Limestone Block Texture: Strata Lines and Chisel Marks

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a limestone block 6 cm wide and 4 cm tall (hypothetical). Add three strata lines spaced 7 mm apart and four chisel marks in one cluster. Use light from the upper right.

Answer: Front rectangle 6 by 4 cm, top parallelogram. Three strata lines tilted 5 degrees, spaced 7 mm. Four chisel marks 4 mm long, angled 30 degrees, clustered near the lower left; let one mark touch a strata line. Shade the right and lower edges; keep top face lighter.

Reason: The exercise fixes dimensions and counts so you can check spacing and mark length. Light direction determines which edges are shaded.

Check: Measure strata spacing; count chisel marks; confirm one mark touches a strata line; confirm shading is on the right and lower edges.

Task 2

Draw a block 10 cm wide and 6 cm tall (hypothetical). Add five strata lines with slight tilt variation and eight chisel marks in two clusters. Shade with light from above.

Answer: Front rectangle 10 by 6 cm, top parallelogram. Five strata lines, spacing 8 to 10 mm, tilt varying by 3 degrees. Eight chisel marks 3 to 5 mm long, two clusters of four; let one mark in each cluster touch a strata line. Shade front face lightly, top face very lightly, darken grooves near two lines.

Reason: Variation in tilt and spacing tests the convention without breaking consistency. Two clusters avoid even scattering.

Check: Check tilt variation is small; confirm two clusters; confirm one mark per cluster touches a strata line; verify top face is lightest.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a block 7 cm wide and 5 cm tall (hypothetical). Add four strata lines and six chisel marks. Make one strata line darker to suggest a prominent layer. Use light from the lower left.

Answer: Front rectangle 7 by 5 cm, top parallelogram. Four strata lines spaced 8 mm; darken the second line from the top. Six chisel marks 4 mm long, angled 20 degrees, clustered near the right edge; let one mark touch a strata line. Shade upper and right edges; keep lower left lighter.

Reason: A darker strata line tests emphasis. Light from lower left reverses the usual shading pattern, so check carefully.

Check: Identify the darker line; confirm shading is on upper and right edges; confirm one mark touches a strata line; measure mark length.

Task 4

Draw a block 9 cm wide and 5 cm tall (hypothetical). Add five strata lines and ten chisel marks in three clusters. Use light from the upper left and leave one smooth patch unshaded.

Answer: Front rectangle 9 by 5 cm, top parallelogram. Five strata lines spaced 7 to 9 mm. Ten chisel marks 3 to 6 mm long in three clusters of three, three, and four; let one mark in each cluster touch a strata line. Shade right and lower edges; leave a 2 cm smooth patch on the front face unshaded.

Reason: Three clusters and a smooth patch test restraint. The unshaded patch should still read as part of the block.

Check: Count clusters and marks (three clusters totaling ten); confirm one mark per cluster touches a strata line; confirm the 2 cm smooth patch is unshaded; check shading is on the right and lower edges for upper-left light.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Block outline is rectangular with a clear top face.
- [ ] Strata lines are consistent in direction and spacing within the convention.
- [ ] Chisel marks are short, clustered, and varied in angle.
- [ ] Shading follows a single light direction and distinguishes faces.
- [ ] Texture reads as limestone rather than a plain box.

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