Paired College-Ruled and Wide-Ruled Sheets for Spacing Comparison

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A college-ruled sheet has a hypothetical spacing of 6.8 mm and a wide-ruled sheet has a hypothetical spacing of 8.4 mm. A passage uses fourteen lines on the college-ruled sheet and eleven lines on the wide-ruled sheet. Estimate the vertical space used on each sheet and compare.

Answer: College-ruled: 14 times 6.8 mm equals 95.2 mm. Wide-ruled: 11 times 8.4 mm equals 92.4 mm. The wide-ruled sheet used fewer lines and a slightly smaller estimated vertical space in this hypothetical example.

Reason: Multiply lines used by spacing for each sheet, keeping the unit in millimetres. Then compare the two products and the line counts.

Check: Recompute both products with a calculator or by hand and confirm that the line counts match the prompt.

Task 2

On a college-ruled sheet with hypothetical spacing 7.0 mm, a passage uses nine lines. On a wide-ruled sheet with hypothetical spacing 8.5 mm, the same passage uses eight lines. Which sheet uses fewer lines, and what is the estimated vertical space on each?

Answer: The wide-ruled sheet uses fewer lines, eight instead of nine. College-ruled estimate: 9 times 7.0 mm equals 63.0 mm. Wide-ruled estimate: 8 times 8.5 mm equals 68.0 mm.

Reason: Compare line counts first, then multiply each count by its spacing to estimate vertical space.

Check: Verify that eight is less than nine and that both multiplication results use the same unit.

Paired College-Ruled and Wide-Ruled Sheets for Spacing Comparison

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A learner writes lowercase letters a, c, e, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x, and z on both sheets. On the college-ruled sheet the letters sit between baseline and midline. On the wide-ruled sheet the letters rise above the midline. State whether the x-height convention is met on each sheet and suggest one adjustment.

Answer: The convention is met on the college-ruled sheet but not on the wide-ruled sheet. One adjustment is to reduce letter size slightly on the wide-ruled sheet and rewrite the sample, then recheck baseline to midline.

Reason: The convention requires lowercase letters without ascenders or descenders to sit between baseline and midline. Rising above the midline breaks the convention on that sheet.

Check: Look at the sample on each sheet and confirm whether the top of the letters reaches or crosses the midline.

Task 4

A passage uses ten lines on a college-ruled sheet with hypothetical spacing 7.2 mm and ten lines on a wide-ruled sheet with hypothetical spacing 8.6 mm. Explain why the line counts might be the same and what to check next.

Answer: The line counts might be the same because the passage is short, because letter size was larger on the wide-ruled sheet, or because the learner did not follow the lines closely. Check the measured spacing values, confirm the same passage and pen were used, and repeat with a slightly longer passage if needed.

Reason: Line count depends on spacing, letter size, and how closely the writer follows the lines. Equal counts do not prove equal spacing.

Check: Re-measure both spacings, recount the lines, and confirm the passage length and pen are identical.

Paired College-Ruled and Wide-Ruled Sheets for Spacing Comparison

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Both sheets have identical margins and header fields.
- [ ] Spacing is measured and recorded in one consistent unit.
- [ ] The same passage and the same pen are used on both sheets.
- [ ] Line counts are recorded for both sheets.
- [ ] Vertical space is estimated with simple arithmetic.
- [ ] X-height is checked from baseline to midline on both sheets.
- [ ] Valid alternative letter styles are accepted when the x-height convention is met.
- [ ] Any numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples or replaced with measured values.

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