



# ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH RIDING SCHOOLS

## PROGRESSIVE RIDER TESTS

### 1 to 10 SYLLABI

#### Stable Management Test 1

1. Know how to approach a horse in a box or stall, and be aware of safety around horses.
2. Put on and fit a head collar.
3. Lead in hand in a head collar.
4. Tie a quick release knot.
5. Pick out feet and know what to look for.
6. Name 5 articles of the grooming kit and know their uses.
7. Know and point to 10 parts of the horse.
8. Know the colours of the horse and point out 5 different colours on your yard.

#### Stable Management Test 2

1. Name and point to all parts of the saddle.
2. Put on a numnah and saddle.
3. Know what to do to a horse's back after riding and why. Explain what problems you would look for.
4. Untack a horse and demonstrate how to take the tack safely back to the tack room, wash the bit and hang up bridle, store saddle on a saddle rack.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the different types of girth. If possible find some different ones in your yard, or find pictures of them.
6. Know the names and positions of the markings of the horse. Find at least 5 in your yard, or find pictures of them.
7. Discuss and name at least 5 things to check before using a field for horses.
8. Describe/demonstrate the safe method used when releasing a horse into a field.
9. Describe the safe method for catching a horse in a field.

## Stable Management Test 3

1. Name parts of a bridle.
2. Put on and fit a bridle i.e. show the correct measurements for the throat lash and brow band
3. Fit a variety of nosebands (at least 3) and know how high the bit should be in the horse's mouth.
4. Know how to prepare a saddled and bridled horse to lead in hand.
5. Return a tacked up horse to the stable and leave him tacked up in a safe and comfortable state.
6. Clean a set of tack and be able to explain and demonstrate what to look for when checking tack. This will entail stripping a set of tack and putting it back in its original state.
7. Know the uses of and demonstrate how to put on a standing and running martingale.
8. Know how to put rugs on and off, and prevent horses from getting cold whilst tacking up/grooming.

## Stable Management Test 4

1. Name and recognise the tools required for mucking out a straw/shavings bed.
2. Demonstrate how to muck out a loose box with straw or shavings.
3. Lay a bed suitable for the night.
4. Name 3 types of bedding and mention good and bad points of each.
5. Know the 2 main types of hay. Have a knowledge of haylage etc. Recognise good and poor quality hay.
6. Fill, weigh and tie up a hay net.
7. Name 4 feeds a horse may eat and mention which types of horse they may be used for.
8. Discuss rules of watering and feeding. Talk about the different systems of watering a horse in a stable and in a field. Be prepared to mention the good and bad points.
9. Understand the importance of good daily routine.

## Stable Management Test 5

1. Know the difference between strapping and quartering.
2. Demonstrate grooming and be prepared to discuss the use of all brushes and equipment used.
3. Know how and where the horse is measured.
4. Recognise when the horse needs the attention of the farrier.
5. Be able to name and show the points of the foot.
6. Name the tools used by the farrier to remove and replace a shoe.
7. Put on a tail bandage.
8. Name and recognise 5 poisonous plants and how to prevent them from causing a problem to horses.
9. Know when to call the vet and what information he may need from you.
10. Understand the horse's natural behaviour and instincts.

## Stable Management Test 6

1. Apply stable/travelling bandages and travelling boots.
2. Fit a variety of boots and understand their uses.
3. Fit a variety of rugs including under blankets, and understand when you would use them.
4. Know when to, and methods of worming horses. Know some names of different wormers.
5. Know signs of good health.
6. Know signs of poor health.
7. Have knowledge of different types of tack/equipment in use.
8. Know what to check at late night stables.
9. Recognise different breeds/types of horses.
10. Fit a Pelham.

## Stable Management Test 7

1. Fit a double bridle.
2. Know how to clean/store tack and riding equipment.
3. Know and demonstrate how to pull a mane.
4. Plait a mane using needle and thread for some plaits and elastic bands for others.
5. Know the method for 'bringing a horse up' after rest to get ready for the competition season.
6. Know the method for 'letting a horse down' after the competition season.
7. Apply exercise bandages.
8. Describe the procedure for detecting lameness.
9. Have knowledge of minor ailments and know the treatment for them.
10. Have knowledge of isolation procedure.

## Stable Management Test 8

1. Prepare a feed chart for a specific type of horse.
2. Know how to prepare sugar beet, linseed and a bran mash.
3. Know the basic system for keeping grazing areas from becoming 'horse sick'. General paddock maintenance.
4. Know and demonstrate how to pull a tail.
5. Know the difference between work and exercise.
6. Dress a horse for travelling.
7. Have some knowledge of how to prepare a lorry/trailer for travelling.  
Know how to load and unload a horse/pony into a trailer or box.
8. Know the fire precautions in your yard.
9. Know how to weigh hard feeds.
10. Know different types of mixed feeds available.
11. Know the procedure for changing the horse's diet.

## Stable Management Test 9

1. Have some knowledge of the care of a competition horse.
2. Know what to take on a journey to a competition for an overnight stay.
3. Why horses are lunged.
4. Prepare a horse to be lunged.
5. Know how to look after a horse after a competition/outing.
6. Know why we clip and types of clip.
7. Know and demonstrate how to maintain clippers and know safety precautions.
8. Clip a horse (part of).
9. Know how to store and clean rugs.
10. Have an awareness of stable and yard maintenance.
11. Knowledge of studs.

## Stable Management Test 10

1. Know important items to be kept in a first aid box and their uses.
2. Take the horse's temperature, pulse and respiration.
3. What is meant by hosing, tubing and poulticing and give one instance when each may be used.
4. Describe symptoms of colic, laminitis, strangles and what action should be taken.
5. Know why the vet may take blood samples.
6. Lunge an experienced horse for exercise.
7. Know how to assist the vet.
8. Have knowledge of methods of restraint of horses.
9. Have a basic understanding of how to care for an older horse.
10. Know how to handle different types of horses (old/sick/young).
11. Have knowledge of immunisations and records to be kept.

## Stable Management Lunge Unit

*This unit is optional. Candidates must already hold ABRS Stable Management Test 6 (or an equivalent qualification) or take Test 6 at the same time as this unit.*

*The candidate will be expected to prepare and lunge the horse safely, with a saddle and bridle, (without a rider) for approximately 15 – 20 minutes. Walk, trot and halt must be shown. Candidates will not be required to show canter whilst lungeing. This whole test unit should take approximately ¾ hour.*

1. Describe the tack and facilities required for lungeing.
2. Fit suitable tack for lungeing. Discuss the fit of the equipment.
3. Demonstrate safe and appropriate technique, control of horse and size of circle. Safety in handling horse and equipment.
4. Discuss:
  - The value of lungeing
  - Length of exercise period
  - Use of side reins
  - Exercise as opposed to working a horse on the lunge
  - Understanding of balance and rhythm and level of fitness
  - Suitability of horse for a lunge lesson
5. Overall effectiveness and safety. Voice and rapport with horse.
6. Return horse to stable and untack. Safe procedure for return of equipment.