Contour Drawing of a Skier: Edge-Only Line Study

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a contour of a skier standing upright with skis parallel and both poles touching the snow line. Use one line weight and include the helmet, jacket hem, and boot cuffs. Do not shade.

Answer: A contour study with a clear upright silhouette, parallel ski edges, two pole lines meeting the baseline, and internal edges at the helmet, jacket hem, and boot cuffs. No shading or motion lines.

Reason: The upright pose is the simplest to check because the hip midline should be near the midpoint between snow line and helmet top. Parallel skis and pole tips on the baseline confirm equipment placement.

Check: Measure the distance from snow line to hip midline and from hip midline to helmet top. If they are roughly equal, the proportion is consistent. Check that no shaded areas or motion lines appear.

Task 2

Draw a contour of a skier in a crouched pose with knees bent and skis angled slightly downhill. Include the edge where one ski overlaps the other and the edge of the boot cuff. Use only visible edges.

Answer: A crouched contour with bent knee edges, angled ski lines, an overlap gap where one ski crosses the other, and a clear boot cuff edge. No hidden edges are drawn as visible.

Reason: The crouch changes the hip midline position relative to the helmet. The overlap gap tests whether hidden edges are handled correctly.

Check: Confirm that the overlapping ski has a gap rather than a continuous line through the hidden part. Check that the hip midline is lower than in the standing pose and that the ski angles match your reference.

Task 3

In a blind-contour box, draw the helmet and shoulder edge of a skier without looking at the paper. Keep the pencil moving and do not lift it. Then draw a normal contour of the same skier beside the box.

Answer: A distorted blind-contour line inside the box and a clearer contour beside it. Both use only edges and one line weight.

Reason: The blind contour trains attention to the edge sequence. The normal contour shows whether the same edges can be organized clearly.

Check: Verify that the blind contour was drawn without looking at the paper and without lifting the pencil. Compare the normal contour for clear outer and internal edges and no shading.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw two small contour versions of a skier side by side: one with poles planted forward and one with poles held back. Use the same edge-only convention and label the snow line and hip midline on each.

Answer: Two contour studies with different pole positions, each showing a snow line and hip midline. Edges are clear, and no shading or motion lines are used.

Reason: Changing pole position tests whether the arm and pole edges remain readable without shading. The labeled guides allow proportion comparison.

Check: Check that both versions have a snow line and hip midline, that pole tips meet the baseline where planted, and that no shaded areas appear. Measure the hip midline ratio in each and label any numerical value as a hypothetical example.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Edge-only convention: no shading, texture, or motion lines.
- [ ] Outer silhouette is continuous and readable as a skier.
- [ ] Internal edges are included only where visible; hidden edges are left as gaps.
- [ ] Equipment connects logically: boots to skis, poles to snow line.
- [ ] Pose is clear from line alone, with consistent hip midline and snow line.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if edges remain clear and the convention is followed.

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