Oblique Guide Paper: 45-Degree Slant Practice for Penmanship

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a sheet whose diagonal guide measures 8 mm run and 8 mm rise, a learner writes a stem with 8 mm run and 10 mm rise. Is the stem parallel to the guide? Show the ratios.

Answer: No. The guide ratio is 8 divided by 8, or 1. The stem ratio is 10 divided by 8, or 1.25. The stem is steeper than the guide.

Reason: Both measurements use millimetres. Comparing rise divided by run gives a simple check: equal values indicate a 45-degree match; a larger rise ratio indicates a steeper stroke.

Check: Re-measure run and rise on the same stem in millimetres and confirm the ratio is close to 1 before rewriting.

Task 2

A diagonal guide has a 6 mm run and 6 mm rise. A learner's letter has a 9 mm run and 9 mm rise. Are they consistent? Explain in one sentence using the ratio.

Answer: Yes, they are consistent because both have a rise-to-run ratio of 1.

Reason: The guide ratio is 6 divided by 6, or 1. The letter ratio is 9 divided by 9, or 1. Equal ratios mean the slant matches even though the absolute lengths differ.

Check: Measure a second stroke on the same letter and confirm its ratio is also close to 1.

Task 3

A sheet's diagonal measures 7 mm run and 7 mm rise. A learner writes three stems: A has 4 mm run and 4 mm rise; B has 4 mm run and 6 mm rise; C has 6 mm run and 6 mm rise. Which stems match the guide ratio, and which does not?

Answer: A and C match; B does not. A and C both have a ratio of 1, while B has a ratio of 6 divided by 4, or 1.5.

Reason: The guide ratio is 7 divided by 7, or 1. Only stems with equal run and rise share that ratio. B is steeper.

Check: Re-measure B in millimetres and compare its ratio with 1; if it remains 1.5, adjust the stroke.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner measures a diagonal guide as 10 mm run and 10 mm rise, then writes a word where one downstroke has 5 mm run and 5 mm rise and another has 5 mm run and 4 mm rise. Describe which stroke is closer to the guide and state one adjustment.

Answer: The first stroke is closer because its ratio is 1, matching the guide. The second has a ratio of 4 divided by 5, or 0.8, so it is less steep. Increase its rise slightly or decrease its run to move the ratio toward 1.

Reason: The guide ratio is 10 divided by 10, or 1. The first stroke ratio is 5 divided by 5, or 1. The second is 4 divided by 5, or 0.8. Comparing ratios identifies the closer stroke.

Check: After adjustment, re-measure the second stroke in millimetres and confirm its ratio is nearer to 1.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Dominant downstrokes are parallel to the measured diagonal guide within a small, stated tolerance.
- [ ] Baseline and midline placement follow the stated convention, with x-height letters between them.
- [ ] Letter shapes are legible and internally consistent, allowing valid style variation.
- [ ] Checks use one consistent unit and report measured run and rise.
- [ ] The margin remains clear and the writing area is respected.

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