Saola Drawing: Horn, Face, and Body Proportions

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A drawing area is 16 cm wide and 12 cm tall. Use a body-length unit of 7 cm and a shoulder height of 5 cm. Describe the shoulder and rump positions and check the body rectangle ratio.

Answer: Place the shoulder point 3 cm from the left edge and the rump point 10 cm from the left edge. The body length is 7 cm and the shoulder height is 5 cm. The rectangle is 7 cm by 5 cm, which is 2 cm wider than tall, or about two fifths wider. This is wider than the one-quarter guide, so shorten the body by about 0.75 cm (to about 6.25 cm) or raise the shoulder height by about 0.6 cm (to about 5.6 cm) to bring the ratio closer to one quarter.

Reason: The body-length unit sets the horizontal distance. The shoulder height sets the vertical distance. Comparing width to height gives a simple checkable ratio.

Check: Measure the drawn rectangle with a ruler and divide width by height. Compare the result to 1.25; adjust one dimension if the difference is large.

Task 2

A drawing guide uses a 6 cm head span from horn base to nose tip. Where does this worksheet place the eye horizontally, and what vertical guide helps place it?

Answer: Place the eye 4–6 cm behind the nose tip (for example, 4.5 cm) and near the horizontal halfway guide between the head top and jawline. These are drawing conventions for this practice task.

Reason: The 6 cm span divided into thirds gives 2 cm sections; the third nearest the horn base is the last 2 cm, from 4 to 6 cm behind the nose tip. The halfway guide makes vertical placement repeatable.

Check: Measure 4–6 cm back from the nose tip and check that the eye sits near the horizontal guide halfway between head top and jawline.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A horn is drawn with a straight base-to-tip line of 5 cm. The arc bows outward by 1 cm at its widest point. Is this within the one-fifth guide, and what adjustment would bring it closer?

Answer: One fifth of 5 cm is 1 cm, so the bow is exactly at the guide. No adjustment is needed for the bow. Check that the horn also curves backward and that the tip sits above the shoulder or slightly behind it.

Reason: The one-fifth guide compares the outward bow to the straight base-to-tip length. A 1 cm bow on a 5 cm line matches the guide.

Check: Measure the straight base-to-tip line and the maximum outward bow. Divide the bow by the line length; the result should be about 0.2.

Task 4

A side-view saola has a body length of 9 cm and a body depth of 8 cm from baseline to topline. The belly line sits 5 cm above the baseline, so the legs are 5 cm long from baseline to belly line. Identify two proportion problems and state a fix for each.

Answer: First, the body rectangle is 9 cm by 8 cm, only 1 cm wider than tall, which is less than the one-quarter guide; lengthen the body to about 10 cm or reduce the body depth to about 7.2 cm. Second, leg length is 5 cm while half the body depth is 4 cm, so the legs are too long by about 1 cm; shorten the legs to about 4 cm by lowering the belly line to the body-depth midline (4 cm above baseline). These fixes keep the saola compact and short-legged.

Reason: The body ratio check compares width to height. The leg check compares leg length (baseline to belly line) to half the body depth (baseline to topline), since the belly line should sit at the body-depth midline. Both are simple arithmetic checks.

Check: Measure the rectangle and divide width by height; aim for about 1.25. Measure leg length from baseline to belly line and compare it to half the body depth (baseline to topline); they should be close, with the belly line at the body-depth midline.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body length and shoulder height follow a consistent unit and the body rectangle is wider than tall by roughly one quarter.
- [ ] Leg length (baseline to belly line, with the belly line at the body-depth midline) is about half the body depth (baseline to topline).
- [ ] Eye is placed in the third nearest the horn base (about two thirds of the head length behind the nose tip) and near the head midline.
- [ ] Ear sits behind the eye and below the horn base, angled backward.
- [ ] Horns start at the horn base, curve backward, and bow outward from a straight base-to-tip line by about one fifth of horn length.
- [ ] Face features and horn placement are clear even if markings or line style vary.

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