

# 2.1 Balance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 11 marks**

**KEY WORDS** symmetrical 对称平衡 • asymmetrical 非对称平衡 • radial balance 辐射平衡  
• balance 平衡 • visual weight 视觉重量

## Objective

Build the skills to control **balance** 平衡 in a composition.

**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

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ 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.

### ■ Visual weight

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

### ■ Choosing balance

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

## 2 Practice

**2.1** A composition where different-looking elements still feel evenly weighted shows [1]

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

**2.2** Define visual weight and name one thing that increases it. [2]

**2.3** State a mood suited to radial balance. [1]

## 3 Studio & portfolio tasks

**3.1** Create two thumbnails of the **same subject** with different balance.

(a) One **symmetrical**. [2]

(b) One **asymmetrical** but still balanced. [2]

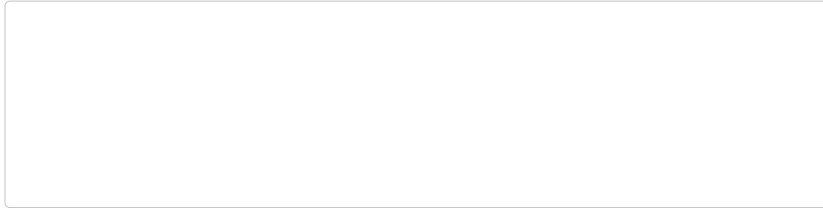
**3.2** Plan balance for a portfolio piece.

(a) Choose a balance type and justify it by the mood.

[1]

(b) Thumbnail marking the heaviest visual element.

[2]



## Solutions

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**2.1 B.** unequal elements of equal weight = asymmetrical balance.

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

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

**3.1** Look for: symmetrical version mirrors evenly (2); asymmetrical version uses unequal elements yet feels balanced by visual weight (2).

**3.2** Look for: balance type justified by intended mood (1); thumbnail's weight distribution supports the chosen balance (2).