Old Man Face Drawing: Proportions and Age Cues

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A face frame is 21 cm tall. Using the thirds convention, calculate the brow line, nose base line, and chin line from the top. Then calculate eye level as the midpoint between brow and nose base. Label values as hypothetical examples.

Answer: Each third is 21 ÷ 3 = 7 cm. Brow at 7 cm, nose base at 14 cm, chin at 21 cm. Eye level is (7 + 14) ÷ 2 = 10.5 cm from the top. These are hypothetical examples for a 21 cm frame.

Reason: Divide the total height into three equal parts, then average the brow and nose base positions for eye level.

Check: Add the three thirds: 7 + 7 + 7 = 21 cm. Confirm eye level lies between 7 cm and 14 cm.

Task 2

A face frame is 15 cm tall. Place the mouth at one-third of the distance from nose base to chin. Calculate the mouth position from the top and state the units. Label values as hypothetical examples.

Answer: Each third is 15 ÷ 3 = 5 cm. Nose base is at 10 cm, chin at 15 cm. The nose-to-chin distance is 5 cm; one-third is 5 ÷ 3 ≈ 1.67 cm. Mouth is at 10 + 1.67 = 11.67 cm from the top. These are hypothetical examples for a 15 cm frame.

Reason: Find the nose base and chin lines, subtract to get the lower distance, divide by three, and add to the nose base position.

Check: Confirm 11.67 cm is between 10 cm and 15 cm, and that the remaining distance to the chin is about 3.33 cm.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Describe where to place three age cues on a constructed old man face: one structural cue, one deep crease, and one fine texture cue. Explain how each follows facial form.

Answer: Structural cue: lower the brow slightly and thicken the upper eyelid line. Deep crease: draw a nasolabial fold from beside the nose curving toward the mouth corner. Fine texture: add short, light lines on the cheek that follow the cheek's curve. Each cue follows the underlying form rather than crossing it at random.

Reason: Age cues should support structure first, then add folds and texture in order of depth.

Check: Check that the deep crease connects to a structural change and that the fine lines are lighter than the deep crease.

Task 4

A drawing has eye level at 9 cm, nose base at 12 cm, and chin at 18 cm from the top. The mouth is placed at 14 cm. Check whether the mouth is about one-third from nose base to chin. Show the arithmetic.

Answer: Nose-to-chin distance is $18 - 12 = 6$ cm. One-third is $6 \div 3 = 2$ cm. Nose base plus one-third is $12 + 2 = 14$ cm. The mouth at 14 cm matches the one-third placement. Units are cm; values are hypothetical examples.

Reason: Subtract nose base from chin, divide by three, and add to nose base to find the expected mouth position.

Check: Confirm 14 cm lies between 12 cm and 18 cm and that the remaining distance to the chin is 4 cm, which is two-thirds of 6 cm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Feature proportions follow a visible convention: thirds, midline, eye level, nose base, mouth placement.
- [ ] Age cues include structural changes before surface wrinkles.
- [ ] Creases follow facial form and vary in weight and length.
- [ ] Left and right features remain consistent with the proportion guides.
- [ ] Any numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples and match the drawing size.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: fewer deep creases or more fine lines, provided structure reads as age.

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