Ball Python Scales Drawing: Head and Body Pattern Layout

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

A head outline is 8 cm wide. Using the hypothetical rule that crown blotch width equals one-third of head width, state the crown blotch width and describe its placement.

Answer: About 2.7 cm wide, centered on the midline.

Reason: One-third of 8 cm is about 2.7 cm. Centering on the midline follows the pattern map.

Check: Measure the drawn blotch against the head width; confirm it is about one-third and centered.

Task 2

On a body section, you mark blotch centers left, right, left. State the next two centers and the pale gap rule using the hypothetical one-scale-row gap.

Answer: Next centers are right, left. Gap equals one scale row between blotches.

Reason: Alternation continues left-right; the gap rule keeps pale ground visible.

Check: Check that centers alternate and that gaps are about one scale row wide.

Task 3

You shade a body blotch with two passes and the crown blotch with three passes. Using the hypothetical contrast rule, which is darker and why?

Answer: Crown blotch is darker because three passes exceed two passes.

Reason: More passes increase darkness under the hypothetical rule.

Check: Compare the two areas from a step back; crown should read darker.

Task 4

A learner draws scales pointing forward on the dorsal midline. Using the convention, state the error and the fix.

Answer: Error: dorsal scales should point backward. Fix: redraw dorsal scales pointing backward and keep flank scales angled down and back.

Reason: Scale direction follows the body contour; dorsal scales point backward.

Check: Check each dorsal scale tip against the body direction; confirm backward pointing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Crown blotch centered on midline.
- [ ] Eye bars angled back from each eye.
- [ ] Jaw stripes along lower edge.
- [ ] Body blotches alternate left and right with pale gaps.
- [ ] Scale direction follows body contour.
- [ ] Shading follows scale direction with pale outlines.
- [ ] Valid alternatives allowed for scale shape and letter style.

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