

NATA Drawing & Composition Sample Paper – 6

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

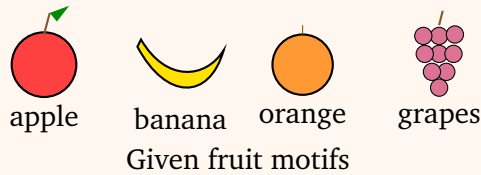


Question A1 — Composition & Colour

[25 Marks]

Using **fruits of different shapes and colours** — such as an apple, a banana, an orange and a bunch of grapes — arranged in and around a **basket** resting on a table, create an attractive, balanced and **colourful 2D still-life composition** on the theme “*A Basket of Fruits*”.

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



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 potter working at his wheel*”. Your composition should include a **seated potter** shaping a pot on a spinning wheel, a few **finished pots** stacked around him, and a simple **hut or wall** in the background.

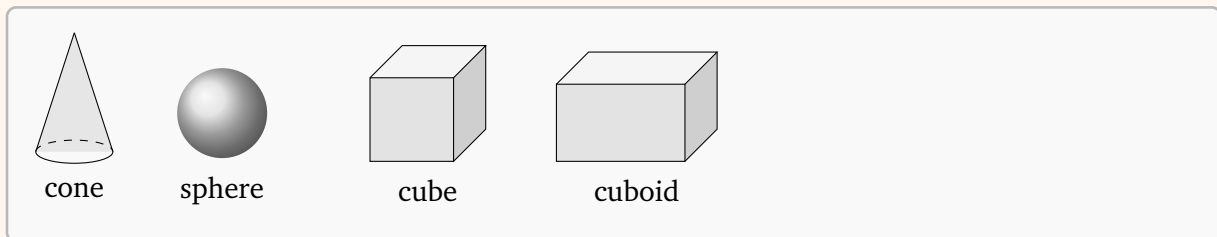
Work in **pencil / black-and-white** only. Show a believable **ground plane and perspective**, correct **proportion** between the figure and the objects, and a clear treatment of **light and shadow** (assume the light is coming from one side).

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 **cone**, a **sphere**, a **cube** and a **cuboid** — 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.)*

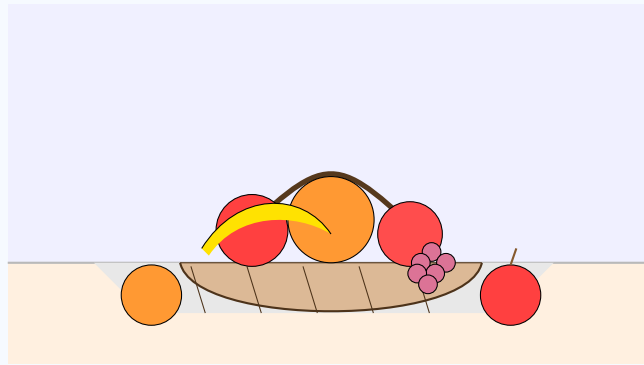


Model Approach & Sample Solutions

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 the basket slightly off-centre and lets the fruits *overlap* so the group reads as one mass rather than scattered objects. Pick one *large* fruit (here a focal apple/orange) near the centre, spill a few fruits onto the table in front, and add a simple cloth and a table line to ground the still life. A warm, harmonious palette (reds, oranges, yellows against a muted background) holds the picture together.



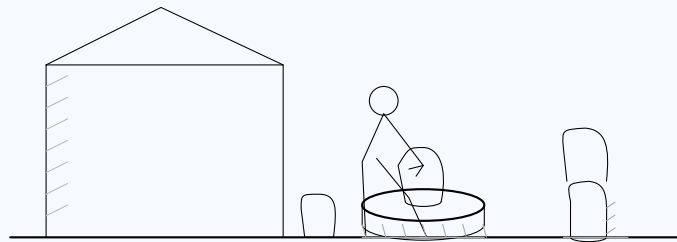
Sample colour composition — “A Basket of Fruits”

Marks are earned for: a clear focal fruit and balance (fruits grouped and overlapping, not evenly spaced), warm colour harmony, varied shapes and sizes for rhythm, and clean, confident fills with a believable basket and table. *Common mistakes:* fruits all the same size floating apart; harsh, unrelated colours; a basket with no weight; and no table or cloth to ground the still life.



Model Approach & Sample Solution

A2 — Sketching & Composition, Black & White (a worked example). Begin with a horizon/ground line and place the seated potter first — the bent figure over the wheel fixes the scale of everything else. Draw the wheel as a low disc with the half-formed pot rising from its centre between his hands. Stack a few finished pots to one side, suggest a hut or wall behind, then build tone: leave the lit (left) planes white and hatch the shaded (right) planes and the cast shadows on the ground.

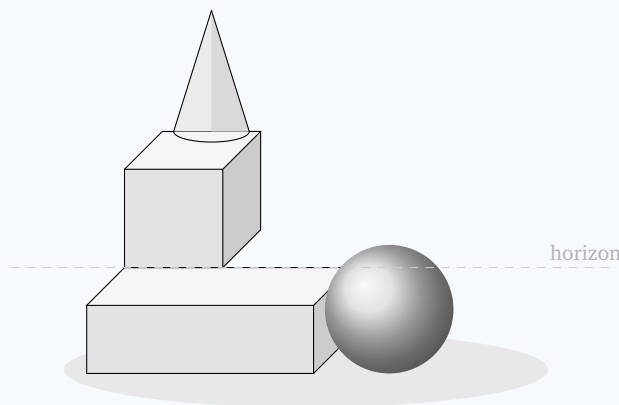


Sample black-&-white sketch — “A potter working at his wheel”

Marks are earned for: correct figure-to-object proportion, a convincing ground plane and 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 flat wheel with no ellipse, 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 long *cuboid* as a low base/anchor, stands the *cube* on or beside it, rests the *cone* on 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 — cone, sphere, cube & cuboid with light & shadow

Marks are earned for: an inventive yet *stable* grouping (forms resting/leaning logi-



cally), 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.

