Still Life Contour Drawing: Single-Line and Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A cup and a book overlap. The measured distance between the left edge of the cup and the right edge of the book is 16 cm. Your single-line contour drawing gives 15 cm. Using a hypothetical tolerance of 1 cm, does the drawing pass this check?

Answer: Yes, it passes. The difference is 16 minus 15, which equals 1 cm, and 1 cm equals the tolerance.

Reason: Subtract the drawing value from the object value in centimetres. Compare the result with the stated tolerance. A difference equal to the tolerance passes.

Check: Re-measure both distances with the same ruler and confirm the subtraction in centimetres.

Task 2

A bottle and a bowl overlap. The measured vertical distance between the top of the bottle and the bottom of the bowl is 12 cm. Your blind contour drawing gives 9 cm. What is the difference, and does it pass a hypothetical tolerance of 1 cm?

Answer: The difference is 3 cm, so it does not pass the 1 cm tolerance.

Reason: 12 minus 9 equals 3. Since 3 cm is greater than 1 cm, the drawing is outside the stated tolerance for this reference distance.

Check: Measure the same vertical distance on the objects and on the drawing, then subtract in centimetres.

Task 3

You draw a single-line contour of a jar and a box. During the drawing you lift the pencil twice. What is the tool-lift count, and what should you do to meet the single-line rule?

Answer: The count is two lifts. Redraw the section by retracing the previous edge so the tool stays on the paper, aiming for zero lifts.

Reason: The single-line rule requires the tool to remain on the paper. Each lift is counted, and retracing is the allowed way to move to a new edge.

Check: Count lifts during the next drawing and confirm the count is zero before measuring reference distances.

Still Life Contour Drawing: Single-Line and Blind-Contour Practice

Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A mug, a box, and a piece of fruit are arranged with overlaps. The measured distance between the leftmost point and the rightmost point is 20 cm. Your single-line contour drawing gives 18 cm. Your blind contour drawing gives 15 cm. Using a hypothetical tolerance of 2 cm, which drawing passes the check?

Answer: The single-line contour passes because 20 minus 18 equals 2 cm, which equals the tolerance. The blind contour does not pass because 20 minus 15 equals 5 cm, which is greater than 2 cm.

Reason: Apply the same subtraction to each drawing and compare each difference with the stated tolerance. The blind contour is expected to differ more because looking at the paper is not allowed.

Check: Measure the leftmost-to-rightmost distance on the objects and on both drawings, subtract in centimetres, and compare each result with 2 cm.

Still Life Contour Drawing: Single-Line and Blind-Contour Practice

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The single-line contour uses one continuous line with zero tool lifts.
- [ ] Three reference points are marked and their distances are measured in centimetres.
- [ ] Each drawing distance is compared with the object distance using subtraction.
- [ ] The blind contour is drawn without looking at the paper and is kept unerased.
- [ ] The comparison panel labels both drawings with the rule used and the date.
- [ ] Valid alternative line styles and handwriting are accepted; only the stated measurements and rules are judged.

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