Portrait Drawing: Place Features with Proportion Guides

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

Portrait Drawing: Place Features with Proportion Guides

Worked example / complete source key

A head box is 120 mm tall. Using the convention, find the eye line, nose line, and mouth line positions from the top. Then check that the top-to-eye distance plus the eye-to-bottom distance equals the head height.

Answer: Eye line: 120 divided by 2 = 60 mm from the top. Nose line: three times 120 divided by 4 = 90 mm from the top. Mouth line: one-third of the distance from the nose line to the bottom. The nose-to-bottom distance is 120 minus 90 = 30 mm. One-third of 30 mm is 10 mm, so the mouth line is 90 plus 10 = 100 mm from the top. Check: top-to-eye is 60 mm, eye-to-bottom is 120 minus 60 = 60 mm, and 60 plus 60 equals 120 mm, which matches H.