Chinese Character Grid Paper: Pinyin Row and Stroke-Order Cells

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical sheet has a usable width of 180 mm. You want 20 columns with 8 mm cells. Calculate the total grid width and state whether it fits.

Answer: 20 multiplied by 8 mm equals 160 mm. 160 mm is less than 180 mm, so the grid fits with 20 mm remaining for margins or spacing.

Reason: Multiply the number of columns by the cell width to get total width, then compare with usable width.

Check: Recompute 20 times 8 and confirm the result is below 180.

Task 2

A character has three strokes. The stroke-order strip has four cells. Cell one shows stroke one, cell two shows strokes one and two, cell three shows strokes one, two, and three, and cell four is empty. Using the cumulative convention, what is wrong and how should it be fixed?

Answer: There should be exactly three stroke-order cells for a three-stroke character. Cell four is unnecessary. Remove the empty fourth cell and keep cells one to three as cumulative stages.

Reason: The convention uses one cell per stroke stage, so the number of cells equals the stroke count.

Check: Count the strokes and compare with the number of non-empty cumulative cells.

Task 3

A learner writes pinyin 'ma' without a tone mark above the character for 'mother'. The correct pinyin is 'mā'. What feedback and fix apply?

Answer: The pinyin is incomplete because the tone mark is missing. Feedback should ask the learner to add the first-tone mark above the 'a'. The fix is to rewrite the pinyin row with 'mā' aligned above the character column.

Reason: Tone marks distinguish meaning in pinyin, so omitting one is an accuracy error.

Check: Compare the written pinyin with a dictionary entry and confirm the tone mark is present.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Two learners write the same character. Learner A's horizontal stroke is flat; Learner B's is slightly tilted upward. Both strokes are recognizable and in the correct position and order. Under the stated convention, how should the rubric treat these?

Answer: Both should receive full credit for stroke order and position. The slight tilt is a valid stylistic alternative because the stroke remains recognizable and correctly placed.

Reason: The convention accepts minor shape variation when order and relative position are correct.

Check: Check that each stroke is distinguishable, in the correct order, and in the correct position; do not penalize minor tilt.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Pinyin row: correct syllables and tone marks aligned above each character column (2 points).
- [ ] Main grid placement: character centered and strokes within the cell (2 points).
- [ ] Stroke order: cumulative cells show one new stroke per stage in correct order (3 points).
- [ ] Stroke-order completeness: all stages present and numbered (3 points).
- [ ] Valid alternatives: minor shape variation accepted when order and position are correct.

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