



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH RIDING SCHOOLS

PROGRESSIVE RIDER TESTS

1 to 10 SYLLABI

Equitation Test 1

The horse/pony must be tacked up ready for the rider.

1. Check and adjust the girth – dismounted.
2. Check and adjust the stirrups – dismounted.
3. Prepare for mounting and mount from a mounting block (assistant may hold the horse if necessary).
4. Know how to shorten and lengthen the reins.
5. Rider's position at halt.
6. Ride from halt to walk.
7. Ride a set course at walk to include left and right turns.
8. Ride from walk to halt.
9. Dismount, run up the stirrups and prepare to lead in hand.
10. Lead in hand.
11. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
12. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 2

Horse/pony to be tacked up.

1. Prepare the horse and mount with a leg up or mounting block.
2. Check the girth and stirrups when mounted.
3. Ride 20 metre circles in walk.
4. Ride from walk to trot and sit to the trot.
5. Sitting trot on the straight and with changes of direction.
6. Rising trot.
7. Ride from trot to walk.
8. Position of rider at walk and trot.
9. Know what artificial aids are.
10. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
11. Return the horse to his box or stall. Leave safe and comfortable still tacked up.
12. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 3

Horse/pony to be tacked up.

1. Rider to collect the horse/pony from his box and check tack.
2. Prepare the horse and mount on the near side from the ground unless physically handicapped.
3. Know how to change a short whip from one hand to the other.
4. Walk 20m ½ figure of eight i.e. AX – XC.
5. Walk 10m ½ figure of eight i.e. BX – XE.
6. Rising and sitting trot on 20m circles and going large.
7. Know how to change the rein across the long diagonal.
8. Know the footfalls and sequence of legs in walk and trot.
9. Ride in closed order, understand the rules of the school and discuss keeping distances.
10. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
11. Return the horse to his box or stall and untack. Know what to do to the horse's back once the saddle is removed and why.
12. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 4

1. Prepare and tack up horse/pony and mount.
2. Show progressive working in for horse and rider, in walk and trot.
3. Ride without stirrups in walk and trot, including circles and turns.
4. Re-take stirrups and ride trot to canter out of a corner or on a circle.
5. Canter a minimum of 40 metres.
6. Ride a transition of canter to trot.
7. Ride in rising trot showing a knowledge and understanding of diagonals. This is to be discussed with the examiner.
8. Know the footfalls in canter and sequence of legs.
9. Have knowledge of the Highway Code as applicable to riders.
10. Show a knowledge of and discuss working in open order in the arena.
11. Have knowledge of school markers.
12. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
13. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 5

1. Know some warming up procedures for horse and rider.
2. Demonstrate changing a dressage whip from one hand to the other.
3. Ride a 3 loop serpentine in rising and sitting trot.
4. Quit and cross the stirrups and ride centre lines in sitting trot as well as a figure of eight.
5. Re-take the stirrups. Ride trot / canter transitions.
6. Canter 20 metre circle.
7. Change the lead in canter through trot across the diagonal or out of the circle.
8. Ride in a balanced jumping position in walk, trot and canter.
9. Work over ground poles.
10. Rider to have knowledge of country lore as per the ABRS Guidelines.
11. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
12. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 6

1. Discuss working with others in the school and have a knowledge of school rules.
2. Demonstrate working in, in canter, including transitions from walk to canter.
3. Transition down from canter to walk, through trot.
4. Quit and cross the stirrups and then show canter without stirrups.
5. Re-take the stirrups, prepare the horse and show some shortened strides in trot.
6. Ride turns on the forehand or about the forehand.
7. Leg yield from $\frac{3}{4}$ to the track (5m) firstly in walk, then trot. Be prepared to discuss this movement with the examiner.
8. Ride in forward position over ground poles.
9. Jump a small grid of jumps not exceeding 2'
OR Demonstrate build up exercises for counter canter.
10. Discuss balance, rhythm and cadence.
11. Show an understanding of the correct way of going.
12. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
13. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 7

1. Understand the function of the bridoon and curb bits.
2. Ride sympathetically with a double bridle through turns, circles, loops and transitions.
3. Try to show and discuss correct work in a snaffle and double bridle with the horse accepting the bit. Prepare the horse and ask for some lengthening.
4. Be able to demonstrate positioning the horse left and right.
5. Know the principles of 'shoulder in'.
6. Ride 'shoulder in', in walk on both reins.
7. Assess and discuss how the horse is working, and what exercises might benefit him.
8. Open and shut a gate.
9. Ride in the open (in a field) at all gaits in a balanced forward position. During the canter, lengthen and shorten the strides, in a forward position.
10. Jump a small course of at least five show jumps, not to exceed 2'3".
OR Ride a short free style test to include walk, trot, canter and variations within the paces.
11. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
12. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 8

1. Show and discuss and show how to work a horse in, up to and including basic lateral movements.
2. Discuss shortened and extended strides in walk, trot and canter. Understand the aids, and the benefits and what can go wrong.
3. Try to show shortened and extended strides in walk, trot and canter, maintaining a good, balanced position.
4. Ride shoulder in, in trot on both reins.
5. Show canter work in preparation for counter canter. Be able to discuss the movements, the reasons for choosing them and the benefits of riding counter canter.
6. Show all the above on a second horse.
7. Assess and discuss the horse and its further training.
8. Ride a cross country course of not less than four jumps. To include a drop and ditch if possible. Fences not to exceed 2'6".
OR Ride ABRS Riding Test 8.
9. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids.
10. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 9

1. Show progressive warm up exercises suitable for your horse and his level of training.
2. Know the principles of travers; be prepared to discuss the benefits, the reasons for riding this exercise and what can go wrong.
3. Try to show travers, showing correct approach, balance and position on both reins.
4. Know the principles of pirouettes. Be prepared to discuss the benefits, reasons for riding this exercise and what faults can occur.
5. Try to show $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ pirouettes on both reins, showing correct balance and position.
6. Ride and lead in walk and trot.
7. Know the various standards of British Dressage Tests, and the basic rules.
8. Jump a course of show jumps including spreads.
OR Ride ABRS Riding Test 9.
9. Rider's position, balance and application of the aids and general approach to riding horses at this level.
10. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.

Equitation Test 10

1. Ride in and assess the 'way of going' of three horses, one of which must be able to perform the lateral movements required in the previous Tests.
2. Have knowledge of half pass, to include build up exercise, aids and benefits to the horse and rider.
Mention faults, which can occur.
3. Try to ride half pass on both reins, showing correct application of the aids, position and balance of the rider.
4. Be able to discuss a logical system of linking lateral movements together to improve the horse's way of going.
5. Ride the above and discuss with the examiner how the horses performed.
6. Know the various standards of British Eventing, or Affiliated Show Jumping, and the basic way the different events are run.
7. Ride a Novice Dressage Test with jumping (up to 3'), in a mock competition.
OR Ride ABRS Riding Test 10.
8. Rider's position, balance, application of aids and general approach.
9. How the rider made a partnership/rapport with the horse/pony.