Using Graph Paper for Handwritten Music Staves

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A convention uses two grid rows between adjacent stave lines. The first line is on row 4. State the rows for all five lines and the total span.

Answer: Rows 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12; total span 8 rows.

Reason: Add two rows for each subsequent line: 4+2=6, 6+2=8, 8+2=10, 10+2=12. The span is 12-4=8, which equals four intervals of two rows.

Check: Count the rows between each adjacent pair; each gap should be two, and the total should be four times two.

Task 2

A student marks lines on rows 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13. What inter-line row count did they use, and what is the total span?

Answer: Three rows between adjacent lines; total span 12 rows.

Reason: Differences are 4-1=3, 7-4=3, 10-7=3, and 13-10=3. The span is 13-1=12, equal to four intervals of three.

Check: Subtract consecutive row numbers and confirm all differences match; multiply the difference by four to compare with the total span.

Task 3

A convention uses one grid row between adjacent lines. The fifth line is on row 9. On which row is the first line?

Answer: Row 5.

Reason: Four intervals of one row separate the first and fifth lines, so the first line is 9-4=5.

Check: Count forward from row 5 by one row four times: 6, 7, 8, 9; the fifth line lands on row 9.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A student draws five lines on rows 2, 5, 8, 11, and 15. Does this meet a three-row convention? Explain and state a correction.

Answer: No. The last gap is four rows (15-11=4), not three. Move the fifth line to row 14 to meet the convention.

Reason: The first four lines follow a three-row gap, but the final gap is four. A consistent three-row convention requires the fifth line at 11+3=14.

Check: Check every adjacent difference: 3, 3, 3, and 4. Replace the final line so all differences equal three, then confirm the total span is 12.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The five stave lines are drawn parallel to the same grid rows.
- [ ] Adjacent lines are separated by the stated row count, checked by counting rows.
- [ ] The total span equals four times the inter-line row count.
- [ ] Note heads are centered on lines or between lines consistently with the convention.
- [ ] The convention is written beside the stave and can be repeated.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the row count is consistent and documented.

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