
C2 STUDY GUIDE

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., establishes Standards of Proficiency within the framework of the international Pony Club movement as the educational curriculum for a program of instruction and evaluation of its members for certifications in three primary areas: Horse Management, On the Flat, and Over Fences.

The C-1 and C-2 Levels are for the Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for his/her mount and tack, and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing with the mount while either mounted or unmounted. Similar to the D-level, the C-1 and C-2 levels focus on advancement and evaluation of Horse Management skills as well as show development towards a secure, independent seat and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding, flat and/or jumping.

The C-1 and C-2 certificates are awarded at the club/center level.

How to use the Study Guide:

There are two sections to the Study Guide to help you prepare for your rating.

Horse Management Expectations: This section has the Horse Management Standards you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to answer the questions you will be asked at your test. Be as thorough as possible with your answers!

Riding Test Expectations: This section lists the riding skills you will be tested on at your rating. Please review them carefully with your instructor to insure you are prepared for the C2 test!

When you are done with the rating, keep your Study Guides. They will help you prepare for the next rating, rally or even your next lesson plan!

Best of luck on your rating!

TESTING INFORMATION FOR C-LEVEL CANDIDATES

Requirements for All Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of the level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- Candidate must be evaluated on and successfully meet the standards on all sections of the selected test before being awarded the new certificate.
- Adhere to the USPC code of Conduct at all times.

Attire

- Safe, workmanlike attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts. Refer to the Horse Management Handbook.
- Refer to C Standards of Proficiency, in this document, for proper Turnout and mounted attire.
 - Attire to be correctly formal or informal. Pony Club pin, medical armband, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets or exceeds the criteria established by a national or international safety body, is required to participate in any USPC activity (*see USPC Policy 0125A*). Long hair neatly up or back. No inappropriate jewelry.
 - Mount to be well groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff.
 - External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean.
 - Tack to be safe, properly adjusted, supple and reflecting regular care. No jockeys or dust. All stress points clean. No cracked leather. Metal clean and polished and stirrup pads clean.
- An USPC medical information armband must be on the candidate's person, as described by the Horse Management Handbook.
- A properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets or exceeds the criteria established by a national or international safety body, is required to participate in any USPC activity (*see USPC Policy 0125A*) and must be worn during Turnout and when riding and longeing. Safety vest wear is at the discretion of the member, parent, or guardian.

Presentation of Mount for Turnout

- Standards for Turnout are indicated in the Standards of Proficiency and on each appropriate test sheet. Refer to the Horse Management Handbook.
- For the purposes of the test, braiding of the mount is not allowed.
- All tack must be clean, show regular care and suppleness, and be well adjusted and in good repair.

- Stand by mount, on near side, with Examiner, facing rear, reins in left hand below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.

Equipment

- While the C-level Standards of Proficiency are not specific to any riding sport or discipline, saddlery and biting for C-level should comply with the Horse Management Handbook rules on Saddlery and Biting, as well as with any current USPC discipline rules for Saddlery and Biting.

Appropriate Horse

- USPC's commitment to safety for all horses and riders is paramount during a testing at any level. Candidates may bring their own, borrowed, leased or rented mounts to a test. They may present with more than one mount at a test. The care of each of the candidates' mounts at a test is the responsibility of the candidates themselves.
- It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/her parent(s) or guardian to bring to or arrange for an appropriate mount(s) at the test. The properly conditioned mount(s) must be capable of the skills required for the level being tested, to include standing for evaluation of the Turnout, bandaging and longeing.
- At the C-1 and C-2 levels, a mount may not be shared for any mounted portion of the test by two or more candidates at the same testing. The exchange of mounts for testing purposes is not allowed at this level.
- A candidate may not exchange or change mounts during a Test, if they are not meeting Standards, in order to have a "better opportunity" of passing or meeting Standards.
- Failure to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standards on that given day or testing experience.

Information on Conducting a Test

- Please review the Guidelines for Club and Center-Level Testings found online at www.ponyclub.org.
- Clubs and Centers must facilitate a testing opportunity for members a minimum of twice a year. Dates are determined by the District Commissioners (DC) or Center Administrators (CA). This may be done within the club/center, in partnership with another club/center, or organized by the Region. By networking with other clubs/centers within the Region to establish group tests with other clubs/centers, increased opportunities to rate can be made available to members.
- At the D/C Levels, tests are designed to and should be conducted in one day. If, due to unforeseen circumstances (such as weather or footing), it is not possible to complete a test in one day, all requirements must be tested/completed within a one-month period if possible.
- A testing should be educational, working session, covering requirements listed on the tested Standards. However, it is not a "lesson" on each section.
- Oral testing and/or demonstration are required for all parts of the horse management phases. Written tests are not allowed. However, at the discretion of the Examiner(s),

members may use their own writing and/or drawing to convey their answers during the questioning and/or discussion periods of the test.

- There is no set time limit between taking any of the C-level Tests, but each certificate must be attained in the proper order, and no levels may be skipped. Usually the Horse Management skills and knowledge must be attained prior to presentation of or any riding skills evaluation. However, there may be exceptions due to weather and facilities. If the riding sections are evaluated prior to the Horse Management sections, then the award of the certificate must wait until the successful evaluation of the Horse Management section.
- Similarly, the On the Flat sections of the riding skills must be evaluated prior to presentation for the Over Fences evaluation. If members do not meet standard in any portion of the On the Flat section, they may present to the Over Fences section of the evaluation only with the approval of the Examiner. If they subsequently meet standards in the Over Fences evaluation, the award of the certificate must wait until the successful evaluation of the On the Flat is complete.
- The DC, CA, and/or an adult designated by the club, center, or Region, must be present throughout the testing day. In addition, USPC strongly encourages the use of “Impartial Observers” at the tests.

Retest Information

- Upon recommendation of the Examiner and with approval of the DC or CA, a candidate who does not meet standards at a test may be retested within one month. They are only required to retest the sections of the standards the candidate did not previously meet successfully.
- In general, retest opportunities are only available if the member meets standards on at least two-thirds of the skills or knowledge expected in each section. Please refer to each test sheet for each certificate level for specific requirements for retests.

Examiners (D-1 through C-2)

- Please review the Guidelines for Club and Center Level Testings found online at www.ponyclub.org
- The DC, CA, or in the case of a regional testing, the RS, selects the Examiners for the D-1 through C-2 tests, based on recommendations of USPC leaders and volunteers and/or participation in a regionally- facilitated Standards of Proficiency clinic.
- Examiners should be selected with care, should be completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) they are testing, as well as the level(s) above and below the one(s) they are testing. DCs, CAs, or RSs must ensure that Examiners have a copy of all current USPC Standards, test sheets, and study guides prior to the test.
- Examiners should be mature and sensitive to both young people and their adult supervisors.
- Examiners must conduct tests in an educational framework, setting a positive tone that makes every effort to draw the best from each candidate, without allowing the test to become a lesson on the skill in question.

- While the test is intended to be a learning experience, Examiners should take care to encourage the candidates to express what they know, rather than a demonstration of what the Examiner knows.
- Examiners should bear in mind that candidates and their responses and performances may range from adequate to superior, and anyone within that range, that “Meets Standard” or better, should pass.

Responsibilities and Authorities

- The USPC Vice President of Instruction is responsible for the Standards of Proficiency and the general USPC certification program. While the actual management may be delegated, for club/center level tests, the club DC or CA is responsible for the scheduling, organizing, and conduct of the tests. This may be in coordination or cooperation within the Region or other clubs/centers.
- Any special testing requests, including exceptions or exemptions, must be submitted to the USPC National Office, Attention: Director of Instruction, through the District Commissioner and the Regional Supervisor. The Director of Instruction forwards exceptions or exemptions requests to the Chair, D-1 through C-2 Program Committee, for recommendations. The Vice President of Instruction is the final approval authority.

HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS

The candidate should show a solid awareness of cause and effect in horse management skills. Assistance/supervision is allowed in the demonstrations of bandaging, longeing, and loading mount.

TURNOUT/TACK

- *Attire to be correctly formal or informal. (Refer to Horse Management Handbook.)*
 - *Pony Club pin, medical armband,*
 - *a properly fitted equestrian helmet, securely fastened, containing certification that it meets or exceeds the criteria established by a national or international safety body, is required to participate in any USPC activity (see USPC Policy 0125A).*
 - *Long hair neatly up or back.*
 - *No inappropriate jewelry.*
 - *Boots polished and in good repair.*
 - *Spurs (if used) polished and put on properly*
- *The combination of footwear, jacket, neckwear and pant color determines whether the attire is considered informal or formal.*

Components of correctly formal attire:

- Approved Helmet - _____

- Jacket - _____

- Shirt - _____

- Neckwear - _____

- Pants - _____

- Boots - _____

- Belt - _____

- Gloves - _____

Components of correctly informal attire:

- Approved Helmet -
- Jacket -
- Shirt -
- Neckwear -
- Pants -
- Boots -
- Belt -
- Gloves -
- *Mount to be:*
 - *thoroughly groomed*
 - *Reflecting regular care with a healthy coat;*
 - *No sweat or dirt.*
 - *Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff.*
 - *Sheath or udder showing regular attention.*
 - *Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care.*
 - *Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean*

**Describe a well-groomed mount that reflects regular care:
Pony:**

Mane & tail:

Nose & dock:

Hooves:

- *Tack to be*
 - *Safe, properly adjusted,*
 - *reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished.*
 - *No jockeys or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.*

Describe tack that is safe, clean, and well adjusted, reflecting regular care:

Bridle:

Pad:

Saddle fit:

Saddle wear:

Leathers:

Stirrups & pads:

- *Explain reasons for equipment used on own mount for flat work and over fences.*

Equipment used for Flat work & reason :

Equipment used for 'Over Fences' & reason:

- Demonstrate proper adjustment and reason for tack used on mount.

- Name three different snaffle bits.

- Discuss the basic action of the snaffle bit.

How does a snaffle bit work:

CONDITIONING

- *Present a written outline of a six-to-eight-week conditioning and feeding program in preparation for a specific competition of candidate's choice.*

Competition Goal:

Time Frame:

Conditioning Plan:

	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Day 4</i>	<i>Day 5</i>	<i>Day 6</i>	<i>Day 7</i>
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							

Feeding Plan:

- *Know vital signs of own mount at work.*
Temperature:
Pulse:
Respiration:
- *Measure and record pulse, temperature and respiration of own mount at rest under supervision with assistance if necessary.*

- Describe own mount's ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking day off, sick, roughed out.

	Hay	Grain	Supplement
	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:
Developing Fitness	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:
Maintaining Fitness	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:
Day Off	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:
Sick	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:
Roughed Out	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:	AM: Noon: PM:

- *Look at a feed label and identify sources of protein, carbohydrates, and fat (can bring own label).*

Feed of Choice:

Source of Protein:

Source of Carbohydrates:

Source of Fat:

STABLE MANAGEMENT

- Describe caring for a mount efficiently and economically when:
 - Stabled – feed and water schedule, minerals needed, clothing, exercise, grooming.
 - At grass – safety check of pasture, fencing, water, mineral supply, shelter, feed, and grooming.

How would you care for your mount when stabled:

1. **Feed and Water:**

2. **Minerals Needed:**

3. **Clothing:**

4. **Exercise:**

5. **Grooming:**

How would you care for your mount in the pasture:

1. **Safety check of pasture:**

2. **Fencing:**

3. **Water:**

4. **Mineral Supply:**

5. Shelter:

6. Feed:

7. Grooming:

- *Discuss knowledge of safety measures, preparation and care of mount and equipment on day of strenuous work, including feeding schedule, consideration of mount's condition, consideration of climate and terrain, cooling out, treatment of any injuries, and making mount comfortable.*

- *Discuss pasture safety and fencing.*

List 4 things a pasture must be free of:

1.

2.

3.

4.

List 5 types of acceptable fencing material:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- *Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance.*

Toxic Plants in your area:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

- *Discuss emergency information that should be posted at all barns.*

What should be included in the emergency information that is posted in the barns.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

List the locations where you think this emergency information must be posted:

1.

2.

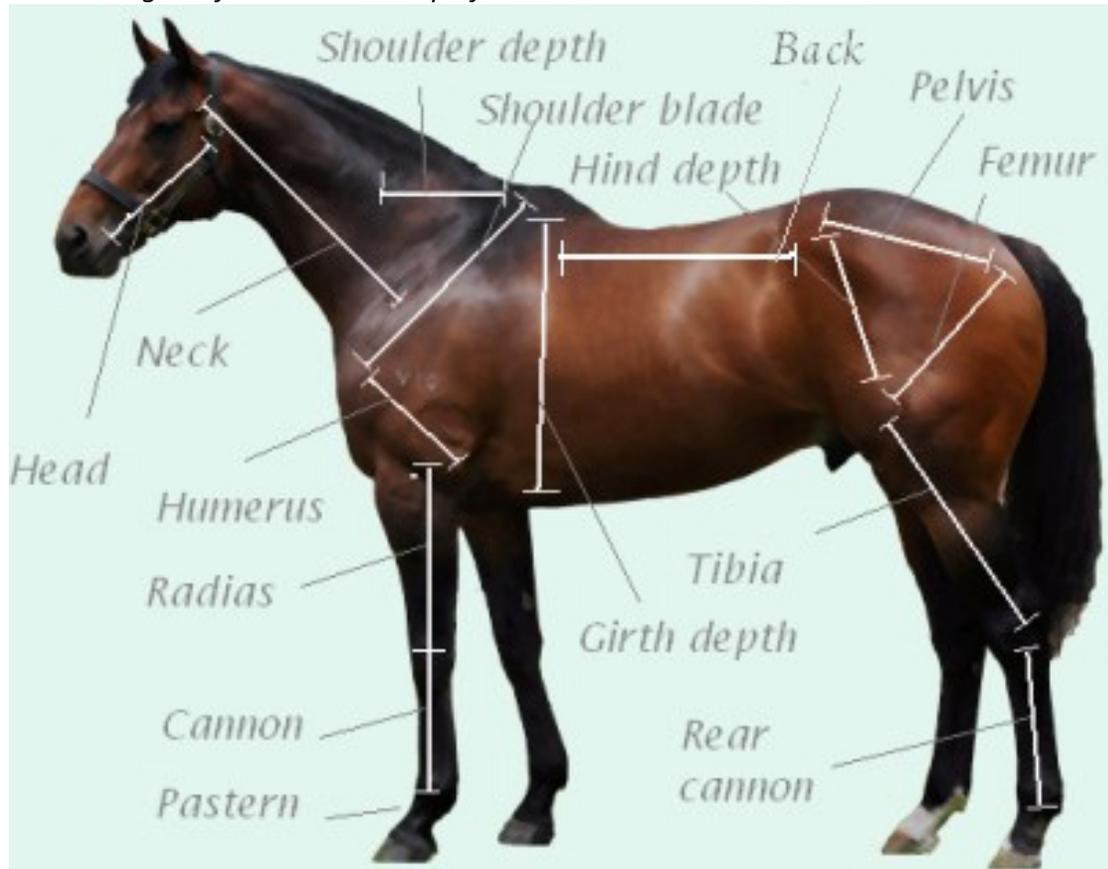
3.

4.

5.

6.

- Discuss angles of shoulder and hip of own mount.

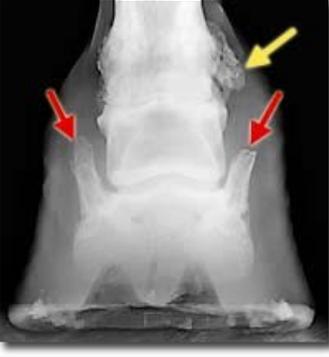
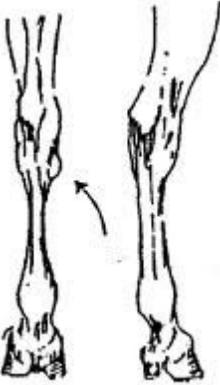
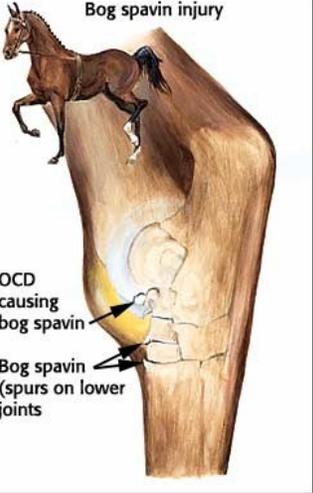


Shoulder Angle:

Hip Angle:

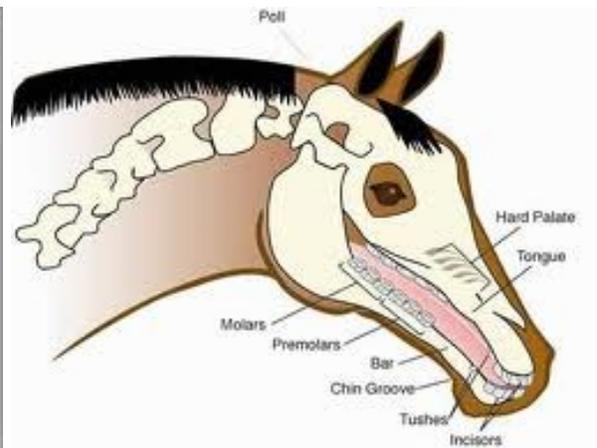
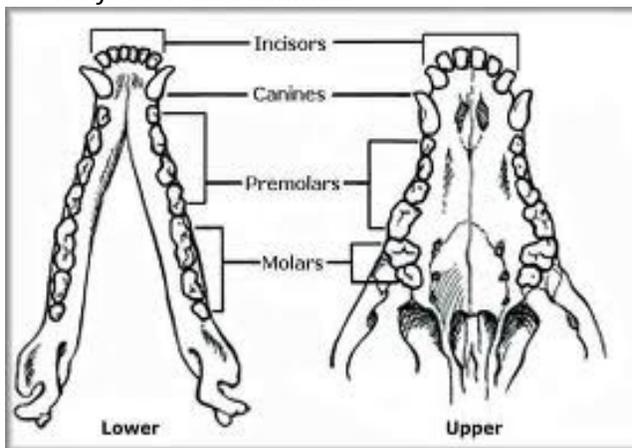
- Name and locate on a mount the following unsoundnesses: ringbone, curb, bowed tendons, sidebone, spavin, navicular, splint, thoroughpin, sprains.

	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
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	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
<p>Bog spavin injury</p>  <p>OCD causing bog spavin</p> <p>Bog spavin (spurs on lower joints)</p>	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>

 <p>Location of Thoroughpin</p>	<p>Name of Unsoundness: Location: Effects on the horse:</p>
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- Identify and/or describe parts of the horse's mouth to include bars, lips, incisors, molars, wolf teeth and canines.



- Differentiate between: tobiano and overo; dun and buckskin; grey and cremello.





TOBIANO



OVERO





- *Discuss how conformation of own mount is related to breed.*

Breed of mount:

Conformation characteristics of Breed:

How does your mount's conformation relate to its breed:

TRAVEL SAFETY

- *Be able to load and unload, with assistance, an experienced, cooperative mount.*

RECORD BOOK

The C-2 is expected to keep a careful Record Book of all immunizations, veterinary visits, farrier visits, etc. The book must be brought to the test for review and critique. Must have records for at least 9 months. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

Refer to http://www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/instruction/health_record_book.pdf

HEALTH CARE & VETERINARY KNOWLEDGE

- *List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area.*

Area you live in:

Annual immunization needs for this area:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- *List prevalent internal parasites in your area.*

What are the common internal parasites in your area:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- Describe routine parasite prevention for your mount.

Worming schedule for your mount:

MONTH	WORMER USED	REASON / PARASITES CONTROLLED

- Describe how tetanus and strangles are transmitted.

How is Tetanus transmitted:

How is strangles transmitted:

- Explain the need for the regular care of teeth.

TEACHING

- *Demonstrate knowledge of safe grooming, handling and tacking up by assisting a D-1 or D-2 to prepare for turnout under direct supervision of Examiner.*

- *Explain to the D member what the appropriate steps are and what safety procedures should be followed.*
- *Assess turnout and equipment for safety and explain to the D member any safety concerns and how to fix them.*

Refer to: http://www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/general_administration/safetypacket.pdf

Describe the steps you would take in performing a safety check for a rider:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

How would you determine a proper helmet fit:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Describe the steps you would take in checking the mount and tack for safety and fit:

Mount:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Bridle:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Saddle:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Other Equipment:

- 1.

- 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- *Candidate must bring a letter from DC that he/she is assisting in simple unmounted instructional programs for D-level Pony Club members with supervision.*

LAND CONSERVATION

- *Name the zoning requirements for the county in which you keep your horse. Example: A minimum of 10 acres is required to keep one horse.*

- *Know what public land is available for riding in your county.*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

LEADING & LONGEING

- *Discuss methods, equipment, and safety precautions for longeing.*

Methods for longeing:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
-
- *Discuss equipment necessary and safety procedures.*
- Equipment:**
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Safety Procedures:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- *Longe own mount, with assistance if necessary, at walk and trot in both directions in an enclosed area while demonstrating the correct use of equipment, body position, posture, and voice..*

FOOT & SHOEING

- *Discuss reasons for shoeing versus not shoeing.*
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
- *Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing.*

Characteristics of Good Shoeing:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Characteristics of Bad Shoeing:

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
- *If shod, discuss features of own mount's shoes.*

- *Describe use of a foot poultice.*

Steps in applying foot poultice:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

BANDAGING

- *Apply a shipping and stable bandage, under supervision of examiner, and give reasons for use.*

Materials needed for stable bandage (be sure to bring materials to the rating!):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Steps in applying stable bandage:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Materials needed for Shipping Bandage (be sure to bring materials to the rating!):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Steps in applying Shipping bandage:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

- *Discuss possible effects of poor bandaging.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Be sure to Practice !



RIDING EXPECTATIONS

Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate should begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.

Riding on the Flat

- Discuss the meaning of the Riding Expectations. Ride consistently demonstrating riding expectations.
- Demonstrate warm-up for flat work including rider exercises.
- Discuss candidate's warm-up for rider and mount using terms and understanding the training pyramid.
- Discuss warm-up schedule for three different activities of candidate's choice.
- Work mount at walk, trot and canter, changing directions at least twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm, balance, impulsion and smooth transitions.
- Demonstrate 15-and 20-meter circles, figure-8s, serpentine and work on the center or quarter lines to develop suppleness and straightness.
- Demonstrate a free walk on a long rein, returning to a walk on contact.
- Halt squarely on centerline and stand quietly for five seconds.
- Ride mount without stirrups at all gaits.
- Demonstrate a rein back (2-3 simple steps back).
- Discuss aids for and then demonstrate leg yield at walk.
- Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return to canter smoothly.
- Discuss performance with examiner including the rider's position, and whether mount was moving forward in balance and rhythm.

Riding Over Fences

- Ride over fences using Riding Expectations.
- Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.
- Ride over a simple gymnastic grid, finishing with an ascending oxer set at but not to exceed 3' set at appropriate distances for mount's stride at trot or canter.
- Develop a plan of how to ride a stadium course. Course to consist of 7-9 jumps. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 3'.
- Ride course according to plan.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including the quality of canter maintained throughout the course and ways ride could be improved.

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with control in a group, on a suitable mount, at the walk, trot, and canter over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain.
- C-2 speed should not exceed 375 mpm.
- Demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, as conditions allow.

- Discuss safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e. water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement.
- Ride over five to seven cross-country obstacles, at appropriate speed (350-375 mpm) connecting fences as a course. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 3'.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, giving reasons for any disobediences and suggested corrections