Skeleton Contour Drawing: A Line-Only Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

In a 10 by 10 centimeter box, make a blind contour of a skull outline from a reference you can see. Do not look at the paper. Then state one edge where your line broke.

Answer: A distorted but continuous-attempt skull outline with at least one noted break, such as the jaw corner or socket rim.

Reason: Blind contour forces the eye to lead the hand; breaks reveal where attention jumped. The note identifies a specific edge for improvement.

Check: Confirm the box is about 10 by 10 centimeters, the drawing was made without looking, and one named edge is recorded.

Task 2

Draw a slow contour of a ribcage in a second 10 by 10 centimeter box. Stop each rib curve where it meets the sternum edge. Describe one stop point.

Answer: Rib curves that terminate at the sternum edge without crossing it, plus a description such as the third rib stopping at the sternum's left edge.

Reason: Stopping at the sternum records overlap and prevents lines from passing through a nearer form.

Check: Check that no rib line crosses the sternum edge and that the described stop point matches the drawing.

Task 3

A reference shows a forearm bone crossing in front of an upper arm bone at the elbow. Draw only the contour edges and state where the farther bone's line stops.

Answer: The nearer forearm edge is continuous; the farther upper arm line stops at the forearm edge and resumes only if it emerges. The stop is at the elbow overlap.

Reason: Near-to-far ordering means the nearer form interrupts the farther one.

Check: Verify the farther line does not continue through the nearer bone and that the stop is named as the elbow overlap.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Measure your paper's usable width and height in centimeters. Draw a bounding box leaving a two-finger margin, then place a skull, ribcage, and two limb bones inside it using only contour lines. State your measured dimensions.

Answer: A contour-only figure inside a measured box, with stated dimensions such as 18 by 26 centimeters (hypothetical example) and a two-finger margin.

Reason: Measuring the actual paper prevents assumed sizes; the box controls placement without shading.

Check: Re-measure the box against the stated dimensions, confirm the margin, and check that only contour lines appear.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Convention is stated and followed: silhouette plus overlap edges only.
- [ ] Skull, ribcage, and limb edges are present and in a near-to-far order.
- [ ] Lines stop at overlaps rather than passing through nearer forms.
- [ ] No shading, hatching, texture, or anatomy labels appear.
- [ ] Line continuity is deliberate; corners show controlled pace.
- [ ] Valid stylistic alternatives are accepted if the convention is consistent.

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