

# NATA Drawing & Composition Sample Paper – 5

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.

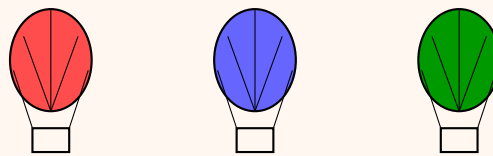
## Part A: Drawing & Composition



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

A town hosts an annual **hot-air balloon festival**. Using hot-air balloons of different colours and patterns as your main motif — along with the open sky, the Sun and a range of distant hills — create an attractive, balanced and **colourful 2D composition** on the theme “*Hot-Air Balloon Festival*”.

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



Given balloon 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 park bench under a tree*”. Your composition should include a bench under a leafy tree, at least **one seated human figure**, a lamp post or a dustbin, and a path receding into the distance.

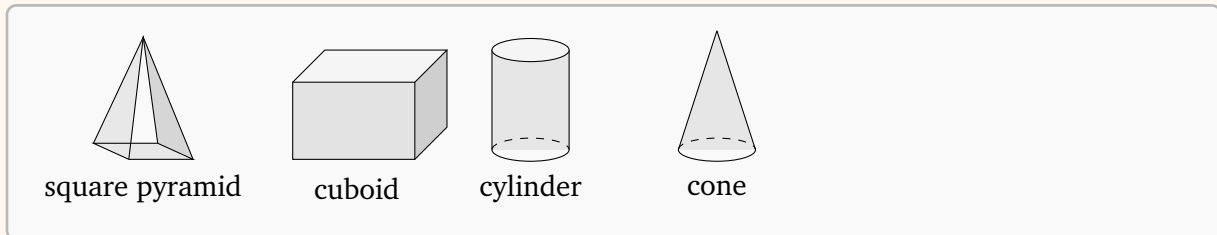
Work in **pencil / black-and-white** only. Show a believable **ground plane and perspective** (let the path recede), correct **proportion** between the figure and the objects, and a clear treatment of **light and shadow** (assume the light is coming from one side).

**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 **square pyramid**, a **cuboid**, a **cylinder** and a **cone** — 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.)*

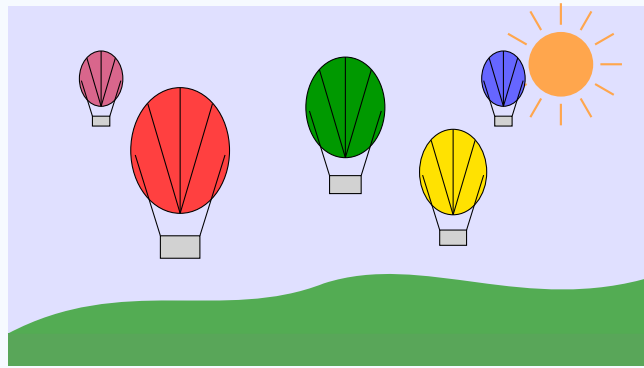


## Model Approach & Sample Solutions

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 places a few large balloons near a clear focal point and scatters smaller balloons higher and towards the edges to create depth and rhythm. The balloons rise at different heights and sizes, the Sun gives a warm focal accent, and a range of distant hills anchors the bottom. A limited, harmonious palette (warm balloons against a cool sky) reads better than many clashing colours.



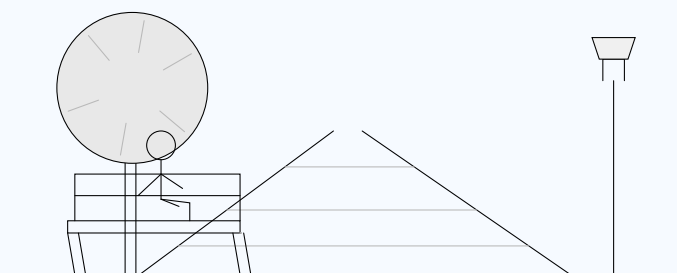
Sample colour composition — “Hot-Air Balloon Festival”

**Marks are earned for:** a clear focal point and balance (balloons grouped, not evenly spaced), warm–cool colour harmony, overlap and varied sizes for depth, and clean, confident fills. *Common mistakes:* balloons all the same size, scattered with no focus; harsh, unrelated colours; an empty, unbalanced sky.



### Model Approach & Sample Solution

**A2 — Sketching & Composition, Black & White (a worked example).** Begin with a horizon/ground line and a path that recedes to a vanishing point so the scene gains depth. Place the human figure on the bench first — it fixes the scale of everything else (a seated adult is about a head shorter than a standing one). Add the bench, a leafy tree behind it and a lamp post, then build tone: leave the lit (left) planes white and hatch the shaded (right) planes and the cast shadows on the ground.

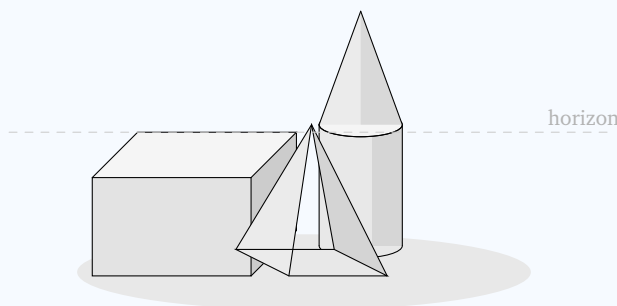


Sample black-&-white sketch — “A park bench under a tree”

**Marks are earned for:** correct figure-to-object proportion, a convincing ground plane and a path that recedes in perspective, 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, a path that does not converge, 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 cone resting on the cylinder, and sets the square pyramid 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 — square pyramid, cuboid, cylinder & cone 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.

