Reclining Figure Drawing: Weight and Contact Points

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A reclining figure lies on its back on a flat surface. Head length H is 4 cm. Total length is 24 cm. Contact dots: back of head, both shoulders, both hips, both heels. Hypothetical loads: hips 35 each, shoulders 10 each, head 5, heels 2.5 each. Describe the contact map and weight line, and state one check.

Answer: Ratio is 24 divided by 4 equals 6 head lengths. Mark seven contact dots: back of head, two shoulders, two hips, two heels. Weight line connects the two hips. Flatten the silhouette most at both hips, slightly at both shoulders, and least at the head and heels, so compression follows the load ranking (hips 35 each, shoulders 10 each, head 5, heels 2.5 each). Check: loads sum to 35+35+10+10+5+2.5+2.5 equals 100, and hip compression is greatest.

Reason: The back-lying pose distributes weight mainly to the hips. The ratio gives proportional spacing along the surface. Flattening at hips and shoulders matches the higher loads.

Check: Re-add the load values to confirm 100. Verify that both hips touch the surface line and that their flattened segments are the widest.

Task 2

A figure reclines on its side with one arm under the head. Head length H is 3.5 cm. Total length is 17.5 cm. Contacts: side of head, forearm, shoulder, hip, outer knee, heel. Hypothetical loads: hip 30, shoulder 25, forearm 20, head 10, knee 10, heel 5. Describe the drawing order and one adjustment if the forearm floats.

Answer: Ratio is 17.5 divided by 3.5 equals 5 head lengths. Mark six contacts along the surface line. Weight line connects hip and shoulder. Draw torso dipping toward hip. Flatten hip, shoulder, and forearm; keep head, knee, and heel rounder. Compression should be greatest at hip, then shoulder, then forearm. If forearm floats, lower the forearm contact dot or curve the arm until it meets the surface line, then re-check that loads still sum to 100.

Reason: The forearm carries notable load because it supports the head. The drawing order starts with contacts and weight line to prevent floating.

Check: Confirm 30+25+20+10+10+5 equals 100. Trace the gap under the forearm; it should be zero after adjustment.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A figure reclines face-down on a flat surface. Head length H is 2.5 cm. Total length is 15 cm. Contacts: forehead side, chest, abdomen, both thighs, both toes. Hypothetical loads: chest 30, abdomen 25, thighs 15 each, forehead 10, toes 2.5 each. Describe how to show compression and state the proportion ratio.

Answer: Ratio is 15 divided by 2.5 equals 6 head lengths. Mark seven contacts. Weight line connects chest and abdomen. Flatten chest most, abdomen next, thighs moderately, forehead slightly, and toes least, matching the load ranking (chest 30, abdomen 25, thighs 15 each, forehead 10, toes 2.5 each). Check loads: 30+25+15+15+10+2.5+2.5 equals 100. Compression should be widest at chest.

Reason: Face-down weight concentrates at chest and abdomen. The ratio sets spacing. Compression rank follows load rank.

Check: Re-add loads to 100. Compare flattened segment widths: chest widest, abdomen next, toes narrowest.

Task 4

A figure reclines on its side with knees bent. Head length H is 3 cm. Total length along the surface is 18 cm. Contacts: head side, shoulder, hip, outer thigh, both knees, both feet. Hypothetical loads: hip 35, shoulder 25, thigh 15, head 10, knees 5 each, feet 2.5 each. Describe the contact map and one balance check.

Answer: Ratio is 18 divided by 3 equals 6 head lengths. Mark eight contacts. Weight line connects hip and shoulder. Flatten hip and shoulder most; keep feet rounder. Balance check: loads sum to 35+25+15+10+5+5+2.5+2.5 equals 100, and the torso should dip toward the hip side. If the torso dips away, redraw the curve toward the weight line.

Reason: Bent knees add contacts but the hip remains the heaviest. The balance check uses the weight line direction.

Check: Confirm load sum is 100. Verify the torso curve dips toward the hip and that hip and shoulder touch the surface line.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Mark one contact dot for each contact named by the pose before drawing the contour; count left and right separately when both touch.
- [ ] A weight line connects the two heaviest contacts.
- [ ] Heavy contacts show short flattened silhouette segments; light contacts remain rounder.
- [ ] No unintended gap exists under heavy contacts.
- [ ] The proportion ratio is measured from the reference and recorded.
- [ ] Hypothetical load values sum to 100 and compression follows their ranking, with the heaviest contacts most flattened and the lightest roundest.
- [ ] Valid alternative proportions or contact placements are accepted if internally consistent and checked against the reference.

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