Calligraphy Guide Paper: Baseline, x-Height, Ascender and Descender Lines

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A 2:1:2 guide sheet has a 4 mm x-height zone. Calculate the ascender zone, descender zone, and total guide height for one line.

Answer: Ascender zone 8 mm, descender zone 8 mm, total guide height 20 mm.

Reason: In 2:1:2, ascender and descender zones are each twice the x-height. 4 × 2 = 8 mm for each, and 8 + 4 + 8 = 20 mm.

Check: Measure the printed zones and confirm they are approximately 8 mm, 4 mm, and 8 mm, allowing for your printer's scaling.

Task 2

A 3:2:3 guide sheet has a 5 mm x-height zone. Calculate the total guide height for one line, with no extra gap between lines.

Answer: Total guide height is 20 mm.

Reason: Ascender and descender zones are each 5 × 1.5 = 7.5 mm. The total is 7.5 + 5 + 7.5 = 20 mm. The 7.5 mm values are exact, not rounded. No additional gap is included because none was specified.

Check: Add the three measured zone heights and compare the sum to 20 mm.

Task 3

A planned sheet has measured zones of 8 mm, 4 mm, and 8 mm, but the descender line is missing. The plan states an intended 2:1:2 ratio. Identify two distinct problems with the sheet.

Answer: First, the descender line is missing, so the sheet does not have all four guide lines. Second, because the descender zone is absent, the sheet cannot be verified against the intended 2:1:2 ratio.

Reason: Problem 1: the descender line is missing, so the sheet does not have the complete four-line set. Problem 2: because the descender zone is absent, the sheet cannot be verified against the intended 2:1:2 ratio. The measured 8/4/8 is consistent with 2:1:2 at a 4 mm x-height, but that consistency does not fix either problem.

Check: Count the guide lines and confirm four are present; then measure each zone and compare to the stated ratio.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Classify each item as inside or outside this page's scope: a ruled sheet with baseline, x-height, ascender, and descender lines; a stroke tracing worksheet; an adjustable slant generator.

Answer: Inside: the ruled sheet with four guide lines. Outside: the stroke tracing worksheet and the adjustable slant generator.

Reason: The page covers ruled calligraphy guide paper with baseline, x-height, ascender, and descender lines. Tracing worksheets and adjustable slant generators fall outside that boundary. The ruled sheet is inside because it has all four guide lines.

Check: Compare each item to the stated boundary and confirm the ruled sheet has all four guide lines.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All four guide lines are present: ascender, x-height, baseline, and descender.
- [ ] The stated ratio matches the measured zone heights within the rounding you have chosen.
- [ ] The x-height measurement is recorded alongside the ratio.
- [ ] Zone heights are scaled by the same factor rather than rounded independently.
- [ ] The guide sheet permits any script style consistent with the stated ratio; the ratio and x-height are recorded so the sheet can be checked.

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