Contour Drawing of a Chess King: Outline Study

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a blind contour of a king in a blind-contour box about 10 cm by 15 cm (hypothetical example; adjust to your paper). Start at the crown top, follow the silhouette down the left side through neck, collar, body, and base, then up the right side. Do not look at the paper. Include the crown-collar internal edge only if you can do so without looking.

Answer: A continuous line that records the edge sequence crown top, left crown side, neck, collar, body, base, right side, and back to crown top. Distortion and leaving the box are acceptable; the line must be unbroken and unshaded.

Reason: Blind contour trains observation by removing visual feedback. The check is sequence and continuity, not proportion.

Check: Trace the line with your finger: does it return to the start without lifting? Does it pass through the named regions in order (crown top, crown side, neck, collar, body, base, and back up the other side)? Is the line unshaded and continuous? Leaving the box is not counted as an error.

Task 2

Draw a slow contour of a king with crown width 4 cm, neck width 2 cm, collar width 3 cm, body width 3.5 cm, and base width 6 cm (hypothetical values). Add exactly three internal edges: crown-collar, collar-body, base-body. Keep the silhouette continuous.

Answer: A continuous silhouette with the stated relative widths and three internal edges at the correct transitions. The base is visibly widest, the neck narrowest above the base, and no shading is present.

Reason: Slow contour allows checking relative widths while maintaining a single line. The three internal edges mark sharp form changes.

Check: Use a ruler to compare widths: base 6 cm > crown 4 cm > body 3.5 cm > collar 3 cm > neck 2 cm. Count internal edges (three). Confirm no shading.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A student draws a king contour where the neck is 5 cm wide, the crown is 4 cm wide, and the base is 6 cm wide (hypothetical values). The silhouette is continuous and there are two internal edges. Identify the main error and describe the fix without redrawing the whole piece.

Answer: The neck is wider than the crown, which reverses the expected relationship. Fix by narrowing the neck to less than 4 cm, for example 2 cm, and adjusting the adjacent collar and body lines to meet the new neck width. Keep the silhouette continuous and retain the two internal edges.

Reason: Relative width checks catch proportion reversals. The neck should be narrower than the crown in the described reference.

Check: Compare neck and crown widths with a ruler. After the fix, neck should be less than crown, and the line should remain continuous.

Task 4

Draw a contour of a king that includes the outer silhouette and exactly two internal edges: crown-collar and base-body. Omit the collar-body edge. Use a continuous line and no shading. State one valid alternative style that would still meet the rubric.

Answer: A continuous silhouette with two internal edges at crown-collar and base-body. A valid alternative is a more angular crown flare or a rounded collar, provided the edge sequence and relative widths are preserved and no shading is added.

Reason: The rubric allows stylistic variation in line quality and shape smoothness while requiring correct edge placement and sequence.

Check: Count internal edges (two). Confirm the silhouette is continuous and unshaded. Check that crown, neck, collar, body, and base appear in order and that the base is widest.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Silhouette is continuous from crown top back to crown top without lifting the tool.
- [ ] Edge sequence includes crown, neck, collar, body, and base in order.
- [ ] Zero to three internal edges are present; any present edges sit at crown-collar, collar-body, and/or base-body transitions.
- [ ] Relative widths are preserved: neck narrower than crown and base; base widest.
- [ ] No shading, hatching, or 3D modeling is used.
- [ ] Valid stylistic variation in line smoothness or angularity is accepted if edge placement and sequence are correct.

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