

Check the Print Before the Batch

Six diagnostic handout pages for scale, margins, grayscale and sequence

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How to use this guide

People producing ordinary training sheets, forms and handouts.

An original six-page proof case connects digital dimensions to a physical test, with a mixed-paper job plan, measurable ruler, readable contrast choices and explicit duplex checks.

- Choose an explicit paper and scaling policy.
- Calculate a scale error without treating it as a printer measurement.
- Inspect six distinct physical proof properties.
- Record a reproducible job ticket before batching.

Scope and limitations

- A physical printer and appropriate paper are needed for the complete capstone.
- The optional target generator requires Python 3 and ReportLab.
- Digital contrast and the exercise tolerance are not professional print or accessibility certifications.

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01

Make one proof answer the right questions

The fictional Linden Workshop needs a small participant packet before a demonstration. Its coordinator plans to print several copies, but first wants to know whether the pages have the intended size, usable margins, readable grayscale content, and sensible front-and-back order. The supplied exercise contains six original handout pages with different diagnostic purposes. It is a print-proofing lesson for ordinary office output, not a professional press certification or a promise of color accuracy on every printer.

A proof should resemble the planned production route. Use the same final PDF, paper size, print application, printer settings, and duplex choice that you intend for the batch. If you test a screenshot from an editor and later print a different export, the proof does not cover the actual job. Record the route in a short job ticket. You do not need an elaborate production system for a few handouts, but you do need enough detail to repeat a successful result.

Decide which properties matter. A reference ruler makes physical scale measurable. A safe-area grid exposes clipping. Light and dark callouts reveal whether the chosen output remains readable. Response lines show whether people have enough writing space. Page identifiers and orientation arrows expose sequence and binding mistakes. Each feature answers a different question, so a single attractive first page cannot stand in for the whole packet. The exercise deliberately avoids a global pass based only on a successful printer status.

The optional generator creates a six-page PDF using Python 3 and ReportLab. It uses millimetre-based dimensions and ordinary Latin text.

The supplied specification and standard-library checker can be examined without generating or printing the PDF. Those computations are real fixture checks, but physical measurements remain yours to perform. A report should never call a printer tested merely because the digital file parsed correctly or the scripted ruler was defined as one hundred millimetres.

Sources and tools

[S1] Adobe: PDF print settings

<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/desktop/print-documents/set-up-and-print-pdfs/print-settings.html>

Checked: 2026-10-01

[S2] W3C: understanding minimum digital text contrast

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG22/Understanding/contrast-minimum.html>

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Inside the complete guide

Choose page size before scaling

Measure the ruler instead of trusting the preview

Inspect margins and the safe area

Treat grayscale as a communication test

Test writing space and thin lines

Verify duplex direction with a tiny run

Record the proof before increasing the quantity

Inspect the batch as well as the first sheet

Capstone and answer key