Negative Space Figure Drawing: Enclosed Shapes Around a Figure

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A figure outline has a bounding box. One enclosed background region between the arm and torso measures 12 mm. Your x-height is 4 mm. State the width in x-height units and check the arithmetic.

Answer: The region is three x-heights wide: 12 mm divided by 4 mm equals 3.

Reason: Divide the measured gap by the recorded x-height to express it in consistent units.

Check: Multiply 3 by 4 mm to get 12 mm, matching the measurement.

Task 2

A drawing shows three shaded regions: one between the legs, one under an arm, and one open area running off the page without being closed by the figure. Which shaded region violates the convention and why?

Answer: The open area running off the page violates the convention because it is not fully enclosed by the figure boundary or page edge.

Reason: The convention counts only background regions closed by the figure line or the page edge.

Check: Trace each shaded boundary; confirm it closes without relying on open background.

Task 3

Your x-height is 5 mm. You claim a gap is two x-heights. On the page it measures 15 mm. Is the claim consistent? Show the arithmetic.

Answer: No. Two x-heights would be 10 mm, but the gap measures 15 mm, which is three x-heights.

Reason: Multiply the claimed number of x-heights by the x-height: 2 x 5 mm = 10 mm. Compare to 15 mm.

Check: Divide 15 mm by 5 mm to get 3, confirming the relabel.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A narrow gap between an arm and torso could be drawn as one long shape or split into two where the arm touches the body. State both options and one rule that makes each defensible.

Answer: Option one: draw one long shape because the gap is continuous. Option two: split into two shapes because the arm touches the torso at one point, closing each side separately. Both are defensible if the boundary rule is stated and applied consistently.

Reason: Valid alternatives exist when a region can be closed in more than one way; the rubric rewards explained, consistent choices.

Check: Confirm each option produces closed shapes and that the stated rule matches the drawn boundaries.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Figure boundary is traced once and the figure is unshaded.
- [ ] Every shaded region is fully enclosed by the figure boundary or page edge.
- [ ] No shaded area enters the figure interior.
- [ ] Each enclosed shape is labelled and appears on a written list.
- [ ] Spacing claims use one recorded x-height in millimetres and simple arithmetic.
- [ ] At least one valid alternative boundary choice is stated where relevant.
- [ ] Labels and list match with no missing or invented shapes.

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