Contour Line Drawing of a Sport Scene: Figure and Equipment Edges

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a blind contour of a running shoe for two minutes. Look only at the shoe, not at your paper. Then draw an observed contour of the same shoe, checking each edge. Describe one edge you corrected.

Answer: The blind contour shows a distorted but continuous outline. The observed contour corrects the toe box curve and the sole edge. One corrected edge is the heel counter, which was drawn too rounded in the blind pass and adjusted to match the shoe's actual angle.

Reason: Blind contour trains observation without correction; observed contour allows checking. The correction shows the shift from memory to observation.

Check: Verify that the blind contour has one continuous line and that the observed contour has no shading. Check that the corrected edge matches the shoe's visible boundary.

Task 2

A cyclist wears a helmet with a visible chin strap. Draw the helmet rim and chin strap edges only. Leave a gap where the strap passes behind the ear. Use a hypothetical helmet width of 5 units and strap length of 10 units; calculate the ratio.

Answer: The drawing shows the helmet rim as a curved edge and the chin strap as two straight segments meeting under the chin. A gap appears where the strap goes behind the ear. The ratio is 5:10, or 1:2.

Reason: The gap indicates the strap is behind the ear, which is a contour decision. The ratio uses consistent units and simple division.

Check: Confirm the gap is on the strap edge, not the ear edge. Recalculate 5 divided by 10 to get 0.5, or 1:2.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw a basketball player's hand holding a ball. Show only the edges of the hand and the ball. Where the fingers overlap the ball, leave gaps on the ball edge. Label 'ball' and 'hand' with matching x-height. Check that no shading is used.

Answer: The drawing shows the ball as a closed curve with gaps where fingers cross it. The hand edges show finger contours meeting the ball. Labels 'ball' and 'hand' have the same x-height. No shading is present.

Reason: Gaps on the ball edge show the fingers are in front. Matching x-height follows the convention. Shading is excluded by the brief.

Check: Look for gaps only on the ball edge at finger crossings. Measure the x-height of both labels with a ruler to confirm they match.

Task 4

Draw a soccer player's leg and a soccer ball at the moment of contact. Use contour lines only. Measure the leg length (hypothetical 8 units) and ball diameter (hypothetical 2 units); calculate the ratio. Describe one overlap decision.

Answer: The drawing shows the leg edge meeting the ball edge at contact. The ball is a closed curve with a gap where the foot overlaps. The ratio is 8:2, or 4:1. The overlap decision is to leave a gap on the ball edge where the foot is in front.

Reason: The ratio uses consistent units. The gap shows which edge is in front without shading.

Check: Verify the ratio by dividing 8 by 2 to get 4. Check that the gap is on the ball edge, not the leg edge.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] All lines represent visible edges; no shading or filled areas.
- [ ] Figure posture and equipment shape are recognizable from contour alone.
- [ ] Overlaps are shown with gaps on the edge that is behind.
- [ ] Proportion checks use consistent units and simple arithmetic.
- [ ] Labels, if present, follow the x-height convention; letter styles may vary.
- [ ] Blind contour attempt is included and shows continuous looking at the subject.

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