Armor Draw Practice: Layered Plate Shapes with Construction Notes

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a chest with one front plate and two side plates. Use a measured unit of 5 mm. Set overlaps to half a unit. Annotate each overlap and list the layer order.

Answer: Front plate drawn last so it sits on top of both side plates. Side plates drawn first and tucked under the front plate at shoulders and waist. Overlap width measured at 2.5 mm. Labels: front edge at each side-front overlap. Layer order: side plates 1 and 2, front plate 3.

Reason: Drawing the front plate last makes its edge visible on top, which matches the front edge label. Half of 5 mm is 2.5 mm, so the overlap is consistent and checkable.

Check: Measure each overlap with a ruler; confirm 2.5 mm. Trace each overlap and confirm the front plate is drawn last and labeled front edge.

Task 2

Draw a limb with three stacked plates. Use a measured unit of 6 mm. Set joint gaps to one unit and overlaps to half a unit. Annotate gaps and overlaps.

Answer: Three plates drawn in a stack along the limb axis. Joint gaps measured at 6 mm and bracketed with the label gap. Overlaps measured at 3 mm and labeled front edge or under edge according to which plate is drawn last. Layer order listed from top plate to bottom plate.

Reason: One unit equals 6 mm and half a unit equals 3 mm, so the spacing is consistent. Bracketing each gap makes the joint readable without a figure.

Check: Measure each gap and overlap; confirm 6 mm and 3 mm. Confirm every gap has a bracket and label, and every overlap has a front or under edge label.

Armor Draw Practice: Layered Plate Shapes with Construction Notes

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a helmet where the cheek plate is in front of the brow plate. Use a measured unit of 3 mm. Set overlaps to half a unit. Show the layer table and explain why this is a valid alternative.

Answer: Dome drawn first, brow second, cheek third and in front of the brow. Overlap width measured at 1.5 mm. Labels: front edge at cheek-brow overlap, under edge at brow-dome overlap if the brow tucks under the dome. Layer table: dome 1, brow 2, cheek 3. This is valid because the drawing and labels agree, even though the layer order differs from the worked example.

Reason: The rubric accepts valid alternatives when consistency is maintained. Half of 3 mm is 1.5 mm, so the overlap is measurable and repeatable.

Check: Measure the overlap at 1.5 mm. Trace the cheek-brow overlap and confirm the cheek is drawn last and labeled front edge. Confirm the table order matches the drawing order.

Task 4

Assemble a set of helmet, chest, and limb plates in a blank frame. Use a measured unit of 4 mm. Create an annotation field with plate name, layer order, and note. Fill one row per plate and check one overlap with a ruler.

Answer: Helmet, chest, and limb plates arranged separately in the frame. Annotation field has three columns and one row per plate, for example helmet dome order 1 note front edge at brow; chest front plate order 3 note front edge at side plates; limb plate order 2 note gap 4 mm. One overlap measured at 2 mm and confirmed against half of 4 mm.

Reason: A table makes the layer order checkable across pieces. Measuring one overlap against the unit confirms the spacing convention was applied.

Check: Confirm one row per plate and that each note matches a visible label. Measure the chosen overlap and confirm it equals half the recorded unit.

Armor Draw Practice: Layered Plate Shapes with Construction Notes

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Each armor piece is drawn as a separate closed plate outline.
- [ ] Layer order is visible and matches the annotation table.
- [ ] Overlaps use a consistent measured width, such as half the x-height unit.
- [ ] Joint gaps use a consistent measured width, such as one x-height unit.
- [ ] Every overlap is labeled front edge or under edge.
- [ ] The x-height unit is measured from the student's own handwriting and recorded.
- [ ] Valid alternative layer orders are accepted when drawing and labels agree.

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