Matisse Upside-Down Man: Cutout-Shape Drawing Lesson

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

An inverted reference has 5 cutout shapes. Shape A sits above the midline, shape B crosses the midline, and shapes C, D, E sit below. Draw the upside-down figure with orientation-check arrows and view it right side up.

Answer: A correct drawing shows 5 closed cutout shapes in the stated positions, with arrows at the top edge pointing to the reference top. After rotation, the figure reads as a cutout man. Small size variations are acceptable if placement and style are consistent.

Reason: The task checks whether you can place shapes by position relative to the midline rather than by naming body parts. The arrows keep the inverted view consistent.

Check: Count the shapes, confirm each is closed, verify the arrows point to the reference top, and rotate the paper to confirm the right-side-up view.

Task 2

A hypothetical tracing box is 5 cm wide and 3 cm tall. Draw a cutout shape inside a matching box on your paper, then check it against the orientation arrows. Label the box values as examples.

Answer: The drawn shape fits inside a 5 cm by 3 cm box, is closed and bold-edged, and matches the inverted reference position. The label states the values are hypothetical examples.

Reason: This exercise practices relative size using a tracing box and reinforces that numerical values are examples, not fixed standards.

Check: Measure your box with a ruler, confirm the shape is closed, and check the arrows before and after drawing.

Task 3

You have drawn 6 shapes upside down but one shape is too wide. Describe how to adjust it without redrawing the whole figure, and state one check you will use.

Answer: Narrow the misplaced shape by a small amount, recheck its tracing box, and confirm the orientation arrows still point to the reference top. Then rotate the paper to confirm the right-side-up view.

Reason: Adjusting one shape is faster and preserves the overall placement. The check confirms the fix did not break the inverted view.

Check: Compare the adjusted shape to its tracing box and count the total shapes to ensure none were lost.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Add labels to your upside-down drawing using lowercase letters from baseline to midline. Use any legible style. Then rotate the paper and confirm the labels still follow the x-height convention.

Answer: Labels sit from baseline to midline, are legible, and use a consistent style. After rotation, the labels still follow the baseline-to-midline x-height rule. Varied letter styles are acceptable.

Reason: This checks the stated handwriting convention while allowing valid alternatives in letter style.

Check: Measure label height against the baseline and midline, and confirm each label is legible after rotation.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The drawing is made from an inverted reference and remains upside down until the final rotation.
- [ ] Orientation-check arrows are present and used after each shape.
- [ ] The figure uses 5 to 7 closed cutout shapes with bold, simple edges.
- [ ] Baseline and midline are marked and shape placement is checked against them.
- [ ] Tracing boxes are used for relative size, and valid size alternatives are accepted.
- [ ] The right-side-up view reads as a Matisse-style man made of cutout shapes.
- [ ] Any lettering follows the baseline-to-midline x-height convention, with varied styles allowed.
- [ ] Numerical values are labeled as hypothetical examples and measured on the actual paper.

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