Draw with Pencil on Black Paper

Original prompt

Task 1 — Light mark only: on black paper, make a single short light mark using gentle passes with the pencil side. Aim for a soft grey glow, not a bright streak.



Answer

A short, even, soft grey mark that reads as a low glow against the black, with no hard bright streak and no patchy gaps.

Reasoning

Practising the light value alone builds control of graphite deposit before adding density.

Check

Step back and squint: the mark should look like a faint glow, clearly lighter than the paper but not bright.

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Task 2 — Mid-tone mark only: beside a light mark, build a mid-tone mark of similar length by layering several gentle passes until it reads clearly denser.



Answer

Make a second, similar-length patch with gentle overlapping graphite layers. Check it under the same light and choose a visibly distinct middle gray between the bare paper and the lighter mark. Keep the edges controlled and the page clean.

Reasoning

Layering lets you build controlled coverage. Reflected light can change how dense graphite looks, so choose the middle value by comparing both marks under identical conditions.

Check

Keep the viewing angle and light fixed. In the chosen scale, the mid-tone is lighter than the bare background and darker than the lighter mark.

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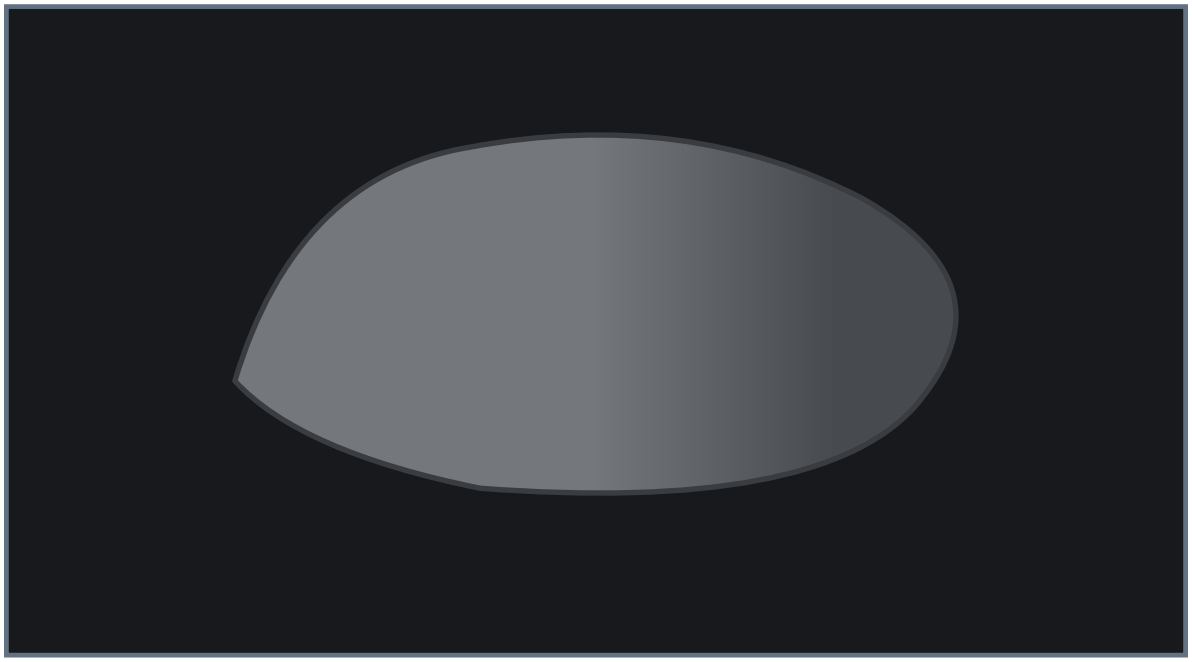
Answer | Task 3 of 4 | LETTER

Original prompt

Task 3 — Two-value shape: draw a simple rounded form (such as a pebble or a leaf) and fill it with the light value, then add the mid-tone along one side to suggest a soft shadow.



Answer

A simple rounded shape filled mostly with the light value, with the mid-tone placed along one side so the form reads as softly lit from the other side.

Reasoning

Using both values in one form shows how light and mid-tone work together to suggest shape on a dark ground.

Check

Squint at the shape: the two values should stay distinct and the mid-tone side should read as a soft shadow, not a hard edge.

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Answer | Task 4 of 4 | LETTER

Original prompt

Task 4 — Comparison plate: make a small plate with a light mark, a mid-tone mark, and a short note of which is which, then check the plate by stepping back.



Answer

A plate showing a soft light mark and a clearly denser mid-tone mark, labelled so the two values are identified, and reading as two distinct values from a step back.

Reasoning

The plate consolidates the comparison and gives the learner a reference they can return to.

Check

Step back and squint: the two marks should remain clearly different in density, and the labels should match the values.