Line Drawing a Seated Man: Gesture and Proportion Checks

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Using a head length of 2 x-heights and a torso length of 3 x-heights, place the shoulder mark 3 x-heights below the chin. If the chin is 4 x-heights above the baseline, how far above the baseline is the shoulder mark?

Answer: The shoulder mark is 7 x-heights above the baseline.

Reason: Chin is 4 x-heights above the baseline. Torso length is 3 x-heights. Shoulder = chin + torso = 4 + 3 = 7 x-heights above the baseline.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the chin, then add the torso length. Verify with a ruler in x-height units.

Task 2

A seated man has a hip mark 10 x-heights above the baseline. The seat contact is drawn 12 x-heights above the baseline. Is the seat contact level with the hip? If not, by how many x-heights is it off?

Answer: No, the seat contact is 2 x-heights too high.

Reason: Level means same height above the baseline. Hip is at 10, seat at 12. Difference = 12 - 10 = 2 x-heights.

Check: Draw a horizontal line from the hip mark and compare to the seat contact. Measure the vertical gap above the baseline.

Task 3

The knee is placed 1.5 x-heights forward of the hip. The foot is placed 2 x-heights below the knee. If the hip is at horizontal position 0, where is the knee horizontally? Where is the foot vertically relative to the knee?

Answer: Knee is at horizontal position 1.5 x-heights. Foot is 2 x-heights below the knee.

Reason: Forward means positive horizontal direction. Knee = hip + 1.5 = 1.5. Foot vertical = knee vertical - 2.

Check: Measure horizontally from hip to knee and vertically from knee to foot. Confirm units are x-heights.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A figure has a head length of 2 x-heights and a seated height (seat to head top) of 8 x-heights. How many head lengths is the seated height? Is this within a plausible range of 3 to 4 head lengths?

Answer: Seated height is 4 head lengths, which is within the plausible range.

Reason: Head length = 2 x-heights. Seated height = 8 x-heights. Number of head lengths = 8 / 2 = 4. Range 3 to 4 includes 4.

Check: Divide seated height by head length. Compare result to the stated range. Use consistent units.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Gesture line is continuous and flows from head to seat contact.
- [ ] Landmarks are placed and checked with consistent units.
- [ ] Seat contact is level with the hip mark.
- [ ] Knee is forward of the hip and foot is below the knee.
- [ ] Contours are clean single lines without shading or clothing folds.
- [ ] Proportion checks use simple arithmetic and are documented.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if checks pass and gesture reads naturally.

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