Tian-zi-ge Hanzi Grid Paper with Stroke-Order Margin Columns

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A box is 24 mm square. The midline is halfway. A vertical stroke is placed 6 mm from the left edge. Describe where the stroke is relative to the vertical midline and write one short margin note.

Answer: The vertical midline is at 12 mm from the left edge. The stroke at 6 mm is left of the midline, halfway between the left edge and the midline. A short margin note could be: stroke 1 left.

Reason: Half of 24 mm is 12 mm, so the midline is at 12 mm. The stroke at 6 mm is less than 12 mm, so it is left of the midline. The note records the placement for checking.

Check: Measure the box size, divide by two to find the midline, and compare the stroke position to that value. Confirm the margin note is short and refers to the stroke.

Task 2

A row has four Tian-zi-ge boxes, each 18 mm square, with a 5 mm margin column after the last box. The printable width is 90 mm. Does the row fit if the gaps between boxes are 2 mm? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: The four boxes take 4 times 18 mm equals 72 mm. The three gaps take 3 times 2 mm equals 6 mm. The margin column takes 5 mm. The total is 72 plus 6 plus 5 equals 83 mm, which is less than 90 mm, so the row fits.

Reason: Add the box widths, the gaps between boxes, and the margin width. Compare the total to the printable width. The total 83 mm is within 90 mm.

Check: Recalculate each part separately and add again. Confirm the number of gaps is one fewer than the number of boxes.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A learner writes a character and notes in the margin: stroke 3 short. In the next box, the same stroke is written longer. Describe one way to check whether the correction improved the character's balance using the box midline.

Answer: Check whether the longer stroke now reaches a sensible reference point, such as the midline or a quadrant line, without crossing the box edge. If the stroke was too short before, a longer stroke that approaches the midline may improve balance. Record whether the stroke is now on, above, or below the midline.

Reason: The midline and quadrant lines provide checkable reference points. Comparing the corrected stroke to these points gives a simple yes-or-no check rather than a vague impression.

Check: Measure the box size, locate the midline, and compare the corrected stroke's endpoint to the midline. Confirm the stroke does not touch the box edge.

Task 4

A practice page uses a margin column for stroke-order numbers. A character has five strokes. The learner writes the numbers 1, 2, 4, 3, 5 in the margin. Identify the out-of-order stroke and suggest a short correction note.

Answer: Stroke 4 is written before stroke 3, so stroke 4 is out of order. A short correction note is: circle 4, meaning stroke 4 should be circled and checked in the next box.

Reason: The sequence should be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The number 4 appears before 3, so the order is incorrect at that point. Circling the number marks the error for review.

Check: Read the margin numbers in order and compare them to the expected sequence. Confirm the correction note is short and identifies the specific stroke number.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Character is placed inside the Tian-zi-ge box without touching the edges.
- [ ] Key horizontal and vertical strokes are checked against the midline using simple fractions of the box size.
- [ ] Stroke order is followed and any out-of-order stroke is noted in the margin column.
- [ ] Margin notes are short, consistent, and clearly separate from the character boxes.
- [ ] Spacing between characters is even across the row.
- [ ] For Latin notes, x-height is measured from baseline to midline and kept consistent.
- [ ] Letter style may vary, but proportion and stroke order are consistent within the row.
- [ ] Corrections are recorded in the margin and applied in the next box.

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