Dot-Grid Calligraphy Practice Sheet with Slant Guides

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a sheet with a hypothetical 5 mm dot grid, a baseline-to-midline x-height of 10 mm, and a 55-degree slant, a learner draws a short diagonal stroke from baseline to midline. The stroke's horizontal offset is 7 mm. Using the hypothetical values, calculate the expected offset and state whether the stroke is close to the convention.

Answer: The expected offset is about 10 divided by the tangent of 55 degrees, which is roughly 7 mm. The drawn offset of 7 mm matches the expected value, so the stroke is close to the convention.

Reason: The expected offset is calculated from the x-height and slant angle. The drawn offset is compared with the calculated value. A difference of about 0 mm is within the 1 mm rubric tolerance.

Check: Measure the x-height and the horizontal offset on the printed sheet, calculate the expected offset, and compare the two values in millimetres.

Task 2

A learner practices the lowercase letter o in a blank row. The letter sits on the baseline, reaches the midline, and follows the slant guide, but the spacing between two o letters is three dots on a hypothetical 5 mm grid. State whether the letter meets the convention and describe one adjustment.

Answer: The letter meets the baseline, midline, and slant checks. The spacing of three dots is about 15 mm on the hypothetical grid, which is wider than a two-dot spacing of about 10 mm. One adjustment is to reduce the spacing to two dots for a more consistent rhythm.

Reason: The three alignment questions are answered yes. Spacing is checked by counting dots. The adjustment changes only the spacing, not the letter shape, so valid alternatives remain allowed.

Check: Count the dots between letters, convert to millimetres using the measured grid spacing, and compare with the chosen spacing target.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A sheet uses a hypothetical 4 mm dot grid and a baseline-to-midline x-height of 8 mm. A learner draws a stem with a horizontal offset of 5 mm at a 55-degree slant. Calculate the expected offset and state whether the stem is within 1 mm of the convention.

Answer: The expected offset is about 8 divided by the tangent of 55 degrees, which is roughly 5.6 mm. The drawn offset of 5 mm is about 0.6 mm short, so the stem is within 1 mm of the convention.

Reason: The expected offset uses the x-height and slant angle. The difference between the drawn and expected offsets is compared with the 1 mm rubric tolerance.

Check: Measure the x-height and offset, calculate the expected offset, and subtract the drawn offset from the expected offset.

Task 4

A learner changes the slant angle to a hypothetical 60 degrees but redraws only the top three rows. The lower rows still show the original 55-degree guides. State whether the sheet is consistent and describe the fix.

Answer: The sheet is not consistent because the slant guides differ between rows. The fix is to redraw all slant guides at the new angle and relabel the angle as a hypothetical example across the whole sheet.

Reason: The rubric checks consistency with the stated angle. Mixed angles make the slant check ambiguous, so all rows must use the same guide.

Check: Compare the slant angle in each row by measuring the horizontal offset over the same x-height and confirm that all rows match the labelled angle.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Baseline: the letter sits on the baseline within 1 mm.
- [ ] Midline: the x-height reaches the midline within 1 mm.
- [ ] Slant: the main stem follows the slant guide within 1 mm of the expected offset.
- [ ] Spacing: letters are separated by a consistent number of dots, recorded on the sheet.
- [ ] Convention: the chosen letter style is stated and checked against the baseline, midline, and slant.
- [ ] Measurement: all numerical values are measured or labelled as hypothetical examples.

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