Realistic Landscape Drawing: Value Range and Texture Practice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Create a five-step value strip on scrap paper. Then draw a landscape frame with three zones: distant hills, middle field, foreground path. Assign steps 2-3 to hills, 3-4 to field, 4-5 to path. Add grass texture to the field and rock texture to the path. Describe your strip and zone assignments in two sentences.

Answer: A completed strip shows five distinct steps from lightest to darkest. The landscape uses steps 2 and 3 for hills, 3 and 4 for field, 4 and 5 for path, with grass strokes in the field and angular rock marks on the path.

Reason: The exercise tests whether the learner can define a value convention and apply overlapping ranges across zones while introducing two distinct textures.

Check: Compare the strip to the landscape: confirm four or more steps appear, each zone has a dominant step, boundaries overlap by one step, and grass and rock textures are visually different.

Task 2

Draw two 4 cm squares (hypothetical size; measure your own). In the first, fill with water texture at step 2. In the second, fill with water texture at step 4. Note one adjustment you made to keep the texture readable at step 4.

Answer: Both squares show water texture. At step 4, the learner increased spacing between strokes or reduced pressure so ripples remained visible against the darker value.

Reason: This tests texture testing across value steps and the ability to adjust stroke spacing or pressure.

Check: Confirm both squares are labeled with their step, the texture reads as water in each, and the learner names a specific adjustment.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a landscape with a distant hill, middle field, and foreground rock. Use only steps 1, 3, and 5. Explain how you kept the zones distinct without using steps 2 and 4.

Answer: The learner assigns step 1 to sky, step 3 to hill and field with texture differences, and step 5 to foreground rock shadow. Zones remain distinct through texture variation and placement of the darkest step only in the foreground.

Reason: This tests whether value range can be compressed while texture and placement preserve zone separation.

Check: Check that all three steps appear, each zone is identifiable, and the explanation names texture or placement as the separating factor.

Task 4

Draw a landscape frame and add grass texture in the middle field at step 3 and rock texture in the foreground at step 4. Then step back and list two zones that remain distinguishable and one boundary that needs softening.

Answer: The learner lists two zones, for example field and foreground, as distinguishable, and identifies one boundary, such as hill-to-field, that needs a one-step overlap to soften.

Reason: This tests self-evaluation of zone separation and boundary transitions after texture is applied.

Check: Confirm the listed zones match the drawing and the identified boundary is softened by adding an intermediate step or blending marks.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Value range spans at least four of the five defined steps.
- [ ] Each zone has a dominant step and overlaps one step with its neighbor.
- [ ] Texture is present in at least two zones and differs between them.
- [ ] Each texture remains readable at its assigned value step.
- [ ] Lightest step is reserved for sky or highlight; darkest step is used sparingly.
- [ ] Alternative stroke patterns are accepted if they clearly suggest the intended surface and preserve value structure.

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