How to Draw Drapery Folds with a Shadow Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A cloth panel is 18 cm wide with three main folds. Estimate average fold width and state the unit.

Answer: Average fold width is 6 cm, using centimeters as the unit. This is a hypothetical example.

Reason: 18 divided by 3 equals 6. Keeping the unit in centimeters makes the estimate checkable.

Check: Multiply 6 cm by 3 folds to get 18 cm, matching the panel width.

Task 2

Light comes from the right. A fold has a left-facing ridge and a left-facing valley. Which area gets dark value, and why?

Answer: The left-facing valley gets dark value because it faces away from the light and is blocked by the fold.

Reason: Dark value belongs where light is blocked, which is the side away from the light source. With light from the right, left-facing recesses are blocked.

Check: Confirm the light direction is right, then check that the dark area touches the left-facing valley and not the ridge facing the light.

Task 3

Two folds overlap. Fold A is nearer the viewer and Fold B is farther. Describe how to draw the overlap.

Answer: Draw Fold A completely, then stop Fold B's lines at Fold A's edge so Fold A appears in front.

Reason: Overlap reads correctly when the nearer fold interrupts the farther fold's lines.

Check: Trace Fold B's line and confirm it does not cross over Fold A.

Task 4

A valley is 2 cm wide. Using a hypothetical ratio of one quarter for shadow width, estimate the dark shadow width and check it.

Answer: The dark shadow width is 0.5 cm. This is a hypothetical example, not a standard.

Reason: One quarter of 2 cm is 0.5 cm. The ratio is chosen for practice and must be labeled hypothetical.

Check: Multiply 0.5 cm by 4 to get 2 cm, matching the valley width.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Fold direction follows gravity from support points toward the bottom edge.
- [ ] Each main fold has a ridge and a valley that converge near the top.
- [ ] At least two overlaps are shown with the nearer fold stopping the farther line.
- [ ] Light direction is marked and kept consistent.
- [ ] Light, mid, and dark values are placed on ridges, sides, and valleys respectively.
- [ ] Fold and shadow widths use consistent units; numerical examples are labeled hypothetical.
- [ ] Handwritten labels use baseline-to-midline x-height and remain legible; letter style may vary.

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