Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Complete worked example / separate answer key

A learner plans four practice rows. Each row has a hypothetical blue band of 4 mm and yellow band of 4 mm, with 5 mm gaps between rows. What is the total height of the four rows plus gaps?

Answer: Each row is 4 mm plus 4 mm, or 8 mm. Four rows give 32 mm. Three gaps at 5 mm give 15 mm. Total height is 32 mm plus 15 mm, or 47 mm.

Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hypothetical sheet has three rows. Each row is 8 mm high, and there are two gaps of 6 mm. Calculate the total height of the rows and gaps.

Answer: 36 mm.

Reason: Three rows at 8 mm give 24 mm. Two gaps at 6 mm give 12 mm. The total is 24 mm plus 12 mm, or 36 mm.

Check: Add the row heights and gap heights separately, then add the two sums. Confirm the units are all millimetres.

Task 2

A learner writes ten lowercase o letters. Eight keep their body inside the blue band, one crosses into the yellow band, and one stops above the baseline. What is the row score for blue-band placement?

Answer: Eight out of ten.

Reason: Only the eight letters with bodies inside the blue band meet the x-height placement rule. The other two fail that specific check.

Check: Count the letters that meet the rule, then compare that count to the total number of letters written.

Task 3

A printed sheet was planned with a 4 mm blue band, but the actual printed blue band measures 3.5 mm. The yellow band measures 4 mm. What is the actual total writing zone height?

Answer: 7.5 mm.

Reason: The actual blue band is 3.5 mm and the yellow band is 4 mm. Adding them gives 7.5 mm. The planned 4 mm value is not used because the printed output was measured.

Check: Measure both bands on the printed sheet, add the two actual values, and confirm the sum in millimetres.

Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A learner writes the word 'bell'. The b and l ascenders reach the yellow band, and the e body stays in the blue band. The final l stops inside the blue band. Which letter fails the ascender check, and why?

Answer: The final l fails because its ascender stops inside the blue band instead of reaching the yellow band.

Reason: The convention requires ascenders to reach into the yellow band. The first l passes, but the final l does not meet that placement rule.

Check: Point to each ascender in the word and check whether its top reaches the yellow band. Count the ascenders that pass and identify any that do not.

Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Separate answer sheet: example placements, valid alternatives, and row-score checks

Answer key uses hypothetical 4 mm blue and 4 mm yellow bands; actual printed values must be measured.

Placement checks: x-height body inside blue band; ascenders reach yellow band; descenders pass below blue band without entering the next row.

Valid alternatives: rounded or angular letters, single- or double-storey a, different slants and stroke orders are acceptable when zone placement is correct.

Row score example: 8 of 10 lowercase o letters kept their body inside the blue band, so the blue-band placement score is 8/10.

Worked example: four rows of 8 mm plus three 5 mm gaps = 32 mm + 15 mm = 47 mm.

Exercise 1: three 8 mm rows + two 6 mm gaps = 24 mm + 12 mm = 36 mm.

Exercise 2: 8 of 10 letters met the blue-band rule. The one crossing into yellow and the one stopping above baseline fail that specific check. Exercise 3: actual printed blue 3.5 mm + yellow 4 mm = 7.5 mm total writing zone. Exercise 4: the final l fails the ascender check because it stops inside the blue band instead of reaching the yellow band.

Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Worked example / Worked example: four rows with 4 mm blue and 4 mm yellow bands, 5 mm gaps

Hypothetical values from the source worked example; measure actual paper and printer output.

Prompt: A learner plans four practice rows. Each row has a hypothetical blue band of 4 mm and yellow band of 4 mm, with 5 mm gaps between rows. What is the total height of the four rows plus gaps?

Answer: Each row is 4 mm + 4 mm = 8 mm. Four rows give 32 mm. Three gaps at 5 mm give 15 mm. Total height is 32 mm + 15 mm = 47 mm.

Narrow Blue and Yellow Highlighter-Ruled Writing Sheets: A Practical Guide

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Lowercase x-height bodies stay inside the blue band.
- [ ] Ascenders reach into the yellow band without excessive overshoot.
- [ ] Descenders pass below the blue band without entering the next row.
- [ ] Valid style alternatives are accepted when zone placement is correct.
- [ ] Row scores are recorded as simple counts, such as eight of ten letters passing.
- [ ] Measurements use one consistent unit and are checked against the actual printed sheet.

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