Drawing a Grandmother Portrait: Face, Hair, and Posture

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A head oval is 10 cm tall from top to chin. Using the lesson convention, state the eye line, nose base, and mouth line positions measured from the top.

Answer: Eye line at 5 cm; nose base at 7.5 cm; mouth line at 8.33 cm (approximately 8.3 cm).

Reason: Half of 10 is 5. Halfway between 5 and 10 is 7.5. The distance from nose base to chin is 2.5 cm; one third is about 0.83 cm, so the mouth line is 7.5 + 0.83 = 8.33 cm.

Check: Re-add the divisions: 5 + 2.5 + 0.83 + 1.67 = 10 cm, matching the head height.

Task 2

A described reference has a shoulder line that slopes down 2 cm over a 12 cm width. The eye line tilts 1 cm over the same 12 cm width. Which line is more tilted, and by how much per 12 cm?

Answer: The shoulder line is more tilted by 1 cm per 12 cm.

Reason: Compare the vertical change over the same horizontal width: shoulder 2 cm, eye line 1 cm. The difference is 1 cm.

Check: Subtract the smaller change from the larger: 2 - 1 = 1 cm.

Task 3

A hair silhouette is drawn as a closed shape around a head oval. The silhouette touches the top of the skull and extends 3 cm below the chin at the sides. The eye line is 6 cm from the top on a 12 cm head. Does the hair cover the eye line at the sides if the silhouette side edge is 4 cm from the face oval? Explain using the given numbers.

Answer: No, the hair does not cover the eye line at the sides because the side edge is outside the face oval; the eye line is on the face, not on the side hair.

Reason: The eye line is a horizontal level on the face oval. The side hair edge is 4 cm away from the face oval, so it frames the face rather than crossing the eye level on the face.

Check: Mark the eye line on the face oval and confirm the hair silhouette side edge sits outside the oval at that level.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A neck is drawn 3 cm wide under a head that is 9 cm wide. Using the lesson check that neck width is roughly one third of head width, is the neck within the suggested range? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Yes. One third of 9 cm is 3 cm, so the neck width matches the suggested check exactly.

Reason: Divide head width by 3: 9 / 3 = 3 cm. The drawn neck is 3 cm.

Check: Multiply the neck width by 3: 3 x 3 = 9 cm, which equals the head width.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Face oval is drawn with a clear top and chin, and the eye line is at the halfway mark.
- [ ] Nose base is halfway between eye line and chin; mouth line is one third below the nose base.
- [ ] Hair is built as one outer silhouette before strand groups are added.
- [ ] Hairline remains visible at forehead and temples unless intentionally covered.
- [ ] Shoulder line is slightly sloped and head tilt is small and checked against the eye line.
- [ ] Neck width is checked against head width and chin is clear of the neck.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and final contours are darkened selectively.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different hair silhouettes, small asymmetries, and optional expression lines are allowed if the proportion checks hold.

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