Negative Space Hand Drawing: See the Gaps, Draw the Hand

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A reference outline has two gaps. Gap 1 measures 1.1 cm at the baseline and 1.6 cm at the midline. Gap 2 measures 0.9 cm at the baseline and 1.3 cm at the midline. Draw only these gaps in a blank frame. Then state whether a contour description can be determined from the widths alone, and explain what information you would need from the reference to describe each contour edge.

Answer: Gap 1 is drawn with a baseline width of 1.1 cm and a midline width of 1.6 cm, widening toward the distal edge. Gap 2 is drawn with 0.9 cm and 1.3 cm. The contour description cannot be determined from widths alone; widths show how the gap changes in size but not whether an edge is straight, curved inward, or curved outward. To describe each contour edge, observe the reference outline and record what the edge does between the baseline and midline.

Reason: The task asks for gap shapes only. Recording both widths and a contour description gives a checkable record without constructing finger proportions.

Check: Measure each drawn gap at the baseline and midline. Accept differences up to the chosen tolerance (for example, 0.5 cm). Confirm each gap has a written contour description based on the reference outline, not inferred from widths alone, and that no finger outlines appear.

Task 2

A hand reference shows a gap with a baseline width of 1.4 cm and a midline width of 1.0 cm, so the gap narrows toward the open edge. Another gap has equal widths of 1.2 cm at both marks. Describe how to draw both gaps and how to check them.

Answer: Draw the first gap narrowing from 1.4 cm at the baseline to 1.0 cm at the midline. Draw the second gap with a constant width of 1.2 cm at both marks. Check by measuring each drawn gap at both positions and comparing with the recorded values. Any contour description must come from observing the reference outline, since widths alone do not determine whether an edge is straight or curved.

Reason: The two gaps have different contour behaviour: one narrows and one stays constant. The drawing must reflect that difference in the gap shape.

Check: Use a ruler to measure the drawn gaps at baseline and midline. Accept differences up to the chosen tolerance (for example, 0.5 cm). Confirm the width behaviour matches the recorded values (one narrowing, one constant) and that any contour description is based on the reference outline, not inferred from widths alone.

Negative Space Hand Drawing: See the Gaps, Draw the Hand

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You record a baseline width of 1.0 cm and a midline width of 1.5 cm for one gap. A second gap has a baseline width of 1.5 cm and a midline width of 1.0 cm. Draw only the gaps and explain which gap is wider at the midline.

Answer: The first gap is wider at the midline because 1.5 cm is greater than its baseline width of 1.0 cm. The second gap is narrower at the midline because 1.0 cm is less than its baseline width of 1.5 cm. Draw each gap with those widths and describe the contour edges.

Reason: Comparing baseline and midline widths shows the direction of the gap contour. The recorded widths are hypothetical examples to be replaced by measuring the actual printed reference.

Check: Measure each drawn gap at both marks. Confirm the first gap is wider at the midline and the second is narrower. Accept differences up to 0.5 cm and check contour descriptions.

Task 4

A reference outline has three gaps with baseline widths of 0.7 cm, 1.0 cm, and 1.3 cm. Their midline widths are 1.0 cm, 1.3 cm, and 1.6 cm. Draw only the gaps in a blank frame, then list one valid alternative that would still be accepted.

Answer: Draw three gaps with the recorded baseline and midline widths, each widening toward the distal edge. A valid alternative is, for example, a gap contour that is curved inward instead of straight due to slight rotation of the reference, provided the measured widths remain within the chosen tolerance (for example, 0.5 cm) and the contour description is consistent with the reference.

Reason: The gaps all widen from baseline to midline. The task rewards consistent measurement and description, not a single universal shape.

Check: Measure each drawn gap at baseline and midline. Accept differences up to the chosen tolerance (for example, 0.5 cm). Confirm three contour descriptions are present and that the alternative is justified by spacing or rotation.

Negative Space Hand Drawing: See the Gaps, Draw the Hand

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Each gap has a recorded baseline width and midline width in centimetres.
- [ ] Drawn gap widths are within 0.5 cm of recorded values at both baseline and midline.
- [ ] Each gap contour edge is described in words.
- [ ] The blank frame contains only gap shapes and guide marks, with no finger outlines.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when measurements and contour descriptions are consistent.

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