Realistic Horse Drawing: Proportion and Muscle Shading Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A side-view horse has a head length of 18 cm. Using the hypothetical example ratios, calculate body length and withers height in centimeters.

Answer: Body length is about 45 cm and withers height is about 39.6 cm.

Reason: One HL equals 18 cm. Body length is 2.5 HL, so 2.5 times 18 equals 45 cm. Withers height is 2.2 HL, so 2.2 times 18 equals 39.6 cm.

Check: Re-multiply 18 by 2.5 and by 2.2, and confirm the units are centimeters.

Task 2

A drawing shows a shaded patch on the upper neck but no named region and no stated light direction. Identify the problem and give a fix.

Answer: The shading is unnamed and directionless. Name the patch as the neck crest and state one light direction, then shade its underside and leave the upper surface lighter.

Reason: The rubric requires every shaded zone to name an anatomical region and follow one stated light direction, so an unnamed patch cannot be checked.

Check: Confirm the patch has a region name and that the light direction is written beside the drawing.

Task 3

A horse drawing has a body length of 60 cm and a head length of 20 cm. Calculate the body length in HL and state whether it matches the hypothetical example ratio of 2.5 HL.

Answer: Body length is 3.0 HL, which does not match the hypothetical example of 2.5 HL.

Reason: 60 cm divided by 20 cm equals 3.0 HL. The example ratio is 2.5 HL, so the drawing is longer than the example.

Check: Divide body length by head length and compare the result with the recorded example ratio.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You choose a light direction from the upper right. Describe where to place the darkest values on the hindquarter mass and how to check the result.

Answer: Place the darkest values on the lower and left underside of the hindquarter mass, keeping the upper right surface lighter. Check that the shading follows the stated upper-right light direction and that the zone is named as the hindquarter.

Reason: With light from the upper right, the opposite lower-left underside receives less light, so the darkest values belong there while the lit upper right stays lighter.

Check: Confirm the darkest values sit opposite the stated light direction and that the zone carries an anatomical name.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head-length unit is defined and used consistently.
- [ ] Body length and withers height are measured and recorded, with chosen values labeled as hypothetical examples.
- [ ] Joint landmarks are placed and stacked plausibly before outlining.
- [ ] Every shaded zone names an anatomical region and follows one stated light direction.
- [ ] Deliberate build variation is explained in one line.
- [ ] Measurements and light direction are recorded beside the drawing for review.

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