Skeleton Pose Drawing: Joint Alignment and Bone Landmarks

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A skeleton sits with knees bent at 90 degrees. The hip-to-knee segment is 45 units and the knee-to-ankle segment is 40 units. Plot the joints and mark the patella and malleoli landmarks. Describe the guide lines you would use.

Answer: Plot hip points on a horizontal guide, knee points 45 units forward and down, and ankle points 40 units below the knees. Mark patella ovals at the knee joints and malleoli bumps at the ankles. Use vertical guides through the hips and horizontal guides through the knees.

Reason: The seated pose requires a clear hip-to-knee direction and a vertical knee-to-ankle drop. Consistent units keep the two leg segments proportional.

Check: Measure each hip-to-knee segment and confirm it is 45 units; measure each knee-to-ankle segment and confirm it is 40 units. Check that every joint sits on a guide line.

Task 2

A skeleton reaches one arm forward and one arm back. The shoulder-to-elbow segment is 30 units on both sides, and the elbow-to-wrist segment is 25 units. Plot the joints and mark the clavicle landmark. Explain how to check that the arms are aligned.

Answer: Plot shoulder points on a horizontal guide. Place the forward elbow 30 units along a forward guide and the back elbow 30 units along a backward guide. Place each wrist 25 units further along its arm line. Mark the clavicle as a shallow curve between the shoulders. Check that each elbow and wrist sits on its guide line and that both arms use matching 30-unit and 25-unit segments.

Reason: Opposing arm directions test whether guide lines are used consistently on both sides of the body.

Check: Trace each arm from shoulder to wrist and confirm every joint lies on a guide line. Measure both shoulder-to-elbow segments and both elbow-to-wrist segments for matching lengths.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A skeleton stands on one leg with the other leg lifted to the side. The standing hip-to-knee segment is 50 units and the lifted hip-to-knee segment is also 50 units. The knee-to-ankle segment is 45 units on both legs. Plot the joints and mark the iliac crest and patella landmarks. Describe how to keep the pelvis level.

Answer: Plot both hip points on a horizontal guide to keep the pelvis level. Place the standing knee 50 units below its hip and the lifted knee 50 units to the side. Place both ankles 45 units below their knees. Mark the iliac crest as two short arcs above the hips and the patella as ovals at both knees. Check that the hip guide remains horizontal and that both hip-to-knee segments measure 50 units.

Reason: A one-leg stance can tilt the pelvis; a horizontal hip guide prevents that drift and keeps paired segments equal.

Check: Confirm the two hip points lie on the same horizontal line. Measure both hip-to-knee segments and both knee-to-ankle segments for matching lengths.

Task 4

A skeleton bends forward at the hips with both arms hanging down. The shoulder-to-elbow segment is 35 units and the elbow-to-wrist segment is 30 units. Plot the joints and mark the clavicle and malleoli landmarks. Explain how to check that the hanging arms remain aligned.

Answer: Plot the hip points first, then place the shoulder points forward of the hips along a bent spine guide. Place each elbow 35 units below its shoulder and each wrist 30 units below its elbow. Mark the clavicle between the shoulders and the malleoli at the ankles. Check that each elbow and wrist sits on a vertical guide line and that both arms use matching 35-unit and 30-unit segments.

Reason: A forward bend changes the spine direction but the hanging arms should still follow vertical guides, making alignment easy to verify.

Check: Trace each arm downward and confirm every joint lies on a vertical guide. Measure both shoulder-to-elbow segments and both elbow-to-wrist segments for matching lengths.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All major joints are plotted and sit on guide line intersections.
- [ ] Segment lengths are proportional and measured with consistent units.
- [ ] Bone landmarks (clavicle, iliac crest, patella, malleoli) are clearly marked and near their joints.
- [ ] The x-height convention from baseline to midline is applied consistently.
- [ ] Valid alternative outline styles are accepted if alignment and landmarks remain consistent.

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