



C STANDARD

Part 1: Riding

Recommended study:

- Yard Safety Achievement Badge
- Countryside Access Achievement Badge
- The Manual of Horsemanship – Book 1: Fundamentals

OBJECTIVES

- To be working towards a secure correct, balanced seat independent of the reins and to understand why this is important
- To apply simple aids correctly
- To be in control of the pony on the roads and in the countryside
- To understand why there are rules for riding in the countryside

SAFETY (Dismounted discussion)

1. List what you should be wearing when riding in the countryside or leading a pony on the road; explain why each item on your list is important
2. Show how to work safely with a pony when dismounted
3. **Explain how you would ride in the countryside and on bridle paths, showing an awareness of farmers' stock and crops**

TRAINING PONIES (Dismounted discussion)

4. Explain how positive reinforcement works when training a pony
5. Talk about how pressure and release works when training a pony
6. **Describe how you could get a pony used to something scary (desensitisation)**
7. Understand that ponies are herd animals; give an example of when this might be a problem and how you might avoid it
8. **Describe some of the things that a pony might do if it is in pain, frightened, or insufficiently trained**

RIDING

9. Present to the test in safe, tidy turn out
10. Check bridle, saddle, girth, and stirrups before mounting
11. Mount and dismount correctly on both sides, using a mounting block

12. Hold the reins correctly and at a suitable length for the work being done
13. Ride with stirrups of a suitable length
14. Alter stirrups when mounted
15. Tighten girth when mounted
16. **Be working towards a balanced seat, independent of the reins**
17. **Use legs and hands as aids to increase and decrease pace**
18. Show the difference between walking on a contact and on a long rein
19. Ride in balance without stirrups in walk and trot
20. Explain the difference between rhythm and tempo
21. Describe the sequence of legs in walk, trot, canter, and gallop
22. **Show trot and canter in a balanced light seat with stirrups at a suitable length**
23. Ride in a correct, balanced position in walk and trot over poles on the ground
24. **Ride in a correct, balanced position over small fences (maximum height, 60 cm)**
25. Show a smooth progression from one fence to the next
26. **Know the correct distances for trotting poles (in feet, yard or metres) for the pony you are riding**
27. Ride safely in closed and open order in a group
28. Ride independently in the open; explain why this might be a problem for a herd animal and suggest a solution
29. Ride up and down hills in walk and trot in suitable balance

Test notes:

- All content covered in lower tests may be reassessed in this test
- The items shown in bold are particularly important; competence in these items will be given emphasis by the assessor when considering the result
- The D and D+ Tests must be achieved before taking the C Test

Recommended Minimum age: 11 years

Felt Colour for Full Test: Green

Riding Only: Silver Grey

Care Only: Meadow Green

Please Note: The assessor team reserves the right to withdraw any candidate at any stage if there are concerns about the welfare of the horse or pony they are riding, or the safety of others. All decisions will be made in line with The Pony Club's commitment to safeguarding and animal welfare.

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