Pond Contour Drawing: Capture Shoreline Edges with One Continuous Line

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A reference outline shows a pond edge with three visible features in order: a smooth bank, a reed cluster, and a rock lip. Draw one continuous shoreline line on a blank sheet. Use a baseline and midline to mark x-height, and keep the line single. Describe your start point, each turn, and your endpoint.

Answer: A valid answer starts at the left end of the smooth bank, draws a gentle curve, makes a small zigzag or single notch at the reed cluster, makes a short angular turn at the rock lip, and ends at the right endpoint. The line is single and unbroken, and each turn is justified by a visible feature.

Reason: The exercise tests continuous line capture and edge decision. The smooth bank allows a gentle curve; the reed cluster allows a notch or zigzag; the rock lip allows an angular turn. Valid alternatives are acceptable if each turn matches the reference.

Check: Check that the line is single and unbroken, that each turn corresponds to one of the three features, and that the start and end points are labeled. Score continuity and edge decision with the rubric.

Task 2

Using the same three-feature reference, perform a blind-contour repeat: look only at the reference, not at your paper, and draw the shoreline from start to end. Then compare the blind line to your first line and write one strength and one correction.

Answer: A valid answer completes the blind repeat without looking at the paper, then notes a strength such as clear continuity and a correction such as a compressed middle segment. The correction is annotated beside the weakest segment rather than redrawing the whole line.

Reason: The blind repeat trains observation and hand-eye coordination. Distortion is expected; the comparison is the learning step. The annotation keeps the focus on one correction.

Check: Check that the blind line was drawn without looking at the paper, that one strength and one correction are written, and that the correction is annotated beside a specific segment.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Measure your blank sheet and pencil. Suppose your sheet is 180 mm wide and you choose a shoreline span of 140 mm. Calculate the left and right margins if the span is centered. Label these values as hypothetical examples and state the unit.

Answer: The total margin is 180 mm minus 140 mm equals 40 mm. Centered, each margin is 40 mm divided by 2 equals 20 mm. The left margin is 20 mm and the right margin is 20 mm. These values are hypothetical examples; measure your actual sheet.

Reason: The arithmetic is simple subtraction and division. Centering the span means equal margins. Consistent units in millimeters avoid conversion errors.

Check: Check that 180 minus 140 equals 40, that 40 divided by 2 equals 20, and that both margins are labeled in millimeters as hypothetical examples.

Task 4

A shoreline line has four segments with hypothetical lengths of 30 mm, 45 mm, 25 mm, and 50 mm. Calculate the total span. Then score continuity and clarity from 1 to 3 using the rubric, assuming the line is single and unbroken and a viewer can follow it easily.

Answer: The total span is 30 plus 45 plus 25 plus 50 equals 150 mm. Continuity scores 3 because the line is single and unbroken. Clarity scores 3 because a viewer can follow it easily. These lengths are hypothetical examples.

Reason: The arithmetic is addition with consistent units. The rubric scores are justified by the stated conditions: single unbroken line and easy following.

Check: Check that the four lengths sum to 150 mm, that continuity is scored 3 for a single unbroken line, and that clarity is scored 3 for easy following.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Continuity: the shoreline is drawn as one single, unbroken line with no doubling or lifting.
- [ ] Edge decision: each turn or notch corresponds to a visible boundary feature in the reference.
- [ ] Proportion: the span and major turns fit the sheet and match the observed edge within the chosen convention.
- [ ] Clarity: a viewer can follow the line from start to end without confusion.
- [ ] Blind-contour comparison: the repeat is completed without looking at the paper and includes one annotated strength and one correction.
- [ ] Valid alternatives: reed clusters, rock lips, and smooth banks may be simplified or exaggerated consistently; the rubric does not require a single universal shape.

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