Pencil Mushroom Drawing: Hatching and Tonal Cap Shading

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a cap 5 cm wide and 3 cm tall with light from the upper right. Hatch the shaded half in two layers and state the values you used.

Answer: The lower left half carries value 2 to 3, the upper right stays value 0 to 1, and the darkest edge is at the lower left. Two layers are visible in the shaded half.

Reason: Light from the upper right places shadow on the lower left, so hatching layers concentrate there while the lit side stays light.

Check: Squint at the cap: confirm three steps and that the darkest band is opposite the stated light.

Task 2

Draw a stem 2 cm wide and 5 cm tall with sparse texture at the top and denser strokes at the base. Add one narrow shadow band.

Answer: Texture strokes are wider apart in the top third and closer in the bottom third; a narrow value-2 band runs down one side.

Reason: Density of strokes controls apparent texture and shadow without darkening the whole stem.

Check: Compare stroke spacing top versus bottom and confirm the shadow band is narrow, not covering the full width.

Task 3

A learner hatches a cap with one heavy layer and no light band. Identify the problem and describe a fix using the value convention.

Answer: The cap lacks a light band and shows only one value. Fix by lifting tone in the upper lit area and adding a second light layer only in the darkest third to reach value 3.

Reason: Heavy single layers flatten tone; layering in selected areas restores tonal steps.

Check: Check that at least three values are visible and that no area is pressed shiny.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a complete mushroom with cap 6 cm by 4 cm and stem 2 cm by 5 cm, light from the left. Use hatching on the cap and texture on the stem, then list the values at three cap points.

Answer: Upper left cap is value 0 to 1, middle is value 2, lower right edge is value 3 to 4. Stem is value 1 with a value-2 shadow band on the right.

Reason: Light from the left places shadow on the right; layering builds the darkest edge while the stem stays secondary.

Check: Verify the three listed cap values are distinguishable and that the darkest band is on the right.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Cap shows at least three distinguishable values using the stated 0 to 4 convention.
- [ ] Hatching direction curves or changes angle to suggest the cap's rounded form.
- [ ] Darkest cap band sits opposite the stated light direction.
- [ ] Stem texture strokes are present and sparser near the top.
- [ ] Stem does not compete with the cap as the dominant tonal mass.
- [ ] No heavy outline undermines the hatching.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the light direction is stated and tonal steps remain clear.

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