Blind-Contour Line Drawing of a Scales of Justice

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a blind contour of a simple scales figure with a straight column, one horizontal beam, two straight chains, and two open semicircular pans. Start at the top of the column and work down one side, across the beam, down one chain, around one pan, back up, and repeat. Do not look at the paper. After three minutes, uncover and compare.

Answer: A continuous line that follows the column side, turns across the beam, descends one chain, traces the pan curve, returns, and repeats for the second side. Breaks may occur at chain junctions if noted.

Reason: The sequence follows the object's edges in a logical order and keeps the line moving slowly. The open pans are a valid simplification.

Check: Place beside the reference and mark two continuous junctions and one explained break. Confirm the line order matches the described sequence.

Task 2

Draw a blind contour of a scales figure where the chains are drawn as small loops. Simplify each chain to a single wavy line. Start at the beam center, trace to one end, follow the wavy chain to the pan, trace the pan rim, and return. Repeat for the other side. Do not look at the paper. After four minutes, uncover and note your simplification.

Answer: A line that moves from beam center to end, down a wavy line, around a pan rim, back up, and across to the other side. The wavy line replaces the loops.

Reason: Simplifying loops to a wavy line is a valid alternative that keeps the line continuous and observable.

Check: Check that the wavy line is consistent on both sides and that the simplification is written in the comparison box.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a blind contour of a scales figure with a base foot under the column. Start at the base, trace up one side of the column, across the beam, down one chain, around the pan, back up, across the beam, down the other chain, around the other pan, and back to the base. Do not look at the paper. After five minutes, uncover and compare.

Answer: A continuous line that begins at the base, moves up the column, across the beam, down and around each pan, and returns to the base. The base foot is included as a short horizontal edge.

Reason: Starting at the base and returning there creates a closed path that covers all major edges in order.

Check: Verify that the line starts and ends at the base and that both pans are traced. Mark one place where the line stayed continuous across the beam.

Task 4

Draw a blind contour of a scales figure but allow yourself to lift the pen at each chain junction. Note each lift. Start at the top of the column, trace down, across the beam, down one chain, around the pan, back up, and repeat. Do not look at the paper. After three minutes, uncover and explain each lift.

Answer: A line with deliberate breaks at chain junctions, each noted. The line otherwise follows the column, beam, chains, and pans in sequence.

Reason: Lifting at junctions is acceptable if explained; the exercise still trains observation and slow line.

Check: Count the lifts and confirm each has a written reason. Check that the edge order matches the prompt.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity: continuous across most junctions, with breaks explained.
- [ ] Observation: line follows observed edges slowly and deliberately.
- [ ] Edge order: traces a logical sequence from column to beam to chains to pans.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: simplifications such as wavy chains or open pans are noted and consistent.
- [ ] Comparison: places drawing beside reference and identifies at least one observed edge.

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