

Exercise walk-through

Balance ■ 2.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **symmetrical** 对称平衡, **asymmetrical** 非对称平衡, and **radial balance** 辐射平衡
- explain **visual weight** 视觉重量
- achieve asymmetrical balance with unequal elements
- choose a balance type to match a mood

Method — Types of balance

Symmetrical balance mirrors both sides (formal, calm). **Asymmetrical** balance uses different elements of equal **visual weight** (dynamic). **Radial** balance radiates from a centre.

Method — Visual weight

Large, dark, saturated, or detailed areas carry more **visual weight**. Balance is felt when weight is distributed comfortably.

Method — Choosing balance

Symmetry suits dignity and order; asymmetry suits energy and interest. The choice shapes the viewer's feeling.

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

A composition where different-looking elements still feel evenly weighted shows

- A** symmetrical balance
- B** asymmetrical balance
- C** radial balance
- D** no balance

Solution 2.1

Method: Types of balance

A symmetrical balance

B asymmetrical balance 

C radial balance

D no balance

Worked steps

B. unequal elements of equal weight = asymmetrical balance.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define visual weight and name one thing that increases it.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the apparent 'heaviness' of an element in a composition **B1**; increased by large size, dark value, high saturation, or detail **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

State a mood suited to radial balance.

Solution 2.3

Method: Types of balance

Worked steps

energetic, focused, or hypnotic — drawing the eye to the centre **B1**.