

Mounted Skills (C-1 Western)

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over obstacles and patterns demonstrating a basic western balanced position and use of natural aids. The candidate should begin riding mount freely forward in balance and rhythm while developing a light contact appropriate to bit and an independent seat.

The C-1 check-list is a valuable tool to evaluate a member's readiness to test. It is recommended that this check-list be used to evaluate a candidate no earlier than 90 days prior to the certification. The evaluator should sign the "Signature" block when a candidate satisfactorily performs the necessary skills while demonstrating both horse management and riding expectations for the standard without instruction/coaching. If the member is not able to demonstrate the standard, the evaluator should provide detailed comments on what improvements the candidate needs to make in order to demonstrate the standard. An evaluator must be able to give an impartial evaluation of the candidate's proficiency at the standard. The "D-1 through C-2 Examiner's Handbook" and the last page of the "Standards of Proficiency" outlines the qualities of an examiner that is appropriate to use.

Signature
&
Date

Riding on the Flat

- Ride test consistently demonstrating Riding Expectations.
- Demonstrate supplying exercises for rider without stirrups at walk.
- Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work.
- Discuss candidate's warm-up for both rider and mount with examiner.
- Work mount at walk, jog and lope, with smooth transitions, demonstrating correct bend, performing straight lines on centerline, and quarter lines. Ride large and small circles and figure eights with simple transitions at each gait.
- Demonstrate long, loose and light contact at walk.
- Back 2-3 steps.
- Discuss aids for and then demonstrate a simple turn-around (spin) in each direction.
- Discuss performance with examiner on the following; the rider's basic western balanced position, whether or not mount was moving freely forward in balance and rhythm, and whether rider established a light contact (appropriate to bit) and use of natural aids.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Obstacles and Patterns

- Ride through obstacles and patterns as per Riding Expectations.
- Ride over small gymnastic grid of poles set at appropriate length for mount. Demonstrate proper hand position for mount over poles.
- Complete an obstacle course of six to ten obstacles, to include poles (walk and jog over), halt, walk, jog, lope, back with a change of direction, turns, side-passing, a single-hand maneuver (such as a gate or pick-up), and navigation around cones or upright poles.
- Complete a simple pattern
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including steadiness of pace and ways ride could be improved.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with control in a group, on a suitable mount, at the walk, jog and lope
- Discuss and demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, incorporating as many of the following elements as local conditions allow: hills, small/shallow ditches, flat open areas and shallow streams as available.
- Discuss performance with Examiner giving reasons for any disobedience.

Evaluator's Comments: