Contour Line Rooster Drawing: Edge-Only Study

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A rooster reference has a comb with four peaks and a tail with three outer arcs sweeping left. Using one continuous line for the whole rooster, describe the drawing sequence from comb top to tail-back junction.

Answer: Start at the first comb peak, draw down-up through four peaks and three valleys, continue down the head and neck, around the breast, under the body to the legs, up the back, and draw three outer tail arcs sweeping left, ending at the tail-back junction.

Reason: The convention is one unbroken line, so the sequence must not lift. The comb count and tail arc direction are fixed by the reference.

Check: Count four comb peaks and three tail arcs; confirm the line never lifted and ended at the junction.

Task 2

A blind-contour pass of a rooster's comb produced five peaks instead of the reference's three. Is this an error under the lesson convention? Explain and give one check.

Answer: No, it is not an error under blind contour, because the drawer looked only at the subject and not at the paper. Check by comparing the blind pass to an edge-only panel and counting peaks in both.

Reason: Blind contour records looking behavior, not accuracy. The convention accepts distortions as part of the exercise.

Check: Place the blind pass beside an edge-only panel; count peaks in each and note the difference without correcting the blind pass.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

You have a rooster reference with a body outline that closes at the tail-back junction and a tail with two arcs. Your paper is 20 cm wide and the reference's widest span is 12 cm. Using a hypothetical scale of 1 cm drawn per 1 cm reference, which feature should you start with, and why?

Answer: Start with the comb's top point, following the lesson convention of beginning at the comb. The 12 cm widest span fits within the 20 cm paper width, leaving 8 cm total margin (for example, 4 cm on each side if centered). This confirms width fit only; measure the rooster's height and compare it with the paper height before concluding the full rooster fits. The 20 cm and 12 cm values are hypothetical examples; measure your own paper and reference.

Reason: The lesson convention fixes the starting feature as the comb, and the fit calculation confirms the page is wide enough. The 20 cm and 12 cm values are hypothetical examples; measure your own paper and reference.

Check: Measure the reference's widest span and your paper width; confirm the span plus margin is less than the paper width before starting.

Task 4

An edge-only panel shows a rooster with a convex breast curve and a concave back curve, but no shading. A classmate says the drawing looks flat. Using the lesson convention, explain why shading is not the fix and give one check.

Answer: Shading is excluded by the convention, which uses edge direction only. The convex breast and concave back already imply volume. Check by tracing the breast curve and back curve separately and confirming they change direction as described.

Reason: The boundary excludes feather texture shading and color, so volume must come from edge shape, not tone.

Check: Trace the breast curve with a finger and note convexity; trace the back curve and note concavity; confirm no shading marks are present.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Line continuity matches the stated convention (one line per major form, or one unbroken line).
- [ ] Comb shows the correct number of peaks and valleys as seen in the reference.
- [ ] Tail shows only outer silhouette arcs, with no interior feather texture.
- [ ] Body outline is a closed or convention-consistent path from breast to tail-back junction.
- [ ] No shading, cross-hatching, or color is used.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the stated convention is followed consistently.

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