

Exercise walk-through

The Value Scale ■ 2.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- draw an even white-to-black value scale
- separate **local value** 固有明度 from lighting
- distinguish **high-key** 高调 and **low-key** 低调
- squint to see the big value shapes

Method — The value scale

A smooth 9-step scale from white to black is the classic control exercise. Most beginners draw too light and too narrow.

Method — Local value vs lighting

Local value is the object's own lightness; lighting is how much light falls on it. A white cup in shadow is still a white cup.

Method — Squint

Squinting removes detail and reveals the big value shapes — the fastest way to judge value.

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

A drawing made mostly of light values is called

- A** low-key
- B** high-key
- C** monochrome
- D** tenebrist

Solution 2.1

A low-key

B high-key 

C monochrome

D tenebrist

Worked steps

B. **high-key** = mostly light values.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain the difference between local value and lighting.

Solution 2.2

Method: Local value vs lighting

Worked steps

local value = the surface's own lightness **B1**; lighting = the amount of light falling on it **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Why do artists squint at a subject before shading?

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

squinting removes detail and reveals the big value shapes **B1**.