Gesture Drawing from a Posed Model: Action Line and Weight Shift

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A model stands with weight on the right leg, left leg relaxed and slightly forward. The pelvis tilts so the right hip is higher. Describe the action line and the weight-bearing leg marks you would draw.

Answer: Action line from head through torso toward the right foot; pelvis line tilted with right hip higher; right leg drawn firmer from hip to ankle; left leg lighter and angled slightly forward.

Reason: The supporting foot is flatter and the right knee straighter, so the right leg bears weight. The pelvis tilt confirms the right hip is higher. The action line should lead toward the supporting side.

Check: Draw a vertical from the pelvis center; it should fall nearer the right foot. Confirm the right leg stroke is firmer than the left.

Task 2

A model sits on a stool with weight on the left hip, torso leaning right, left arm resting on the left thigh, right arm hanging down. Describe the gesture skeleton order and the limb angles you would record.

Answer: Action line from head curving right through torso toward left hip; pelvis line tilted with left hip higher; left leg firmer from hip to knee; right leg lighter; shoulder line tilted opposite pelvis; left arm two segments angled down to thigh; right arm two segments hanging near vertical; head oval and neck line.

Reason: Sitting still involves a weight-bearing side; the left hip supports more mass. The torso lean right creates a counter-curve. Limb angles are recorded as simple segment directions relative to vertical or the action line.

Check: Check that the left leg stroke is firmer and the pelvis tilt matches the left hip. Confirm each arm has two segments and the skeleton reads without clothing or facial detail.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A model stands with feet evenly placed and no visible weight shift. How would you mark the pelvis and legs, and what check would you use?

Answer: Pelvis line nearly horizontal; both legs drawn with similar firmness; action line nearly vertical; check by drawing a vertical from pelvis center, which should fall between the feet.

Reason: Even weight distribution means no strong pelvis tilt. The gesture skeleton should reflect neutrality rather than forcing a shift. Similar stroke firmness is appropriate.

Check: Verify the pelvis line is close to horizontal and the vertical from pelvis center falls between the feet. Confirm no limb is arbitrarily darkened.

Task 4

A model stands with weight on the left leg, right arm raised diagonally up and left, left arm down. The upper arm angle is a hypothetical 40 degrees from vertical. Describe the shoulder line, arm segments, and a consistency check.

Answer: Shoulder line tilted opposite pelvis so right shoulder is higher; right arm two segments: upper arm about 40 degrees from vertical up and left, forearm continuing; left arm two segments down near torso; check that the 40-degree value is labeled hypothetical and that both arm segments are readable.

Reason: The raised arm changes the shoulder line and creates a clear limb angle. The value is a hypothetical example, not a standard. Consistency means the angle is recorded once and the segments connect logically.

Check: Confirm the shoulder tilt opposes the pelvis tilt, the upper arm angle is noted as hypothetical, and the forearm continues from the upper arm without ambiguity.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Action line is present, single, and clearly summarizes the pose's direction.
- [ ] Weight-bearing leg is identified with a firmer stroke and matches the pelvis tilt and foot contact.
- [ ] Pelvis tilt and shoulder line show a readable weight shift or are correctly neutral.
- [ ] Limb angles are recorded as simple segments and are consistent with the observed pose.
- [ ] Gesture skeleton is readable without portrait detail or clothing.
- [ ] Any lettering uses a defined baseline and midline with consistent x-height; valid letter-style alternatives are accepted.
- [ ] Numerical values, if used, are labeled as hypothetical examples and units are consistent.

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