

NATA Drawing & Composition Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 80

Instructions

- This is the **Drawing & Composition** section (Part A) of NATA (National Aptitude Test in Architecture). It has **3 compulsory questions**, each answered by **freehand drawing**.
- **A1** – Composition & Colour (**25 marks**); **A2** – Sketching & Composition, Black & White (**25 marks**); **A3** – Three-Dimensional Composition (**30 marks**). Total: **80 marks**.
- Use **HB / 2B pencils** and an eraser; keep **colour pencils / crayons / poster colours** ready for A1. All work must be **freehand** — scales, compasses and other drawing instruments are not allowed.
- Plan your time at roughly **30 minutes per question**, and draw each answer on the sheet provided.

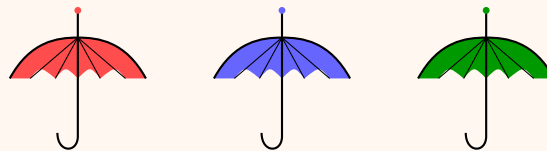
Part A: Drawing & Composition



Question A1 — Composition & Colour**[25 Marks]**

Many streets and courtyards are decorated with rows of **open umbrellas** strung overhead in different colours. Using **open umbrellas of different colours** as your main motif — overlapping at different heights to form a hanging canopy, with a strip of street and small figures below — create an attractive, balanced and **colourful 2D composition** on the theme “*Colourful Umbrellas*”.

You may take the following umbrella motifs as your starting elements (you are free to add more, change their sizes and colours, and arrange them as you wish):



Given umbrella motifs

What is assessed: colour harmony and contrast, balance and focal point, sense of rhythm and overlap, and overall neatness. Show the composition in colour. (*Draw your answer in the space provided on the drawing sheet.*)

Question A2 — Sketching & Composition (Black & White)[25 Marks]

From your **memory and observation**, sketch the scene of “*a fishing boat pulled up on the seashore*”. Your composition should include a **wooden boat resting on the sand**, at least **one fisherman with a net**, the **sea and horizon** behind, and a few **gulls** in the sky.

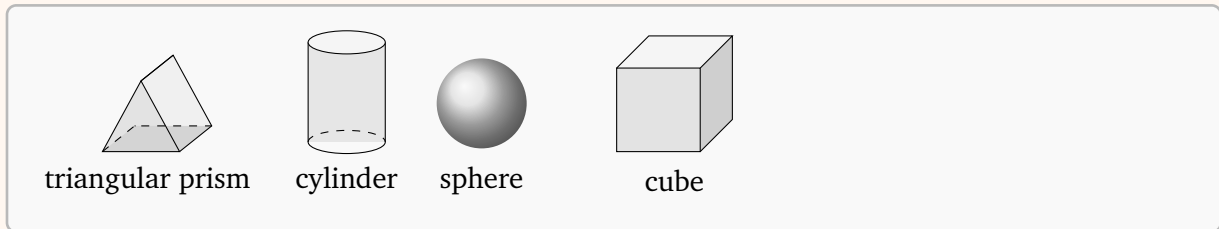
Work in **pencil / black-and-white** only. Show a believable **ground plane and perspective**, correct **proportion** between the figure and the boat, and a clear treatment of **light and shadow** (assume the light is coming from one side).

What is assessed: observation and realism, composition and depth, the play of light and shade (hatching / tonal values), line quality and proportion. (*Draw your answer in the space provided on the drawing sheet.*)



Question A3 — Three-Dimensional Composition**[30 Marks]**

Using **all four** of the **three-dimensional forms** given below — a **triangular prism**, a **cylinder**, a **sphere** and a **cube** — create a single **stable and interesting 3D composition**. You may change their relative sizes and may let the forms touch, rest on or overlap one another, but **every form must appear** in your composition.



Show the composition in **one-point or two-point perspective**, with the light coming from the **upper left**, and render the **light, shade and cast shadows** on a common ground plane.

What is assessed: creativity of the 3D arrangement, stability and logic of the assembly, accuracy of perspective and proportion, and the rendering of light & shadow. *(Draw your answer in the space provided on the drawing sheet.)*

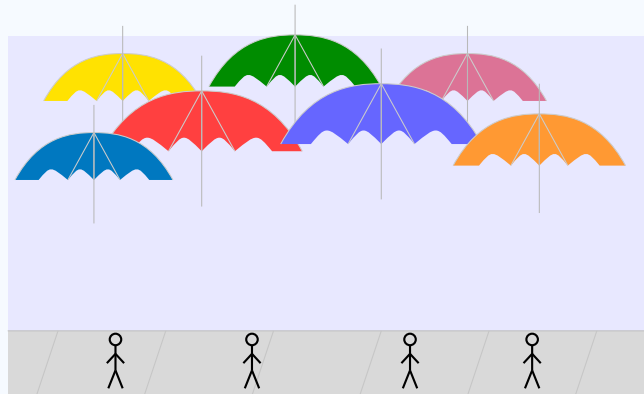


Model Approach & Sample Solutions

There is no single “correct” drawing in NATA — examiners reward imagination, sound composition, proportion, perspective and the handling of colour, light and shade. The sketches below show **one acceptable approach** to each question; treat them as a guide, not as the only answer.

Model Approach & Sample Solution

A1 — Composition & Colour (a worked example). A strong answer fills the upper area with a canopy of *overlapping* open umbrellas at different heights, so the colours read as one rhythmic band rather than separate objects. Vary the sizes, let some umbrellas overlap and tilt, and anchor the picture with a strip of street and a few small walking figures below. A limited, harmonious palette (warm reds and yellows against cooler blues and greens) reads better than many clashing colours.



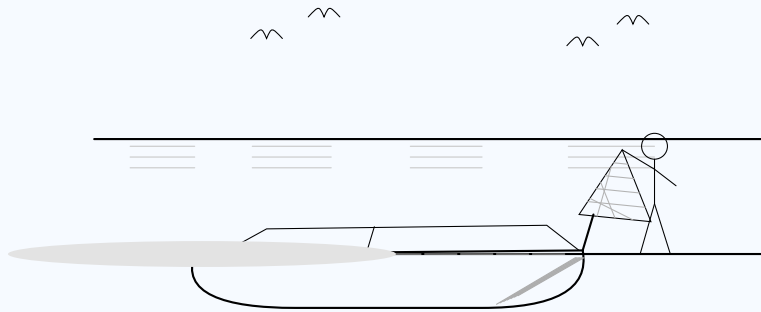
Sample colour composition — “Colourful Umbrellas”

Marks are earned for: a rhythmic canopy with overlap and varied heights, warm–cool colour harmony, a clear focal grouping rather than evenly spaced umbrellas, a street strip that grounds the scene, and clean, confident fills. *Common mistakes:* umbrellas all the same size in a flat row, harsh unrelated colours, no foreground/street to anchor the picture, and an empty, unbalanced top.



Model Approach & Sample Solution

A2 — Sketching & Composition, Black & White (a worked example). Begin with the horizon (sea) line and a ground line for the sand, then block the boat as a long curved hull in two-point perspective, tilted as if beached. Place the fisherman next — it fixes the scale of everything else (a standing adult is roughly the height of the boat’s hull). Add the net, a couple of gulls and the sea behind, then build tone: leave the lit (left) planes white and hatch the shaded (right) side of the hull and the cast shadow on the sand.

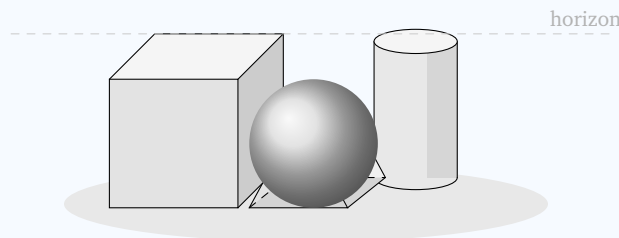


Sample black-&-white sketch — “Fishing boat pulled up on the seashore”

Marks are earned for: correct figure-to-boat proportion, a convincing sand plane with horizon and perspective, consistent light direction with hatched shadows, and confident, varied line weight. *Common mistakes:* a floating boat with no ground or sea line, a figure out of scale, a flat hull with no curve, and drawings with no tone.

Model Approach & Sample Solution

A3 — Three-Dimensional Composition (a worked example). Decide a single light direction (upper left) and a common ground plane first. A stable arrangement uses the heavy cube as a base/anchor, stands the cylinder beside it with the triangular prism resting against the cube, and places the sphere in front so it overlaps and ties the group together. Keep all the forms agreeing with one horizon line, lighten the top/left planes and darken the right planes, and drop one continuous cast shadow to the right.



Sample 3D composition — prism, cylinder, sphere & cube with light & shadow

Marks are earned for: an inventive yet *stable* grouping (forms resting/leaning logically), all four solids clearly present, a consistent horizon and perspective, and con-



vincing light, shade and a common cast shadow. *Common mistakes:* forms floating or impossibly balanced, mixed light directions, missing one of the given solids, and flat shapes with no tonal modelling.

