Contour Drawing of Road and River Edges

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

In a blind-contour box, draw a road edge that curves left, then right, then left. Do not look at the paper until the line is complete. Describe the result in one sentence.

Answer: A single continuous line with three changes of direction, drawn without looking at the paper.

Reason: Blind contour requires the eye to lead the pencil. The three turns test whether the hand follows the eye's changes without correction.

Check: Confirm the line is continuous and has three direction changes. The shape need not match the view exactly.

Task 2

A riverbank runs from point b to point e. At b the gap to the road is 2 pencil widths; at e it is 4 pencil widths. Draw a slow contour of the riverbank only, noting both gaps. State whether the riverbank moves toward or away from the road.

Answer: The riverbank moves away from the road because the gap increases from 2 to 4 pencil widths.

Reason: The gap is measured in one consistent unit. A larger number at e means greater distance from the road.

Check: Check that the noted numbers are 2 and 4 and that the contour shows a wider gap at e.

Task 3

Draw a slow contour of a road edge and a riverbank that cross once. Label the crossing point c in lowercase. Keep x-height from baseline to midline. Describe how you kept the lines continuous at the crossing.

Answer: The two contours meet at c and continue without lifting the pencil; the crossing is drawn as one line passing over the other or as a shared point, depending on your convention.

Reason: A crossing is a single event in the contour. Continuity is maintained by not lifting the pencil and by deciding how the lines meet before drawing.

Check: Confirm the label c is lowercase with consistent x-height and that neither contour has a break at the crossing.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Using a hypothetical example, a road edge has gaps of 3, 3, and 6 pencil widths at three points. Draw a slow contour of the road edge and riverbank that reflects these gaps. Explain why the contour is not parallel.

Answer: The contour shows two equal gaps followed by a wider gap, so the riverbank moves away from the road at the third point. The lines are not parallel because the gap changes.

Reason: Parallel lines would keep a constant gap. The measured gaps of 3, 3, and 6 require the riverbank to shift outward at the third point.

Check: Verify the noted gaps are 3, 3, and 6 and that the drawn gap is visibly wider at the third point.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Both road edge and riverbank are drawn as continuous lines without lifting the pencil.
- [ ] The gap between the two contours changes where the measured gap changes.
- [ ] Gap estimates use one consistent unit, such as pencil widths.
- [ ] Labels are lowercase and x-height is measured from baseline to midline; letter style may vary.
- [ ] The study excludes shading, perspective construction, and full landscape composition.

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