Botanical Pen and Ink: Leaf, Stem, and Flower Detail

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

Task 1

Draw a leaf 8 cm long with a straight midrib and 5 secondary veins per side. Add a stem 5 cm long that tapers from 3 mm to 1.5 mm (hypothetical example).

Answer: Leaf has straight midrib, 5 veins per side, stem taper 3 mm to 1.5 mm.

Reason: Follow steps: mark base and tip, connect midrib, add veins, draw margin, then stem with measured taper.

Check: Count veins per side (should be 5); measure stem widths at base and tip with a ruler.

Task 2

Create a hatching strip 3 cm by 1 cm divided into three equal parts with wide, medium, and tight spacing. Apply tight spacing to a leaf's shadow side.

Answer: Strip shows three densities; leaf shadow uses tight spacing.

Reason: Parallel lines at increasing density create tone; tight spacing reads darker at arm's length.

Check: Hold at arm's length: darkest part should read as one tone; measure strip divisions (1 cm each).

Task 3

Block in a flower as an oval, refine the contour with petal edges, and add 2 ink details per petal. Label one part using the x-height convention.

Answer: Oval block-in, refined contour, 2 details per petal, label with baseline-to-midline height.

Reason: Shape first, then contour, then sparse detail; label height measured from baseline to midline.

Check: Count details per petal (2); measure label height from baseline to midline.

Task 4

Draw a stem with two nodes 4 cm apart. Stem tapers from 5 mm at base to 2 mm at tip (hypothetical example). Add a leaf at each node.

Answer: Two nodes 4 cm apart; taper 5 mm to 2 mm; leaf at each node.

Reason: Mark nodes first, taper between them, attach leaves at nodes.

Check: Measure node distance (4 cm) and stem widths (5 mm base, 2 mm tip).

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Midrib is a single curved line from base to tip.
- [ ] 4–6 secondary veins per side angle toward the margin.
- [ ] Stem tapers from base to tip; base width exceeds tip width.
- [ ] Flower contour is refined from a simple shape block-in.
- [ ] Hatching lines follow vein direction and vary in spacing.
- [ ] Labels, if used, follow the x-height convention consistently.

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