Drawing Facial Structure with Skull Planes, Cheekbones and Jaw Construction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a sheet, draw a head mass 10 cm tall with a midline and an eye line at about half the height. Add cheekbone shelves from the outer eye corners and jaw corners below the ears. Check left-right balance with a 2 cm grid.

Answer: A 10 cm head mass with a midline, an eye line near 5 cm from the top as a starting guide, cheekbone shelves from the outer eye corners, jaw corners below the ears, and a chin on the midline. The grid check shows landmark heights within one small square on both sides.

Reason: The construction follows the sequence: skull mass, reference lines, cheekbone planes, jaw corners, chin. The grid provides a simple checkable comparison without relying on a single universal answer.

Check: Measure the head height and eye-line height with a ruler. Count grid squares between left and right landmarks at the same level; adjust if the difference exceeds one small square.

Task 2

Draw a face construction where the jaw line has a clear corner below each ear and a chin on the midline. Use a 12 cm head height and a 3 cm grid. Describe how you checked that the jaw corners are at the same height.

Answer: A 12 cm head construction with jaw corners below each ear, a chin on the midline, and a 3 cm grid overlay. The jaw corners fall on the same grid line or within one small square of each other.

Reason: The jaw corner is a structural landmark; comparing heights on a grid makes the check simple and repeatable. The chin on the midline ties the lower face together.

Check: Place the grid over the drawing and note the grid line nearest each jaw corner. If they differ by more than one small square, adjust the lower corner upward or the higher corner downward.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Construct a face from planes on a 14 cm tall head. Mark the eye line at about 7 cm from the top as a starting guide, draw cheekbone shelves, and label the midline, eye line, cheekbone shelf, jaw corner and chin using legible lettering that respects the x-height convention.

Answer: A 14 cm head construction with a midline, an eye line near 7 cm from the top, cheekbone shelves, jaw corners and chin, plus legible labels for each landmark. Any letter style is acceptable if the x-height convention is respected.

Reason: Labeling makes the construction readable and checkable. The x-height convention gives a consistent standard while allowing valid alternative letter styles.

Check: Confirm each label is legible and that the baseline-to-midline distance is consistent across labels. Check that all five landmarks are labeled and that the eye line is near the stated starting guide.

Task 4

Draw a face construction and then test it: compare the distance from the midline to each cheekbone line at the same height. If one side is longer by more than one grid square, adjust it. Use a 9 cm head height and a 1.5 cm grid.

Answer: A 9 cm head construction with cheekbone lines compared at the same height using a 1.5 cm grid. Any difference greater than one small square is adjusted so the left and right cheekbone lengths are balanced within the grid check.

Reason: The cheekbone planes should read as balanced shelves. A grid comparison gives a simple arithmetic check without requiring a single universal answer.

Check: Count grid squares from the midline to each cheekbone line at the same height. If the counts differ by more than one square, shorten the longer line or extend the shorter one and recheck.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Skull mass and lower face block are drawn before features.
- [ ] Midline and eye-level line are present and used as references.
- [ ] Cheekbone planes are drawn as angled shelves, not dots.
- [ ] Jaw line includes a corner near the ear and connects to the chin.
- [ ] Left-right landmark heights and cheekbone lengths are compared and adjusted.
- [ ] Landmark labels are legible and respect the x-height convention; alternative letter styles are acceptable.

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