

Mounted Skills (D-3 Hunter Seat Equitation)



RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Candidate should ride in a hunter seat equitation position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate should demonstrate a secure base of support while developing balance and a steady position on the flat and over fences. Fences 2’3”. 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.
- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.
- Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot.
- Demonstrate mount’s warm-up routine for everyday work under examiner supervision.
- Ride at the walk, sitting and rising trot on correct diagonal, and canter on the correct leads, demonstrating circles with correct bend in both directions.
- Ride a figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals.
- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at walk and trot.
- Ride without stirrups at the rising trot.
- Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back.
- Discuss performance to include: the effectiveness of rider’s position, correct use of natural aids, and roundness of circles.

Evaluator’s Comments:

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Riding Over Fences

- Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical set at, but not exceeding, 2’3” and set at appropriate distances for mount’s stride. (adjust for individual mounts).
- Ride a jumping course of 8 obstacles to include 2 changes of direction, 2 ramped oxers (stationery ground lines), with a majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2’3”.
- Discuss performance to include reasons for any problems or disobediences.

Evaluator’s Comments:

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Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with a group at the walk and trot outside of the ring.
- Discuss performance including ways to control mount outside the ring.

Evaluator’s Comments:

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