Pen-and-Ink Landscape: Hatching, Cross-Hatching and Line-Weight Control

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On scrap paper, draw two hatching patches: patch A with five parallel lines two millimetres apart, patch B with five parallel lines one millimetre apart. State which patch reads lighter and why.

Answer: Patch A reads lighter because its lines are farther apart, leaving more white paper visible.

Reason: Value in hatching depends on the ratio of ink to white paper. Wider spacing means less ink per area, so the patch appears lighter.

Check: View both patches from arm's length and confirm patch A appears lighter; measure spacing with a ruler to verify two millimetres versus one millimetre.

Task 2

A midground hill is hatched with lines one millimetre apart and still reads too light next to a dark foreground. Describe one cross-hatching change that would darken it without changing the first layer.

Answer: Add a second set of lines at a consistent angle, spaced one millimetre apart, over the existing hatching.

Reason: A second layer increases ink coverage and therefore darkens the patch while keeping the first layer intact.

Check: Compare the hill with the foreground from arm's length; if the hill still reads too light, reduce the second-layer spacing to half a millimetre and recheck.

Task 3

You have drawn a sky with thin lines and a foreground with thick contour lines. The midground currently uses thick lines and reads too heavy. State the line-weight change and the expected effect.

Answer: Redraw the midground strokes with light pressure to make them thin or medium, keeping thick lines only on foreground edges. The midground will then read lighter and sit between sky and foreground.

Reason: Thick lines carry more visual weight. Reducing midground weight restores the intended order of thin sky, medium midground and thick foreground.

Check: Squint at the page: the midground should no longer compete with the foreground. Confirm by comparing stroke widths on scrap paper.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A foreground bank is cross-hatched in two directions at one millimetre spacing and reads as the darkest band. The sky is hatched at two millimetres and the midground at one millimetre. State the value order and one check to confirm it.

Answer: The order from lightest to darkest is sky, midground, foreground. Check by viewing the page from arm's length and confirming three distinct values.

Reason: Density increases from sky to midground to foreground, so ink coverage increases in the same order.

Check: Stand back and compare the three bands; if any two merge, adjust only the lighter band by increasing its spacing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three value bands are clearly distinguishable from arm's length.
- [ ] Hatching direction follows form and stays consistent within each patch.
- [ ] Cross-hatching uses a consistent angle and increases density only where needed.
- [ ] Line weight varies deliberately: thin in sky, medium in midground, thick on foreground edges.
- [ ] White paper is preserved as the lightest value.
- [ ] The landscape reads as a complete scene with foreground, midground and sky.

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