Third-Grade Writing Paper: Ruling, Spacing, and Layout Guide

Rubric key for the writing page

Rubric criteria are checkable; accept legible style alternatives.

Rubric: (1) Header includes Name, Date, and Title fields. (2) Left and right margins are marked and measured. (3) Ruling height is consistent across all zones. (4) Midline is solid and lighter than the baseline. (5) Copy-work zone has 5 to 6 lines. (6) Paragraph zone has 6 to 8 lines with an indent cue. (7) Convention states x-height is baseline to midline. (8) Rubric accepts legible style alternatives. (9) All numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples or measured

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

A hypothetical page is 210 mm wide with a 20 mm left margin and a 15 mm right margin. The writing area is 250 mm tall with a 25 mm header. If line spacing is 9 mm, how many full ruled lines fit in the remaining writing area?

Answer: Usable width is 210 minus 20 minus 15 equals 175 mm. Remaining height is 250 minus 25 equals 225 mm. 225 divided by 9 equals 25 full lines. A realistic practice block would use only 12 to 15 of those lines.

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

Task 1

A hypothetical page is 200 mm wide with a 25 mm left margin and a 20 mm right margin. What is the usable writing width?

Answer: 155 mm.

Reason: Subtract both margins from the page width: 200 minus 25 minus 20 equals 155 mm.

Check: Add the margins back: 155 plus 25 plus 20 equals 200 mm.

Task 2

A writing area is 180 mm tall. The header takes 30 mm. If line spacing is 10 mm, how many full lines fit?

Answer: 15 full lines.

Reason: Remaining height is 180 minus 30 equals 150 mm. 150 divided by 10 equals 15.

Check: Multiply 15 lines by 10 mm to get 150 mm, then add the 30 mm header to get 180 mm.

Task 3

A hypothetical layout uses 8 mm line spacing and a midline 4 mm above the baseline. A letter body is 4 mm tall and an ascender adds 4 mm. Does the ascender reach the top line if the top line is 8 mm above the baseline?

Answer: Yes, the ascender reaches the top line.

Reason: The letter body occupies 0 to 4 mm above baseline. The ascender adds 4 mm, reaching 8 mm, which equals the top line.

Check: Add body height and ascender height: 4 plus 4 equals 8 mm, matching the top line.

Task 4

A page has a 12-line paragraph zone and a 6-line copy-work zone. If each line is 9 mm tall, what is the total ruled height of both zones before gaps?

Answer: 162 mm.

Reason: Total lines are 12 plus 6 equals 18. Multiply 18 by 9 mm to get 162 mm.

Check: Divide 162 by 9 to get 18 lines, then subtract 6 to confirm 12 paragraph lines.

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Task 1, Task 2 / Separate answer sheet: four exercises with reasoning and checks

All numerical values are hypothetical examples unless measured.

Exercise 1 prompt: A hypothetical page is 200 mm wide with a 25 mm left margin and a 20 mm right margin. What is the usable writing width?

Exercise 1 answer: 155 mm.

Exercise 1 reasoning: Subtract both margins from the page width: 200 minus 25 minus 20 equals 155 mm.

Exercise 1 check: Add the margins back: 155 plus 25 plus 20 equals 200 mm.

Exercise 2 prompt: A writing area is 180 mm tall. The header takes 30 mm. If line spacing is 10 mm, how many full lines fit?

Exercise 2 answer: 15 full lines. Reasoning: Remaining height is 180 minus 30 equals 150 mm. 150 divided by 10 equals 15. Check: Multiply 15 lines by 10 mm to get 150 mm, then add the 30 mm header to get 180 mm.

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Task 3, Task 4 / Separate answer sheet: exercises 3 and 4

All numerical values are hypothetical examples unless measured.

Exercise 3 prompt: A hypothetical layout uses 8 mm line spacing and a midline 4 mm above the baseline. A letter body is 4 mm tall and an ascender adds 4 mm. Does the ascender reach the top line if the top line is 8 mm above the baseline?

Exercise 3 answer: Yes, the ascender reaches the top line. Reasoning: The letter body occupies 0 to 4 mm above baseline. The ascender adds 4 mm, reaching 8 mm, which equals the top line. Check: Add body height and ascender height: 4 plus 4 equals 8 mm, matching the top line.

Exercise 4 prompt: A page has a 12-line paragraph zone and a 6-line copy-work zone. If each line is 9 mm tall, what is the total ruled height of both zones before gaps?

Exercise 4 answer: 162 mm. Reasoning: Total lines are 12 plus 6 equals 18. Multiply 18 by 9 mm to get 162 mm. Check: Divide 162 by 9 to get 18 lines, then subtract 6 to confirm 12 paragraph lines.

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Worked example / Worked example: full ruled lines in remaining writing area

Hypothetical example: 210 mm wide, 20 mm left margin, 15 mm right margin, 250 mm tall writing area, 25 mm header, 9 mm line spacing.

Prompt: A hypothetical page is 210 mm wide with a 20 mm left margin and a 15 mm right margin. The writing area is 250 mm tall with a 25 mm header. If line spacing is 9 mm, how many full ruled lines fit in the remaining writing area?

Answer: Usable width is 210 minus 20 minus 15 equals 175 mm. Remaining height is 250 minus 25 equals 225 mm. 225 divided by 9 equals 25 full lines. A realistic practice block would use only 12 to 15 of those lines.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Header includes Name, Date, and Title fields.
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- [ ] Ruling height is consistent across all zones.
- [ ] Midline is solid and lighter than the baseline.
- [ ] Copy-work zone has 5 to 6 lines.
- [ ] Paragraph zone has 6 to 8 lines with an indent cue.
- [ ] Convention states x-height is baseline to midline.
- [ ] Rubric accepts legible style alternatives.
- [ ] All numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples or measured.

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