

Mounted Skills (D-2 Dressage)



***RIDING EXPECTATIONS:** Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the medium walk and working trot, and should begin to develop the canter. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.*

The D-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
&
Date**

Riding on the Flat

- Ride on flat using Riding Expectations (see above).
- Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).
- Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.
- Free walk and medium walk on light contact.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at halt and walk and discuss 2 reasons for doing this.
- Ride without stirrups at the walk.
- Ride at the medium walk and working trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and 20m circles at the rising and sitting trot to show awareness of bend.
- Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and correcting any wrong leads.
- Discuss performance with to include if mount was looking in the directions of the turns (bend) and whether or not mount was on correct leads.
- Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Maintain a balanced position at the walk and/or trot over 3-4 ground poles or cavaletti in rising trot or half-seat.
- Discuss ways to improve ride and balance.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Test

- Perform USDF Intro Test C from memory.
- Discuss performance to include whether mount picked up correct leads, was mount looking in the direction of the turns (bend), and if circles were round and the correct size.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding in the Open

- Ride with confidence and control, up and down hills (if available), on public or private property (open field or open space), and in a group at the walk.
- Discuss 2-3 ways to show "good manners" or courtesy while riding on someone else's property (e.g., regarding gates, planted rows in fields, etc.)

Evaluator's Comments: