

NATA Drawing & Composition Sample Paper – 2

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]

Diwali is celebrated as the **festival of lights**. Using rows of lit **diyas (oil lamps)** as your main motif — along with a **rangoli** pattern, a **dark night sky** and a few **fireworks** — create an attractive, balanced and **colourful 2D composition** on the theme “*Festival of Lights (Diwali)*”.

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



Given diya 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]

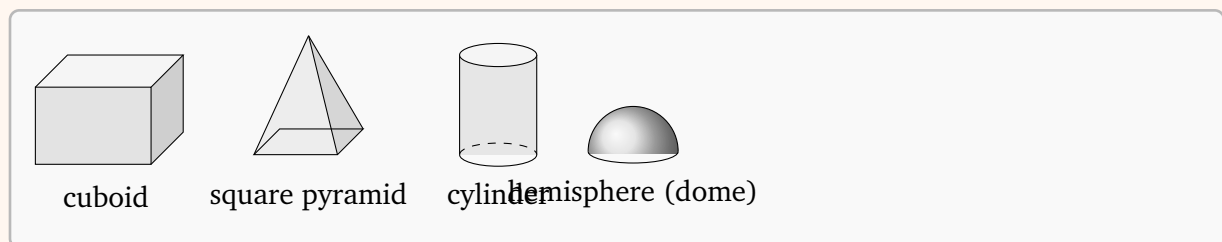
From your **memory and observation**, sketch the scene of “a village well where women draw water”. Your composition should include a **circular well with a pulley**, **one or two human figures** carrying water pots, a **tree** and a clear ground plane.

Work in **pencil / black-and-white** only. Show a believable **ground plane and perspective**, correct **proportion** between the figures and the objects, 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 **cuboid**, a **square pyramid**, a **cylinder** and a **hemisphere (dome)** — 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.)*

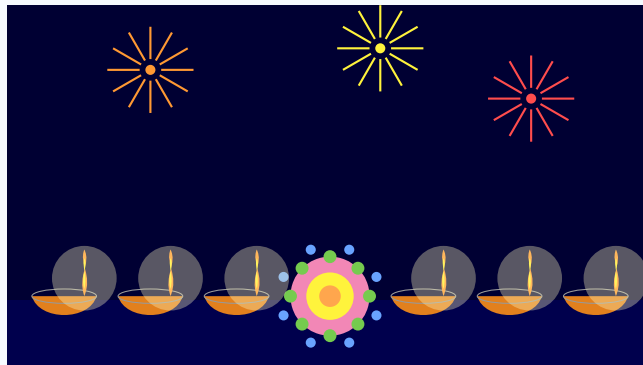


Model Approach & Sample Solutions

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 sets glowing *diyas* against a *dark* sky so the warm flames become the focal point. Place a row of lamps along the foreground, add a circular *rangoli* as a secondary accent, and lift a few *firework* bursts into the night sky for rhythm and depth. A limited, harmonious palette (warm orange-yellow lights against a deep blue-black sky) reads far better than many clashing colours.



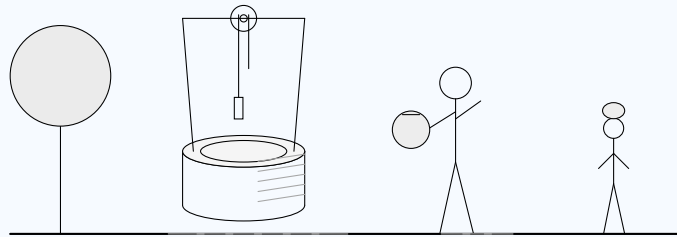
Sample colour composition — “Festival of Lights (Diwali)”

Marks are earned for: a clear focal point and balance (glowing lamps grouped against a dark sky), warm-cool colour harmony, overlap and varied sizes for depth, and clean, confident fills. *Common mistakes:* diyas all the same size, scattered with no focus; a pale sky that kills the glow; harsh, unrelated colours and an empty, unbalanced composition.



Model Approach & Sample Solution

A2 — Sketching & Composition, Black & White (a worked example). Begin with a horizon/ground line and draw the *well* as a low cylinder (an ellipse on top, curved sides). Place the human figure first — it fixes the scale of everything else. Add the *pulley* on a forked post above the well, a *water pot* balanced by the figure, and a *tree* behind. Then build tone: leave the lit (left) planes white and hatch the shaded (right) planes and the cast shadows on the ground.

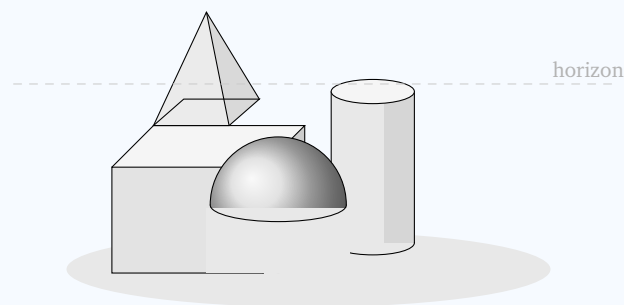


Sample black-&-white sketch — “Village well where women draw water”

Marks are earned for: correct figure-to-object proportion, a convincing ground plane and perspective (the smaller figure giving depth), consistent light direction with hatched shadows, and confident, varied line weight. *Common mistakes:* a floating scene with no ground line, a figure out of scale with the well, a missing pulley or pot, and flat 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 *cuboid* as a base/anchor, stands the *cylinder* beside it with the *square pyramid* resting on the cuboid, and places the *hemisphere* dome 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 — cuboid, square pyramid, cylinder & hemisphere 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.

