word closest in meaning to the given word.
2. **Antonym.** Pick the word opposite in meaning.
3. **Analogy.** Two words share a relationship; find the pair or word that repeats it.
4. **Corresponding words.** Two or more words look or sound alike; pick the one that fits the sentence.

A four-step method

1. **Read the instruction first.** A common and costly mistake is marking a synonym when the question asks for an antonym.
2. **Say the word in a sentence.** If you have heard “a lucrative business”, you already know that lucrative has to do with money.
3. **Break the word up.** A prefix or root often gives the meaning away. “Benevolent” starts with bene, meaning good.
4. **Eliminate, then choose.** Strike out options that are the wrong part of speech, or that are opposites when you need a synonym.

When to guess

A right answer earns 1 mark and a wrong answer loses 0.25. Work out what a guess is worth on average:

Options you cannot rule out	Chance of being right	Average gain per guess
4	1 in 4	+0.06 mark
3	1 in 3	+0.17 mark
2	1 in 2	+0.38 mark

A blind guess gains almost nothing, so do not spend time on it. Once you can strike out even one option, answering is worth it. Strike out two and you should always answer.

Tool 1: word roots and prefixes

One root unlocks many words. Learn these and you can work out words you have never seen.

Root	Meaning	Examples
bene	good	benefit, benevolent, beneficial
mal	bad	malfunction, malice, malnutrition
chron	time	chronic, chronology, synchronise
graph	write, draw	graphic, autograph, calligraphy
spect	look	spectator, inspect, perspective
port	carry	portable, export, portfolio
aud	hear	audible, audience, audition
dict	say	dictate, predict, contradict
cred	believe	credible, incredible, credit
scrib, script	write	describe, manuscript, inscription
vid, vis	see	visible, visual, video
phil	love	philosophy, philanthropist
omni	all	omnipresent, omnivore
mono	one	monochrome, monopoly, monologue
poly	many	polygon, polychrome, polytechnic
tex	weave	textile, texture, context

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un, in, im, il, ir	not	unusual, invisible, impossible, illegal, irregular
pre	before	preview, prehistoric
post	after	postpone, postscript
re	again	redesign, recycle
mis	wrongly	mislead, misprint
anti	against	antiseptic, anticlockwise
sub	under	subway, substandard
inter	between	international, interval
trans	across	transport, transparent

Tool 2: words that look or sound alike

Pair	How to tell them apart
accept, except	Accept is to receive. Except means leaving out.
affect, effect	Affect is usually the verb. Effect is usually the noun.

Pair	How to tell them apart
advice, advise	Advice is the noun. Advise is the verb.
complement, compliment	A complement completes. A compliment praises.
principal, principle	A principal is a head or the main thing. A principle is a rule.
stationary, stationery	Stationary is standing still. Stationery is paper and pens.
loose, lose	Loose is not tight. Lose is to misplace or be defeated.
coarse, course	Coarse is rough. A course is a path or a programme of study.
elicit, illicit	Elicit is to draw out. Illicit is unlawful.
cite, site, sight	Cite is to quote. A site is a place. Sight is seeing.
desert, dessert	A desert is dry land. Dessert is the sweet course.
weather, whether	Weather is rain and sun. Whether introduces a choice.
aisle, isle	An aisle is a passage. An isle is an island.
brake, break	A brake stops a vehicle. To break is to damage or pause.

Tool 3: the vocabulary of design

NIFT passages and GK questions often use the working words of fashion. Know these.

Word	Meaning
silhouette	the outline shape of a garment or figure
drape	the way a fabric hangs and falls
motif	a design element that is repeated
palette	the range of colours used in a design
hue	a pure colour, such as red or blue
texture	how a surface feels or looks as if it feels
warp and weft	the lengthwise and crosswise threads of a woven fabric
swatch	a small sample of fabric
embellishment	decoration added to a surface
applique	fabric shapes stitched onto a base fabric
ensemble	a complete, coordinated outfit
bespoke	made to one customer’s order
couture	high-end fashion made to measure
prêt-à-porter	ready-to-wear clothing
monochrome	in one colour, or in black and white
mood board	a collage of images that sets the direction of a design

Tool 4: a core list of 56 words

Learn eight a day for a week. Cover the meaning column and test yourself; then write one sentence of your own for each word.

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
abate	become less	lethargic	sluggish
adept	skilled	meagre	scanty
adversity	hardship	notable	worth noticing
alleviate	relieve	novel	new
ample	more than enough	ornate	heavily decorated
apt	suitable	plausible	seeming reasonable
arduous	very hard to do	proficient	skilled
austere	plain and severe	quaint	pleasingly old-fashioned
coherent	clear and logical	redundant	no longer needed
conspicuous	easily seen	refine	improve by small changes
credible	believable	rustic	of the countryside; simple
dearth	shortage	serene	calm
deter	discourage	sombre	dark and serious
discreet	careful and tactful	sturdy	strong
elaborate	detailed	succinct	brief and clear
embellish	decorate	tedious	long and boring
emulate	try to equal by imitating	thrive	grow well
endorse	support publicly	unanimous	agreed by all
erratic	irregular	uniform	the same throughout
feasible	possible to do	viable	workable
flamboyant	showy	vogue	the current fashion
garish	too bright; gaudy	wane	decrease
gregarious	sociable	wary	cautious
hamper	hinder	whimsical	playful and fanciful
immaculate	spotless	yield	produce; give way
impeccable	faultless	zest	enthusiasm
inevitable	unavoidable	inherent	inborn
jeopardy	danger	keen	eager; sharp

Solved examples

Example 1 (synonym). METICULOUS: (a) hasty (b) generous (c) careful (d) doubtful

Think of a sentence: “a meticulous tailor checks every seam”. The word describes great care. Hasty is the opposite. **Answer: (c).**

Example 2 (antonym). BENEVOLENT: (a) kind (b) cruel (c) wealthy (d) helpful

The root bene means good, so the word means kindly. The question asks for the opposite. Kind and helpful are synonyms placed to trap you. **Answer: (b).**

Example 3 (synonym from the root). CREDIBLE: (a) believable (b) praiseworthy (c) borrowed (d) costly

Cred means believe. Praiseworthy is “creditable”, a different word. **Answer: (a).**

Example 4 (analogy). Yarn : Fabric :: Flour : ? (a) Wheat (b) Mill (c) Bread (d) Baker

State the link as a sentence: “Yarn is made into fabric.” Then test each option in the same sentence: “Flour is made into bread.” Wheat reverses the direction. **Answer: (c).**

Example 5 (analogy of degree). Warm : Hot :: Damp : ? (a) Dry (b) Soaked (c) Cool (d) Humid

Hot is a stronger degree of warm. The stronger degree of damp is soaked. **Answer: (b).**

Example 6 (corresponding words). The colour of the scarf is a perfect ___ to the dress. (a) compliment (b) complement (c) complimentary (d) complete

The scarf completes the look, so the word with “e”, as in complete, is needed. **Answer: (b).**

Practice Set 1: foundation (model questions)

For all readers. Target time: 25 minutes for 60 questions.

Choose the word closest in meaning

1. BRIEF: (a) long (b) short (c) clear (d) dull
2. ANCIENT: (a) old (b) broken (c) holy (d) rare
3. ELEGANT: (a) costly (b) loud (c) graceful (d) thin
4. FRAGILE: (a) light (b) tiny (c) precious (d) delicate
5. VIBRANT: (a) lively (b) shaky (c) noisy (d) warm
6. AUTHENTIC: (a) old (b) genuine (c) legal (d) written
7. DILIGENT: (a) clever (b) polite (c) hard-working (d) quick
8. RELUCTANT: (a) unwilling (b) careless (c) angry (d) tired
9. CONCISE: (a) exact (b) hidden (c) complete (d) brief
10. ENORMOUS: (a) heavy (b) strange (c) huge (d) fierce
11. INTRICATE: (a) inner (b) complicated (c) tiny (d) secret
12. PRUDENT: (a) proud (b) shy (c) wise (d) strict
13. LUCID: (a) lucky (b) loose (c) clear (d) smooth
14. SCARCE: (a) frightening (b) rare (c) thin (d) costly
15. VERSATILE: (a) adaptable (b) talkative (c) poetic (d) upright
16. SUPERFICIAL: (a) excellent (b) shallow (c) extra (d) artificial
17. OBSTACLE: (a) objection (b) statue (c) duty (d) hindrance
18. MODIFY: (a) measure (b) praise (c) copy (d) change

19. ESSENTIAL: (a) natural (b) necessary (c) fragrant (d) simple
20. CONTEMPORARY: (a) temporary (b) modern (c) scornful (d) thoughtful
21. INNOVATIVE: (a) inner (b) harmless (c) naive (d) inventive
22. RESILIENT: (a) slow to learn (b) hard to please (c) quick to recover (d) easy to break
23. AESTHETIC: (a) painless (b) artistic (c) athletic (d) moral
24. MUNDANE: (a) muddy (b) silent (c) monthly (d) ordinary
25. OPULENT: (a) cloudy (b) round (c) luxurious (d) open
26. ADORN: (a) love (b) decorate (c) wear (d) praise
27. DURABLE: (a) double (b) lasting (c) dull (d) dependent
28. VIVID: (a) pale (b) bright (c) quick (d) empty
29. TRANQUIL: (a) clear (b) weak (c) calm (d) distant
30. EXQUISITE: (a) foreign (b) extinct (c) curious (d) beautifully made

Choose the word opposite in meaning

31. ARRIVE: (a) reach (b) depart (c) enter (d) wait
32. ANCIENT: (a) old (b) historic (c) modern (d) rare
33. ROUGH: (a) smooth (b) rude (c) hard (d) dry
34. SCARCE: (a) rare (b) costly (c) small (d) plentiful
35. EXPENSIVE: (a) dear (b) cheap (c) rich (d) valuable
36. ARTIFICIAL: (a) false (b) man-made (c) natural (d) plastic
37. VICTORY: (a) triumph (b) battle (c) contest (d) defeat
38. BOLD: (a) timid (b) loud (c) strong (d) brave
39. ACCEPT: (a) reject (b) receive (c) agree (d) expect
40. MINIMUM: (a) least (b) maximum (c) middle (d) average
41. RIGID: (a) stiff (b) flexible (c) strict (d) firm
42. VAGUE: (a) dim (b) empty (c) definite (d) wide
43. COMPLEX: (a) difficult (b) large (c) mixed (d) simple
44. PRAISE: (a) admire (b) reward (c) criticise (d) thank
45. HOSTILE: (a) friendly (b) angry (c) foreign (d) homely
46. SHALLOW: (a) narrow (b) wet (c) low (d) deep
47. INCLUDE: (a) contain (b) exclude (c) conclude (d) involve
48. OPTIMISTIC: (a) hopeful (b) realistic (c) pessimistic (d) cheerful
49. CONCEAL: (a) hide (b) cover (c) seal (d) reveal
50. VACANT: (a) occupied (b) silent (c) open (d) empty
51. TRIVIAL: (a) small (b) funny (c) important (d) common
52. DULL: (a) dark (b) boring (c) bright (d) blunt
53. ASCEND: (a) climb (b) descend (c) rise (d) accept
54. FRUGAL: (a) extravagant (b) simple (c) hungry (d) thrifty
55. ORIGINAL: (a) first (b) creative (c) ancient (d) copied
56. COARSE: (a) rough (b) fine (c) thick (d) cheap

57. VOLUNTARY: (a) willing (b) compulsory (c) free (d) unpaid
58. LOOSE: (a) tight (b) slack (c) lost (d) free
59. PERMIT: (a) allow (b) license (c) admit (d) forbid
60. URBAN: (a) civic (b) modern (c) rural (d) crowded

Practice Set 2: advanced (model questions)

For M.Des readers, and for B.Des readers who scored 50 or more in Set 1. Target time: 25 minutes for 60 questions.

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning

61. EPHEMERAL: (a) heavenly (b) short-lived (c) feminine (d) widespread
62. UBIQUITOUS: (a) unique (b) doubtful (c) outdated (d) found everywhere
63. PRAGMATIC: (a) dramatic (b) stubborn (c) practical (d) automatic
64. AMBIGUOUS: (a) open to more than one meaning (b) ambitious (c) large (d) two-handed
65. ECLECTIC: (a) electric (b) chosen by vote (c) drawn from varied sources (d) hidden
66. ZENITH: (a) peak (b) horizon (c) centre (d) beginning
67. LUCRATIVE: (a) clear (b) profitable (c) lucky (d) attractive
68. MITIGATE: (a) imitate (b) move away (c) argue (d) make less severe
69. NOSTALGIA: (a) longing for the past (b) a nose ailment (c) fear of strangers (d) homelessness
70. ARTISAN: (a) portrait painter (b) art dealer (c) skilled craftsperson (d) party supporter
71. BESPOKE: (a) spoken about (b) made to order (c) promised (d) decorated
72. AVANT-GARDE: (a) old-fashioned (b) well guarded (c) expensive (d) experimental and ahead of its time
73. PARADIGM: (a) puzzle (b) paragraph (c) boundary (d) model or pattern
74. TANGIBLE: (a) able to be touched (b) twisted (c) sour (d) sloping
75. CATALYST: (a) list of goods (b) something that speeds up change (c) disaster (d) analyst

Choose the word opposite in meaning

76. VERBOSE: (a) concise (b) wordy (c) loud (d) spoken
77. AFFLUENT: (a) flowing (b) fluent (c) rich (d) poor
78. BENEVOLENT: (a) generous (b) violent (c) malevolent (d) voluntary
79. AMATEUR: (a) professional (b) beginner (c) lover (d) mature
80. ABUNDANCE: (a) plenty (b) wealth (c) scarcity (d) surplus
81. OPAQUE: (a) dark (b) solid (c) dull (d) transparent
82. TRANSIENT: (a) passing (b) permanent (c) moving (d) visible
83. CANDID: (a) frank (b) sweet (c) honest (d) evasive
84. HOMOGENEOUS: (a) varied (b) uniform (c) domestic (d) blended
85. OBSCURE: (a) hidden (b) dark (c) well known (d) unclear
86. ZEAL: (a) passion (b) apathy (c) energy (d) speed
87. AUGMENT: (a) increase (b) argue (c) support (d) reduce
88. NOVICE: (a) beginner (b) writer (c) newcomer (d) expert
89. LAVISH: (a) generous (b) rich (c) sparing (d) washed

90. CONVENTIONAL: (a) traditional (b) unorthodox (c) formal (d) agreed

Complete the analogy

91. Thread : Fabric :: Brick : ? (a) Cement (b) Wall (c) Mason (d) Clay
92. Tailor : Scissors :: Painter : ? (a) Canvas (b) Gallery (c) Brush (d) Portrait
93. Cotton : Plant :: Wool : ? (a) Sheep (b) Sweater (c) Winter (d) Yarn
94. Pencil : Sketch :: Needle : ? (a) Thread (b) Tailor (c) Thimble (d) Embroidery
95. Chapter : Book :: Scene : ? (a) Actor (b) Stage (c) Curtain (d) Play
96. Warm : Hot :: Cool : ? (a) Cold (b) Mild (c) Breeze (d) Wet
97. Author : Novel :: Composer : ? (a) Orchestra (b) Symphony (c) Piano (d) Concert
98. Museum : Exhibits :: Library : ? (a) Books (b) Readers (c) Shelves (d) Silence
99. Silk : Smooth :: Sandpaper : ? (a) Wood (b) Brown (c) Rough (d) Polish
100. Petal : Flower :: Sleeve : ? (a) Shirt (b) Arm (c) Cuff (d) Button
101. Starch : Stiffen :: Bleach : ? (a) Wash (b) Whiten (c) Soften (d) Dye
102. Scarce : Abundant :: Dull : ? (a) Blunt (b) Boring (c) Grey (d) Vivid
103. Architect : Blueprint :: Fashion designer : ? (a) Fabric (b) Model (c) Runway (d) Sketch
104. Loom : Weaver :: Wheel : ? (a) Spoke (b) Clay (c) Potter (d) Cart
105. Hunger : Eat :: Fatigue : ? (a) Rest (b) Work (c) Sleepy (d) Yawn

Choose the word that fits the sentence

106. The new timetable will ___ every student. (a) effect (b) affect (c) effects (d) afect
107. Please ___ my apologies. (a) except (b) expect (c) accept (d) excerpt
108. My teacher gave me good ___. (a) advise (b) advices (c) advice (d) adverse
109. The ___ of the college addressed the assembly. (a) principal (b) principle (c) prince (d) principled
110. She ordered pens and paper from the ___ shop. (a) stationary (b) station (c) statutory (d) stationery
111. Be careful not to ___ your admit card. (a) lose (b) loose (c) loss (d) lost
112. The bride walked down the ___. (a) isle (b) aisle (c) I'll (d) ail
113. We had fruit salad for ___. (a) desert (b) dissert (c) deserted (d) dessert
114. ___ going to the exhibition tomorrow. (a) Their (b) There (c) They're (d) Theirs
115. I am not sure ___ she will come. (a) weather (b) whether (c) wether (d) whither
116. The construction ___ is closed today. (a) site (b) sight (c) cite (d) sit
117. Press the ___ gently on a wet road. (a) break (b) brick (c) breach (d) brake
118. The interviewer tried to ___ an honest answer. (a) illicit (b) elect (c) elite (d) elicit
119. The sack was made of ___ jute. (a) coarse (b) course (c) cause (d) curse
120. "Lovely work!" was the best ___ she received all day. (a) complement (b) compliment (c) complaint (d) compliance

Answers

Questions	Answers
1 to 10	b, a, c, d, a, b, c, a, d, c

Questions	Answers
11 to 20	b, c, c, b, a, b, d, d, b, b
21 to 30	d, c, b, d, c, b, b, b, c, d
31 to 40	b, c, a, d, b, c, d, a, a, b
41 to 50	b, c, d, c, a, d, b, c, d, a
51 to 60	c, c, b, a, d, b, b, a, d, c
61 to 70	b, d, c, a, c, a, b, d, a, c
71 to 80	b, d, d, a, b, a, d, c, a, c
81 to 90	d, b, d, a, c, b, d, d, c, b
91 to 100	b, c, a, d, d, a, b, a, c, a
101 to 110	b, d, d, c, a, b, c, c, a, d
111 to 120	a, b, d, c, b, a, d, d, a, b

Explanations for the trickier questions

- **16.** Superficial means on the surface only, so shallow. Artificial is a look-alike trap.
- **20.** Contemporary means belonging to the present time. Temporary only looks similar.
- **23.** Aesthetic concerns beauty and art. Anaesthetic is the painkiller.
- **54.** Frugal means careful with money; thrifty is its synonym and extravagant its opposite.
- **64.** Ambiguous has nothing to do with ambition; it describes a statement that can be read in two ways.
- **65.** An eclectic collection borrows from many styles and periods.
- **72.** Avant-garde is French for “advance guard”: those ahead of the rest.
- **78.** Bene is good and mal is bad, so benevolent and malevolent are opposites.
- **84.** Homo means same and hetero means different. Homogeneous is uniform; its opposite is varied.
- **94.** A pencil is the tool that makes a sketch; a needle is the tool that makes embroidery. Thread is a material, not the product.
- **102.** The first pair are opposites, so find the opposite of dull. Blunt and boring are synonyms of dull.
- **104.** A weaver works at a loom; a potter works at a wheel.
- **106.** “Affect” is the verb here. “Effect” would need a different sentence: “The timetable had an effect on every student.”
- **114.** They’re is short for “they are”. Test it by reading the sentence in full.

Score yourself

Use exam marking: +1 for each right answer, −0.25 for each wrong answer.

Score in a set of 60	What to do next
50 or more	Move to the next chapter; revise the words you missed after a week
35 to 49	Relearn Tools 1 and 2, then redo the questions you got wrong
Below 35	Work through the core list for a week before attempting the set again