Charcoal Landscape Drawing: Tonal Blending Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 15 cm by 20 cm paper (hypothetical), plan sky value 2, midground 3, foreground 5. Describe the stroke direction and blending extent for each zone.

Answer: Sky: horizontal strokes, fully blended. Midground: angled strokes, 50 percent blended. Foreground: vertical strokes, edges blended but stroke texture retained.

Reason: Varying direction and blending extent creates depth cues and keeps zones distinct.

Check: Squint test: confirm three distinct values; margin note lists direction and blend percentage for each zone.

Task 2

After drawing, the foreground and midground merge. You may change one zone by one value step. State the change and the check.

Answer: Darken foreground from 4 to 5 (or lighten midground from 3 to 2). Re-blend the changed zone, then squint test.

Reason: A one-step change increases contrast without altering the whole plate.

Check: Record the change in the margin; squint test shows separation.

Task 3

A student blends the sky with circular motions and the foreground with horizontal strokes, leaving visible stroke edges in the foreground. Is this valid under the rubric? Explain.

Answer: Yes, if the tonal zones read clearly at arm's length and the method is described in a margin note. The rubric accepts unblended areas when intentional.

Reason: The convention allows valid alternatives; the key is documented method and clear tonal separation.

Check: Check margin note for method description; squint test for zone separation.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Calculate the area of the sky band on a 20 cm by 30 cm paper divided into three equal horizontal bands (hypothetical). If one blended layer covers 100 square cm per minute, how many minutes for one layer?

Answer: Sky band area = 20 cm × 10 cm = 200 square cm. Time = 200 ÷ 100 = 2 minutes for one layer.

Reason: Area = width × height; time = area ÷ coverage rate. Units are consistent (cm and square cm).

Check: Recompute: 20 × 10 = 200; 200 ÷ 100 = 2. Verify paper dimensions with a ruler.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Three tonal zones are present and labeled with target values before drawing.
- [ ] Adjacent zones differ by at least one value step after blending, confirmed by squint test.
- [ ] Blending method is described in a margin note (tool, motion, extent).
- [ ] Stroke direction varies across zones or a valid alternative is explained.
- [ ] Adjustments are recorded with zone name and value change.

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