Draw a Skeleton Hand Holding a Libra Scale: Construction Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A hand spans 12 cm. The palm is 6 cm and fingers reach 6 cm. The beam is 16 cm wide and crosses the palm center. Pans hang 5 cm below each beam end. State whether the beam clears the fingers and whether the pans are level.

Answer: The beam is wider than the hand, so it clears the fingers. Both pans hang 5 cm, so they are level.

Reason: Compare beam width to hand span; equal pan drops indicate a balanced scale.

Check: Measure beam width against hand span and compare the two pan heights.

Task 2

A drawing shows three finger segments per finger but no joint circles. The structural lines are as dark as the final contours. Name two rubric failures and one fix for each.

Answer: Failures: missing joint circles and inconsistent line weights. Fixes: add small joint circles at knuckles; lighten structural lines and darken only final contours.

Reason: The rubric requires joint circles and a clear line convention.

Check: Inspect the drawing for joint circles and compare line darkness between structural and final lines.

Task 3

A scale beam is 10 cm wide on a hand spanning 14 cm. The pans hang 3 cm and 6 cm below the beam ends. Describe one proportion problem and one balance problem, then give a correction.

Answer: Proportion problem: beam is narrower than the hand, so pans crowd the fingers. Balance problem: unequal pan drops make the scale look tilted. Correction: widen the beam beyond the hand span and set both pan drops equal.

Reason: Beam width should exceed hand span for clearance; equal drops read as balanced.

Check: Measure beam width against hand span and compare pan heights.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

You draw a skeleton hand with a thumb joint placed on the knuckle arc instead of offset lower. The grip still overlaps the beam. State whether this is acceptable under the rubric and why.

Answer: It is a valid alternative if the grip remains plausible and the scale reads clearly, because the rubric allows varied hand styles. However, the thumb joint should still be identifiable as a joint landmark.

Reason: The rubric rewards plausible alternatives rather than one universal hand shape.

Check: Check that the thumb joint is marked and the grip overlaps the beam convincingly.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Hand landmarks include wrist, knuckle arc, and offset thumb joint.
- [ ] Finger segments curl around the beam with visible overlap.
- [ ] Scale has post, beam, pointer, and two hanging pans.
- [ ] Line convention is followed: light structural lines, darker final contours, small joint circles.
- [ ] Proportions are plausible and checked with simple measurements.
- [ ] Valid alternative hand styles are accepted if the grip and scale read clearly.

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