

MAH AAC CET Design & Composition

Sample Paper – 4 | 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 your design in **POSTER COLOUR** or **WATERCOLOUR** on a drawing sheet of approximately 19" × 14" (landscape orientation recommended).
- The composition must be **strictly non-representational** — no figures, landscapes, or recognisable objects are permitted.
- Use pencil for the initial layout; **pencil lines must not be visible** in the final submission.
- Write your **seat number and name** clearly on the front of the sheet before beginning.
- **No mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets** are allowed in the examination hall.

Design & Composition Question



Question (50 Marks):

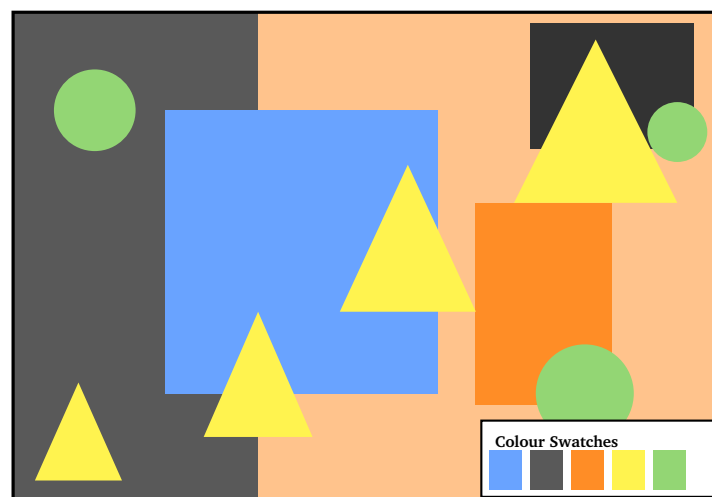
Create an **abstract colour composition** on a rectangular sheet (approximately 19" × 14", landscape). Using **ONLY** geometric shapes — rectangles, squares, circles, and triangles — with **NO representational subject matter**, design a composition that demonstrates:

- (a) **Contrast:** place a region of light colours against a region of dark colours, AND a warm-colour area against a cool-colour area within the same composition;
- (b) **Focal Point:** create one dominant area that immediately draws the viewer's eye (through the largest shape, most intense colour, or central/rule-of-thirds placement);
- (c) **Movement and Rhythm:** arrange shapes so the eye travels through the composition in a deliberate path (e.g. a diagonal sweep, a spiral progression, or a step-and-repeat rhythm).

Use **exactly five colours**. Name or swatch your five chosen colours in a small corner of the sheet.

Suggested Composition Layout (Thumbnail)

The thumbnail below suggests one possible arrangement. Candidates are encouraged to develop their own original composition.



Thumbnail: Abstract Geometric Composition — Contrast, Focal Point, and Movement

Evaluation Rubric (50 Marks)

Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptors	Marks
Contrast (Light/Dark & Warm/Cool)	Clear, effective contrast between light and dark regions AND between warm and cool zones within the same composition	12
Focal Point	A single dominant area unmistakably draws the eye; achieved through scale, colour intensity, or placement at a rule-of-thirds intersection	12
Movement & Rhythm	Eye travels through the composition in a deliberate path; rhythm created by shape repetition, size progression, or diagonal arrangement	10
Colour Scheme	Exactly five colours used; colours work together harmoniously while producing the required contrasts	8
Technical Execution	Even, clean colour application; crisp shape edges; neat overall presentation; colour swatches correctly labelled in corner of sheet	8
Total		50

Preparation Guidance

- Study works by **Mondrian, Kandinsky, and Malevich** for examples of pure geometric abstraction with strong compositional principles.
- Contrast is not just dark vs. light — also use **temperature contrast** (warm/cool) and **scale contrast** (large/small shapes) to enrich the composition.
- **Focal point strategy:** the most intensely coloured shape placed at or near a rule-of-thirds intersection will naturally become the focal point; avoid placing it dead-centre.
- **Movement:** arrange a series of shapes (e.g. triangles) in a progression of increasing sizes along a diagonal to guide the viewer's eye from one corner of the sheet to the other.
- **Colour limit:** working with exactly 5 colours forces decisive, intentional choices — mix



on the palette if needed, but keep only 5 distinct hues on the sheet; label each swatch clearly.

- **Time management:** ~10 min thumbnail explorations (try 2–3 quick thumbnails to test different compositions), ~50 min colouring the main work, ~30 min refinement and swatch labelling.

