Gesture and Contour Figure Drawing: Timed Practice with Six Poses

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Pose A: a seated figure with both feet on the floor, torso upright, right hand resting on the right knee, left hand lifted near the shoulder. Draw a 30-second gesture using the defined convention.

Answer: A central axis line from neck to pelvis, one line for each arm and each leg, and an anchor mark at each foot. The right arm line goes to the knee; the left arm line goes up toward the shoulder.

Reason: The axis shows the upright torso, limb lines show the resting and lifted arms, and foot anchors show support.

Check: Count one axis line, four limb lines, and two anchor marks. Confirm the drawing was stopped at 30 seconds.

Task 2

Pose B: a figure kneeling on the right knee, left foot forward, torso twisted to the left, both arms reaching left. Draw a 2-minute gesture with simple masses for torso, head, and limbs.

Answer: Axis line tilts and twists left; right leg line bends to the kneeling knee; left leg line reaches forward to the foot; both arm lines reach left. Add a simple oval for the head, a block for the torso, and rough masses for limbs. Anchor the right knee and left foot.

Reason: The twist is shown by the axis direction, the kneeling support by the bent right leg and knee anchor, and the reach by both arm lines.

Check: Confirm the axis shows a left twist, the right leg bends to a knee anchor, the left foot is anchored, and both arms reach left. Check that masses are simple and the timer was 2 minutes.

Gesture and Contour Figure Drawing: Timed Practice with Six Poses

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Pose C: a figure standing with weight on the left leg, right leg relaxed and slightly bent, left arm across the chest, right arm behind the back. Describe a 5-minute contour study: name two visible edges to trace and one hidden edge to leave out.

Answer: Trace the outer silhouette from the head down the left supporting side, and trace the visible edge where the left arm crosses the chest, drawing the arm edge across the torso. Leave out the hidden edge of the right arm behind the back.

Reason: The silhouette and the crossing arm are visible edges; the arm behind the back is hidden and should not be drawn as if transparent.

Check: Confirm two named visible edges and one named hidden edge. Check that the crossing edge is drawn nearer across the farther edge.

Task 4

Pose D: a figure leaning forward from the hips, both hands on a low support, both feet planted. Draw a 30-second gesture, then state one correction you would make in a second pass.

Answer: Axis line leans forward from neck to pelvis; both arm lines go down to the support; both leg lines go to planted feet; anchor marks at both feet and both hands. A correction could be to lengthen the axis line if the forward lean was too short.

Reason: The forward lean is the main action, the arms and legs show support, and anchors mark contact points. The correction targets the axis line, which carries the action.

Check: Confirm the axis leans forward, four limb lines reach the support or ground, and at least two anchors are marked. Check that the stated correction refers to a line actually drawn.

Gesture and Contour Figure Drawing: Timed Practice with Six Poses

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Gesture includes a central axis line showing the main action.
- [ ] Gesture includes one line per major limb segment and one anchor mark.
- [ ] Gesture is completed within the stated time cue.
- [ ] Contour traces only visible edges and deliberate overlaps.
- [ ] Contour line follows direction changes without unexplained gaps.
- [ ] Each sketch is labeled with pose number and time used.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as varied line weight or broken lines are accepted if action and visible edges are recorded.

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