

Exercise walk-through

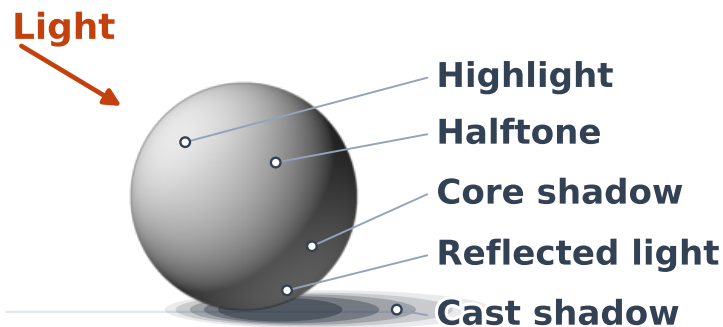
2.2

Light Logic: How Light Describes Form

AP Drawing

What we will cover

- 1 The value scale
- 2 Light logic
- 3 Rendering form
- 4 Chiaroscuro
- 5 Tonal composition & notan
- 6 Toned grounds & subtractive drawing



AP Drawing · Value, Light, and Form · the six zones of light on a sphere

The value scale – the backbone of drawing

Value is lightness and darkness. We see form as **light** before we see colour.

- a **value scale** runs white → greys → black
- **high-key** feels airy; **low-key** feels heavy and dramatic
- **local value** is the surface's own lightness – **keep it separate** from the lighting



a 9-step scale – the classic control exercise

Most beginners draw **too light** and use **too narrow** a range. **Squint** at the subject – it removes detail and shows the big value shapes.

Topic 2 – key takeaways

1

Full range

a confident black-to-white range
is a score signal

2

Light logic

six zones; reflected light is darker
than any lit halftone

3

Rendering

simplify to basic forms; keep light
and shadow separated

4

Notan

design 2-3 connected value shapes
at thumbnail size first

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 The darkest band of value ON the form itself is the

[1]

☐

A cast shadow

B core shadow

C halftone

D highlight

2.2 Why must reflected light stay darker than the lit halftones?

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 The darkest band of value ON the form itself is the

[1]

☐

A cast shadow

B core shadow

C halftone

D highlight

2.1 B

- the **core shadow** is the darkest band on the form

2.2 Why must reflected light stay darker than the lit halftones?

[2]

2.2

- reflected light is bounced/weak; if it is as bright as the lit side, the form reads as having two light sources and breaks

Exercise 2.3

2.3 What does a hard-edged shadow tell you about the form? [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Set one lamp on a white ball or egg and make a **light-logic study**.

(a) Render it and label all six zones of light. [3]

(b) Check reflected light stays darker than the lit halftones. [1]

3.2

() Draw two cast shadows: one with a hard edge, one softening away from the object. [2]

Exercise 2.3

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Full solution 2.3

2.3

- a sharp turn in the surface, or a cast shadow

3.1

- six zones present and correct; core shadow is the darkest band on the form; reflected light lifts but stays dark

3.2

- cast shadow sharp/dark at the contact point; softening and lightening with distance