Pony Drawing: Body Proportions and Mane Construction

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A pony head unit measures 5 cm. Calculate the working body length (chest to rump) and leg length (shoulder to hoof) using two and a half and one and a half head units.

Answer: Body length = 12.5 cm; leg length = 7.5 cm.

Reason: Multiply the head unit by the working proportion: 5 × 2.5 = 12.5 cm for the body, and 5 × 1.5 = 7.5 cm for the legs.

Check: Verify that 12.5 ÷ 5 = 2.5 and 7.5 ÷ 5 = 1.5, confirming the proportions.

Task 2

A drawn pony has a head unit of 3 cm, a body length of 10 cm, and a leg length of 4 cm. Using absolute differences from the working guide, identify which proportion is furthest off and state a correction.

Answer: The body length is furthest off. The target leg length is 1.5 × 3 = 4.5 cm and the target body length is 2.5 × 3 = 7.5 cm. Body difference: 10 − 7.5 = 2.5 cm. Leg difference: 4.5 − 4 = 0.5 cm. Correct by shortening the body toward 7.5 cm, or, if a long body is intentional, lengthen the legs to 4.5 cm so the stylization stays consistent.

Reason: Multiply the 3 cm head unit by the working proportions: body 2.5 × 3 = 7.5 cm and legs 1.5 × 3 = 4.5 cm. Compare absolute differences: the body is 2.5 cm over target, the legs are 0.5 cm under target, so the body is furthest off.

Check: Confirm the targets: 7.5 ÷ 3 = 2.5 and 4.5 ÷ 3 = 1.5. Then subtract: 10 − 7.5 = 2.5 cm and 4.5 − 4 = 0.5 cm. The larger absolute difference identifies the body as furthest off.

Task 3

Describe how to construct a mane in three layers for a pony in side view, including where the roots should sit and how many locks to use.

Answer: Draw the neck crest, add a base mane shape following the crest, add three to five middle-layer locks overlapping the base, then two or three top strands. Roots sit on or very near the crest line.

Reason: Layering from base to top creates depth, and anchoring roots on the crest makes the mane read as growing from the neck.

Check: Check that every lock root touches or nearly touches the crest line and that at least two distinct layers are visible.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A pony is drawn in a slight three-quarter view with a head unit of 4 cm. The visible body length is 9 cm and the leg length is 6 cm. State whether the leg proportion matches the guide and give one adjustment for the three-quarter view.

Answer: Leg length 6 cm matches 1.5 × 4 cm = 6 cm. For three-quarter view, shift the far shoulder and hip inward while keeping the head unit and leg length unchanged.

Reason: The leg proportion is correct. In three-quarter view, depth is suggested by moving the far side inward, not by changing the head unit.

Check: Confirm 6 ÷ 4 = 1.5 for legs, and check that the far shoulder and hip are visibly inset from the near side.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body length is within a reasonable range of two and a half head units, or a deliberate stylization is consistently applied.
- [ ] Leg length is measured from shoulder to hoof and is close to one and a half head units.
- [ ] The back line is gently curved and the belly line dips slightly at the flank.
- [ ] The mane is built in at least two visible layers with roots anchored on the neck crest.
- [ ] Mane locks overlap the neck or shoulder naturally rather than floating.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and proportion checks are visible or described.
- [ ] Valid alternative styles are accepted if proportions and mane anchoring remain coherent.

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