

How to prepare for NIFT entrance

National Institute of Fashion Technology Entrance Examination (NIFTEE). Run by National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts the written test for NIFT; NIFT runs the Situation Test and seat allocation.

When

The written test is on one day in winter.

The exam

B.Des: GAT (General Ability Test, on computer, 2 hours, 100 questions) plus CAT (Creative Ability Test, on paper, 3 hours, 3 questions), then a hands-on Situation Test for those shortlisted.

Your plan, step by step

- 1 Daily sketching with colour Class 11, now to March 2027**
Draw for 30 to 45 minutes every day in an A4 sketchbook: people in different poses, clothes on a chair, objects, street scenes. Colour at least three pages a week with pencil colours, pastels or poster colours, because CAT rewards colour. Try one quick illustration a week on a theme such as 'a festival in the rain'.
- 2 Build GAT basics Class 11, April to September 2027**
Spend 30 minutes a day on English (reading an editorial, learning ten new words, idioms and spellings) and 20 minutes on arithmetic and reasoning. Read the news for current affairs. GAT is 30 per cent of the B.Des result and has negative marking, so accuracy matters.
- 3 Make things with your hands Class 11 and 12, weekends**
Make small models from paper, card, foam, thread, wire, straws and waste material in one or two hours, using only what is on the table. Then write four or five lines in English explaining the idea. This is exactly what the Situation Test asks.
- 4 Timed CAT practice and application Class 12, September to December 2027**
Practise full 3-hour CAT sets with three questions, including a poster, a story in pictures and an imaginative drawing. Watch NIFT and NTA sites for the application window, which in recent years opened in December. Decide whether to apply for B.Des alone or for B.Des and B.FTech together.
- 5 Mocks and revision Class 12, final weeks before the exam**
Do one timed GAT mock of 100 questions in 2 hours every few days and one full CAT paper each week. Keep current affairs notes for the last 6 to 8 months. Since the 2027 exam moved to January, plan for an exam date that could fall in early January 2028 in the middle of board preparation.
- 6 Situation Test After the written result**
If shortlisted, practise timed model making with limited materials every other day, and practise the English write-up. Focus on neat construction and a clear colour scheme; finesse is one of the marking points.

What the exam tests

- B.Des GAT: 100 multiple-choice questions in 120 minutes, in English or Hindi. Communication Ability and English Comprehension 40, Quantitative Ability 20, Analytical and Logical Ability 15, General Knowledge and Current Affairs 25. The number of questions per section can change year to year.
- GAT marking: 1 mark for a right answer, minus 0.25 for a wrong one, 0 for a blank.
- B.Des CAT: 3 questions in 3 hours on paper, judging 'intuitive ability, power of observation in concept development and design ability', with 'creative and innovative use of colour and illustration skills'. You bring your own colours and drawing material.
- Writing your name, any identifying mark, or a coaching centre's name or logo on the CAT sheet gets you disqualified.

Free and official material

NIFT admissions page (prospectus, guidelines, notices) (nift.ac.in/admissions). Official prospectus, admission guidelines, seat allocation rules and every notification for the year.

NTA NIFTEE page (exams.nta.nic.in/niftee). Application, admit card, answer keys and results for the written test.

NIFT Admission Guidelines 2026 (nift.ac.in/sites/default/files/2026-08/Admission-Guidelines-2026_0.pdf). Exact GAT sections, weights and Situation Test marking points.

NTA examination calendar (December 2026 onwards) (nta.ac.in/Download/Notice/Examcalendar.pdf). Shows the tentative NIFTEE 2027 date of 10 January 2027.

NPTEL: Design Thinking, A Primer (IIT Madras) (nptel.ac.in/courses/110106124). A free short course on generating and testing ideas, helpful for CAT concepts.

Books students use

Commonly used, not endorsed.

Anatomy and Perspective: The Fundamentals of Figure Drawing, Charles Oliver

The Complete Guide to Perspective Drawing, Craig Attebery

Model-Making: Materials and Methods, David Neat

Word Power Made Easy, Norman Lewis

The Design of Everyday Things, Don Norman

Creative Confidence, Tom Kelley and David Kelley

Coaching: do you need it?

Self-study with free material: Students who practise drawing and colour daily and can handle English and arithmetic on their own. GAT especially is manageable with self-study.

Online live classes: Students far from a design centre who want set CAT tasks and feedback on their work.

Classroom design coaching: Students who want supervised model-making practice for the Situation Test and regular critique of their colour work. It helps least when it replaces daily drawing at home.

Red flags

- Promises of a guaranteed NIFT seat or rank. Barred by the 2024 Ministry of Education guidelines.
- Pressure to pay the full fee upfront, or no refund in writing.
- Teaching you to add a signature style or mark on your CAT sheet. NIFT disqualifies any sheet with identifying marks.
- Very large batches where no one reviews your drawings.
- 'Leaked' or 'expected' CAT questions. NIFT does not publish CAT papers, and such claims cannot be checked.

The last months

- Do a 2-hour GAT mock every few days and review every wrong answer: with minus 0.25 per mistake, blind guessing hurts.
- Do one full 3-hour CAT paper each week, finishing all three questions with colour.
- Revise current affairs from the last six to eight months.
- Keep daily 15-minute quick sketches of people and objects to stay fast.

