

MAH AAC CET Design & Composition

Sample Paper – 1 | 2026

Duration: 90 Minutes | Maximum Marks: 50

Instructions

- This paper contains **1 practical question** modelled on the MAH AAC CET Design & Composition pattern.
- Total marks: **50**. There is **no negative marking**.
- Render the design in **POSTER COLOUR** or **WATERCOLOUR** on a drawing sheet of approximately **14" × 19"**.
- Use a pencil for the initial layout; **pencil lines must not be visible** in the final submission — erase or cover them fully.
- Geometric instruments (compass, ruler, set square) may be used for the **initial framework only**; freehand rendering is expected for the **final coloured design**.
- Write your **seat number and name** clearly on the front of the sheet before beginning work.
- **Mobile phones, calculators, and all electronic gadgets** are strictly prohibited in the examination hall.

Design & Composition Question

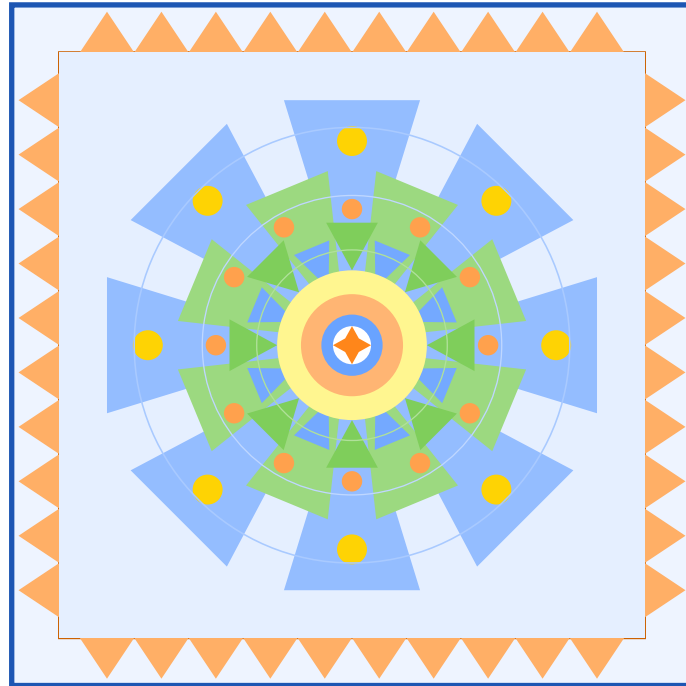
Question (50 Marks):

Design a decorative square panel (approximately 20 cm × 20 cm) using **circles, triangles, and straight lines** as primary geometric elements. Your composition must demonstrate **RADIAL SYMMETRY** with a clearly dominant central motif surrounded by progressively smaller repeating units. Include a **decorative border** that complements the central design. Use a minimum of **THREE harmonious colours** (e.g. an analogous or complementary scheme). Your finished panel should convey **balance, rhythm, and visual unity**.

Suggested Composition Layout



The thumbnail below shows **one possible approach** to the composition. You are encouraged to develop your own interpretation of the theme while fulfilling the stated requirements.



Thumbnail: Geometric Radial Pattern Panel

Evaluation Rubric (50 Marks)

Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptors	Marks
Composition & Radial Symmetry	Clear radial arrangement; dominant central motif; effective balance of positive and negative space	12
Geometric Accuracy & Neatness	Clean lines and curves; accurate use of geometric elements; overall tidiness and finish	10
Border Design & Integration	Border pattern harmonizes with central motif; rhythm and repetition are clearly evident	8
Colour Scheme & Application	Harmonious colour choice; confident and even paint application; effective tonal variation	12
Creativity & Visual Impact	Originality of motif; aesthetic appeal; overall visual strength and impact	8
Total		50



Preparation Guidance

- **Study references:** Explore mandala and rangoli patterns for strong examples of radial symmetry and repeating geometric motifs.
- **Plan before you paint:** Sketch the full panel on rough paper first. Use a compass to divide a circle into equal sectors (6 or 8) as the backbone of your radial layout.
- **Colour theory:** Choose either an *analogous* scheme (e.g. blue–green–teal) or a *complementary* scheme (e.g. blue–orange). Limit yourself to 4–5 colours to maintain harmony.
- **Rhythm and repetition:** Repeat your chosen motif at least 3 times in decreasing scale from the centre to the edge to create a sense of depth and movement.
- **Paint application:** Mix each colour to a consistent, opaque density. Use a finer brush for border details and for outlines; keep edges crisp.
- **Time management:** Allocate approximately **10 min** for planning and layout, **50 min** for colouring the central design, and **30 min** for border details and final finishing.

