

Exercise walk-through

Graphite ■ 4.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- choose grades from 9H (hard/light) to 9B (soft/dark)
- vary the **grip** for detail or broad shading
- build darks in layers before the final accents
- prove control with a full-value study

Method — Grades

Hard H grades stay pale and hold a point; soft B grades build rich darks fast. 9B is the darkest and softest.

Method — Grip

The writing grip controls detail; the overhand grip shades broadly from the arm.

Method — Shine

Heavily layered graphite goes shiny — for the deepest matte black, switch to charcoal.

Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

Which grade is the darkest and softest?

A 9H

B HB

C 9B

D 2H

Solution 2.1

Method: Grades

A 9H

B HB

C 9B



D 2H

Worked steps

C. the B scale runs to 9B.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Why build darks in layers instead of pressing hard with 9B everywhere?

Solution 2.2

Method: Grades

Worked steps

pressing 9B everywhere goes shiny/greasy and photographs badly **B1**; layering from a mid grade builds controlled, matte darks **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

When would you switch from graphite to charcoal?

Solution 2.3

Method: Shine

Worked steps

when you need a deeper, matte black than graphite can reach **B1**.