Piano Grand-Staff Paper: Braced Treble and Bass Systems

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A page is 200 mm wide with 10 mm left and right margins. The brace and clefs need 25 mm. What horizontal space remains for notation?

Answer: 155 mm.

Reason: Subtract both margins and the clef space: 200 - 10 - 10 - 25 = 155 mm.

Check: Add the parts back: 10 + 10 + 25 + 155 = 200 mm.

Task 2

A system uses two 8 mm staves and a 12 mm gap. What is the total height of one system before any gap to the next system?

Answer: 28 mm.

Reason: Add the two staff heights and the gap: 8 + 8 + 12 = 28 mm.

Check: Subtract the gap from the total: 28 - 12 = 16 mm, which equals the two staves.

Task 3

A learner draws a treble clef whose curl circles the third line from the bottom. Is this correct for standard treble clef placement? Explain.

Answer: No. The treble clef curl should circle the second line from the bottom.

Reason: Standard treble clef placement puts the curl on the second line from the bottom, which is the G line.

Check: Count lines from the bottom: line 1, line 2. The curl should sit on line 2.

Task 4

A page has 250 mm usable height. Each system needs 35 mm plus a 5 mm gap. How many full systems fit?

Answer: 6 full systems.

Reason: Each system uses 40 mm. 250 divided by 40 is 6 with 10 mm left over, so 6 full systems fit.

Check: Multiply 6 by 40 to get 240 mm, which is less than 250 mm; 7 systems would need 280 mm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Brace spans from the top treble line to the bottom bass line.
- [ ] Treble clef sits on the upper staff and bass clef on the lower staff.
- [ ] Bar-line guides cross both staves at the same horizontal position.
- [ ] Line spacing within each staff is equal.
- [ ] Handwritten clef style may vary; placement is checked, not shape.
- [ ] X-height convention is baseline to midline; alternative letter styles are accepted.
- [ ] Simultaneous notes align vertically across both staves.

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