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## 8 expert tips to crack design entrance exams

With a strategic and organised mindset, aspirants can successfully navigate any challenge they are faced with, along the way.



Top 8 expert tips to crack design entrance exams

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Cracking a design entrance exam today requires more than just creative flair. Transformative shifts in consumer behaviour and industry trends have opened up newer, more interesting avenues for those operating in the field of design, further attracting more students to specialised design courses to enhance their professional journey.

Keeping in mind how dynamic the design industry is, candidates are now evaluated based on their abstract visualisation abilities, analytical prowess, design-thinking abilities, and problem-solving skills, in addition to their sketching portfolio. So, it becomes imperative for aspiring design students to hone these skills, keep an eye on industry trends, and finally, zero in on a strategy that comprehensively addresses the requirements of top design examinations.

To help navigate these competitive examinations successfully, Professor Manas Mishra - School of Design, UPES shares 8 expert tips to better equip budding designers to ace their entrance exams.

### 1. MASTER YOUR FUNDAMENTALS

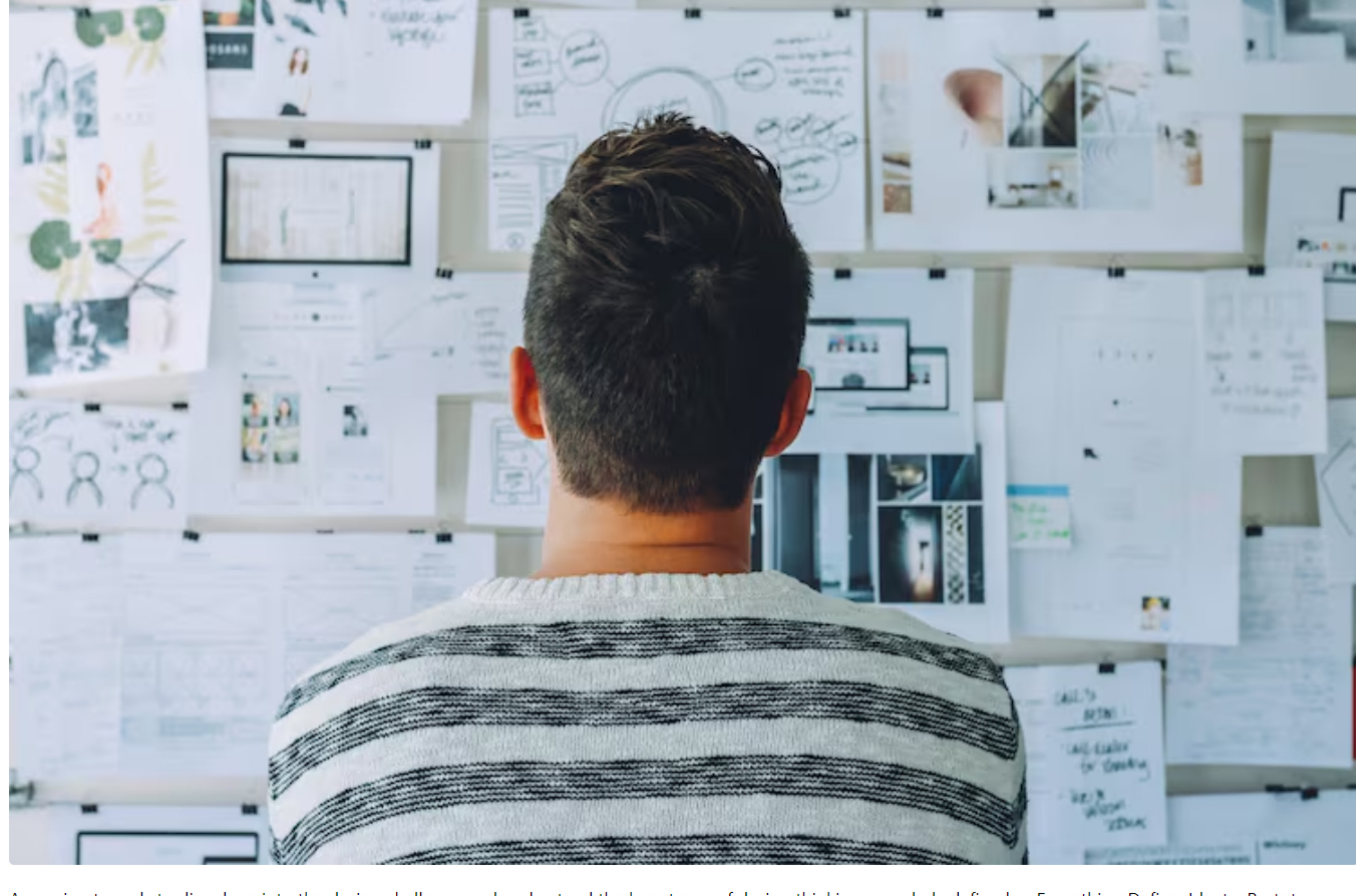
A comprehensive grasp of the syllabus, and the foundational elements of design such as colour theory and layout design, are the guiding principles in design studies. These serve as the building blocks for impactful palettes and engaging user interfaces.

Additionally, prioritise the often-overlooked aspects like speed and consistency, as they not only boost confidence but also help an individual to tackle more complex challenges during the exam.

### 2. STAY CURRENT WITH GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND AFFAIRS

Stay up-to-date with design trends, and the advancement of technology is the key to success. Whether it's the latest UI/ UX design patterns, design tool upgrades, or the basic know-how of technology integration, a forward-thinking mindset provides an advantage in both written examinations and personality tests.

### 3. POLISH YOUR DESIGN THINKING



An aspirant needs to dive deep into the design challenge and understand the key stages of design thinking, popularly defined as Empathise, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test. With design thinking being a repetitive process, it is crucial to incorporate constructive feedback, embrace criticism, and conduct thorough research to achieve perfection.

### 4. HONE YOUR SKETCHING SKILLS

Practice sketching on a day-to-day basis helps you unleash your creativity. Examinations like UCEED and CEED and those conducted by NIFT and NID, place significant weight on subjective, drawing-related, and problem-solving questions to test an individual's creativity, observation, and visualisation skills.

### 5. PRACTICE PYQS AND MOCK PAPERS

Understanding the intricacies of the questions is essential to developing the necessary speed for efficient answers. For this, the candidates must practice the Previous Year Question (PYQ) papers and mock tests to prepare for the three-hour examination format. Further, the aspiring design student should indulge in regular, shorter practice sessions as they are more effective than irregular intense study sessions.

### 6. TAKE FEEDBACK



There is no standardised metric to quantify good design. Anything that is now designed has the potential to be redesigned in the future. Therefore, adopt feedback as a valuable instrument for personal development. Collaborate with your classmates, mentors, or teachers and be receptive to valuable feedback. Utilise feedback to iteratively and meticulously enhance your designs.

### 7. TAKE BREAKS TO AVOID STRESS

A positive mindset brings positive things. So, it is necessary to balance your study routines with short breaks throughout the day. Taking a walk, disconnecting from technology, meditation, spending time with your loved ones, etc., can help cultivate positive vibes. And always remember to have faith in your abilities and believe that you are well-prepared for what lies ahead.

### 8. VISIT A DESIGN SCHOOL

Before undertaking a design entrance examination, it can be quite beneficial to pay a visit to a design institution. In this scenario, participants get the chance to interact with both the professors and the current students. There is a potential for acquiring meaningful feedback.

The journey to a good score in design entrance exams is not just about reaching the destination but enjoying the process of learning along the way. ■