Dual-Ruling Handwriting and Calligraphy Practice Paper: Design and Use

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A handwriting zone has a baseline at 0 mm and a midline at 6 mm. A learner writes the short letter 'a' with its bottom at 0 mm and its top at 5 mm. Is the letter at the midline? By how many millimetres does it miss?

Answer: No. It is 1 mm short of the midline.

Reason: The midline is at 6 mm and the letter top is at 5 mm, so the difference is 6 minus 5 equals 1 mm.

Check: Subtract the letter top from the midline height and confirm the result is 1 mm.

Task 2

A calligraphy zone has a baseline at 0 mm and an x-height line at 4 mm. A learner draws a vertical stroke that rises 4 mm and shifts 3 mm horizontally. The slant guide is at 45 degrees from vertical. Does the stroke match the guide? Use the horizontal offset for a 4 mm rise at 45 degrees.

Answer: No. At 45 degrees, a 4 mm rise requires a 4 mm horizontal offset, but the stroke shifts only 3 mm.

Reason: For a 45-degree slant, the horizontal offset equals the vertical rise. The required offset is 4 mm; the actual offset is 3 mm, so the stroke is 1 mm short.

Check: Compare the actual horizontal offset (3 mm) to the required offset (4 mm) and confirm the difference is 1 mm.

Task 3

A dual-ruling sheet has a handwriting zone with a baseline at 0 mm and a midline at 5 mm, and a calligraphy zone with a baseline at 0 mm and an x-height line at 5 mm. A learner writes the word 'dog' in the handwriting zone. The 'd' rises to 8 mm, the 'o' top is at 5 mm, and the 'g' descender falls to minus 3 mm. Check each letter against the stated convention: short letters reach the midline, tall letters rise above it, descenders fall below the baseline.

Answer: The 'o' reaches the midline (5 mm), the 'd' rises above the midline (8 mm), and the 'g' falls below the baseline (minus 3 mm). All three match the convention.

Reason: The short letter 'o' touches the midline at 5 mm; the tall letter 'd' rises above 5 mm to 8 mm; the descender 'g' falls below 0 mm to minus 3 mm.

Check: Compare each letter's top or bottom to the stated reference: midline for short letters, above midline for tall letters, below baseline for descenders.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A calligraphy zone has a slant guide at 60 degrees from vertical. A learner draws a vertical stroke that rises 5 mm and shifts 2 mm horizontally. At 60 degrees, the horizontal offset for a 5 mm rise is about 2.9 mm (using the tangent of 30 degrees, approximately 0.577, times 5 mm). Does the stroke match the guide within 1 mm?

Answer: Yes. The actual offset is 2 mm and the required offset is about 2.9 mm, a difference of about 0.9 mm, which is within 1 mm.

Reason: The required horizontal offset is approximately 2.9 mm; the actual offset is 2 mm; the difference is about 0.9 mm, which is less than 1 mm.

Check: Subtract the actual offset from the required offset and confirm the absolute difference is less than or equal to 1 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Baseline contact: short letters touch the baseline without crossing it.
- [ ] Midline height: short letters reach the midline within the stated tolerance.
- [ ] X-height height: the main body of calligraphy letters reaches the x-height line within the stated tolerance.
- [ ] Slant consistency: vertical strokes follow the slant guide within the stated tolerance.
- [ ] Zone separation: handwriting and calligraphy references are not mixed without a label.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: any stated alternative convention is applied consistently and is not penalized.

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