Light Post in Negative Space: Ink Drawing Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 10 cm by 15 cm card, draw a light post whose post is 6 mm wide at the base and 4 mm near the arm. Ink the surround so the post is negative space. Measure the gap between post and arm and state whether it remains visible at one metre.

Answer: A completed card with an inked surround and an untouched post, arm, and lamp head. The measured post-arm gap is recorded, for example 3 mm, and the student confirms visibility at one metre.

Reason: The task requires identifying the negative gaps, inking only the surround, and checking the narrowest gap at a viewing distance. Recording the measurement makes the check concrete.

Check: View the card from one metre. Confirm the post reads as a continuous shape and the post-arm gap is still visible. Compare the recorded gap measurement with the drawing.

Task 2

Ink a surround around a light post on a 12 cm square. Use hatching rather than solid black. Keep the lamp head gap at least 4 mm wide. After drying, measure the lamp head gap and the post width at the base.

Answer: A hatched surround with an untouched light post. The lamp head gap measures at least 4 mm, and the post width at the base is recorded, for example 7 mm.

Reason: Hatching is a valid alternative to solid ink if it stays outside the post. The minimum gap width is a chosen check value, not a universal standard, and the student verifies it by measurement.

Check: Measure the lamp head gap with a ruler and confirm it is at least 4 mm. Check that no hatch marks cross into the post. View from one metre to confirm readability.

Task 3

Draw two light posts side by side on one sheet. Ink the surround around both, leaving both posts as negative space. Measure the gap between the two posts and state whether each post remains separately readable.

Answer: Two untouched light posts separated by an inked gap. The inter-post gap is measured, for example 5 mm, and the student confirms each post reads separately at one metre.

Reason: This exercise tests whether the negative shapes remain distinct when two subjects share a surround. The measured gap provides a checkable value.

Check: Measure the gap between the posts. View from one metre and confirm two separate posts are visible. Check that ink does not bridge the gap.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Ink the surround of a light post on a 9 cm by 12 cm sheet, but leave a 2 mm uninked border around the entire sheet edge. Measure the post width at two heights and the arm gap. State whether the border affects the readability of the negative shape.

Answer: An inked surround with an untouched post and a 2 mm uninked border. Post width at two heights and the arm gap are recorded, and the student states that the border does not break the negative shape because the post remains continuous.

Reason: The border is a deliberate convention choice. The check is whether the post still reads as a single negative shape despite the border, using measured widths and gaps.

Check: Measure the border width, post widths, and arm gap. View from one metre and confirm the post is continuous. Check that the border does not intersect the post.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The light post is defined by untouched paper, not by inked lines inside the silhouette.
- [ ] The post, arm, and lamp head are each distinguishable as negative shapes.
- [ ] The gap between post and arm remains visible at arm's length.
- [ ] The gap between arm and lamp head remains visible at arm's length.
- [ ] Ink is confined to the surround, with no unintended marks inside the post.
- [ ] Measurements of post width and gaps are recorded in consistent units.
- [ ] Alternative line styles and ink densities are accepted if the negative shape remains readable.

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