Close-Up Eye Drawing: Enlarged Iris and Reflection Placement

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

An eye outline is 12 cm wide. Using the convention, calculate the iris diameter and the maximum main catchlight size.

Answer: Iris diameter 6 cm; maximum main catchlight 1.5 cm.

Reason: Iris is half the eye width: 12 ÷ 2 = 6 cm. Main catchlight is no larger than one quarter of the iris diameter: 6 ÷ 4 = 1.5 cm.

Check: Verify that 6 is half of 12 and that 1.5 is one quarter of 6.

Task 2

An iris is drawn 8 cm in diameter. The pupil is drawn 3 cm in diameter. Does this match the convention? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: No. The convention pupil is about one third of the iris: 8 ÷ 3 ≈ 2.67 cm. A 3 cm pupil is slightly large but close; adjust to about 2.7 cm for consistency.

Reason: One third of 8 is about 2.67 cm. The drawn pupil is 3 cm, which is 0.33 cm larger than the convention value.

Check: Multiply the iris diameter by one third and compare with the pupil diameter.

Task 3

A drawing has a main catchlight 2 cm wide on an iris 6 cm wide. Is the catchlight within the convention? If not, what is the maximum allowed?

Answer: No. Maximum is 1.5 cm (one quarter of 6 cm). The 2 cm catchlight is too large.

Reason: One quarter of 6 cm is 1.5 cm. The drawn catchlight exceeds this by 0.5 cm.

Check: Divide the iris diameter by 4 and compare with the catchlight width.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

An eye outline is 9 cm wide. The iris is drawn 4 cm wide and the pupil 1.5 cm wide. Check both against the convention and state any adjustments.

Answer: Iris should be about 4.5 cm (half of 9 cm); 4 cm is 0.5 cm small. Pupil should be about one third of the iris: 4.5 ÷ 3 = 1.5 cm, so the pupil is correct if the iris is adjusted to 4.5 cm. Adjust the iris to 4.5 cm and keep the pupil at 1.5 cm.

Reason: Half of 9 is 4.5 cm. One third of 4.5 is 1.5 cm. The drawn iris is small, but the pupil matches the corrected iris.

Check: Recalculate half the eye width and one third of the corrected iris diameter; compare with the drawn values.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Iris diameter is about half the visible eye width, or a documented consistent alternative.
- [ ] Pupil is centered in the iris and about one third of the iris diameter.
- [ ] Iris texture radiates from pupil to edge without crossing the pupil boundary.
- [ ] Main catchlight is in the upper half of the iris, offset from the pupil, and no larger than one quarter of the iris diameter.
- [ ] Secondary reflections are smaller than the main catchlight and inside the iris.
- [ ] Contrast is clear: pupil dark, catchlights bright, outer iris ring slightly darker.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if proportions and reflection logic are consistent and documented.

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