

Mounted Skills (C-2 Western)

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over obstacles and patterns, demonstrating a secure western balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate should begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact appropriate to bit.

The C-2 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
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Date

Riding on the Flat

- Discuss the meaning of the Riding Expectations. Ride consistently demonstrating riding test expectations. Demonstrate warm-up for flat work including rider exercises.
- Discuss candidate's warm-up for rider and mount.
- Discuss warm-up schedule for three different activities of candidate's choice.
- Work mount at walk, jog and lope, changing directions at least twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm, balance and impulsion and smooth transitions.
- Demonstrate large and small circles, figure-8s, serpentines and work on the center or quarter lines to develop suppleness and straightness.
- Demonstrate walk to extended walk, jog to extended jog.
- Stop squarely and stand quietly for five seconds.
- Ride mount without stirrups at all gaits.
- Discuss aids for and demonstrate a reinback of 2-3 steps.
- Discuss aids for and then demonstrate leg yield at walk.
- Develop a hand gallop from a lope and return to lope smoothly.
- Perform 2-3 simple-turn around (spins) in each direction.
- Discuss performance with examiner including the rider's position, and whether mount was moving forward in balance and rhythm.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Obstacles and Patterns

- Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups and rein length for different types of work.
- Develop a plan of how to ride an obstacle course.
- Ride course according to plan.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including whether control was maintained throughout the course.
- Riders should demonstrate secure Western basic balanced position over obstacles, showing control and use of aids.
- Develop plan to ride a pattern.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including whether control was maintained throughout the pattern.

Evaluator's Comments

Riding in the Open

- Ride in a group at the walk, jog and lope on a suitable mount.
- Demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, as conditions allow. Discuss safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e. water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement.
- Ride over five to seven obstacles.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including reasons for any disobedience.

Evaluator's Comments: