Portrait Proportion Practice on Blank Head Outlines

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A front-facing blank head outline is 120 mm tall and 80 mm wide at the eye line. The eye line is at 60 mm from the top, the nose line at 80 mm, and the mouth line at 96 mm. State the eye width, nose width, and mouth width using the landmark rules.

Answer: Eye width about 16 mm (one-fifth of 80 mm), nose width about 16 mm (about one eye width), mouth width about 27 mm (one-third of 80 mm, rounded from 26.7 mm).

Reason: Divide the head width by five for each eye and the nose, and by three for the mouth. These are hypothetical example values based on the given outline.

Check: Measure the head width, divide by five for each eye and the nose, and divide by three for the mouth. Compare your stated widths to those numbers; small rounding differences such as 26.7 mm to 27 mm are acceptable.

Task 2

A three-quarter blank head outline is 90 mm tall. The eye line is at 45 mm, the nose line at 60 mm, and the mouth line at 72 mm. Describe where the far eye should sit relative to the near eye and the center line.

Answer: The far eye sits on the same 45 mm eye line, is narrower than the near eye, and is closer to the outline's edge than to the center line.

Reason: In a three-quarter view, the far side of the face compresses, so the far eye is narrower and nearer the edge, but it stays on the eye line.

Check: Confirm the far eye is on the 45 mm line and that its distance to the edge is smaller than its distance to the center line.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A front-facing outline is 110 mm tall and 75 mm wide. The eye line is at 55 mm, the nose line at 73 mm, and the mouth line at 88 mm. A student draws ears from 55 mm to 88 mm. Identify the mistake and give the corrected ear range.

Answer: The mistake is ending the ears at the mouth line. The corrected range is from the eye line at 55 mm to the nose line at 73 mm.

Reason: Ears run from the eye line to the nose line, not to the mouth line. The mouth line is lower and is not an ear landmark.

Check: Compare the drawn ear range to the marked eye and nose lines; the lower end should match the nose line.

Task 4

A front-facing outline is 100 mm tall and 60 mm wide. The eye line is at 50 mm, the nose line at 67 mm, and the mouth line at 80 mm. A student places the eyes at 45 mm and the nose at 70 mm. State whether each placement is on its landmark and give one adjustment.

Answer: The eyes are 5 mm above the eye line and the nose is 3 mm below the nose line. Adjust the eyes down to 50 mm and the nose up to 67 mm, or record a valid alternative with a clear reason.

Reason: Landmark placement requires matching the measured line. Small deviations can be valid alternatives only if the outline's shape justifies them and the reason is recorded.

Check: Measure each feature's vertical position against the marked lines and confirm the adjustment brings them to the landmarks or that a written reason supports the alternative.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Eyes are placed on the eye line and are level with each other.
- [ ] Nose base sits on the nose line and is centered on the vertical center line.
- [ ] Mouth sits on the mouth line and is about one-third of the head width.
- [ ] Ears run from the eye line to the nose line with the front edge near the back of the jaw.
- [ ] Measurements are recorded in consistent units and any chosen numbers are labeled as hypothetical examples.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when the landmark reasoning is clear and consistent.

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