

PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA
SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

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**SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**
General Conditions for Efficiency Tests
The expected outcomes are shown in italics.

AGES / CERTIFICATE COLOURS

Minimum ages for Candidates undertaking the Tests, and Certificate colours

D Standard	7 years	Yellow
D* Standard	9 years	Lime green
C Standard	12 years	Green
K Standard	14 years	Purple
C* Standard	14 years	Pink
B Standard – Horse Care	15 years	Brown
B Standard – Riding	16 years	Red
B Standard (Restricted Jumping)	16 years	White
H Standard	17 years	Orange
A Standard	17 years	Blue

PRE-REQUISITES:

Standards D, C, C* or K, B - Horsemastership, B - Riding, and A, must be gained in that order, i.e. each is a pre-requisite for the higher standard. There is no pre-requisite for the H Certificate.

EXAMINERS:

An Examiner within a Club may test for D and D*. Each State must have a panel of examiners. Examiners should not test in their own Club unless circumstances, such as excessive distance, make this necessary.

To remain on the Examiners' Panel, Examiners must be active members of a Pony Club and attend current refresher courses conducted by their State. The names of Examiners on the Panel will be reviewed by each State every three years.

EXAMINATION CREDITS:

Any section of a Test passed by the candidate will be held as credit/s until such time as all sections are passed (maximum two years from original practical examination date).

WRITTEN PAPERS:

All written tests **must** be passed prior to the practical examination. For certificates above “C” level written papers **must** be passed before the day of the practical assessment. It is recommended that written papers be taken with enough time to allow supplementary papers to be completed prior to the practical test.

Should candidates have difficulty in expressing themselves in writing for the written paper at any standard, it is permissible for questions to be answered orally, to use a tape recorder, or for an adult to write the answers as directed by the candidate. If an adult writer is used, it is desirable that the person not be a horseperson or be related to the candidate.

Suggested times allowed for completion of written papers are:

C Standard	30 minutes
C* Standard	1 hour
K Standard	1 hour
B Standard	2 hours
H Standard	2½ to 3 hours
A Standard	2½ to 3 hours

PASS MARKS FOR WRITTEN PAPERS:

65% for all written papers. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit a supplementary paper.

SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN TESTS:

PASS MARK TO BE 65% FOR ALL EXAMINATION PAPERS. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit another paper. Candidates not passing the second paper must reapply at the next intake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS FOR PRACTICAL SECTIONS:

Supplementary testing must be completed as follows:

C, C Star & K min 3 months max 2 years from date of original examination

B, A, H min 6 months max 2 years from date of original examination

Candidates must be assessed to have reached the standard required prior to re-presenting for the practical tests.

Where possible one of the original examiners should be used for the supplementary test in consultation with the State Panel.

Should a candidate fail a Supplementary Test the full Certificate must be retaken.

WORKBOOKS:

Work certificates are required for K Standard and are recommended for C Star, B, A and H. Sheets are available from State Offices/Clubs. It is recommended that candidates keep a record of their own Pony Club experience.

PRESENTATION:

Candidates must wear formal Pony Club uniform for presentation and discipline appropriate uniform for all practical tests.

No jewellery to be worn. (Exception—Medic Alert bracelets)

Presentation of horse—See individual Test.

HORSES:

Horses used by the candidates for practical examinations must be the rider's qualified mount as per state rules.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD C

Minimum age of Candidate ... 12 years

STANDARD C CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES:

Candidates should be encouraged to ride in snaffle bits wherever possible. If another bit is used, the candidate should know the name and understand its action.

The rider should be able to maintain consistent contact through the reins.

In checking diagonals or leading leg, the candidate may drop the eyes to look at the shoulders, but may not drop the head or lean forward.

Ideally the concept of 'feel' through the seat should be introduced here.

The forward jumping position/s with a steady lower leg should be established by the time of the test.

Candidates may hold on to the mane or a correctly fitted neck strap over the jump.

PRE-REQUISITE:

D Certificate

EXAMINER:

Refer to the section on Examiners on Page 3.

OBJECTIVES:

- To attain a balanced seat, independent of the reins on the flat and over small fences.
- To show control of the pony at all paces.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of horse handling and horse care as outlined below.

EXAMINATION FORMAT:

- Written paper to be passed prior to commencing practical tests.
- Presentation.
- Riding.
- Jumping.
- Horse Handling and Horse Care and General Knowledge.

Testing may include any previous work in the Syllabus including pre-requisite Certificate work.

A pass must be gained in all four sections, even if some supplementary work is necessary.

WRITTEN PAPER:

Approximate time — 30 minutes.

PRESENTATION:

Rider to wear formal Pony Club uniform.

Uniform to be clean and tidy. Boots must be clean.

Horse clean and tidy but not necessarily clean to the skin, especially in cold weather. Plaiting not required.

The horse must be well groomed and have clean eyes, nostrils and dock. The mane and tail must be washed.

Hooves clean and showing evidence of care.

The horse must be appropriately trimmed or shod.

Clean and correctly fitted gear.

The bridle and bit must be clean, and fit correctly. The saddle must fit correctly. All saddlery must be in good repair.

RIDING:

Mount and dismount from either side. A mounting block may be used.

Candidate must

- *mount and dismount correctly from either side, reins must be held correctly*
- *hold the pommel, not the cantle, when mounting and land softly in the saddle. The horse must not move forward when being mounted.*

Alter stirrups whilst mounted and demonstrate how to tighten girth while mounted.

While adjusting the stirrups and tightening the girth, the candidate must keep the foot in the stirrup at all times and must not let go of the reins.

Balance exercises at the halt and walk.

The candidate must be able to demonstrate that their seat is independent of the reins at walk by standing in their stirrups without falling back or using the reins to balance.

Ride with reins in either hand at walk, trot and canter.

The candidate must

- *hold the reins correctly in one hand*
- *be able to correctly change the reins from one hand to the other*
- *be able to steer and stop the horse with the reins in one hand.*

Knowledge of and correct use of natural aids.

The rider must

- *be able to name three natural aids*
- *be able to explain the basic aids to make the pony go forward and stop.*

Change direction at all paces.

The candidate must have control of the direction of the horse throughout the test.

Increase and decrease pace in both trot and canter.

Knowledge of paces and footfalls.

The candidate must know beat and footfalls of walk, trot, canter and gallop.

Walk and trot on a long rein.

The candidate must

- *know the difference between long and loose rein*
- *maintain the same speed when giving a long rein demonstrating that the rider's seat is independent of the rein.*
- *be able to steer and control the speed of the horse on a long rein.*

Walk and trot without stirrups and sitting trot for short periods.

The candidate must

- *be able to maintain a relatively secure position without unduly upsetting the horse*
- *be able to maintain the speed and line. Pommel of the saddle should be used to re-establish position.*

Know and use the correct diagonal.

The rider must be able to identify which diagonal they are riding on and be able to change the diagonal if incorrect.

Recognise leading leg at canter.

The horse must canter when asked and maintain the canter. The rider must know if their horse is on the correct leading leg (rider may drop eyes to check).

The rider must maintain balance without using the reins.

Canter on a nominated leading leg.

A corner or curve may be used to achieve this.

Hand Gallop.

The candidate must

- *go as fast as they can reasonably be expected to go, considering terrain and ground conditions and horse*
- *be in a forward seat and maintain control at all times - the horse must slow down when asked.*
- *know whether they have galloped or not (i.e. 3 or 4 beats).*
- *return down through the paces calmly.*

Show proficiency in active riding.

This could be mounted games, bareback riding, polocrosse, sporting or any activity as approved by the examiner.

JUMPING:

The candidate should be capable of:

Jumping fences of minimum 45 cm and maximum 70 cm including spread fences.

Jumping combinations with a minimum of one non-jumping stride.

Riding a small showjumping course.

The candidate must

- *have basic knowledge of how to walk a showjumping course and why*
- *demonstrate a balanced jumping position*
- *allow the horse freedom to round over the fence by adequately allowing with the hands over the fence (correctly fitted neckstraps are recommended).*
- *present the horse with a straight approach to each fence*
- *have basic knowledge of rules*

Riding over varied terrain, including some cross country obstacles.

The rider must maintain a balanced position over varied terrain including obstacles.

HORSE HANDLING:

Pick up and clean out hind feet.

Candidate to be able to pick up and clean out hind feet.

Tie a pony up with a correctly fitted adjustable halter OR headcollar.

The horse must be tied up in a suitable place, with the rope the correct length. A quick release knot must be used.

HORSE CARE:

Paddocking:

Describe what to look for when choosing a paddock for your horse.

Candidate to recognise safe fencing, good water supply, shade/shelter, pasture quality, paddock hazards

Feeding, Watering, Conditioning:

Outline a daily feeding and watering routine of own pony.

Know what their own horse is fed. State five rules for feeding.

Preparation for a Pony Club camp.

List four things you would do to prepare your horse for a camp.

Grooming, Trimming:

Grooming and washing of own pony.

Candidate to

- *identify the contents of a grooming kit and explain the uses of each item (body brush, dandy brush, curry comb, water brush, hoof pick, comb, sponges, towel, bot knife).*
- *groom their own horse to "C" standard - clean but not clean to the skin.*
- *know when it is appropriate to wash a horse and understand what care needs to be taken.*

Care of Feet and Shoeing:

Elementary knowledge of shoeing and care of the feet.

Candidate must

- *know how often a horse should be shod and understand when a horse needs shoeing or re-shoeing*
- *understand care of the unshod foot.*
- *know the basic procedure used by the farrier when trimming a hoof and when putting on a shoe.*

Explain the use of farrier's tools.

Candidate to identify the following tools: buffer, hammer, pincers, cutters, knife, rasp.

Transport of horses:

Prepare a horse for travel.

The candidate must

- *prepare a horse for travel using bandages or boots and a tail bandage*
- *consider safety when applying bandages or boots*

Health, Ailments, Injuries:

Recognise health and condition of own pony.

List five signs of a healthy horse: coat condition, bright eyes, clear nostrils, alertness, skin condition.

The Candidate should have knowledge of:

- *prevention and treatment of girth gall, sore back, and sore mouth.*
- *prevention of tetanus.*
understand the need to vaccinate and know how often boosters should be given
- *worm and bot control. Knowledge of particular worms not required.*
understand how often a horse should be wormed and the necessity of changing the active chemical

- Basic First Aid Kit for horses.
know what a basic first aid kit should contain

When to call the Veterinarian.

Candidate to show some understanding of when a horse requires professional veterinary treatment and to have the ability to notice that all is not well and understand that treatment may be needed.

Know causes and prevention of Laminitis (founder).

Candidate to know symptoms, causes and prevention of laminitis.

Know common causes of injuries.

Have the ability to notice objects, practices or activities that may result in injury to horses.

Know signs and symptoms of:

- Cold
- Colic
- Greasy heel
- Lameness
- Minor wounds
- Seedy toe
- Stone in the foot
- Strangles
- Swelling and heat in the leg or foot
- Thrush

Know the Horse:

Points of the horse, colours, and markings.

The candidate must

- *know points of the horse including poll, point of hip, dock, hind quarters, gaskin, flank, stifle, jowl, breast, ribs, coronet, pastern, fetlock, cannon bone, forearm, chestnut and ergot*
- *be able to identify basic colours of nominated horses*
- *be able to identify basic face and leg markings of nominated horses*
- *be able to describe their own horse and fill in an Identification Form as required by their state.*

Measure the height of a horse.

The candidate must

- *know how to measure a horse*
- *understand the units of measurement.*

Care of the teeth and the reasons why they need attention.

Candidate to understand why a horse's teeth get sharp and to know how often they should be checked

Saddlery and Equipment:

Care and fit of saddle and bridle.

Candidate to

- *fit their own saddle in the correct position on the horse's back for safety and the comfort of the horse*
- *understand pommel and gullet clearance*
- *use a saddle blanket of appropriate size that creating no pressure points*
- *know how to tell if a bridle and bit is correctly fitted for safety and the comfort of the horse*
- *know how to care for saddlery.*

Parts of saddlery and uses.

Candidate to

- *know the parts of the saddle: cantle, waist, gullet, sweat flap*
- *be able to describe and understand the use of a martingale, breastplate, surcingle and a crupper.*

Fit, use and care of rugs.

Candidate to

- *consider safety aspects of rugging the horse*
- *rug a quiet horse*
- *demonstrate how to fold a rug and place on the horse*
- *know when to use and when not to use rugs.*
- *explain the correct fitting of rugs*
- *know how to care for rugs.*

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

Know the names of Pony Club Zone personnel.

Knowledge of local area and horse places of special interest.

Local equestrian personalities.

Knowledge of Pony Club Competitions as applicable to their state.