Paris Landmark Contour Drawing: Blind-Contour Practice with Edge-Only Outlines

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a 10 cm by 10 cm practice box. Inside it, make a blind contour of the tower's upper tapering section for 60 seconds without looking at the paper. Afterward, write one sentence naming where your line drifted and one where it matched an edge.

Answer: A continuous blind-contour line inside the box, plus two short observations: one drift and one match. The line need not resemble the tower.

Reason: Blind contour trains attention to edges. The written observations show that the student compared the line to the subject after finishing.

Check: Confirm the box is 10 cm by 10 cm using a ruler, the line is continuous, and two distinct observations are written.

Task 2

On a blank page, draw an edge-only outline of the arch. Include the outer silhouette, the opening, and the top horizontal edge. Do not add shading. Label the opening and the top edge in your normal handwriting, keeping each label within 1 cm of its feature.

Answer: A freehand edge-only outline with three structural boundaries and two legible labels placed near their features.

Reason: The exercise tests whether the student can separate structural edges from decorative detail and place labels consistently.

Check: Check that no shading is present, the silhouette closes, both labels are legible, and each label is within 1 cm of its feature as measured with a ruler.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Make two blind contours in separate 8 cm by 8 cm boxes: one of the tower's lower arch and one of the arch's outer curve. Spend 45 seconds on each. Then draw one edge-only plate of either landmark in a 15 cm by 15 cm area, using only silhouette and structural interior edges.

Answer: Two blind contours in labeled boxes and one edge-only plate with a closed silhouette and limited interior edges.

Reason: The task moves from blind practice to controlled outline, showing whether observation carries into the plate.

Check: Measure both boxes and the plate area, confirm two blind contours exist, and check the plate for silhouette closure and absence of shading.

Task 4

Draw an edge-only plate of the tower in a 20 cm by 20 cm area. Include the silhouette, the platform edges, and the inner arch boundary. Write three labels in your normal handwriting, each within 1 cm of its feature. Record the plate height and width in centimeters in the margin.

Answer: A freehand edge-only plate with three structural boundaries, three legible labels near their features, and recorded height and width with units.

Reason: This exercise checks full-plate composition, label discipline, and measurement recording without relying on assumed standards.

Check: Verify the plate area with a ruler, confirm three labels are legible and within 1 cm of their features, and check that height and width are recorded with units.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Blind contour shows a continuous line and slow eye movement, judged by the student's noted drift and match.
- [ ] Edge-only plate includes the silhouette and only structural interior edges; no shading or texture.
- [ ] Silhouette closes without unintended gaps.
- [ ] Labels are legible in the student's normal handwriting and placed near their features.
- [ ] Measurements are recorded with units and labeled as the student's own, not assumed standards.

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