Chinese Brush-Style Horse: Flowing Ink Mane and Tail

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A practice area is 12 cm wide and 8 cm tall. Mark a baseline 1 cm from the bottom and a midline 5 cm from the bottom. What is the x-height in cm?

Answer: 4 cm.

Reason: X-height is baseline to midline: 5 cm minus 1 cm equals 4 cm.

Check: Subtract the baseline measurement from the midline measurement and confirm the units are cm.

Task 2

You paint three body masses: chest 3 cm wide, barrel 4 cm wide, hindquarters 3 cm wide, with 1 cm gaps between them. What total width do they span?

Answer: 12 cm.

Reason: Add the three widths and two gaps: 3 + 4 + 3 + 1 + 1 = 12 cm.

Check: Add widths first (10 cm), then add gaps (2 cm), and confirm the sum.

Task 3

A mane stroke starts 4 mm wide and ends 1 mm wide. A second stroke starts 5 mm wide and ends 2 mm wide. Which stroke tapers more, and by how many mm?

Answer: Neither stroke tapers more; both taper by 3 mm, so the difference is 0 mm.

Reason: First taper: 4 minus 1 equals 3 mm. Second taper: 5 minus 2 equals 3 mm. Both taper equally, so neither tapers more; the difference is 0 mm.

Check: Recompute both subtractions carefully; if equal, state that neither tapers more.

Task 4

You have 20 cm of paper width. You want a 6 cm body span, a 5 cm mane zone, and a 4 cm tail zone, with equal gaps between the three zones. What is each gap?

Answer: 2.5 cm each.

Reason: Total zones: 6 + 5 + 4 = 15 cm. Remaining width: 20 minus 15 = 5 cm. Two gaps: 5 divided by 2 = 2.5 cm each.

Check: Add zones and gaps: 6 + 2.5 + 5 + 2.5 + 4 = 20 cm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body is suggested by soft ink-wash masses, not a closed outline.
- [ ] At most two minimal contour lines are present, with at least one gap.
- [ ] Mane strokes taper from thick to thin and flow in continuous arcs.
- [ ] Tail strokes sweep from the hindquarters and vary in pressure.
- [ ] Dark ink is concentrated in mane and tail; body wash remains pale.
- [ ] No Western realistic shading, cartoon features, or landscape background.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: stroke count, curve direction, and exact placement may vary.

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