Draw a Generic Banknote: Border, Portrait, and Value Layout

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Plan a banknote on a 10 cm by 7 cm rectangle with a 0.5 cm border. Where do you place a portrait area and two value marks so nothing overlaps?

Answer: The inner border leaves a 9 cm by 6 cm area. The left third is 3 cm wide. Center a 2 cm portrait horizontally within that third: 3 minus 2 equals 1 cm total, split evenly, so the portrait sits 0.5 cm from the left inner border and 0.5 cm from the third's right edge. Make it about 3.5 cm tall and center it vertically inside the inner border: 6 minus 3.5 equals 2.5 cm total, split evenly, so about 1.25 cm above and below. Put value marks in the top-right and bottom-right corners, each at least 0.5 cm from the border.

Reason: The inner border leaves a 9 cm by 6 cm area. The left third is 3 cm wide. Centering a 2 cm portrait horizontally within that third leaves 0.5 cm on each side (3 minus 2 equals 1 cm total, split evenly). Centering it vertically in the 6 cm inner height leaves about 1.25 cm above and below (6 minus 3.5 equals 2.5 cm total, split evenly). The right side stays free for two corner value marks, and 0.5 cm margins prevent overlap.

Check: Measure opposite border widths and confirm they match. Check that the portrait boundary and both value marks stay inside the inner border with visible gaps.

Task 2

You draw a border 1 cm wide on the left and 1.2 cm wide on the right. What is the difference, and how do you fix it?

Answer: The difference is 0.2 cm. Erase the wider side and redraw it at 1 cm, or redraw both sides at the same measured width.

Reason: Subtract the smaller width from the larger: 1.2 minus 1.0 equals 0.2 cm. Equal border widths are a rubric check.

Check: Measure both sides with the same ruler and compare the marks. Confirm the corrected widths match within the ruler's smallest mark.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A value mark is 1.5 cm tall and another is 1.2 cm tall. Using the x-height convention, how do you make them consistent?

Answer: Redraw both numerals so their x-height runs from baseline to midline at the same height, for example 1.2 cm, and keep that height for all value marks.

Reason: The convention defines x-height from baseline to midline. Equal x-height makes numerals consistent even if letter styles vary.

Check: Place a ruler at the baseline and midline of each numeral. Confirm both x-heights match and the value is legible at arm's length.

Task 4

Your portrait oval touches the inner border. Describe a layout change that fixes this without moving the border.

Answer: Shrink the oval or move it inward by at least 0.5 cm so a clear margin remains between the oval and the inner border.

Reason: The portrait area must stay clear of the border. Reducing size or shifting position creates the needed margin without changing the frame.

Check: Measure the gap between the oval and the inner border on all sides. Confirm a visible margin of at least 0.5 cm and no overlap.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Border consistency: opposite sides match within the ruler's smallest mark.
- [ ] Portrait placement: portrait area is clear of the border and value marks.
- [ ] Value legibility: at least two value marks are readable at arm's length and use consistent numeral height.
- [ ] Originality and layout logic: design is generic, not a copy of real currency, and elements do not collide.

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