

Exercise walk-through

1.1

Line Quality

AP Drawing

Line quality – judged at a glance

Line quality is how a line looks and feels. The rubric names **mark-making** **first** among the drawing skills.

Confident lines come from the **shoulder and elbow**, not only the fingers.

Line quality – judged at a glance, in detail

Even line

same width all the way



Weighted line

thick and thin with pressure



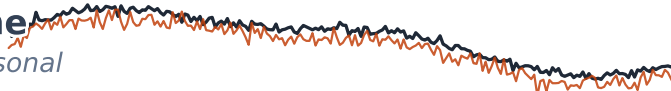
Lost-and-found-line

fades out, comes back



Expressive line

fast, energetic, personal



AP Drawing · Line and Mark-Making · four line qualities compared

the same edge drawn four ways

Line quality
among the drawing skills.

is how a line looks and feels – and the rubric names **mark-making**

first

Direction carries feeling



calm

horizontal



firm

vertical



active

diagonal

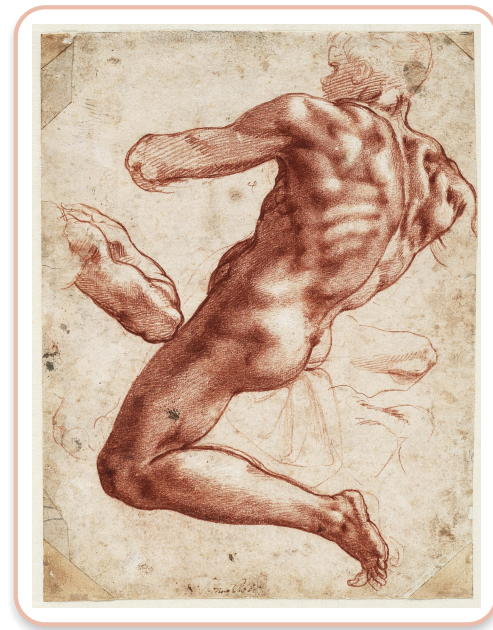
Examiners read line quality **instantly** – practise until your lines look **decided**, not timid. Warm up before every serious drawing.

Contour drawing – slow, careful looking

A **contour line** traces the edges of a form – outer **and** inner edges of folds and overlaps.

- match the **speed** of your eye to the pencil
- **blind contour** : draw **without looking** at the paper
- **cross-contour** describes **volume**, not edges

Overlapping contours create **instant depth**.



Michelangelo contour study: slow careful looking

Gesture drawing – energy before detail

Gesture drawing captures energy, movement and weight in **seconds**.

- 30 seconds to 3 minutes; draw the **whole** subject
- find the **line of action** first
- ask **what the subject is doing**, not what it looks like

Energy → structure → detail. Photograph daily pages as practice evidence.



Seurat gesture: action in a few lines before detail

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 A line that swells thick and thins as pressure changes is a

[1]

☐

- A** contour line
- B** weighted line
- C** horizon line
- D** plumb line

2.2 Explain what a 'lost-and-found' line is and one effect it has.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 A line that swells thick and thins as pressure changes is a

[1]

☐

- A contour line
- B weighted line
- C horizon line
- D plumb line

2.1 B

- a **weighted line** varies thickness with pressure

2.2 Explain what a 'lost-and-found' line is and one effect it has.

[2]

2.2

- a line that fades out and reappears; the eye completes the missing edge / the drawing looks less cut-out

Setup for exercise 2.3

2.3 State the feeling each direction suggests: horizontal, vertical, diagonal. [2]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **line-quality study** of one simple object (a hand, a shoe, a bottle).

(a) Draw it once with an even line, then once with a **weighted** line. [2]

(b) In the weighted version, let at least two edges be **lost and found**. [2]

Exercise 2.3

3.2

() Fill a strip with four lines of different **direction and mood** and label the feeling of each. [3]

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3.2

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2.3

- horizontal = calm; vertical = firm/strong; diagonal = active/movement

3.1

- even vs weighted clearly differ; weight thickens on shadow/weight-bearing edges; at least two edges fade and return; lines look drawn from the arm

3.2

- four distinct directions/qualities; each labelled with a feeling; labels fit the lines, e.g. jagged diagonal = tense