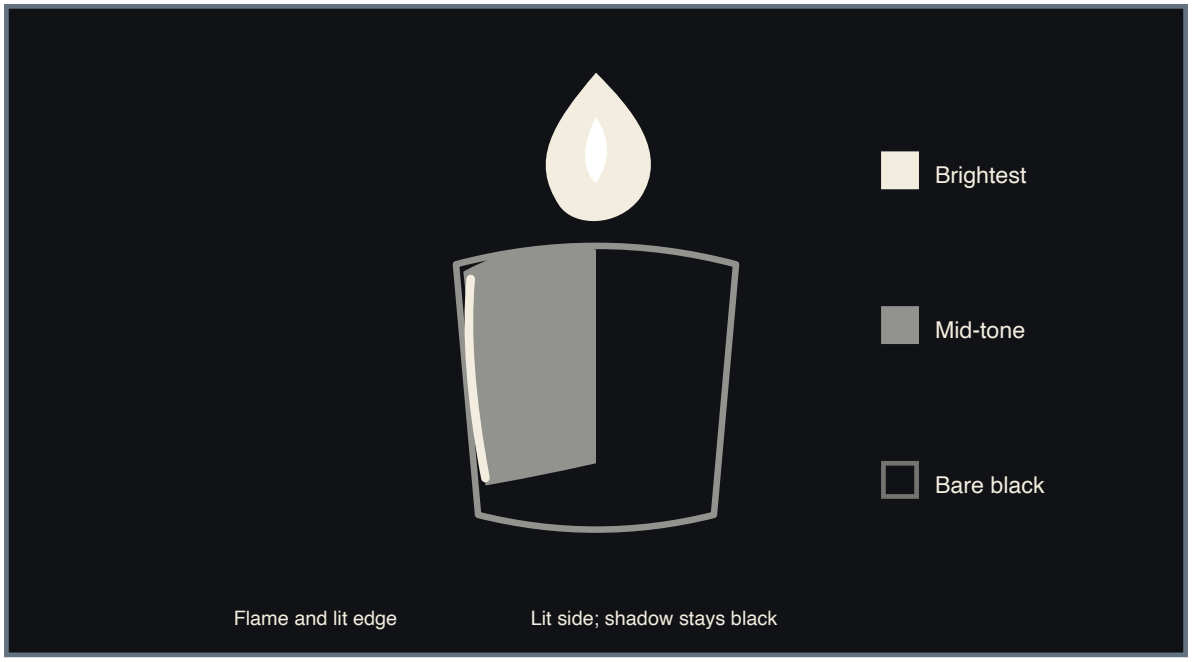
Draw on Black Paper

Answer | Task 1 of 4 | LETTER

Original prompt

Task 1 — Value sorting. Using the candle reference, sort its areas into three groups: stays black, mid-tone, brightest. Do not draw the subject yet.



Answer

The background and the shadow side of the candle body stay as bare black paper, the lit side of the body gets a soft light layer, and the flame and lit edge get the strongest light mark.

Reasoning

Sorting first means the drawing is planned as three light groups rather than improvised mark by mark.

Check

Every area of the candle reference belongs to exactly one group, with none left unassigned.

Draw on Black Paper

Answer I Task 2 of 4 I LETTER

Original prompt

Task 2 — Light mark practice. On black paper, make a row of light marks that go from a faint soft layer to a strong bright mark, then a second row that goes back down to faint.



Answer

The first row builds from a faint soft layer to a strong bright mark; the second row reverses it, easing back to faint. The strongest mark appears at the end of the first row and the start of the second.

Reasoning

Practising the range of light marks first makes it easier to place the right strength of light in the right area of a subject.

Check

Squint at the rows: the strongest mark should stand out clearly against the black, and the faint marks should still be visible but quiet.

Draw on Black Paper

Answer | Task 3 of 4 | LETTER

Original prompt

Task 3 — Reference-guided redrawing. Using the candle reference, redraw the candle on black paper by placing the three light groups in the correct shapes.



Answer

The redrawing keeps the background and shadow side of the candle body as bare black paper, lays a soft mid-tone over the lit side of the body, and places the brightest marks on the flame and lit edge, matching the shapes of the reference.

Reasoning

Redrawing from the reference trains the eye to translate observed light and dark masses into the three light groups on black paper.

Check

Compare the redrawing with the candle reference side by side: the flame and lit edge should be brightest, the lit side of the body mid-tone, and the background and shadow side black.

Draw on Black Paper

Answer | Task 4 of 4 | LETTER

Original prompt

Task 4 — Composition and visual check. Compose a small scene on black paper using the candle plus one added element of your choice (for example, a small dish beneath it), then check it by squinting and by comparing light and dark areas.



Answer

The composition places the candle and the chosen added element so their brightest areas and black areas are balanced across the page. The squint check confirms the flame and lit edge read first, the mid-tones read second, and the black areas hold the darks.

Reasoning

Composing and then checking trains the habit of judging the whole drawing by its light and dark masses rather than by detail.

Check

Squint at the composition: the brightest marks should read first, the mid-tones second, and the black areas should still hold the darks without the mid-tone creeping over them.