Drawing a Peasant Figure: Posture, Folds, and Simple Props

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a standing peasant with weight on the right foot and the left foot forward. Add two fold-tension lines at each elbow and a rope belt. Describe where the posture axis falls.

Answer: The posture axis runs from head top to the ground between the right standing foot and the left forward foot. Two curved lines run from each forearm toward the inner elbow. The rope belt sits at the waist with the tunic gathering above it.

Reason: The axis keeps the figure balanced when one foot is forward. Elbow lines follow the tension convention by pointing toward the joint. The belt creates a clear waist gathering point.

Check: Trace the axis and confirm it lands between the feet. Count two fold lines at each elbow and confirm they run from the forearm toward the inner elbow. Confirm the belt touches the waist.

Task 2

Draw a standing peasant with weight on the right foot and the left foot forward, holding a wooden bucket in the left hand. Show three compression lines behind the right knee and two hanging folds from the left shoulder. Describe the contact point for the bucket.

Answer: The right foot is flat and bears weight; the left foot is forward. The posture axis falls between the right standing foot and the left forward foot. Three short compression lines run from the calf toward the back of the right knee. Two hanging folds run from the left shoulder toward the waist. The bucket handle touches the left hand at one clear point.

Reason: A slightly bent standing knee still creates compression behind the joint, so compression lines belong behind the knee. Hanging folds follow gravity from the shoulder. The bucket needs a visible contact point to read as held.

Check: Confirm the right foot is flat and bears weight and the left foot is forward. Count three lines running from the calf toward the back of the right knee. Trace two folds from the left shoulder. Confirm the bucket handle meets the left hand.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a peasant standing with both feet flat and a walking stick in the right hand. Add diagonal tension lines across the front left thigh and two fold lines at the right elbow. Describe how the stick contacts the hand.

Answer: Both feet are flat and the posture axis falls between them. Two diagonal lines cross the front left thigh. Two curved lines run from the right forearm toward the inner elbow. The walking stick touches the right hand at one clear point and reaches the ground.

Reason: Flat feet keep the axis centered. Diagonal thigh lines show tension across the front of the leg. Elbow lines follow the joint convention. The stick needs a hand contact and a ground contact to read clearly.

Check: Confirm both feet are flat and the axis is centered. Count two diagonal lines on the left thigh and two lines at the right elbow. Confirm the stick touches the right hand and the ground.

Task 4

Draw a peasant standing with the left foot forward and a rope belt. Add two fold lines at the left knee and one hanging fold from the right shoulder. Describe how you would check that fold lines are lighter than the outline.

Answer: The left foot is forward and the axis falls between the feet. Two compression lines run from the calf toward the back of the left knee. One hanging fold runs from the right shoulder toward the waist. The rope belt gathers the tunic at the waist. Fold lines are drawn with lighter pressure than the outline.

Reason: Forward foot placement shifts the axis but keeps balance. Knee lines follow the tension convention. A single shoulder fold shows gravity without clutter. Lighter fold lines preserve the silhouette.

Check: Trace the axis between the feet. Count two lines running from the calf toward the back of the left knee and one fold from the right shoulder. Compare line darkness: fold lines should be visibly lighter than the body outline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Posture axis falls between the feet and the figure reads as balanced.
- [ ] Body is blocked with clear head, shoulder, waist, hip, knee, and ankle levels.
- [ ] Fold-tension lines are grouped in twos or threes and point toward the joint creating tension.
- [ ] Tunic folds hang from shoulders and gather at the waist.
- [ ] Trousers show compression behind the knee and diagonal tension on the front thigh.
- [ ] One simple prop has a clear contact point with hand or waist.
- [ ] Fold lines are lighter than the body outline.
- [ ] Valid alternative fold patterns are accepted if they follow the tension convention.

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