

## D Level Testing Rubric Western Ontario Region Pony Club 2020

### STABLE MANAGEMENT PHASE

*Rubric Scoring Criteria - Scores Presented are Landmarks; All Scores from 0-10 Are Valid if Consistent*



	<b>4 (Unsatisfactory)</b>	<b>6 (Almost Sufficient)</b>	<b>6.5 (Sufficient / Pass)</b>	<b>8 (Good)</b>	<b>10 (Excellent)</b>
<u>Candidate's Turnout</u> Medical armband required.	As per 6 but a general untidy appearance with inappropriate footwear.	As per 6.5 however key items such as appropriate boots or gloves required prompting to fix, hair in serious disarray / not brushed, or missing gloves.	Basic efforts are made to have a prepared appearance. Clothes are clean, may have wrinkles/minor dirt, shirt untucked but corrected with prompting. Jeans, work pants or tidy (not baggy) track pants. Paddock boots or other barn workwear (no sneakers, etc). Helmet. Gloves. Medical armband in place or fixed with prompting. Missing Pony Club pin or Crest.	As per 6.5 but overall a simple and clean appearance with hair tied back / braided / hair net if long. Pony Club Crest in medical armband and visible, Pony Club pin on label of clothing, position in a similar location if no lapel, or in medical armband. No prompting required to address issues.	As per 8 with a sharp work-like appearance - fitted, collared/sleeved shirt (e.g., polo) tucked in with a professional look. Pony Club Crest in medical armband and visible, Pony Club pin on lapel of clothing, position in a similar location if no lapel, or in medical armband.
<u>Your Pony</u> 20 simple parts of the pony.	5 parts of the pony named with encouragement	9 or less parts of the pony named	10 correctly named parts of the pony at the choice of the candidate, named with encouragement.	14 parts with minor encouragement, with only 2 small mistakes (ie, nose instead of muzzle, etc), largely picked by the candidate except if prompting is needed to keep them going.	Easily name 20 parts key points being: Poll, forelock, ears, crest, mane, neck, withers, back, dock, tail, hoof, hock, fetlock, quarters, barrel, shoulder, neck elbow, knee, cannon bone, pastern, muzzle - as outlined in workbook.
<u>Handling</u> Approach and put on its halter, with assistance if necessary. Manner and safety.	Repeated and serious safety concerns.	Candidate makes minor safety errors that are corrected with prompting and not repeated.	Candidate approaches in an effective but tentative manner with encouragement, using assistance if needed due to size issues. Safe, and gets it done with prompting/assistance.	Candidate handles horse/pony independently and safely without prompting, with assistance for size issues as needed.	Candidate handles horse with extreme confidence and safety with assistance for size issues as needed. Halts horse/pony with ease and fluidity.
Lead at walk.	Repeated and serious safety concerns.	Candidate makes minor safety errors that are corrected with prompting and not repeated.	With encouragement the candidate can lead a pony safely at the walk, but demonstrates areas for improvement (lead moderately long, hand or body position in a place of lower effectiveness but not a safety concern).	Candidate can lead horse/pony efficiently with only a couple minor areas for improvement that happen only briefly (lead slightly long, hand position slightly out of place, candidate slightly behind or ahead of shoulder, etc).	Horse/pony is led with confidence and authority at all times at the walk with no issues of any kind.

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Tie a quick release knot.	Candidate is unable to complete a knot within several tries	With very direct coaching the candidate can tie a quick release knot within 4 attempts.	With encouragement / prompting the candidate can tie a quick release knot within 4 attempts, with minor areas for improvement such as not enough rope to pull with.	Candidate completes the knot with appropriate tension and length on the first or second attempt. Can discuss why they are used with prompting.	Candidate easily completes the knot with appropriate tension, length on the first attempt. Clear and direct answer to question on why they are used.
<u>Saddlery</u> Simple parts of the saddle. All parts of the bridle.	Candidate demonstrates a minimal attempt to answer the questions even if incorrect, and gets no more than 2 parts for bridle and saddle correct.	Candidate can name with encouragement: At least 3 of: pommel, cantle, seat, stirrup irons, stirrup leathers, billet straps, and D rings At least 3 of: browband, headpiece, cheek piece, cavesson noseband, throat latch, bit, reins OR: Can name all but 2 or less parts of either bridle or saddle	Candidate can name with encouragement: At least 6 of: pommel, cantle, seat, stirrup irons, stirrup leathers, skirt, flap, panels, girth At least 6 of: browband, head/crown piece, cheek piece, keeper, runner, cavesson noseband, throat latch, bit, reins	Candidate names all parts covered under the "10" column with only minor encouragement and/or errors (saying noseband instead of cavesson noseband).	Candidate can name and identify pommel, cantle, seat, stirrup irons, stirrup leathers, skirt, flap, panels, girth in a direct and confident manner. Similar for browband, headpiece, cheek piece, keeper, runner, cavesson noseband, throat latch, bit, reins (no specific type identification needed).
Clean your bit. Two reasons for cleaning tack.	With encouragement and prompting attempts at two incorrect answers.	With encouragement/prompting One basic answer correct and an attempt at a second. Bit clean with only small debris missed.	With encouragement/prompting basic two answers and bit clean with only small debris missed	Good answers with only minor lacks in clarity or a need for encouragement, bit is cleaned well.	Thorough and complete answers delivered with authority. Perfectly clean bit. Identifies how to clean and what is used. Can in very simple terms identify why a clean bit is important (e.g., sores/uncomfortable pony).
<u>Feeding</u> What it eats and drinks & importance of water. Feed a treat.	Candidate is unable to describe the pony eats hay/grass, and that it drinks water, or persists in unsafe practices in how a treat is fed by hand even when corrected.	Similar to a score of 6.5, but with minor issues with safety when feeding a treat by hand such as a lack of straightness or open fingers. Candidate corrects the method and shows it successfully.	Candidate can answer, with encouragement/prompting, that horses and ponies eat hay or grass and drink water. Treat is fed with encouragement with a flat hand with closed fingers.	Confident answers as per 6.5 with the mention of water always being available as well as salt. Confident and correct feeding of treat.	Answered with confidence and authority going above and beyond into details on all aspects. Candidate shows thorough understanding of all descriptive terms used.

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<u>Grooming</u> Identify and use dandy brush and curry comb. Common sense way of working around a pony.	Multiple minor safety issues repeated without self identification/correction, major safety issue such as ducking under the horse, uses brushes generally correct	Candidate identifies the brushes but switches names - otherwise uses them with a generally correct approach as per 6.5. OR Candidate makes a minor safety issue mistake as per 6.5 but requires prompt to correct, and then does not repeat.	Candidate can identify a dandy brush and curry comb. General approach to use of each is correct (flicking motions for dandy brush, circles for curry comb). Any minor safety safety issues (dropping to a knee, ducking under the neck, etc) are self identified/corrected and not repeated.	Candidate can identify a dandy brush and curry comb. General approach to use of each brush is correct (flicking motions for dandy brush, circles for curry comb). Order correct. Mostly thorough.	Candidate can identify a dandy brush and curry comb confidently. Approach to use of each brush is correct (flicking motions for dandy brush, circles for curry comb) and use is thorough. Confident methodical horsemanship. Can describe order of use and why each is used (its purpose).
<u>Stable &amp; Pasture</u> Its home, habits, likes and dislikes. How it keeps warm in winter.	Minimal answers to only 2 topics with an incorrect attempt at how the horse/pony keeps warm.	With prompting can provide a basic description of the living environment, with prompting able to discuss shelter is important, anything reasonable for likes and dislikes that shows empathy and caring. Candidate can with prompting discuss the idea of blankets or a longer winter hair coat.	Can provide a basic description of the living environment, with prompting able to discuss shelter is important, anything reasonable for likes and dislikes that shows empathy and caring. Candidate can with prompting discuss the idea of blankets or a longer winter hair coat.	Provides a confident basic answer as per 6.5 with minimal if any prompting. Answers drawn from real-life experiences/knowledge.	Answered with confidence and authority going above and beyond into clear descriptive details. In very basic terms can describe aspects of an outdoor home that are constructed (shelters) and natural (trees for shade/windbreaks).  Candidate shows thorough understanding of all descriptive terms used.

**NOTES**

Reminder: D level riders are not assessed on tacking up. Stable management questions are to be done individually (there is no method of assessing the candidates individual skills for these questions/tasks, with the exception of tying a quick release knot as a group exercise if appropriate).

The preparation of the horse for the testing can be done with assistance at this level; prior to turning out for testing the horse should be fully groomed, feet picked out, etc. After riding the other parts of grooming not assessed the candidate can be assisted with (ie, picking out feet) and the untacking of bridle and saddle. D level riders are not assessed on removing tack.

In assessing for extra mastery that could result in a 10, examiners must ensure the candidate does not feel they are “wrong” or “don’t know something” for not meeting that level of mastery. Ideally the 10 level is assessed organically in the level of response offered, rather than further quizzing of the candidate that they might not be successful with.

## D Level Testing Rubric Western Ontario Region Pony Club 2020

### RIDING PHASE

*Rubric Scoring Criteria - Scores Presented are Landmarks; All Scores from 0-10 Are Valid if Consistent*



	4 (Unsatisfactory)	6 (Almost Sufficient)	6.5 (Sufficient / Pass)	8 (Good)	10 (Excellent)
<p><u>Turn Out</u> Pony and rider. Medical armband required.</p>	<p>Uncorrected serious grooming issues such as large caked mud under girth, or rider clothing or horse tack is a safety issue (as this would stop the test, it would be very unusual for this to be something that cannot be corrected!).</p>	<p>Similar to 6.5, with large initial areas of dirt including dirt under tack/girth corrected with prompting. Safety issue with clothing or tack (beyond assistance/prompting to adjust straps, etc -- ie, stirrup leathers with damaged stitching) corrected with prompting.</p>	<p>Horses or pony has no large caked or rough to the touch dirt. Some signs of dirt visible, ie.faint stable stains on white, but clear evidence that brushing was done to improve it. Mane and tail show signs of basic grooming; clear of large dirt (clumped mud, large amounts of bedding, etc), should appear tidy but does not need to be heavily brushed. Minor dirt around eyes/nose/ears.</p> <p>Tack is in suitable repair for safe riding. Bit cleanliness is corrected with prompting.</p> <p>Medical armband issues corrected with prompting/assistance, including position with prompting.</p> <p>Suitable riding attire - not baggy or unsafe and mostly clean. Show level clothes not required. Pony club pin and Crest not present.</p>	<p>Horse has a clean and tidy appearance; no dirt or stains are visible. Minor discoloration of an otherwise well groomed tail. Only minor dirt can be found by touch. Mane has a well brushed appearance. Tail may have small amounts of hay/bedding but otherwise appears tidy. Tail does not need to be heavily brushed.</p> <p>Tack has had a very basic wipe down and attempt to clean.</p> <p>Tidy presentation of the rider; clean and suitable clothes, helmet mostly clean, gloves mostly clean, footwear and half chaps if used most clean, breeches or jodhpurs mostly clean. Hair tied back (braid(s), ponytail) or in hairnet, All riding equipment and clothing can be of any colour. Pony Club Crest on left shoulder or in medical armband and visible, Pony Club pin on label of clothing, position in a similar location if no lapel, or in medical armband.</p>	<p>All characteristics of the 8 score, plus the horse has a very clean appearance similar to a recent bath; coat is very clean. Hooves have been wiped down with water or oil and present clean. Tail has had a tidy brush.</p> <p>No braiding or further mane care is required or encouraged for this level; mane may be uneven or thick, as long as it looks like it was well brushed.</p> <p>Tack has had a fair effort at cleaning and oiling, allowing for small areas of improvement (getting into creases, folds of the rein at the bit, etc).</p> <p>As per 8 for rider turnout with a very polished look; very clean and tidy. Colours of clothing and equipment do not matter. No show jacket. Pony Club Crest on left shoulder or in medical armband and visible, Pony Club pin on label of clothing, position in a similar location if no lapel, or in medical armband.</p>

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<p><u>Mount</u> Assist if necessary. Pick up reins. Exercise at halt.</p>	<p>Mounts but significant safety concerns that keep being repeated, including during the exercises.</p>	<p>With assistance if needed rider attempts to hold correct rein, crop if used under control, leg does not kick horse with prompting/assistance to correct.</p> <p>Errors in exercises such as letting go of reins required direct prompting to fix.</p>	<p>With assistance if needed rider attempts to hold correct rein, hands are mostly correct in placement, crop if used under control, does not kick horse. Mount without a disruption. Minor issues mounting that the candidate is aware of and tries to correct; leg too close to horses back, other potential issues that but minor and aware. Girth tightness checked with prompting, assistance allowed to get girth tight.</p> <p>Exercises done acceptably with encouragement, errors such as letting go of reins self corrected and fixed.</p>	<p>Mounts with crop if used in left hand and is controlled effectively; quiet pick up reins held correctly. Efficient leg swing over back/saddle with a mostly gentle seat into the saddle and taking up the stirrups with assistance. Assistance to hold the pony not a factor at this level.</p> <p>Can do any 4 of the following exercises with only minor shifts in position/balance, and in a manner that is unlikely to surprise the horse/pony: reach down with arm towards toes (arm same side as foot), reach up towards horse/pony ears, reach back towards horse/pony croup, arm circle each arm.</p>	<p>All of 8 plus sitting mostly tall once in saddle. Held reins appropriately (not loose) despite help while mounting. Leg position mostly under the candidate after mounting.</p> <p>Exercises as per 8, done promptly when asked and done with confidence.</p>
<p><u>Position</u> Walk, Halt. Shorten reins at halt.</p>	<p>Candidate is unable to have horse move between walk and halt. Safety concerns such as a significant and consistent lack of control.</p>	<p>Only with excessive prompting rider is mostly tall some of the time, leg under the rider some of time, heels occasionally mostly down (but could be further down or improved), with encouragement or a repeated effort can shorten reins. .</p>	<p>Position is mostly tall some of the time, leg close to under the rider some of time, heels mostly down (but could be further down or improved), with encouragement or a repeated effort can shorten reins. .</p>	<p>Position is mostly tall most of the time, leg under the rider most of time, heels effectively down, candidate can shorten reins effectively. Rider generally is looking where they are going most of the time.</p>	<p>Candidate maintains a correct position through all work without falter or prompting. Reins shortened to appropriate length on first attempt. No twist in reins.</p>
<p><u>Effectiveness</u> Turns. Keep straight across school. Ride on the rail.</p>	<p>Candidate turns with a direct and/or slightly open rein and stays within 10 ft of rail occasionally; rein aids inconsistent; turn and straightness not demonstrated. .</p>	<p>Candidate turns with a direct and/or slightly open rein and stays within 10 ft of rail occasionally; rein aids inconsistent. Can demonstrate turn and straightness with a second attempt and encouragement. .</p>	<p>Candidate turns with a direct and/or slightly open rein and stays within 10 ft of rail 50% of the time. Rein aids may be exaggerated but achieve outcome. Turn across school straight for roughly half. No requirement to maintain a rein without slack in it, as long as reins are short enough to be effective. Use of leg to turn not required at this level/score.</p>	<p>Candidate turns with a direct and/or slightly open rein and stays within 10 ft of rail 75% of the time. Rein aids simple but mostly correct. Turn across school may be slightly late but otherwise mostly straight. Rein length mostly correct. Evidence of knowledge of the use of leg for turning, either in riding or with prompting in discussion.</p>	<p>Candidate turns with a direct and/or slightly open rein and stays within 5 ft of rail all of the time. Rein aids simple but mostly correct. Turn across school accurate and straight. Rein length mostly correct. Leg used effectively for turning as well as rein.</p>

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Transitions: Halt, walk, halt.	Candidate able to demonstrate walk and halt but takes longer than approximately 10 seconds to achieve each transition most of the time. Quality of aids needs improvement.	Candidate able to demonstrate walk and halt but takes longer than approximately 10 seconds to achieve each transition some of the time.	Candidate able to demonstrate walk and halt within approximately 10 seconds of asking for each transition. Quality of aids need improvement.	Candidate able to demonstrate a prompt walk and halt transition as requested (<2 seconds) with visible but effective aids.	Prompt and direct transition as requested with precise aids. Aids are modified to suit horse/pony's reactions.
Maintain position in group ride at walk.	With prompting does not attempt to maintain a distance of 2-3 horse lengths most of the time.	Attempts to maintain a position in a group after prompting and continues to attempt to keep 2-3 horse lengths most of the time. Can describe safe riding when prompted.	aware and attempts corrects if too close, attempts 2-3 horse lengths most of the time, can describe safe riding when prompted.	Candidate maintains 2-3 horse lengths most of the time.	Always maintained a safe distance and showed clear planning and awareness of where they were in making choices to keep a safe distance, done in a confident and effective manner.
Trot in an enclosed area.	With encouragement or initial assistance by examiner to leave group, can trot one lap of a small arena or similar distance with efforts made with significant assistance to correct any loss of trot; not successful at the above within 3 re-attempts of this entire exercise. Rhythm of trot also mostly inconsistent.	With encouragement or initial assistance by examiner to leave group, can trot one lap of a small arena or similar distance with efforts made with significant assistance to correct any loss of trot; successful at the above within 3 re-attempts of this entire exercise. <b>OR</b> Rhythm of trot mostly inconsistent.	With encouragement or initial assistance by examiner to begin the trot (including examiner staying near the horse/pony, if needed) can trot most of one lap of a small arena - or part of a small circle if that is easier for the candidate(s). Exercise may be done as a group or individually or any combination thereof (ie, trotting around to the back of a group of riders on a small circle), whatever method allows for candidate success. Attempts made with or without encouragement/assistance to correct any loss of trot. Posting trot not required to score at this level, position may be loose but is stable at the trot. Success within 3 attempts at this exercise.	With encouragement or initial assistance by examiner to begin the trot can trot most of one lap of a small arena - or part of a small circle if that is easier for the candidate. Exercise may be done as a group or individually or any combination thereof (ie, trotting around to the back of a group of riders on a small circle), whatever method allows for candidate success.  Minimal assistance/encouragement to correct and loss of trot. Posting trot not required to score at this level. Position slightly loose but is stable. Completed on first or second attempt.	Can independently trot one lap or more of a small arena or a circle if that is easier for the candidate. Exercise may be done as a group or individually or any combination thereof (ie, trotting around to the back of a group of riders on a small circle), whatever method allows for candidate success.  Independently correct loss of trot. Posting trot with basic rhythm. Position slightly loose but is developing and safe, and relatively stable. Completed on first attempt.

	<b>4 (Unsatisfactory)</b>	<b>6 (Almost Sufficient)</b>	<b>6.5 (Sufficient / Pass)</b>	<b>8 (Good)</b>	<b>10 (Excellent)</b>
Walk & trot over poles on the ground. Randomly placed single poles & 3-4 poles in a row.	Significant steering issues and issues even attempting to maintain gaits.	Further issues from 6.5 - unable to correct a missed item within 3 attempts, or break of gaits not attempted to be corrected.	With prompting or assistance to get over all poles - no trot poles. Re-attempts up to 3 times to steer back for something missed acceptable; break of gait acceptable if noticed and eventually corrected with or without encouragement from examiner.	Minimal assistance (ie, leaving group if applicable) and gets over all poles mostly in the center, break of gait gets corrected.	Walks and trots over all poles confidently and in the centre with no break of gait. Paths around arena and between poles look planned and thought out.
<u>Dismount</u> Preparation to lead in hand.	Safety issues with dismount and a lack of awareness of them.	Loosens girth with prompting. Both feet not out of stirrups but corrected and done successfully with prompting. Crop under reasonable control or handed off. Attempt to run up stirrups. Students may or may not cross over safety stirrups before dismount.	Both feet out of stirrups. Crop under reasonable control or handed off. Attempt to run up stirrups. Students may or may not cross over safety stirrups before dismount. Reins over head and held appropriately. Loosens girth with prompting. Looping rein through arm unsafely -- towards elbow rather than near wrist -- while loosening girth corrected with prompting.	Both feet out of stirrups. Crop if used under control or handed off. Stirrups run up. Students may or may not cross over safety stirrups before dismount. Loosens girth without prompting. Reins over head and held appropriate and safely, including while loosening girth.	Both feet out of stirrups. Crop if used under reasonable control or handed off. Stirrups run up smoothly on the first attempt. Students may or may not cross over safety stirrups before dismount. Loosens girth without prompting. Reins over head and held appropriately, including while loosening girth.
Confidence and elementary riding knowledge.	Candidate rarely appears comfortable; loss of composure that is not adequately regained with encouragement. Overly tentative. Unable to describe the basics of turning, stop, go and/or one item of riding position (ie, heels down) even in a basic manner.	Candidate rarely appears comfortable; loss of composure that is not adequately regained with encouragement. Overly tentative. OR As per 6.5, but unable to describe even the basics of turning, stop, go and/or one item of riding position (ie, heels down) even in a basic manner.	No excessive/unsafe reactions (ie, prolonged screaming/yell), regains composure with encouragement, appears comfortable in the group most of the time. With encouragement can describe basics of turning left, right, stop, go and one basic thing of overall riding position (ie, heels down).	As per 6.5 but with no loss of composure during the ride; with encouragement; can describe any three items of riding position.	As per 8 with confidence with a basic statement of how it helps them ride for at least 1 of the riding positions they describe (ie, why keep heels down).

**NOTES**

Standard for D level is to assess riding in a group. All exercises to be done in a group/leading file, unless a adjustment from this is needed to increase candidate success.