

C+ STANDARD PART 1: RIDING

Recommended study:

- Social Licence Advanced Achievement Badge
- Learning Theory Advanced Achievement Badge
- **The Spurs Test and PC Guidelines on the Use of Spurs**
- Building Show Jumps Advanced Achievement Badge

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, it is recommended that riders be required to ride other candidates' ponies/horses for some flatwork.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the importance of putting equine welfare first
- To show some understanding of learning theory and equine behaviour
- To become an enthusiastic, educated, and practical rider
- To be capable of riding a well-mannered pony or horse in a variety of Pony Club activities
- To ride intelligently and with due regard for others on the roads and in the countryside, showing understanding of 'going', pace, distance, and your pony or horse's level of fitness

SAFETY (Dismounted discussion)

1. **Talk about how you would keep yourself safe when riding**
2. **Explain how to keep others, including the ponies/horses, safe when riding in a group**

WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES (Dismounted discussion)

3. Describe what it feels like to ride a pony or horse that is lame
4. **Talk about what it feels like to ride a pony or horse that is tired**
5. **Describe what it feels like to ride a pony or horse that is stressed**
6. List the dangers of over-working a pony or horse that is overweight or unfit
7. **Understand the welfare issues surrounding the use of spurs**

TRAINING PONIES AND HORSES (Dismounted discussion)

8. **List the first three points in the Scale of Training**
9. Explain negative reinforcement (pressure and release) and give one example of how it applies to ridden work
10. Discuss how you would recognise a correct response from your pony/horse to the aids
11. Give one example of how and when you could use positive reinforcement (scratching, food) in training ponies/horses during ridden work.
12. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using positive reinforcement in training
13. Give an example of a behavioural problem and how you might correct it
14. **Cover the outline of The Spurs Test**
15. Explain the importance of timing when correcting a pony's/horse's mistake
16. Explain the importance of monitoring a pony's/horse's level of stress or excitement when training
17. Explain to the importance of progressive /easy achieve steps when training ponies/horses

FLAT WORK

18. **Discuss the advantages to your pony/horse of maintaining a correct riding position**
19. Ride in balance without stirrups in walk, trot and canter, without spurs
20. **Work towards a correct, supple, balanced position**
21. Ride a variety of turns and circles demonstrating rider straightness and balance of the pony/horse that is suitable for its stage of training
22. Ride a variety of transitions, showing increase and decrease of pace including a balanced change of leg at canter through trot and be able to talk about the pony/horse during these transitions
23. Show 'turn on the forehand', from halt, in both directions
24. Know the aids for, and show, leg yielding at walk

25. Ride with reins in one hand
26. Describe the response to the aids of the pony or horse that you are riding
27. Describe the extent to which the pony/horse that you are riding is working forwards in a suitable rhythm and tempo, relaxed and calm
28. Comment on the suppleness of the pony/horse that you are riding
29. Understand the reasons for the tack and equipment the pony/horse you are riding is wearing
30. **If spurs are worn, explain the reasons why, in detail and with understanding**

JUMPING

31. **Ride with stirrups of a suitable length for undulating ground and jumping**
32. **Work towards a correct, supple, balanced position over fences**
33. Jump a variety of show jumping and cross-country fences, including combination fences (maximum height, 80 cm)
34. Jump up and down slopes
35. Identify which of the fences you jumped was the best and explain why
36. Understand and discuss distances for trotting poles on the ground for the pony/horse you are riding
37. Understand and discuss distances for a two-stride double for the pony/horse you are riding
38. Explain what is meant by the term 'related distances between fences'
39. Show and/or discuss the immediate care of your pony/horse on finishing the cross country

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
- D, D+ and full C Test must be achieved before taking the C+. If a member is over 16 years, following assessment they may enter directly at C+ level.

Recommended Minimum age: 13 years

Felt Colours:

Riding + Horse and Pony Care sections: Pink

Riding section only: Burgundy

Horse and Pony Care section only: Turquoise

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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