Drawing Clay Objects: Form and Texture

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a clay cup 8 cm wide and 9 cm tall (hypothetical example) with a vertical texture pattern on the body. Describe your construction and texture choices.

Answer: Block an 8 by 9 cm box. Draw a rounded body about 7 cm wide and 7 cm tall, add a rim 1 cm tall. Use vertical strokes spaced 4 mm apart on the body, lighter near the sides.

Reason: The bounding box controls proportion; vertical strokes follow the surface direction of a tall cup.

Check: Measure the drawn width and height against the box. Confirm strokes run vertically and remain lighter near the contour.

Task 2

Draw a clay bowl 12 cm wide and 6 cm tall (hypothetical example) with a rough interior and smooth exterior. Use dots for interior texture.

Answer: Block a 12 by 6 cm box. Draw a shallow oval body 11 cm wide and 5 cm tall. Add sparse dots inside the bowl following the interior curve; leave the exterior mostly smooth with a few horizontal strokes.

Reason: Dots are a valid texture alternative; sparse placement keeps the form readable.

Check: Check that dots follow the interior curve and that the exterior remains smooth. Verify width and height against the box.

Task 3

Draw a clay jar with a handle, 10 cm wide and 14 cm tall (hypothetical example). Texture the body horizontally and the handle vertically.

Answer: Block a 10 by 14 cm box. Draw an oval body 8 cm wide and 10 cm tall, add a neck 3 cm tall, and a handle as a curved shape on one side. Use horizontal strokes on the body and vertical strokes along the handle.

Reason: Different surface directions require different stroke directions; the handle follows its length.

Check: Confirm the handle attaches at plausible points and that stroke directions match each surface. Measure overall height against the box.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a clay plate 15 cm wide and 3 cm tall (hypothetical example) with concentric texture rings. Explain how you keep the form from looking flat.

Answer: Block a 15 by 3 cm box. Draw a shallow oval 14 cm wide and 2.5 cm tall. Add concentric curved strokes following the plate surface, shorter near the rim. Keep strokes light at the outer edge.

Reason: Concentric strokes follow the plate's surface; shortening near the rim suggests foreshortening.

Check: Check that rings follow the oval shape and that the silhouette remains clear. Measure width and height against the box.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Form reads as a solid clay object with soft transitions.
- [ ] Proportions match the observed object within reasonable tolerance.
- [ ] Contour is clear and not obscured by texture.
- [ ] Texture strokes follow surface direction consistently.
- [ ] Texture density varies to suggest rough and smooth areas.
- [ ] Valid alternative stroke types are accepted if directional and supportive of form.

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