Voice and Piano Grand-Staff Paper: Layout Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Hypothetical values: stave height 7 mm, piano gap 5 mm, vocal gap 10 mm, system gap 15 mm. Calculate the height of one system.

Answer: 7 + 10 + 7 + 5 + 7 = 36 mm.

Reason: Add the three stave heights and the two gaps: vocal gap and piano gap. The order is vocal stave, vocal gap, treble stave, piano gap, bass stave.

Check: Re-add in a different order: 7 + 7 + 7 = 21 mm for staves; 10 + 5 = 15 mm for gaps; 21 + 15 = 36 mm.

Task 2

A system is 120 mm wide with 4 equal measures. What is the distance between adjacent bar lines?

Answer: 30 mm.

Reason: Divide total width by number of measures: 120 ÷ 4 = 30 mm per measure.

Check: Multiply back: 30 × 4 = 120 mm.

Task 3

Usable height is 200 mm. Each system is 40 mm and each inter-system gap is 20 mm. How many systems fit if gaps are only between systems?

Answer: Three systems fit: 3 × 40 + 2 × 20 = 120 + 40 = 160 mm, leaving 40 mm. Four systems need 4 × 40 + 3 × 20 = 160 + 60 = 220 mm, which exceeds 200 mm.

Reason: For n systems there are n − 1 gaps. Test n = 3 and n = 4 against usable height.

Check: Check n = 3 total 160 ≤ 200 and n = 4 total 220 > 200.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A draft braces all three staves and prints clefs only on the first system. State two corrections and one check.

Answer: Remove the brace from the vocal stave so only the piano staves are braced. Add clefs to every system. Check by inspecting each system for a vocal clef and a piano brace.

Reason: The brace defines the piano grand staff, and clefs at each system keep every system readable alone.

Check: Count systems and confirm each has three clefs and one brace on the piano staves only.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Vocal stave is present above the piano grand staff in every system.
- [ ] Piano grand staff is braced; vocal stave is not braced to it.
- [ ] Clefs appear at the start of every system.
- [ ] Bar lines align across all three staves at equal horizontal intervals.
- [ ] Measurements use consistent units and arithmetic is shown.
- [ ] Handwriting convention is stated and applied consistently.

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