Drawing a Pregnant Figure: Belly Contour and Shading Lines

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A side-view figure is six head units tall with a head unit of 4 cm. The belly's forward-most point is at the third head unit from the top and 5 cm from the axis. Calculate the total height and the vertical position of the forward-most point.

Answer: Total height is 24 cm. The forward-most point is 12 cm down from the top.

Reason: Six head units times 4 cm equals 24 cm. Three head units times 4 cm equals 12 cm.

Check: Multiply the number of head units by the head unit length and confirm both results use centimetres.

Task 2

In a three-quarter view, the belly contour shifts toward the viewer. Describe how to place the three belly landmarks and how the shading lines on the far side should differ from the near side.

Answer: Place the upper belly landmark below the ribcage, the forward-most point at the same horizontal level as the side view but shifted toward the viewer, and the lower belly return point near the pubic area. Shading lines on the far side should be shorter and lighter than on the near side.

Reason: The three-quarter view compresses the far side of the torso, so the contour shifts and the far-side shading covers less area.

Check: Compare the forward-most point's horizontal level with the side view and confirm the far-side shading lines are shorter.

Task 3

A drawing shows shading lines crossing the belly contour and spaced evenly across the whole belly. Identify two problems and state one fix for each.

Answer: Problem one: shading lines cross the contour, which breaks the edge. Fix: keep shading lines inside the belly mass. Problem two: even spacing does not describe roundness. Fix: tighten spacing near the forward-most point and widen it near the edges.

Reason: Shading lines should follow the form and stay inside the contour; spacing should vary to suggest roundness.

Check: Trace each shading line to confirm it stops before the contour, and compare spacing at the centre and edges.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A side view shows the forward-most point 4 cm from the axis, but the three-quarter view shows it 3 cm from the axis. State whether the views agree and describe one adjustment.

Answer: The views do not agree. Adjust one contour so both views show the same distance from the axis within your chosen tolerance, for example by moving the three-quarter forward-most point to 4 cm.

Reason: The forward-most point should sit at the same distance from the axis in both views; a 1 cm difference exceeds agreement.

Check: Measure both distances with the same ruler and confirm they match within the tolerance you chose.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Posture is balanced: shoulder slightly behind hip in side view, axis stable.
- [ ] Belly contour uses three landmarks and changes direction gradually.
- [ ] Side and three-quarter views agree on the forward-most point within the chosen tolerance.
- [ ] Shading lines follow the form, stay inside the contour, and vary spacing to describe roundness.
- [ ] Line weight is consistent and any numerical values are labelled as hypothetical examples.
- [ ] Units are consistent and arithmetic checks are shown.

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