Dotted-Midline Handwriting Paper: Wide-Spacing Letter Formation Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Sort these letters by zone on wide-spacing dotted-midline paper: o, l, g, t, a, y. State the convention you use for t.

Answer: Using the convention that t is treated as tall for height checking: small (midline to baseline): o, a. Tall (reach the top line): l, t. Descender (body in x-height zone, tail crosses baseline into descender space): g, y. Zone sorting is judged by body placement per the rubric, and multiple valid letter forms are acceptable.

Reason: Zone placement follows letter form: small letters occupy the x-height zone, tall letters reach the top line, and descenders have a tail below the baseline. t is treated as tall here for height checking; state this convention explicitly. Different valid forms of a and other letters can still meet the rubric if body placement is correct.

Check: Use the rubric: confirm each letter's body sits in its zone and each descender tail crosses the baseline into the descender space and stays within it. Accept multiple valid letter forms if zone placement is correct.

Task 2

Describe where the body and tail of g sit on wide-spacing dotted-midline paper.

Answer: The body of g sits between the midline and baseline; the tail crosses the baseline into the descender space and remains within it.

Reason: g is a descender letter, so its body occupies the x-height zone and its tail extends below the baseline.

Check: Confirm the body sits between the midline and baseline (not touching requirement) and the tail crosses the baseline into the descender space without intruding into the x-height zone.

Task 3

On a band variant that includes all four references, describe where d's bowl and tall stroke sit.

Answer: The bowl of d sits between the midline and baseline; the tall stroke reaches the top line. The band variant must retain the descender space below the baseline even though d has no descender tail.

Reason: d combines a small-letter bowl with a tall stroke, so it uses both the x-height zone and the top line. A band variant is acceptable only if it retains all four references.

Check: Use the rubric: confirm the bowl sits between the midline and baseline, the tall stroke reaches the top line, and the descender space remains visible below the baseline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Score the word dog against the rubric, allowing for multiple valid letter forms.

Answer: d: bowl sits between the midline and baseline; tall stroke reaches the top line; spacing to o is even. o: body sits between the midline and baseline; shape is distinguishable. g: body sits in the x-height zone; tail crosses the baseline into the descender space and stays within it. Overall spacing and height consistency are acceptable. Multiple valid forms of d, o, and g can meet the rubric if zone placement and descender handling are correct.

Reason: The rubric scores zone placement, descender handling, spacing, and consistency across the word. d combines a small-letter bowl with a tall stroke; o is a small letter; g is a descender. Different valid forms can all meet the rubric if zone placement and descender handling are correct.

Check: Confirm d's bowl sits between the midline and baseline and its tall stroke reaches the top line; confirm o's body sits between the midline and baseline; confirm g's body is in the x-height zone and its tail crosses the baseline into the descender space without intruding into the x-height zone; confirm spacing and height consistency across the word.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Small letters sit between the dotted midline and the baseline.
- [ ] Tall letters reach the top line consistently.
- [ ] Descender tails cross the baseline into the descender space and remain within it.
- [ ] Spacing between letters and words is even enough that letters are distinguishable.
- [ ] Letter height and slant are consistent across the word.
- [ ] Band variant retains the descender space below the baseline when used for descender practice.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?