Drawing a Reclining Figure: Contact Points and Body Twist

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A figure lies on its back. The head contacts at 0 head units, the upper back at 1.2, the pelvis at 3.5, and the heel at 7.5. List the contact ovals in order and state one spacing check.

Answer: Head, upper back, pelvis, heel. Check: the gap from upper back to pelvis is 2.3 head units, longer than the 1.2 gap from head to upper back.

Reason: Contact order follows the body from crown to heel along the surface. The longer mid-body gap reflects the relaxed lower back.

Check: Subtract consecutive positions: 1.2-0=1.2; 3.5-1.2=2.3; 7.5-3.5=4.0. Confirm the mid gap is the longest of the first three.

Task 2

A lying figure has a pelvis box front face pointing 10 degrees from the surface and a ribcage box front face pointing 40 degrees. What is the twist angle, and is it within the lesson's readable range?

Answer: Twist is 30 degrees, which is within the 20 to 40 degree range.

Reason: Twist is the difference between the two front-face angles: 40-10=30.

Check: Recompute 40-10=30 and compare to the stated range 20 to 40.

Task 3

A student draws five contact ovals but two float 1 cm above the surface line. Using a hypothetical 1 cm gap, state the fix and the check.

Answer: Lower the two ovals until each overlaps the surface line by about half its height. Check by tracing the surface line through every oval.

Reason: Floating ovals remove the compression cue, so the figure looks suspended.

Check: Place a straight edge along the surface line; every oval should intersect it.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A figure is 7.5 head units long. The pelvis is placed at 4.2 head units from the crown. Is this consistent with the lesson's hypothetical example of 3.5, and what adjustment is suggested?

Answer: No; 4.2 is 0.7 head units farther than the example. Move the pelvis toward the crown by about 0.7 head units, or state a different convention and keep it consistent.

Reason: The example places pelvis at 3.5; 4.2-3.5=0.7.

Check: Subtract 3.5 from 4.2 to get 0.7, then confirm the heel remains at 7.5 and the gap to the heel is 3.3.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Surface line is drawn and remains visible after construction.
- [ ] Three to five contact ovals overlap the surface line and show compression.
- [ ] Pelvis and ribcage boxes show a stated twist angle between 20 and 40 degrees.
- [ ] Spine is one continuous curved line between box centers.
- [ ] Near-side forms overlap far-side forms consistently.
- [ ] Proportion convention is stated and used consistently with a measured head unit.
- [ ] Labels are readable in any letter style; x-height convention is applied only to labeling, not to figure proportion.

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