

MAH AAC CET Memory Drawing

Sample Paper – 8 | 2026

Duration: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 50

Instructions

- This paper contains **1 practical question** modelled on the MAH AAC CET Memory Drawing examination pattern.
- Total marks: **50**. There is **no negative marking**.
- Draw entirely **from memory only** — reference materials, photographs, printed images, or electronic devices are strictly prohibited.
- Render your composition in **poster colour or watercolour** on a drawing sheet of approximately **14" × 19"** (or as directed by the invigilator).
- Use **pencil only** for the initial outline; complete the drawing in colour. Pencil lines must not be visible in the final submission.
- Write your **seat number and name** clearly on the front of the drawing sheet before beginning.
- Do **not leave the examination hall** before the allotted time has elapsed.
- **Mobile phones, calculators, and all electronic gadgets** are strictly prohibited inside the examination hall.

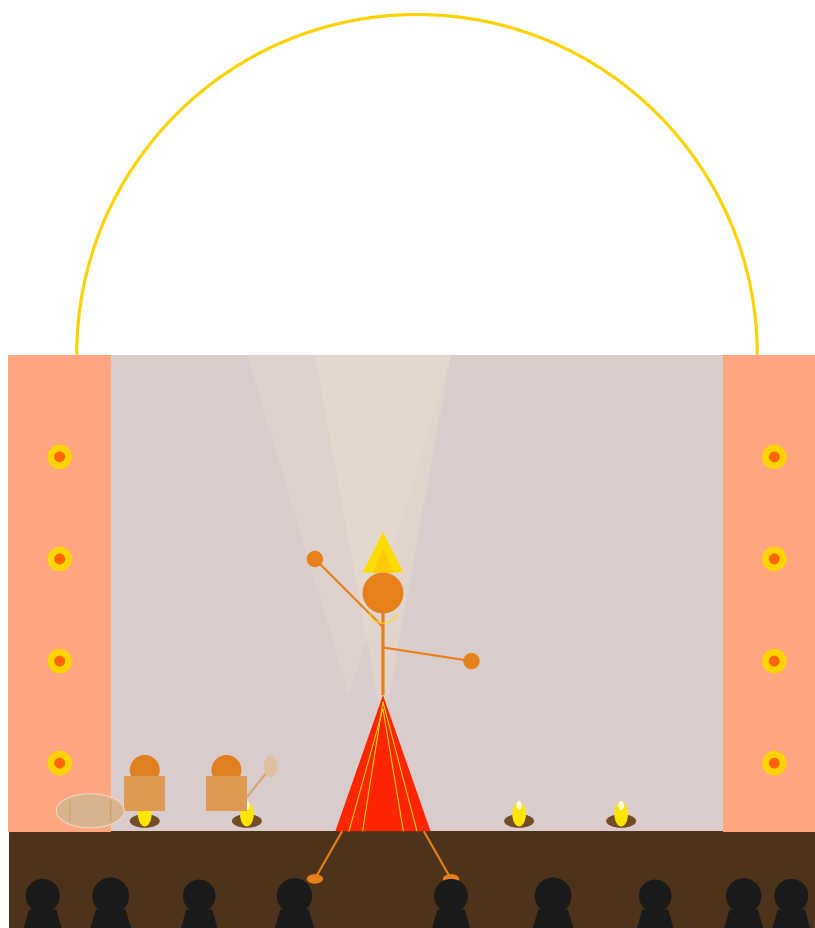
Memory Drawing Question

Question (50 Marks):

Draw a scene of a **classical Bharatanatyam dance performance on a decorated stage** from memory. Show the dancer in full traditional costume mid-pose — bent knees in the characteristic *aramandi* stance, one arm raised overhead with a graceful *mudra* (hand gesture), the other extended to the side, elaborate jewellery, costume, and facial expression conveying emotion. Beside the dancer, musicians sit playing the mridangam and violin. A richly decorated backdrop with floral rangoli motifs and traditional oil lamps (diyas) frames the stage. The audience is rendered as dark silhouettes in the foreground, suggesting a packed auditorium. Render your composition in **poster colour or watercolour**, using warm amber and gold stage lighting against a dark background to create a vibrant, dramatic atmosphere.

Suggested Composition Layout





Thumbnail: Classical Dance Performance

Evaluation Rubric (50 Marks)



Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptors	Marks
Composition & Layout	Balanced arrangement; clear foreground, middle ground, and background; effective use of the full sheet	10
Proportion & Perspective	Figures and objects in correct relative scale; diminution of far objects; convincing spatial depth	10
Details & Scene Elements	Key elements present (dancer in pose, musicians, stage backdrop, diyas, audience silhouettes); richness of observed detail	10
Colour & Rendering	Confident use of poster/watercolour; effective tonal contrast; mood conveyed through colour	10
Imagination & Mood	Atmosphere and energy of the scene conveyed; originality; narrative quality of composition	10
Total		50

Preparation Guidance



- **Study Bharatanatyam stances:** Practise drawing the *aramandi* (half-sitting) posture, the characteristic bent-knee stance, and key *mudras* (hand gestures) from memory. These are the visual signature of the dance form.
- **Plan with a thumbnail:** Spend 5–7 minutes on a small compositional sketch. Place the dancer centrally as the dominant figure; distribute musicians and audience to frame them.
- **Stage lighting and atmosphere:** Use warm golds, ambers, and reds for the lit stage; contrast with a deep dark background (maroon, deep purple, or black) to create the drama of stage performance.
- **Costume details:** The distinctive pleated white-and-gold skirt (kuchipudi/Bharatanatyam costume), elaborate jewellery, and head-dress are visually important — practise rendering these simplified but recognisable.
- **Audience as silhouette:** Simplified dark head-and-shoulder shapes in the foreground are enough to suggest a packed audience; they anchor the composition without competing with the dancer.
- **Time management:** Approximately 10 minutes for composition planning, 50 minutes for painting, and 30 minutes for detailing and finishing touches.

