Sky Contour Lines: Cloud Edges and Blind Contour Comparison

Original task 1 / answer and diagram

Task 1 / complete key

Draw a slow contour of a cloud edge with two bumps and one notch in a 10 cm by 6 cm box. Then draw a blind contour of the same edge in a second box of the same size. Write one continuity note and one direction-change note.

Answer: The slow contour should show a continuous line that rises over the first bump, dips into the notch, and rises over the second bump. The blind contour may exaggerate one bump or shift the notch. A valid continuity note: both lines are unbroken. A valid direction-change note: the slow contour turns at the notch; the blind contour turns before the notch.

Reason: The task isolates two edge features so comparison is simple. The boxes are hypothetical examples; any equal-sized boxes work. The notes must be specific to the drawn lines.

Check: Place the two boxes side by side. Confirm each line is continuous except at start and end. Confirm the slow contour turns at the notch and the blind contour shows at least one direction change. Read the notes and check they mention continuity and direction change.

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Original task 2 / answer and diagram

Task 2 / complete key

Using a cloud edge with one long flat run and one small bump, draw a slow contour in a 12 cm by 8 cm box. Then draw a blind contour in a second box of the same size. Compare which line better captures the flat run and explain why in two sentences.

Answer: The slow contour likely keeps the flat run flatter because the eye can correct the hand. The blind contour may curve the flat run or add unintended bumps. A valid explanation: the slow contour stays closer to the flat run because visual feedback corrects drift; the blind contour drifts because the hand works without paper feedback.

Reason: Flat runs are sensitive to hand drift, so they reveal differences between the two methods. The explanation should refer to visual feedback, not to artistic talent.

Check: Check that both boxes are the same size. Check that the slow contour's flat run is straighter than the blind contour's flat run. Read the explanation and confirm it mentions visual feedback or correction.

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Original task 3 / answer and diagram

Task 3 / complete key

Draw a blind contour of a cloud edge with three small bumps in a 9 cm by 9 cm box. Do not look at the paper. After finishing, draw a slow contour of the same edge in a second 9 cm by 9 cm box. Write two observations about line quality differences.

Answer: The blind contour may show three bumps with uneven spacing or exaggerated size. The slow contour may show more even spacing but less lively turns. Valid observations: the blind contour has more variation in bump size; the slow contour has more consistent spacing but flatter turns.

Reason: Reversing the order tests whether the comparison holds when the blind contour comes first. The observations should describe line quality, not just accuracy.

Check: Confirm the blind contour was drawn without looking by checking for expected distortion. Confirm both boxes are 9 cm by 9 cm. Read the two observations and check they mention line quality terms such as spacing, size, or turns.

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Original task 4 / answer and diagram

Task 4 / complete key

Choose a cloud edge with one large curve and one small notch. Draw a slow contour in a 14 cm by 7 cm box. Then draw a blind contour in a second box of the same size. Write a comparison note with one sentence about continuity and one about rhythm.

Answer: The slow contour should keep the large curve smooth and place the notch at the correct point. The blind contour may smooth out the notch or exaggerate the curve. A valid continuity sentence: both lines are continuous. A valid rhythm sentence: the slow contour pauses at the notch; the blind contour rushes past it.

Reason: The large curve and small notch create a clear rhythm contrast. The note must separate continuity from rhythm to show two distinct judgments.

Check: Check that both boxes are 14 cm by 7 cm. Check that the slow contour includes the notch and the blind contour shows at least one difference from it. Read the note and confirm one sentence addresses continuity and one addresses rhythm.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Slow contour line is continuous except at genuine edge breaks.
- [ ] Slow contour line changes direction where the cloud edge changes direction.
- [ ] Blind contour was drawn without looking at the paper, as evidenced by expected distortion.
- [ ] Comparison note includes at least two continuity observations and two direction-change observations.
- [ ] Line quality is described using specific terms such as continuous, paused, flattened, or turned.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different cloud edges, different box sizes, and different time limits are allowed if the comparison remains fair and the convention is stated.

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