

# **CAREERS** 360

**PRACTICE** **Series**

## **NIFT 2026**

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# **Official MDes CAT**

## **Sample Questions with Solutions**

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## About This eBook

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This eBook is designed to provide an extensive collection of resources, solutions, and strategies to help you prepare for the NIFT MDes CAT (Creative Ability Test) exam. It features memory-based questions, and expert tips to enhance your preparation. Additionally, this guide covers a breakdown of the key topics relevant to the CAT section and provides solutions and insights that will boost your exam performance. Whether you're preparing for the upcoming NIFT MDes exam or looking to refine your skills, this eBook is your go-to resource for success.

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# Tips for the NIFT MDes (CAT) Section

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Given below are the tips students should consider while prepping for NIFT MDes (CAT) Section

## 1. Understand the Types of Drawing Questions

The **CAT section** involves various types of **drawing-based questions**, each testing different aspects of your creative thinking and artistic skills. Common question types include:

- **Object/Scene Sketching:** You may be asked to sketch everyday objects or scenes. Focus on portraying these with clarity and accuracy.
- **Abstract Concept to Visual Representation:** You might be given an abstract theme or idea (e.g., "growth," "freedom") and asked to represent it visually.
- **Design Interpretation:** You could be shown an incomplete or flawed design and asked to improve it or finish it creatively.
- **Figure Composition:** You may be asked to create a design by arranging various figures or shapes.

**Tip:** Familiarize yourself with these common formats and practice sketching different objects, themes, and design compositions. This will make you more confident in interpreting and responding to these types of questions.

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## 2. Time Management: Allocate Time for Each Question

Effective **time management** is crucial in the CAT section because you'll have limited time to complete each drawing.

- **Set a Time Limit:** For each question, allocate a specific amount of time. For instance, spend **10-15 minutes sketching** simple objects, and **20-25 minutes** for more complex or abstract tasks.

- **Start with Quick, Easy Questions:** If the exam allows for multiple drawings, start with the easier ones to build confidence and warm up your creative mind.
- **Don't Overthink:** Once you've started a sketch, keep moving forward. Spending too much time on fine details can prevent you from completing the question within the time limit.

**Tip:** In practice sessions, simulate exam conditions by solving multiple CAT drawing questions in a set timeframe to improve your speed.

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### 3. Develop Visual Imagination: Practice with Abstract Ideas

One of the key aspects of the NIFT MDes CAT is the **ability to visualize abstract concepts**. For example, you could be asked to create a drawing based on abstract concepts such as "**freedom**," "**unity**," or "**growth**."

- **Sketch Ideas Before Drawing:** For abstract themes, quickly jot down a few keywords or visual elements that come to mind before diving into the drawing. This helps form a cohesive visual concept.
- **Use Metaphors:** Transform abstract concepts into concrete imagery. For example, if asked to represent "**growth**," you might draw a plant growing from a seed, or if it's "**freedom**," you could depict flying birds or an open gate.
- **Think in Layers:** Break down complex ideas into simpler visual elements. Use **basic shapes** and **simple compositions** to build your sketch.

**Tip:** Practice by picking random abstract words and creating drawings that visually communicate these ideas. This will help you develop your visual imagination and ensure you are prepared for any abstract concept that might appear.

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### 4. Use of Proper Tools and Techniques for Drawing

The **tools** you use in the CAT section are essential for creating clear, professional-looking sketches. Here's a breakdown of how to use them effectively:

- **Pencils:** Use a variety of **pencil grades** (e.g., **H for fine lines, B for shading**). Start your sketches lightly with **H pencils**, and later use **B pencils** for shading and adding depth.
- **Erasers:** Be strategic with your eraser. Don't overuse it, but use it to **clean up unwanted lines** or to highlight areas you want to emphasize. Keep the eraser marks subtle.
- **Sharp Lines and Soft Shading:** Ensure your lines are sharp and defined but incorporate **gentle shading** to add dimension to your drawings. Use softer pencils (e.g., **2B or 4B**) for smooth shading.
- **Composition:** Focus on the **balance of elements** in your drawing. Ensure the composition looks harmonious, with proper use of **space, shapes, and proportion**.

**Tip:** Practice sketching with the tools you plan to use during the exam. The more you practice with pencils, erasers, and sketch pens, the more confident and efficient you will become in translating your creative ideas to paper.

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## 5. Practice with Previous Year's Memory-Based Questions

Memory-based questions from previous NIFT MDes exams are **key resources** in your preparation. They help you familiarize yourself with the type and style of questions that typically appear in the exam.

- **Review Past Papers:** Go through **NIFT MDes CAT** memory-based questions and practice them in your free time. This will help you understand what's expected in terms of creativity and how to present your ideas visually.
- **Identify Common Themes:** Take note of recurring themes or question patterns (e.g., "**design improvement**," "**figure arrangement**," or "**abstract interpretation**").
- **Practice Sketching in Real-Time:** Solve these questions while timing yourself to get used to the pressure of the actual exam.

**Tip:** Collect memory-based questions from various sources and make them a part of your regular practice routine. This will help you gain exposure to a wide range of question types and prepare for the unpredictable nature of the exam.

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## 6. Revise Key Design Concepts Regularly

To perform well in the **drawing-based questions**, it's essential to have a strong grasp of **design principles**. Regular revision of concepts related to **spatial arrangements**, **color theory**, and **balance** will improve your ability to conceptualize and execute your designs.

- **Spatial Arrangements:** Understand how different elements in a design should relate to each other. Learn to position elements in a way that creates visual balance, harmony, and interest.
- **Design Elements:** Focus on mastering elements like **lines, shapes, texture, color, and form**. These are critical in both sketching and designing.
- **Proportions and Scale:** Study how to maintain proper proportions in your sketches to avoid disproportionate elements in your drawings.

**Tip:** Create a revision schedule for design-related concepts. Take time to sketch compositions that focus on different elements like **balance, texture, space, and proportions**.

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## 7. Focus on Originality and Uniqueness

The CAT section rewards **originality** and **innovative thinking**. Since the test aims to assess your creative abilities, ensure that your solutions are distinct and showcase your personal design style.

- **Think Outside the Box:** For design interpretation or abstract themes, aim to bring a fresh perspective. Avoid common, overused designs. Try to think of alternative representations that stand out.
- **Avoid Clichés:** For example, if asked to depict "**freedom**," avoid clichéd images like a bird in flight unless you add a unique twist to the concept (e.g.,

freedom through unconventional forms or abstract design).

**Tip:** Practice generating new, innovative ideas for common topics. The goal is to create something unique that catches the attention of the examiner and reflects your creative flair.

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## 8. Pay Attention to Detailing and Refinement

While creativity is key, the **refinement** of your drawing is equally important. Your sketches should be neat and well-executed, not just in terms of ideas but also the technical aspects.

- **Sharp and Clear Outlines:** Avoid rough, fuzzy lines. Ensure your outlines are crisp and precise, making the design look professional.
- **Proper Shading:** Shading adds depth and dimension to your drawing. Practice techniques like **cross-hatching, smooth shading, and stippling** to create texture and visual interest.
- **Precision in Proportions:** Ensure that the proportions of your objects and figures are correct. Incorrect proportions can make your design look unprofessional or poorly executed.

**Tip:** Refine your sketches over multiple practice sessions. First, work on the overall structure and concept, then go back and refine the details to enhance the quality of your work.

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## 9. Prioritize Composition and Layout

The **composition** of your design is fundamental. How you arrange elements within your drawing directly impacts its visual appeal.

- **Golden Ratio:** Consider the **golden ratio** or other principles like **rule of thirds** when placing objects or figures within the design. This will ensure that your composition is balanced and pleasing to the eye.

- **Clarity:** Your composition should not be too crowded. **Whitespace** is just as important as the drawn elements. Allow the viewer to appreciate the design without feeling overwhelmed.
- **Focus Points:** Create a focal point in your drawing where the viewer's eyes naturally go. This helps in guiding the attention to the most important part of the design.

**Tip:** Practice sketching different layouts and experiment with various compositions to see what works best in each scenario.

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## 10. Use Color (If Allowed)

Some NIFT MDes CAT questions may allow or encourage the use of color. Even if it's not explicitly required, using color effectively can significantly enhance your drawing.

- **Color Theory:** If color is an option, use your knowledge of color theory to create contrast, highlight key parts of your design, and add visual appeal. Use complementary or analogous colors strategically.
- **Shading with Color:** When using colors, remember to apply **gradients or shading** to create depth and make the drawing feel more dynamic.
- **Consistent Palette:** Keep your color choices coherent and avoid overwhelming the design with too many colors. A unified palette will make your work look more polished.

**Tip:** Practice using color in your drawings during practice tests to get used to the application and integration of color within your designs.

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## 11. Work on Speed and Accuracy

In the CAT section, **speed** and **accuracy** go hand in hand. While speed is essential for completing all the questions, your accuracy—especially in terms of proportions, layout, and representation—must not suffer.

- **Speed Drills:** Practice sketching within a strict time limit. The more you practice under timed conditions, the faster and more accurate you will become.
- **Avoid Over-Detailing:** While it's important to make your drawing neat, don't get caught up in adding excessive details that will consume time. Focus on capturing the main elements of the design and completing the task.
- **Structured Approach:** Start by sketching the basic outline and framework, then fill in details as time allows.

**Tip:** Use online sketching platforms or apps to practice sketching quickly. Many of these apps allow you to set time limits, making it easier to work on your speed.

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## 12. Develop a Visual Library

Having a **visual library** of design ideas, object references, and artistic techniques can help you think faster and more creatively during the exam.

- **Collect Reference Images:** Build a collection of images that represent various objects, scenes, and design elements. Having a bank of ideas can help you brainstorm quickly when faced with a similar theme in the exam.
- **Study Design Principles:** Familiarize yourself with the core principles of design such as **balance, harmony, rhythm, emphasis, and unity**.
- **Practice Different Styles:** Experiment with different sketching and drawing styles to expand your design vocabulary. This way, you'll have multiple techniques at your disposal when creating your final design.

**Tip:** Regularly expose yourself to different design styles, art forms, and architecture. This will enrich your visual vocabulary and help you generate unique ideas.

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## 13. Practice Sketching from Life and Observation

Drawing from real-life objects and scenes will sharpen your observational skills and enhance your ability to sketch accurately.

- **Life Drawing:** Take time to draw real objects or people. This will help you understand how objects appear in different angles, lighting, and environments.
- **Still Life Practice:** Set up still life compositions and sketch them. Pay attention to how different textures, forms, and proportions work in reality.
- **Perspective Drawing:** Practice drawing in different perspectives to improve the depth and realism of your sketches. Mastering **one-point**, **two-point**, and **three-point perspective** will be useful for certain types of questions.

**Tip:** Make it a habit to carry a small sketchbook and practice sketching objects around you during your daily routine. This will enhance your observational skills and speed.

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#### 14. Test Your Creativity by Incorporating Multiple Elements

Some CAT questions may require you to create designs that incorporate various elements or tell a story through your artwork. Being able to merge ideas into a cohesive design is a valuable skill.

- **Multiple Elements:** When tasked with incorporating different elements (e.g., geometric shapes, nature, human figures, etc.), make sure the elements flow together seamlessly without feeling disjointed.
- **Narrative Designs:** Sometimes you may be asked to convey a story or theme through your drawing. Consider the **visual narrative** and how each part of the drawing contributes to the overall theme.

**Tip:** Practice combining multiple concepts into one design. This could include mixing abstract forms with real-world objects or using visual storytelling techniques in your drawings.

# NIFT MDes CAT Sample Questions (CAT Section)

प्रश्न संख्या / Question No. 1

(अंक / Marks : 40)

दिए गए 4 बॉक्स का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित में से किसी एक के रूप में अपने आप की कल्पना करते हुए अपने जीवन के एक दिन का खाका (स्केच) तैयार करें। आप संवाद बबल/बॉक्स का प्रयोग करते हुए पाठ लिख सकते हैं। (किसी एक पर उत्तर लिखें)

**Using the given 4 boxes, sketch a day of your life imagining yourself as any one of the following. You can write text by making dialogue bubbles/boxes. (Attempt any one)**

क) आप एक जंगल में रास्ता भूल गए हैं और आपको यह भी पता चलता है कि आपका आकार आधा हो गया है। किसी एक स्थिति का खाका (स्केच) तैयार करें जहां आप अपने घटे हुए आकार का प्रयोग अपने फायदे के लिए कर सकते हैं।

a. You have lost your way in a jungle and also find yourself shrunk to half your size. Sketch any one situation where you can use your reduced size to your advantage.

ख) आप एक अत्यंत उबड़-खाबड़ भू-भाग में यात्रा कर रहे एक सुपर हीरो हैं। अपने भविष्योन्मुखी (फ्यूचरिस्टिक) कार के डैशबोर्ड का डिज़ाइन तैयार करें।

b. You are a superhero traveling on very bumpy terrain. Design the dashboard of your futuristic car.

ग) आप एक दिन के लिए अदृश्य हैं। किसी की मदद करने के लिए अपनी अदृश्यता का उपयोग आप कैसे करेंगे?

c. You are invisible for a day. How will you use your invisibility for helping someone?

**Solution 01 :**

Story of a boy lost in a jungle, where due to his shrunken size finds it easy to navigate hiding himself from the monster and easily navigating from a thorny forest.

(The image description of the above scenario)

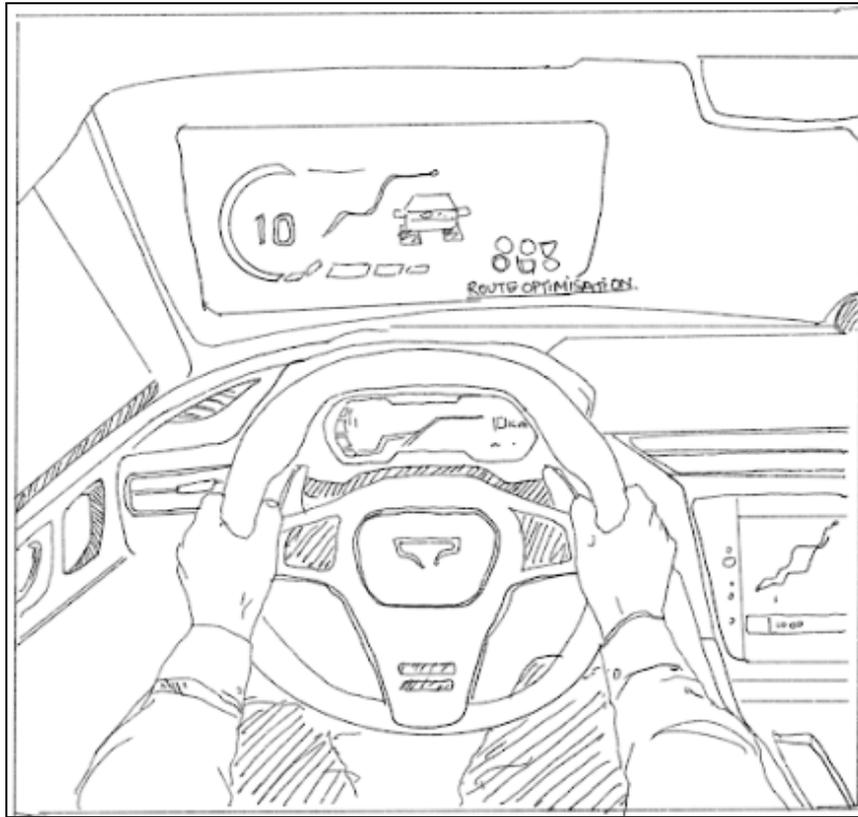


**Solution 02 :**

The provided image provides the view of a "Futuristic Car from Inside" travelling on bumpy roads.

The sketch includes the futuristic dashboard with following features 👍

- a. Projection Map on Windshield
- b. Steering Mounted Controls
- c. Hi-Tech Digital Displays etc.



**Solution 03:** Invisibility for a day is used here to help an old woman who accidentally breaks open the bag, spilling all the fruits in the bag. Invisibly I would help such old people in need without letting them know and feel helpless.



निम्नलिखित में से किसी एक का खाका (स्केच) तैयार करें और/अथवा उसे चित्रित करें। (किसी एक पर उत्तर लिखें)

**Sketch and/or render any one of the following. (Attempt any one)**

क) देश के विभिन्न भागों में हाल की बाढ़ में रिपोर्ट मिली थी कि कई पालतू कुत्ते इसलिए मारे गए क्योंकि वे इतने भारी हो गए कि उठाकर बचाव बोट/चॉपर में नहीं डाले जा सके। पालतू पशु बचाव की एक युक्ति का खाका (स्केच) तैयार करें जो किसी कुत्ते को उठाकर पानी की सतह तक ला सकता हो।

a) In the recent floods in various parts of the country, it was reported that many pet dogs died because they became too heavy to lift and transfer into a rescue boat/chopper. Sketch a pet rescue device that can lift a dog to the surface of the water.

ख) निम्नलिखित में से किसी एक ब्रांड की टैगलाइन तैयार करने के लिए अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी/क्षेत्रीय भाषा का मिला-जुला उपयोग करें :

b) Use combination of English and Hindi/regional language to create a tagline of any one of the following brands.

- केलॉग्स / Kellogg's
- सर्फ एक्सेल / Surf Excel
- माउंटेन ड्यू / Mountain Dew

उदाहरण के लिए – पैराशूट एडवांस्ड के लिए 'गॉर्जियस हमेशा'।

टैगलाइन का प्रयोग करते हुए एक पृष्ठ का पत्रिका विज्ञापन तैयार करें।

For example- 'Gorgeous Hamesha' for Parachute Advanced

Create a one-page magazine advertisement using the tagline.

ग) सरकार का पेट्रोल का प्रयोग करने वाले सभी वाहनों को इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में अगले दशक में परिवर्तित करने का अधिदेश है। इस परिदृश्य में सार्वजनिक इलेक्ट्रिक चार्जिंग स्टेशन मौजूदा पेट्रोल स्टेशन की जगह ले लेंगे। ऐसे किसी चार्जिंग स्टेशन का एक काल्पनिक खाका (स्केच) तैयार करें।

c) The mandate of the government is to convert all vehicles using petrol into electric vehicles in the next decade. In this scenario, the present petrol stations are going to be replaced by public electric charging stations. Imagine and sketch one such charging station.

**Solution 02:**

**B1. Kellogg's Poster Design** (depicting a family in the frame for breakfast)



**B2 : Surf Excel Poster** ( depicting elements of careless fund and play)



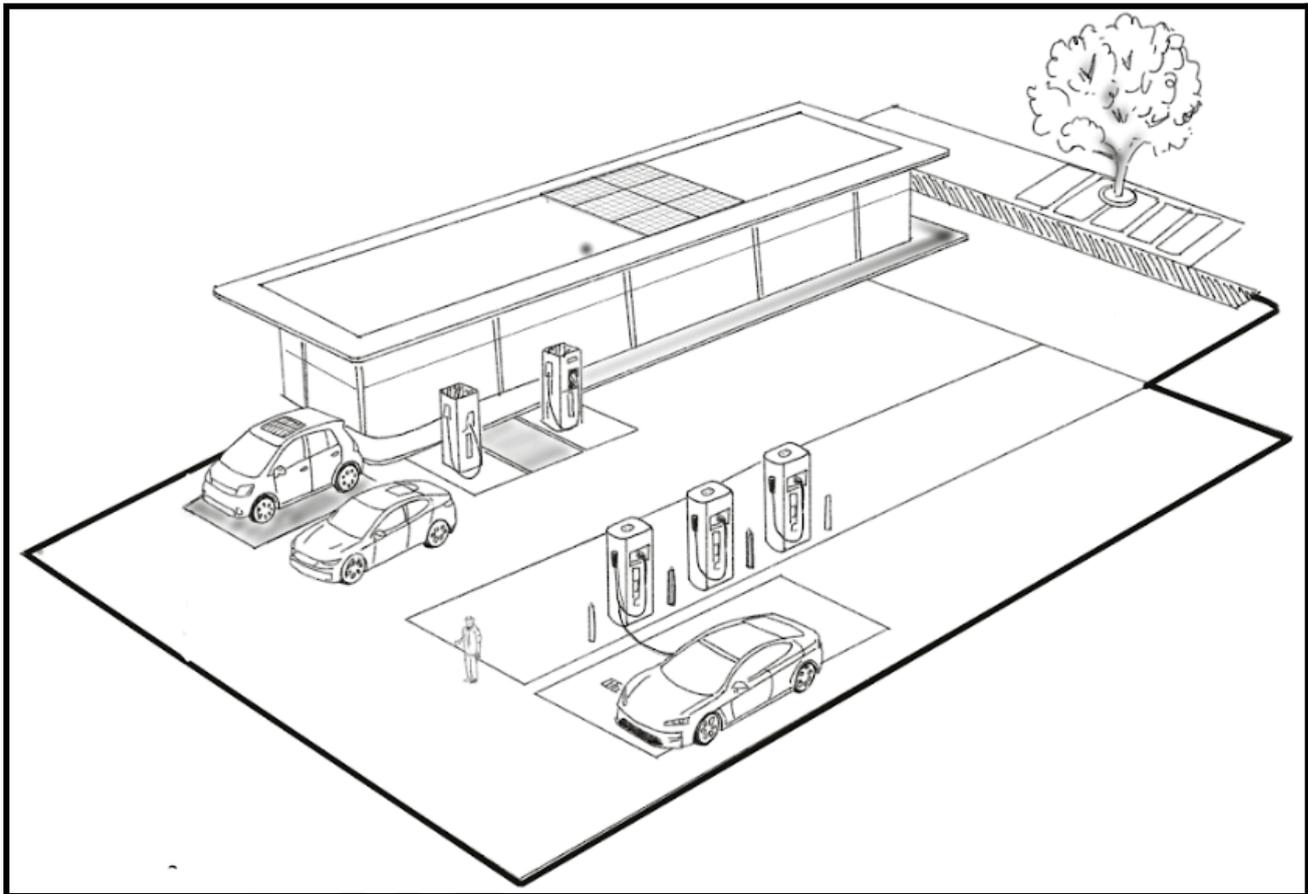
**B3 : Mountain Dew Poster** : (English and Hindi Words as Fonts)



### **C. Illustration of the Charging Station**

The sketched illustration provides a detailed layout considering the parking space, parking point for the cars. The technical details here depicting the following:

- a. Proportional Layout
- b. Perspective Drawing
- c. Human For Scale Understanding



## OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

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eBook	Download Here
NIFT Last Minute Preparation Tips and Mock Test	<a href="https://design.careers360.com/download/ebooks/nift-last-minute-preparation-tips">https://design.careers360.com/download/ebooks/nift-last-minute-preparation-tips</a>
NIFT 2025 Most Important Topics	<a href="https://design.careers360.com/download/ebooks/nift-most-important-topics">https://design.careers360.com/download/ebooks/nift-most-important-topics</a>
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