Contour Line Drawing on Paper: Edges, Form, and Clear Line Direction

Original task 1 / answer and diagram

Task 1 / complete key

In a 10 cm by 10 cm box, draw a rectangular box shape. Add one edge contour and one form contour. Describe the direction of each line.

Answer: Edge contour runs along the outer rectangle. Form contour runs along one visible top edge where the surface turns. Direction: edge lines are straight and vertical or horizontal; form line follows the top edge. Alternative starting points are valid.

Reason: The rectangle has clear straight edges and one visible surface transition at the top. One line for each is enough to describe the shape.

Check: Trace each line and confirm it matches a visible edge or surface turn. Confirm the description names the direction.

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Original task 2 / answer and diagram

Task 2 / complete key

In a 10 cm by 10 cm box, draw a cylinder standing upright. Add two form contours and explain the spacing.

Answer: Draw two curved lines across the front of the cylinder, one near the top and one near the middle. Spacing is closer near the sides where the form turns more sharply and wider in the center where it flattens. Alternative curve positions are valid if justified.

Reason: A cylinder turns away from the viewer at its sides, so closer spacing there shows sharper curvature. The center is flatter, so wider spacing is appropriate.

Check: Check that both lines follow the surface curve and that spacing changes match the described curvature.

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Original task 3 / answer and diagram

Task 3 / complete key

In a 10 cm by 10 cm box, draw a flat plate seen from the side. Add one edge contour and one form contour, then state why the form line is short.

Answer: Edge contour follows the outer side of the plate. Form contour is a short line where the plate surface turns at the rim. The form line is short because the surface change is brief. Alternative rim positions are valid.

Reason: A side view of a plate has a long edge and a brief surface turn at the rim, so the form contour should be short.

Check: Confirm the form line stops where the surface change ends and that the explanation matches the drawing.

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Original task 4 / answer and diagram

Task 4 / complete key

In a 10 cm by 10 cm box, draw a curved bowl shape. Add three form contours and justify the spacing using the convention that closer lines show sharper turns.

Answer: Draw three curved lines inside the bowl outline. Place them closer near the sides and wider near the bottom center. Justify each line by pointing to a surface change. Alternative spacing is valid if the justification is consistent.

Reason: The bowl curves more sharply at its sides and flattens near the bottom, so spacing should follow that change.

Check: Trace each line to a visible surface change and check that closer spacing appears where the turn is sharper.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Edge contour follows a visible boundary and is continuous where the boundary is continuous.
- [ ] Form contour follows a visible surface change and stops where that change ends.
- [ ] Line direction is consistent with the surface and justified in writing.
- [ ] Spacing communicates curvature without shading.
- [ ] Drawing stays inside the practice box and uses one pencil weight.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted when each line is justified by a visible change.

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