

Mounted Skills (D-3 Dressage)



RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the medium and free walk, working trot, and working canter. Candidate should show beginning development of aids used to influence rhythm and relaxation in their mount (refer to Training Scale). These expectations are applied to each block of the test.

The D-3 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).
- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.
- Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work.
- Shorten and lengthen reins at the trot.
- Perform and discuss balancing and suppling exercises for rider at medium walk and working trot.
- Ride without stirrups at the working trot sitting.
- Demonstrate 20-meter circle, trot to halt transitions on centerline, show application of bending aids in both directions at walk and working trot, sitting and rising with correct diagonals, and show working canter with correct leads.
- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed in the trot.
- Discuss aids for and demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back of 1-2 steps.
- Discuss performance to include rider's basic balanced position, aids for bending, mount's ease of bending comparing left to right, size, roundness of circles, and use of aids.
- Candidate shows a basic balanced position while maintaining a secure base of support and developing balance, rhythm, and relaxation with their mount.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti

- Discuss differences in position, and stirrup length for riding on the flat, riding over fences and riding in the open.
- Ride over 3-4 ground poles at the trot, maintaining a balanced position in rising trot and half-seat.
- Ride over 3-4 ground poles at the trot followed by an elevated trot pole or raised cavaletti up to 6".
- Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences, and ways to improve ride and balance.

Evaluator's Comments:

Mounted Skills (D-3 Dressage) cont.

Riding Test

- Discuss your goals for the test ride.
- Perform USEF Training Level Test 1 from memory.
- Discuss the purpose of USEF Training level (printed at the top of the USEF test sheet), name the 5 collective marks (printed at the bottom of the test sheet), and discuss your performance relative to these.

Evaluator's Comments:

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with confidence and control to show consideration for public or private property (open field or open space) at the walk and/or trot (Rider's option to ride alone or in a group.)
- Discuss performance and ways to control a mount in the open.

Evaluator's Comments: