Basic Anime Drawing: Eye, Hairline and Proportion Guides

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a face oval 8 cm tall and 6 cm wide. Mark the midline at 4 cm from the crown. Place two eyes on the midline, each 1.5 cm wide, with a 1.5 cm gap. Add a hairline arc 1.5 cm above the midline.

Answer: A centered oval with a midline at 4 cm below the crown and 4 cm above the chin. With a 6 cm width, two 1.5 cm eyes and a 1.5 cm gap total 4.5 cm, leaving 0.75 cm margins on each side. Left eye from 0.75 cm to 2.25 cm; gap from 2.25 cm to 3.75 cm; right eye from 3.75 cm to 5.25 cm; right margin from 5.25 cm to 6.0 cm. Hairline arc 1.5 cm above the midline.

Reason: The midline is half the oval height. Eye widths and gap are equal, so the eyes are balanced. The hairline arc is above the eye line, leaving forehead space.

Check: Measure the oval height and confirm the midline is at half. Measure both eye widths and the gap; they should match the given values. Confirm the arc is above the eyes.

Task 2

Draw a face oval 12 cm tall and 8 cm wide. Place the midline at 6 cm. Draw eyes each 2 cm wide with a 2 cm gap. Draw a low hairline arc 1 cm above the midline and four fringe strands. Check that the fringe does not cover both pupils.

Answer: A centered oval with midline at 6 cm below the crown and 6 cm above the chin. Eyes from 1 cm to 3 cm and from 5 cm to 7 cm. Hairline arc 1 cm above the midline. Four strands start on the arc; at least part of each pupil remains visible.

Reason: A low hairline leaves less forehead but still sits above the eyes. Four strands give variety. Keeping pupils visible maintains a clear face study.

Check: Measure the midline and eye positions. Confirm the arc is 1 cm above the midline. Look at the pupils and confirm both are at least partly visible.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a face oval 9 cm tall and 7.2 cm wide. Mark the midline at 4.5 cm. Draw two eyes each 1.8 cm wide with a 1.8 cm gap. Tilt the outer corners up by the same amount on both eyes. Add a hairline arc 2 cm above the midline.

Answer: A centered oval with midline at 4.5 cm below the crown and 4.5 cm above the chin. With a 7.2 cm width, two 1.8 cm eyes and a 1.8 cm gap total 5.4 cm, leaving 0.9 cm margins on each side. Left eye from 0.9 cm to 2.7 cm; gap from 2.7 cm to 4.5 cm; right eye from 4.5 cm to 6.3 cm; right margin from 6.3 cm to 7.2 cm. Both outer corners tilt up equally. Hairline arc 2 cm above the midline.

Reason: Equal tilt on both eyes keeps the face balanced. The gap equals one eye width, and the arithmetic fits the oval width with equal margins. The higher arc leaves more forehead, which suits a stylized look.

Check: Measure eye widths and gap; each should be 1.8 cm. Confirm the left margin (0.9 cm) equals the right margin (0.9 cm). Compare the tilt of both outer corners; they should match. Confirm the arc is above the eyes.

Task 4

Draw a face oval 10 cm tall and 7 cm wide. Place the midline at 5 cm. Draw eyes each 2 cm wide with a 2 cm gap. Draw a hairline arc 1.5 cm above the midline. Add five fringe strands, then erase construction lines and darken final lines. State one valid alternative you could use.

Answer: A centered oval with midline at 5 cm below the crown and 5 cm above the chin. Eyes from 1 cm to 3 cm and from 5 cm to 7 cm. Arc 1.5 cm above the midline. Five strands start on the arc. Final lines are darker; guides are erased. A valid alternative is a lower hairline arc with shorter fringe, as long as the eyes remain visible and the arc is above the eye line.

Reason: The measurements keep the eyes balanced. Five strands add detail. Erasing guides makes the final drawing clear. The alternative is valid because it keeps the same proportion logic.

Check: Measure the midline, eye widths and gap. Confirm the arc is above the eyes. Check that construction lines are erased and final lines are clear. Confirm the stated alternative still places the arc above the eye line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head oval is closed and centered on a vertical guide.
- [ ] Midline is marked and both eyes sit on or near it.
- [ ] Eye widths are equal or intentionally varied with a clear reason.
- [ ] Gap between eyes is roughly one eye wide.
- [ ] Hairline arc is visible above the eyes and fringe roots start on or near it.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and final lines are clear.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the eye tilt, hairline height or fringe direction is consistent and explained.

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