ABC Calligraphy on Graph Grid: A Practice Plate Guide

Rubric Checkboxes and Measurement Note

Rubric allows valid alternative letter styles; check consistency, not one universal shape.

Rubric item	Check
Baseline contact: every letter sits on the baseline within half a square.	☐
Midline contact: every lowercase body reaches the midline within one square.	☐
Proportions: x-height in squares matches the stated convention.	☐
Stroke order: strokes follow the chosen convention consistently.	☐
Spacing: gaps between letters are countable and consistent.	☐
Style consistency: valid alternative shapes are applied uniformly across the row.	☐

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Measured Square Size and X-Height Note

Record your actual measured square size and x-height; the 5 mm / 10 mm values are hypothetical examples.

Measured square size (mm) (mm)	

Measured x-height (mm) (mm)	

Notes on baseline/midline consistency	

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

On a grid where each square is 5 mm, the baseline is line 0 and the midline is line 2. A lowercase letter body spans from line 0 to line 2. What is the x-height in millimetres, and how many squares above the baseline should the body reach?

Answer: The x-height is 2 squares × 5 mm = 10 mm. The lowercase body should reach 2 squares above the baseline, which is the midline.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A grid has squares of 4 mm. The baseline is line 0 and the midline is line 3. A lowercase letter body spans from line 0 to line 3. Calculate the x-height in millimetres and state how many squares the body should reach.

Answer: X-height = 3 squares × 4 mm = 12 mm. The body should reach 3 squares above the baseline, which is the midline.

Reason: Count the squares between baseline and midline, then multiply by the square size. The body reaches the midline by definition of x-height.

Check: Recount the squares from line 0 to line 3 and multiply by 4 mm; confirm the result is 12 mm.

Task 2

A model uppercase A on the plate spans 4 squares above the baseline. A lowercase a body spans 2 squares. If each square is 6 mm, what is the difference in height between the uppercase A and the lowercase a in millimetres?

Answer: Uppercase A height = 4 × 6 = 24 mm. Lowercase a height = 2 × 6 = 12 mm. Difference = 24 − 12 = 12 mm.

Reason: Convert each height from squares to millimetres, then subtract the smaller from the larger.

Check: Add the difference to the lowercase height: 12 mm + 12 mm = 24 mm, which matches the uppercase height.

Task 3

You write three letters in a row with a one-square gap between each pair. Each square is 5 mm. The letters occupy 2 squares each. What is the total width of the row in millimetres?

Answer: Three letters × 2 squares = 6 squares. Two gaps × 1 square = 2 squares. Total = 8 squares × 5 mm = 40 mm.

Reason: Count letter squares and gap squares separately, add them, then multiply by the square size.

Check: Count the total squares across the row on the grid and multiply by 5 mm; confirm 8 squares and 40 mm.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A lowercase b has a body from baseline to midline (2 squares) and an ascender that extends 3 squares above the midline. If each square is 4 mm, what is the total height of the b from baseline to the top of the ascender in millimetres?

Answer: Body = 2 squares. Ascender above midline = 3 squares. Total = 5 squares × 4 mm = 20 mm.

Reason: Add the body squares and the ascender squares, then multiply by the square size.

Check: Count from baseline to the top of the ascender on the grid: 5 squares; multiply by 4 mm to get 20 mm.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Worked Answers for the Four Exercises

All numerical values are hypothetical examples to be replaced by measurements of actual equipment.

Worked example: The x-height is 2 squares × 5 mm = 10 mm. The lowercase body should reach 2 squares above the baseline, which is the midline.

Exercise 1: X-height = 3 squares × 4 mm = 12 mm. The body should reach 3 squares above the baseline, which is the midline. Reasoning: count the squares between baseline and midline, then multiply by the square size. Check: recount line 0 to line 3 and multiply by 4 mm; confirm 12 mm.

Exercise 2: Uppercase A height = 4 × 6 = 24 mm. Lowercase a height = 2 × 6 = 12 mm. Difference = 24 − 12 = 12 mm. Reasoning: convert each height to millimetres, then subtract. Check: 12 mm + 12 mm = 24 mm, matching the uppercase height.

Exercise 3: Three letters × 2 squares = 6 squares. Two gaps × 1 square = 2 squares. Total = 8 squares × 5 mm = 40 mm. Reasoning: count letter squares and gap squares separately, add, then multiply. Check: count total squares across the row and multiply by 5 mm; confirm 8 squares and 40 mm.

Exercise 4: Body = 2 squares. Ascender above midline = 3 squares. Total = 5 squares × 4 mm = 20 mm. Reasoning: add body squares and ascender squares, then multiply by the square size. Check: count baseline to top of ascender on the grid: 5 squares; multiply by 4 mm to get 20 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

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