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## D2 STUDY GUIDE

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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 D-Levels** offer an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a mount and related equipment. The D-level Horse Management focuses on acquiring the knowledge and skills related to care and ground handling of the mount. The D level-member may also learn and be evaluated on riding independently on the flat, with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot and canter. In addition, the D-level members may choose to learn and be evaluated while riding their mounts over low fences.

All D 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 D2 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!**

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## TESTING INFORMATION FOR D-LEVEL CANDIDATES

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### 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 D Standards of Proficiency, in this document, for proper Turnout and mounted attire.
  - Rider in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves, long pants with shirt tucked in, short or tall riding boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have a boot heel. 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. Half-chaps, gloves, show coat and belt optional. No inappropriate jewelry.
  - Mount neatly brushed; hooves picked out. Showing farrier care.
  - Tack safe and neat
- 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 D-level Standards of Proficiency are not specific to any riding sport or discipline, saddlery and biting for D-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.
- While not recommended, the sharing of suitable mounts at a test is allowed. However, sharing should only be permitted if
  1. each proposed candidate is familiar with the mount and has longed or ridden it prior to the test, successfully and safely at the level being evaluated, On the Flat and Over Fences, as applicable; and
  2. each proposed candidate informs the test organizer of condition and the test schedule. As the safety of horses and riders are paramount, if Examiners determine that shared mounts' condition or other circumstances preclude the continued participation of those mounts in the test, they may indicate the candidates in question must withdraw from the test.
- 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](http://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](http://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**

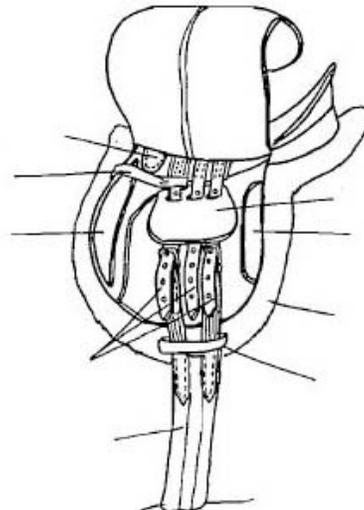
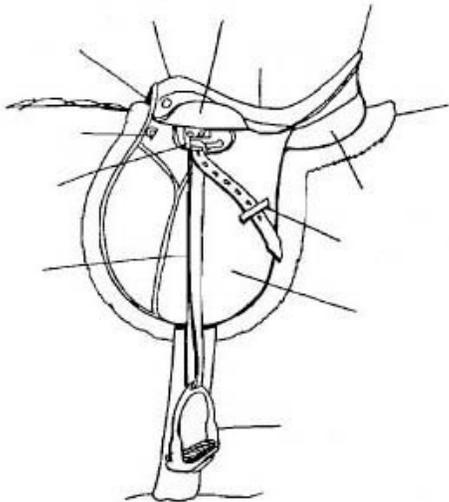
- The USPC Vice President of Instruction is responsible for the Standards of Proficiency and the general USPC certification program. While the actual management may be delegated, for club/center level tests, the club DC or CA is responsible for the scheduling, organizing, and conduct of the tests. This 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.

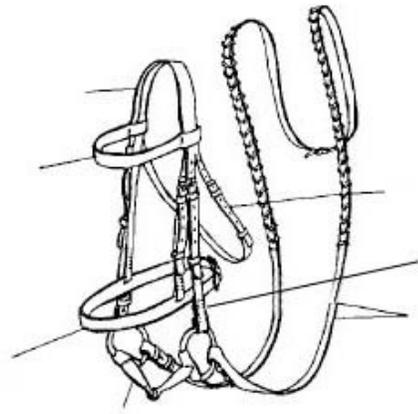
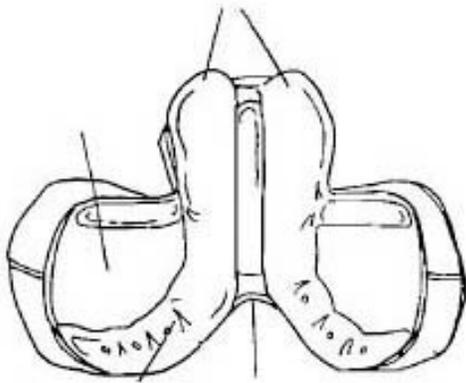
## HORSE MANAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS

***The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own mount.***

### TURNOUT/TACK

- *Rider in safe and neat attire:*
  - *collared shirt with long or short sleeves*
  - *long pants with shirt tucked in*
  - *short or tall riding boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have a boot heel.*
  - *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.*
  - *Half-chaps, gloves, show coat and belt optional.*
  - *No inappropriate jewelry.*
- *Mount to be clean and well brushed, with hooves picked out and showing farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off.*
- *Tack to be safe and clean, (properly adjusted with assistance, if necessary) with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious jockeys or heavy dust.*
- *Name and locate 15 parts of saddle and bridle.*  
**Name as many parts as you can in the following diagrams:**  
**Fun:** Try the games at <http://www.i-uspc.org/games/saddle.htm> and <http://www.i-uspc.org/games/bridle.htm>





- Name 3 different bits.
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

Here are a few bits that you might have come across:

 <p><b>Loose Ring Snaffle</b></p>	 <p><b>Egg Butt Snaffle Bit</b></p>
 <p><b>D Ring Snaffle</b></p>	 <p><b>Jointed Rubber D Ring Snaffle</b></p>
 <p><b>Full Cheek Snaffle</b></p>	 <p><b>French Link Egg Butt</b></p>

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## CONDITIONING

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- *Discuss basic condition of own mount.*

**Is pony fit and ready for work?**

**What kind of work can the pony do?**

**Are there any special things you need to watch for with this pony (jumping limitations, etc.)**

- *Describe ways to know if mount is properly cooled out.*

**How can you tell if your pony is properly cooled out after a ride:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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## HORSE SPORTS

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- *Name two horse sports.*

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- 
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## NUTRITION

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- *Know 3-5 basic rules for feeding and explain feeding schedule for own mount.*
- 
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**Give feeding schedule of own mount:**

	<b>AM</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>PM</b>
<b>Roughage</b>			
<b>Concentrate</b>			
<b>Supplement</b>			

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## STABLE MANAGEMENT

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- *Groom mount, pick out hooves with assistance if needed.*

**Step-by-step description for grooming:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

- *Name 5 grooming tools and demonstrate how to use them.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

- *Tack up and untack independently.*

**Describe the steps you do to tack up your horse:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**Describe the steps you do to untack your horse:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

- *List three examples of unsafe equipment.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- *Name three common stable vices.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

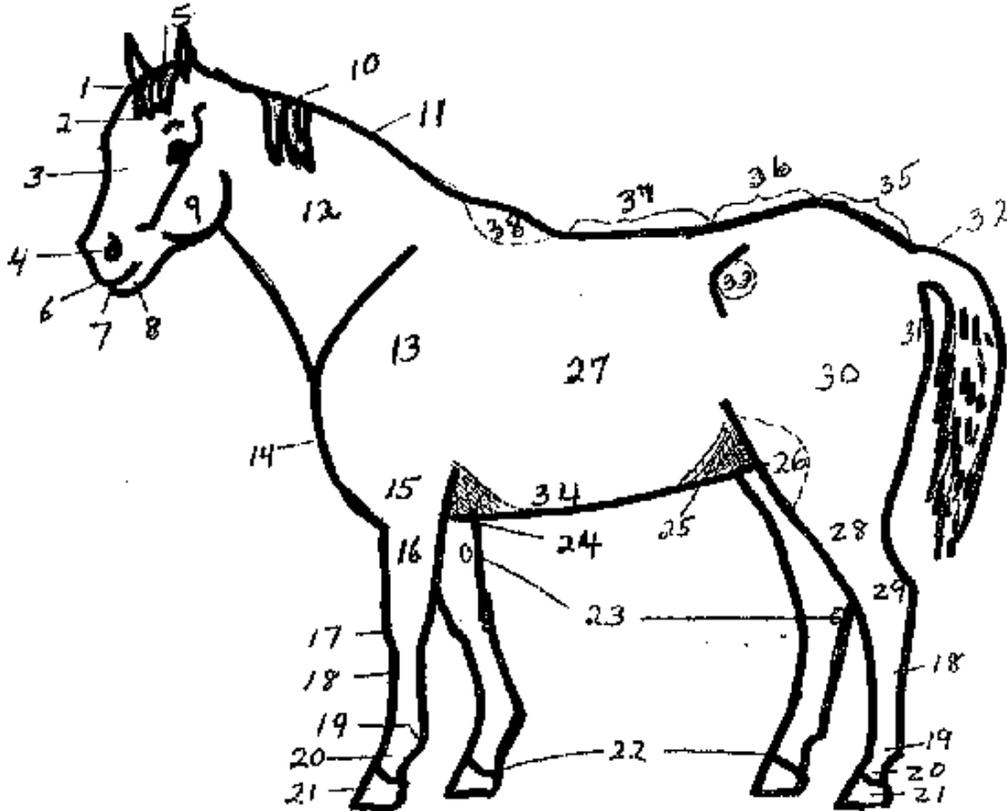
5.

## PARTS OF MOUNT, CONFORMATION & LAMENESS

- Name and locate any 15 parts of the mount.

How many parts can you name:

Fun: Play the game at <http://www.i-uspc.org/games/pony.htm>



- |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 14. | 27. |
| 2.  | 15. | 28. |
| 3.  | 16. | 29. |
| 4.  | 17. | 30. |
| 5.  | 18. | 31. |
| 6.  | 19. | 32. |
| 7.  | 20. | 33. |
| 8.  | 21. | 34. |
| 9.  | 22. | 35. |
| 10. | 23. | 36. |
| 11. | 24. | 37. |
| 12. | 25. | 38. |
| 13. | 26. |     |

- Name and describe six colors of mounts.

Try naming the colors of these horses and give the description of the color:

	<p><b>Color:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>
	<p><b>Color:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>
	<p><b>Color:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>
	<p><b>Color:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>



**Color:**  
**Description:**



**Color:**  
**Description:**



**Color:**  
**Description:**

- Name and describe five markings of mounts.

	<p><b>Name of Marking:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>
	<p><b>Name of Marking:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>
	<p><b>Name of Marking:</b> <b>Description:</b></p>

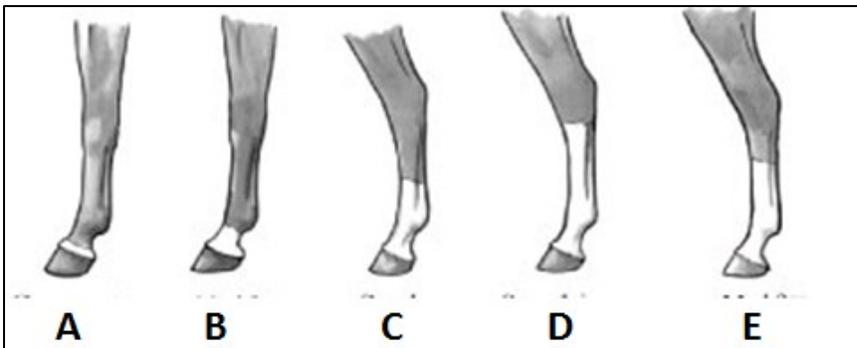


**Name of Marking:**  
**Description:**



**Name of Marking:**  
**Description:**

Can you identify these leg markings:



- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

- *Name six horse or pony breeds.*

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

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### TRAVEL SAFETY

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- *Know the basic rules for riding on public roads in your state.*

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

- *Name two ways you can help your mount be safe in a trailer.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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## RECORD BOOK

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- *Bring a stall card for own mount to show examiner Discuss what is included on a stall card.*

**Fill out a stall card for your horse:**

[http://www.ponyclub.org/resource/collection/FF3942AF-A93A-4A82-AD78-D2FA9B588C87/HM-Stall\\_Card.pdf](http://www.ponyclub.org/resource/collection/FF3942AF-A93A-4A82-AD78-D2FA9B588C87/HM-Stall_Card.pdf)

**What are some of the information that needs to be on a stall card:**

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

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## HEALTH CARE & VETERINARY KNOWLEDGE

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- *Give two reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.*

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

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## LAND CONSERVATION

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- *Talk with grandparents, parents, instructors and/or older friends/neighbors about where they rode when they were young and how it is different from today.*

**Who did you talk to:**

**Where did they ride when they were younger:**

**What was different in riding when they were younger?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Did you learn anything interesting from your conversation?**

1.

2.

***Remember to thank them!***

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## **LEADING & LONGEING**

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- *Lead mount correctly in hand and while tacked up.*

**What side of the pony should you be on?**

**Where should your hands be?**

**How should you hold the lead rope?**

**How do you turn your pony?**

- *Do walk-halt-walk transitions in hand.*
- *Lead mount in and out of stall safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick-release knot.*

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## FOOT & SHOEING

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- *Know reasons for daily hoof care.*
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- *Give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your mount*
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

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## BANDAGING

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- *Give two reasons why you would bandage a mount's leg(s).*
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- *Demonstrate (with assistance of examiner) how to apply protective boots and bell boots, if appropriate, to mount's leg.*

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## RIDING EXPECTATIONS

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***Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and trot, and should begin to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences.***

### **Riding on the Flat**

- *Ride on flat using Riding Expectations.*
- *Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).*
- *Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.*
- *Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this.*
- *Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.*
- *Ride without stirrups at the walk.*
- *Demonstrate emergency dismount at the walk.*
- *Ride at the trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and large circles.*
- *Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.*
- *Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area.*
- *Discuss performance with Examiner, indicating whether or not mount was on correct lead.*

### **Riding Over Fences**

- *Ride over fences using Riding Expectations.*
- *Maintain jumping position at the trot on the flat and over ground poles.*
- *In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course of four to five obstacles of cross rails and verticals (no spreads). The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 18".*
- *Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride.*

### **Riding in the Open**

- *Ride safely and considerately, on a suitable mount, on public or private property, in a group, at the walk and trot.*
- *Ride with control, up and down hills, at the walk and trot.*
- *Jump a minimum of three simple and natural obstacles. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 18" in height or 18" in width. No ditches, banks or water. All fences may be jumped at the trot.*