Sea Bass Contour Drawing: A Line-Only Study

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Describe how to draw the dorsal fin edge of a sea bass as a contour line. The dorsal fin meets the body at a front point and a rear point. Include the slight notch between the spiny front section and the softer rear section.

Answer: Start at the front meeting point on the back. Draw a line upward and backward along the outer edge, make a small inward notch, continue along the rear section, and end at the rear meeting point on the back. Keep the line continuous and do not add fin rays.

Reason: The dorsal fin is a separate contour that must meet the body at two points. The notch marks the change between sections without drawing individual rays.

Check: Confirm the line starts and ends on the body outline, is continuous, includes one small notch, and has no interior ray lines.

Task 2

A drawing shows the body outline as one continuous line, the caudal fin as a separate contour with a shallow fork, and the gill cover as a curved line. However, the pectoral fin is missing. Score the drawing using the rubric items for body outline, fin groups, and gill cover. State the total for those three items and one fix.

Answer: Body outline: 2 points. Fin groups: 1 point because four of five fins are present. Gill cover: 2 points. Total for these three items: 5 out of 6. Fix: add the pectoral fin as a separate contour meeting the body at two points.

Reason: The rubric gives 2 for a fully continuous body outline, 1 for some but not all fins correct, and 2 for a complete gill cover curve.

Check: Recount the fin groups: dorsal, caudal, anal, pelvic, pectoral. Confirm the pectoral fin is the only missing one, then re-score fin groups as 2 after adding it.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You have a hypothetical paper 20 cm wide and a drawing that fills 12 cm of width. The target is about 70 percent of paper width. Calculate the target width and state whether the drawing is within 2 cm of the target.

Answer: Target width = 0.70 times 20 cm = 14 cm. The drawing is 12 cm, which is 2 cm below the target, so it is within about 2 cm of the target width. Check the margin separately: a centered 12 cm drawing on 20 cm paper leaves (20 - 12) / 2 = 4 cm on each side, which meets the minimum 2 cm margin. The drawing therefore passes both the size and placement checks.

Reason: Multiply paper width by 0.70 to get the target width. Subtract the drawing width from the target to find the difference. Then check placement separately by halving the leftover width to find each side margin.

Check: Recompute 20 times 0.70 = 14. Then 14 minus 12 = 2, so the width is within about 2 cm of target. Recompute the margin: (20 - 12) / 2 = 4 cm, which is at least 2 cm. Confirm both checks pass.

Task 4

In a blind-contour warm-up, a student looks only at the reference for 60 seconds and draws the body outline without looking at the paper. The resulting line is distorted and does not close at the mouth. Is this a valid warm-up result? Explain using the convention and state one next step.

Answer: Yes, it is valid. Blind contour values observation over accuracy, so distortion and an open line are expected. Next step: compare the line to the reference and note where the hand moved too fast, then begin the slow-contour drawing while glancing at the paper.

Reason: The convention for blind contour requires looking only at the reference and keeping the pencil moving. Accuracy is not scored in the warm-up.

Check: Confirm the student did not look at the paper during the 60 seconds and kept the pencil on the paper. Then confirm the next step is a slow contour with glancing allowed.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body outline is one continuous line from mouth to tail and back: 0 = broken or missing, 1 = mostly continuous, 2 = fully continuous.
- [ ] Each of the five fin groups is a separate contour meeting the body at two points: 0 = missing or floating, 1 = some fins correct, 2 = all five correct.
- [ ] Gill cover is a single curved line from top to belly: 0 = missing, 1 = partial or broken, 2 = complete single curve.
- [ ] No scales, shading, or fin-ray detail appears: 0 = interior marks present, 1 = minor marks, 2 = none.
- [ ] Size and placement: the fish is centered with at least a 2 cm margin on all sides, and its width is about 70 percent of the paper width: 0 = margin under 2 cm or width far from target, 1 = margin met but width noticeably off target, 2 = margin met and width within about 2 cm of the target.

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