

NATA Drawing & Composition Sample Paper – 3

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.

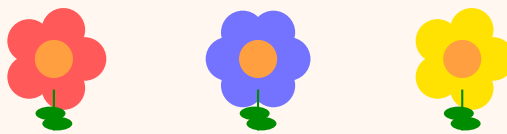
Part A: Drawing & Composition



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

Spring has arrived and a garden is in full bloom. Using **flowers of different shapes, sizes and colours** as your main motif — along with leaves, one or two butterflies and a single large focal bloom — create an attractive, balanced and **colourful 2D composition** on the theme “A Flower Garden”.

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



Given flower 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 busy railway platform”. Your composition should include a **train standing at the platform**, several passengers, a lamp post, a bench with luggage, and a clear platform edge.

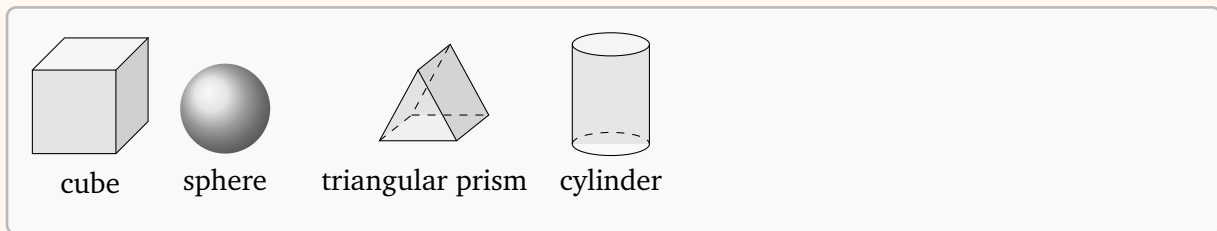
Work in **pencil / black-and-white** only. Show a believable **ground plane and perspective** (the platform and train receding to a vanishing point), correct **proportion** between the figures and the train, and a clear treatment of **light and shadow** (assume the light is coming from one side).

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 **cube**, a **sphere**, a **triangular prism** and a **cylinder** — 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.)*

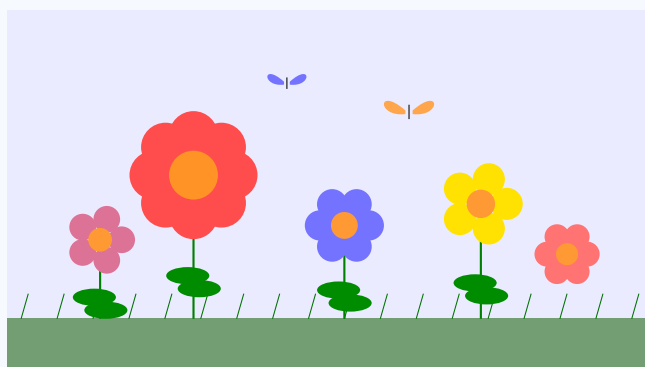


Model Approach & Sample Solutions

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 plants one *large* focal bloom slightly off-centre and rings it with smaller flowers, buds and leaves that fall away towards the edges to create depth and rhythm. The stems and a flying butterfly lead the eye, while a band of grass anchors the bottom. A limited, harmonious palette (warm petals against cool-green foliage) reads better than many clashing colours.



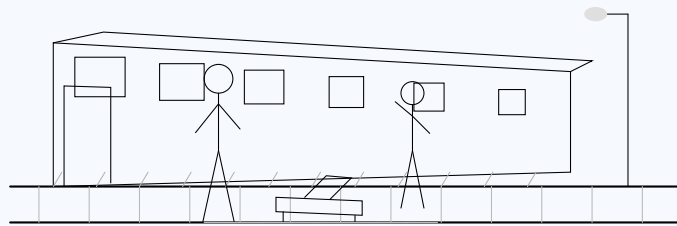
Sample colour composition — “A Flower Garden”

Marks are earned for: a clear focal point and balance (one big bloom anchoring the group, not flowers evenly spaced), warm-cool colour harmony, overlap and varied sizes for depth, and clean, confident fills. *Common mistakes:* every flower the same size, scattered with no focus; harsh, unrelated colours; an empty, unbalanced background.

Model Approach & Sample Solution

A2 — Sketching & Composition, Black & White (a worked example). Begin with the platform edge and one vanishing point, then block the train as a long box receding to that point. Place a standing passenger first — it fixes the scale of everything else (an adult is about the height of the train doorway). Add the lamp post, a bench with luggage and a second figure, then build tone: leave the lit (left) planes white and hatch the shaded (right) planes, the train side and the cast shadows on the ground.



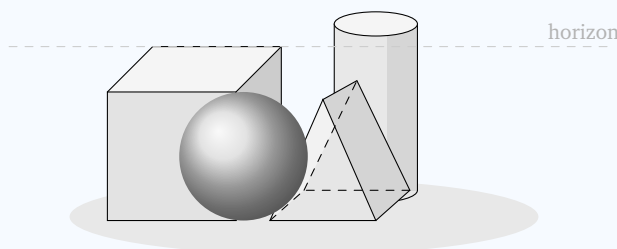


Sample black-&-white sketch — “A busy railway platform”

Marks are earned for: correct figure-to-train proportion, a convincing platform and one-point perspective, consistent light direction with hatched shadows, and confident, varied line weight. *Common mistakes:* a floating scene with no platform edge, figures out of scale, a train that does not recede, 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 cube as a base/anchor, leans the triangular prism against the cube so it rests logically, stands the cylinder behind to add height, 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 — cube, sphere, triangular prism & cylinder 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 convincing 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.

