Oval Face Drawing: Proportion Guides and Feature Placement

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 12 cm by 16 cm rectangle, draw an oval face. Divide the height into four equal bands. State the band height and place the eye line, nose base, and mouth line according to the lesson convention.

Answer: Band height is 16 cm divided by 4, which equals 4 cm. The eye line is the second horizontal guide, at 8 cm from the top. The nose base is the third horizontal guide, at 12 cm from the top. The mouth line is halfway between the nose base and the bottom, at 14 cm from the top.

Reason: The oval height is 16 cm. Four equal bands give 4 cm each. The second guide is at 8 cm, the third at 12 cm, and the mouth halfway between 12 cm and 16 cm is 14 cm.

Check: Measure from the top of the oval to each guide line and confirm the intervals are 4 cm, 4 cm, 4 cm, and 4 cm. Confirm the eye line is 8 cm from the top, the nose base is 12 cm from the top, and the mouth line is 14 cm from the top (2 cm above the bottom).

Task 2

An oval is 9 cm wide and 13 cm tall. Place eye centers on the second horizontal guide. Using the convention that eye centers are one-quarter of the oval width from the center line, calculate the left and right eye positions and state the distances from the center line.

Answer: One-quarter of 9 cm is 2.25 cm. Place the left eye center 2.25 cm left of the center line and the right eye center 2.25 cm right of the center line. The distance between eye centers is 4.5 cm.

Reason: The oval width is 9 cm. One-quarter of the width is 9 divided by 4, which equals 2.25 cm. The eye centers are symmetric about the center line, so the total separation is twice 2.25 cm, or 4.5 cm.

Check: Measure from the center line to each eye center and confirm both are 2.25 cm. Measure the distance between eye centers and confirm it is 4.5 cm.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw an oval face on a 10 cm by 14 cm rectangle. Place the nose base on the third horizontal guide. Then place the mouth line halfway between the nose base and the bottom of the oval. Calculate the height of the mouth line from the top of the oval and state it in centimeters.

Answer: The band height is 14 cm divided by 4, which equals 3.5 cm. The third horizontal guide is at 10.5 cm from the top. The bottom of the oval is at 14 cm. Halfway between 10.5 cm and 14 cm is 12.25 cm. The mouth line is 12.25 cm from the top.

Reason: Four equal bands of 3.5 cm place the third guide at 3 times 3.5 cm, or 10.5 cm. The midpoint between 10.5 cm and 14 cm is the average: (10.5 + 14) divided by 2, which equals 12.25 cm.

Check: Measure from the top to the mouth line and confirm it is 12.25 cm. Confirm the distance from the mouth line to the bottom is 1.75 cm, which is half of 3.5 cm.

Task 4

An oval face is drawn on a 10 cm by 14 cm rectangle. The eye centers are placed 2.5 cm left and right of the center line. The nose base is on the center line at the third horizontal guide. The mouth line is at 12.25 cm from the top. Ear guide points are placed on the oval edges between the eye line and the nose line. At the ear height, the oval width is 8 cm. Calculate the expected left and right distances from the center line to the ear guide points and state whether they are symmetric.

Answer: The oval width at the ear height is 8 cm, so each side is 4 cm from the center line. The left ear guide point should be 4 cm left of the center line, and the right ear guide point should be 4 cm right of the center line. They are symmetric.

Reason: The oval is symmetric about the center line. At any horizontal level, the distance from the center line to the left edge equals the distance to the right edge. If the total width is 8 cm, each half is 8 divided by 2, which equals 4 cm.

Check: Measure from the center line to each ear guide point and confirm both are 4 cm. Confirm the total width between ear guide points is 8 cm, and that both points lie between the eye line (8 cm from the top) and the nose base (10.5 cm from the top).

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Oval outline is smooth and symmetrical and touches the top, bottom, and side midpoints of the construction rectangle; valid alternative oval proportions are acceptable if symmetry and midpoint contact are maintained.
- [ ] Vertical center line is present and used as a symmetry guide.
- [ ] Four equal horizontal bands are marked and labeled or implied.
- [ ] Eye line is on the second horizontal guide, with eye centers equidistant from the center line.
- [ ] Nose base is on the third horizontal guide at the center line.
- [ ] Mouth line follows a stated convention (for example, halfway between nose base and bottom); any clearly stated consistent convention is acceptable.
- [ ] Ear guide points are placed between the eye line and nose line on both sides.
- [ ] Construction lines are light and can be erased without damaging the final outline.
- [ ] Feature markers are simple placeholders, not detailed shading or expression.
- [ ] Measurements are consistent and use the same units throughout.

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