

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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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]

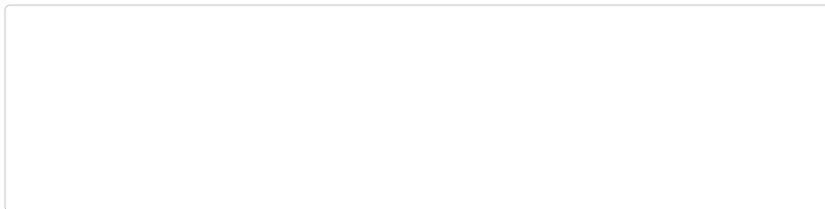
3.2 Plan balance for a portfolio piece.

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

[1]

(b) Thumbnail marking the heaviest visual element.

[2]

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a thumbnail sketch of a portfolio piece.