

'D+' Standard of Efficiency Test Sheet

Minimum Age: 10

Felt Colour:

WHITE

General

This is a test half way between 'D' and 'C'.

Objective

- To be working towards developing a balanced seat independent of the reins.

Riding

- Mount and dismount. Know how to check girths
- Know how to alter stirrups correctly when mounted.
- Sit correctly at the walk and be able to describe the correct position.
- Hold the reins correctly and carry a whip in either hand.
- Walk on a loose rein and shorten the reins.
- Begin to demonstrate a balanced seat in trot and canter.
- Count their pony's rhythm in trot.
- Correct use of legs as aids.
- Simple turns and circles in walk and trot.
- Rising trot on either diagonal, change of diagonal.
- Show a few strides of sitting trot through transitions.
- Walk without stirrups.
- Ride up and down hills in walk.
- Ride over a single pole and very small fence.
- To be able to control a quiet pony in company, and in the open.
- What you need to know: (this is likely to relate to the pony you are riding)
- To understand and describe the aids to halt, walk, trot, canter, and circles, and be able to apply them.
- Give a simple definition of a pony working forwards.
- Be able to explain rhythm - evenness and regularity in trot

Pony Care

- To have some knowledge of care and working a pony at grass.
- Put on a saddle, bridle and numnah (snaffle bridle only).
- Have some knowledge of correctly fitting tack (noseband, throat lash, numnah).
- Elementary care of saddlery (daily bit washing, importance of clean girths, numnahs and saddle cloths).
- Catch a pony and turn it out in a field.
- Lead a pony in hand at walk and trot and turn correctly.
- Names and uses of essential grooming kit.
- Show how to use a dandy brush.
- Pick up and pick out feet.
- Points of the pony, colours and markings.
- Be able to recognise stable rugs, turn out rugs, and rugs suitable for travel and hot sweaty ponies.

Read

- Keeping a Pony at Grass
- Relevant sections of 'The Manual of Horsemanship' - read the sections below:
- A Working notebook: 'D+' Riding and Care