Music Symbols Drawing Practice: Clefs and Rests Stroke Drills

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a bass clef in a box two x-heights tall and two x-heights wide. Place the dot on the midline and draw the hook opening to the right, ending near the baseline. Describe the stroke order you used and state one proportion check.

Answer: Stroke order: dot on midline, then hook from above the dot opening right to near the baseline. Proportion check: hook height about one and a half x-heights, dot clearly separated from the hook.

Reason: The bass clef is defined as a dot plus a right-opening hook. The midline placement and hook height are the two checkable proportions.

Check: Compare the dot to the midline and measure the hook height against the x-height guide; confirm the hook ends near the baseline and stays inside the box.

Task 2

A learner draws a whole rest as a rectangle one x-height wide and one x-height tall, placed below the midline. Using the proportion targets, identify the error and state the corrected dimensions.

Answer: The rectangle is too tall. Correct to about one x-height wide and half an x-height tall, still below the midline.

Reason: The whole rest target is one x-height wide and half an x-height tall. A one-x-height height doubles the target and is a proportion error.

Check: Measure the rectangle height against the x-height guide; it should be about half an x-height, and the rectangle should sit below the midline.

Music Symbols Drawing Practice: Clefs and Rests Stroke Drills

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a quarter rest using three short zigzag strokes in a box one x-height tall. After drawing, self-check whether the stroke order was followed and whether the rest stays inside the box. Record a tick, half-tick, or cross with a reason.

Answer: A valid answer follows three zigzag strokes from top to bottom, stays inside the box, and records a tick if both conditions are met. A half-tick is valid if the shape is recognizable but one stroke crosses the boundary; a cross if stroke order was not followed.

Reason: The quarter rest is defined by three short zigzag strokes. The self-check compares stroke order and box boundaries, allowing valid style alternatives.

Check: Count the zigzag strokes, confirm top-to-bottom order, and check all strokes against the box boundary before recording the mark.

Task 4

In a box four x-heights wide and two x-heights tall, draw a treble clef. The loop must cross the main curve near the midline and the final hook must sit just above the baseline. State two proportion checks you would use and one valid alternative you would accept.

Answer: Proportion checks: total height about two x-heights and loop width about one x-height. A valid alternative is a slightly rounder or narrower loop, provided it crosses near the midline and stays inside the box.

Reason: The treble clef targets are two x-heights tall and one x-height loop width. Style variation in loop shape is allowed if the crossing point and box limits are kept.

Check: Measure total height against the top line and baseline, measure loop width against the x-height guide, and confirm the final curl ends just above the baseline without touching it.

Music Symbols Drawing Practice: Clefs and Rests Stroke Drills

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Stroke order follows the numbered steps for the symbol.
- [ ] Symbol stays inside its box.
- [ ] Height matches the proportion target within one half x-height.
- [ ] Width matches the proportion target within one half x-height.
- [ ] Valid style alternatives are accepted if stroke order and box limits are kept.
- [ ] Self-check mark is recorded as tick, half-tick, or cross with a reason.

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