



Progressive Awards

The Progressive Tests are intermediate steps between the Pony Club Efficiency Tests. They are available to Pony Club Members in Horsemanship and Riding and Road Sense and may be taken separately. Members may take these Tests in modules throughout the levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. They can be assessed continuously over a number of sessions and do not need a formal assessment to be awarded.

The Progressive Tests are voluntary, flexible and may be used alongside The Pony Club Efficiency Tests to ensure Members are up to the necessary levels.

Bronze Award 3

Bronze Award 2

Bronze Award 1At this stage the D test should be taken

Silver Award 3

Silver Award 2

Silver Award 1At this stage the D+ test should be taken

Gold Award 3

Gold Award 2

Gold Award 1At this stage the C test should be taken

Platinum Award 3

Platinum Award 2

Platinum Award 1At this stage the C+ test should be taken

Progressive Award Objectives

Bronze Award 3 Objectives	Bronze Award 2 Objectives	Bronze Award 1 Objectives
To start to learn about riding ponies. Begin handling ponies and start to become confident around them.	Learn to have control when riding off the lead rein. Start to understand how to care for ponies.	Make controlled transitions. Ride independently from the rest of the ride.
		Start to be actively involved in the care of ponies.
Silver Award 3 Objectives	Silver Award 2 Objectives	Silver Award 1 Objectives
Have a basic understanding of ponies. Achieve confidence in handling and riding a pony. To improve and enjoy learning about ponies.	Start to develop a balanced seat. Become more involved in looking after ponies.	To be working towards developing a balanced seat independent of the reins. Understand elementary aids and be able to apply them.
Gold Award 3 Objectives	Gold Award 2 Objectives	Gold Award 1 Objectives
Work towards an effective and balanced seat on the flat and over jumps. Know how to behave when riding on the roads and in the countryside. Understand the requirements of a pony at grass.	Improve position on the flat and over jumps. Understand the combined system of keeping ponies. Understand the requirements of a stabled pony.	Be in control of the pony in all paces and over jumps. Have control over a pony on the roads and in the countryside. Know how to look after a grass kept pony, or a pony on a combined system.
	Be courteous to other road users.	Know the country lore.
Platinum Award 3 Objectives	Platinum Award 2 Objectives	Platinum Award 1 Objectives
To become an enthusiastic, educated and practical rider. To gain practical experience and knowledge of the care of a stabled pony and of a pony at grass. To ride over fences at all paces.	To work towards becoming an educated and practical horseman. To be able to look after ponies kept at grass and have experience and knowledge of looking after stabled horses. To be able to ride at all paces over fences and varying terrain.	To become an enthusiastic, educated and practical horseman. To be able to look after a pony at grass and stabled horses competently. To be able to ride at all paces over fences and various terrain, with a confident and independent seat.
To be capable of riding a well-mannered horse or pony in a variety of Pony Club activities. To show some understanding of learning theory and equine behaviour.	To be able to ride a well-mannered horse or pony out hunting, on an endurance or fun ride and be able to prepare them before the day and care for them afterwards. Have knowledge of pace, distance and discipline to ride intelligently and safely in a group or alone.	To be able to ride a forward going horse or pony out hunting, or on an endurance or fun ride, and to be able to prepare a horse for the day and care for them afterwards. To have a secure knowledge of pace, distance and discipline, and to ride intelligently and safely in a variety of environments and situations, including on.
Ride intelligently with due regard for others on the roads and in the countryside, showing understanding of 'going', pace,	Ride with due regard for others in the country and on the roads.	To have knowledge on horse welfare, and appropriate steps to take in medical situations.

distance and your pony or horse's level of fitness.		
	Be able to ride safely on the public highway.	

Bronze 3 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Bronze Award 3 Riding and Road Sense	Bronze Award 3 Horsemastership
Mount by receiving a leg up.	Know how to approach a pony and give him a reward (stroke, scratch, voice).
Dismount.	Be able to untie a pony.
Know the pony must stand still while being mounted.	Remove the headcollar.
Sit in a safe and reasonably correct and secure position in the saddle.	Know some colours of ponies, (grey, chestnut, bay, black and brown).
Hold the reins correctly.	Name saddle and bridle.
Ride from halt to walk and from walk to halt, in a straight line on the leading rein.	Be able to check if the girth is loose before mounting.
Be able to touch pony's mane, neck, shoulder and back whilst mounted.	Be able to pull down the stirrups before mounting.
Know not to get too close to other ponies, and know how close is too close.	List two things that ponies enjoy doing.
Know it is safer to ride on the road with adults.	
Know on which side of the road to ride on.	
Recognise STOP, GIVE WAY, and Bridle Way signs.	
'What's Behind Me,' identify pictures held up behind rider, either on or off the leading rein.	

Bronze 2 Progressive Award
(May be taken on its own)

Bronze Award 2 Riding and Road Sense	Bronze Award 2 Horsemanship
Mount and dismount from a mounting block.	Be able to put on a head collar in the stable.
Lengthen and shorten reins.	Be able to tie up a pony correctly.
Be able to make the pony stand still while being mounted.	Lead a pony from the correct side.
Explain how to make a pony start and stop.	Recognise a soft brush and plastic curry comb.
Ride from halt to walk and from walk to halt in a straight line off the leading rein.	Know parts of the pony's body (head, mane, legs, back and tail).
Trot on or off the lead rein.	Be able to remove the saddle and put it away correctly.
. Make turns left and right in walk following instructions.	Name the different parts of the saddle.
Be able to do simple physical exercises on a held pony at halt, (arm circling, touching toes).	Know that water must always be available.
Know how to keep a safe distance when riding in a ride.	Talk about what happens when ponies are nervous or worried.
Know not to get too close to the pony in front, and know when they are too close.	Talk about some things that ponies do that shows they like to be with other ponies.
What's Behind Me,' identify pictures held up behind rider, off the leading rein.	
Demonstrate being able to stop at a designated point and look behind you before moving off.	
Know Be Seen, Be Safe, riders and ponies to wear yellow or pink reflective clothing.	

Bronze Award 1 Riding and Road Sense	Bronze Award 1 Horsemastership
Mount and dismount from a mounting block and receive a leg up, both from either side.	Approach and handle a pony correctly.
Sit straight and balanced in the saddle.	Catch a pony in the field and put on a headcollar or halter.
Lengthen and shorten stirrups before mounting.	Lead a pony in a headcollar, turn him and lead back.
Check girth before and whilst mounted.	Understand how to soften pressure (release) to reward the pony when leading a pony.
Ride in rising trot.	Name simple points of the pony (ears, mouth, nostrils, withers, hindquarters and hooves).
Ride upward and downward transitions: Halt to walk Walk to trot Trot to walk Walk to halt	. Recognise the hoof pick and mane and tail brush.
Make changes of rein and circles in walk.	Show how to use a hoof pick, soft brush, plastic curry comb and mane and tail brush.
Simple exercises (ride to and touch named markers, ride in and out of a line of cones).	Be able to take off a bridle and hang it up.
Know how the pony positions his feet when he halts "square".	Name different parts of the bridle.
Be able to ride exercises independently (front to rear of ride; as leading file).	Know three types of food ponies eat (grass, hay and nuts).
Be able to do simple physical exercises with pony held, without stirrups at halt (ankle turning, leg swinging).	Know that ponies need shelter from sun, flies and cold, driving rain.
Show how to ride along a mock-up road, cross a road, and say 'thank you'.	Describe how a healthy pony behaves.
What's Behind Me; identify pictures held up behind the rider, whilst walking off the lead rein.	Know that ponies need shelter from sun, flies and cold, driving rain.
Know there is a correct sequence to give right and left hand signals.	Know some situations that might make ponies nervous or worried.
Know which items are important to take on a hack.	

Silver 3 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Silver Award 3 Riding and Road Sense	Silver Award 3 Horsemastership
Mount unaided (a mounting block may be used).	Show how to brush off a pony with a dandy brush.
Know how to lengthen and shorten stirrups correctly while mounted.	Be able to pick up and pick out the pony's feet.
Adjust girth before and while mounted.	Be able to lead a pony in a bridle.
Be able to sit in a correct position in the saddle, and be able to describe a correct position.	Be able to make the pony stand still and back up.
Walk on a loose rein and be able to shorten the reins.	Talk about how you would use pressure (aids) to train a pony.
Know the sequence of legs in walk.	Explain how release of pressure rewards/helps to train ponies.
Be able to make transitions at the markers.	Understand that ponies do not think the same as people (not naughty on purpose).
Make changes of rein and circles in rising trot.	Name different parts of a saddle and bridle.
Change diagonal as necessary.	Be able to give a pony an apple or carrot correctly.
Be able to explain tempo.	Know basic needs of a pony in summer and winter.
Ride in poised position in walk.	Know why a pony needs shelter, water and food.
Ride over a short course of poles on the ground in walk.	
Be able to pass the ride safely.	
Know how to ride along a road and cross a road.	
Understand how to ride on the road with a friend.	
Know what to wear, for pony and rider, when riding on the road.	
Recognise the dangers to ponies from cars and other traffic.	
Know how to say thank you to other road users.	

Silver 2 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Silver Award 2 Riding and Road Sense	Silver Award 2 Horsemastership
Mount and dismount (a mounting block may be used).	Know about the basic care of saddlery (daily bit washing; importance of clean girth and saddle cloths).
Be able to adjust the stirrups at halt and recognise when a stirrup is twisted.	Show how to brush a face, mane and tail.
Know how to carry a whip in either hand.	Be able to pick out the pony's feet.
Demonstrate sitting trot.	Recognise different colours of ponies.
Make changes of rein and circles in sitting and rising trot.	Know basic points of the pony.
Know the sequence of legs in trot.	Be able to name the types of food ponies eat.
Be able to ride as leading file.	Know the difference between good and bad field fences.
Be able to walk and trot in poised position over poles.	Know how to provide water in a field.
Ride over a short course of poles on the ground in trot.	Know why ponies like to be with other ponies.
Know what checks should be made before riding on the road.	Know what a healthy pony looks like and how it behaves.
Understand the importance of Look-signal-Look again (Life Saver Look)- Manoeuvre.	Describe how you would use the positive reward of voice or scratching when training a pony.
Know how to signal left and right.	Understand why you shouldn't punish a pony when they do something you don't want them to do.
Understand the importance of amber in a traffic light sequence.	
Be able to name the important items that should be taken on a hack and suitable places to ride.	

Silver 1 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Silver Award 1 Riding and Road Sense	Silver Award 1 Horsemastership
Know the aids to walk, trot and canter.	Know names and uses of essential grooming kit.
Give a simple definition of a pony working forwards.	Recognise and know how to use a soft brush, plastic curry comb and mane and tail brush.
Suggest two reasons that a pony might not be doing what you want.	Lead a pony in hand in walk and trot and turn him correctly.
Be able to lead a drill ride.	Recognise different markings on the legs and body.
Be able to canter from the front to the rear of the ride.	Name the breeds of native ponies.
Know the sequence of legs in canter.	Have some knowledge of correctly fitting tack (noseband, throat lash, saddle cloth).
Demonstrate exercises at walk without stirrups.	Recognise turnout rugs and rugs suitable for travel.
Ride in poised position over poles in walk and trot.	Explain how to manage hot, sweaty ponies.
Ride over a short course of poles on the ground in trot including small cross poles.	Know how to give hay in the field to several ponies.
Know the correct sequence of how to signal left and right.	Recognise some poisonous plants.
Know what weather conditions it is not safe to ride out in.	List some signs that a pony may be unwell.
Know how the pony may behave in bad weather.	Describe some things your pony might do that may be caused by pain.
Explain how you would get a pony used to something scary.	

Gold 3 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Gold Award 3 Riding and Road Sense	Gold Award 3 Horsemastership
Be able to do mounted exercises in walk and trot.	List and explain the importance of five freedoms (domains) of pony welfare.
Start to establish rhythm in walk.	Know the main signs of health in the pony.
Show how to ride round corners and turn left and right.	Know how a pony moves if he is clearly lame.
Know the aids for canter.	Know how to check if a paddock is safe.
Know if the pony is cantering on the correct leg.	Recognise good fencing.
Be able to walk, trot and canter in an open space.	Know how to provide water in the field.
Be able to change a carry a whip in either hand	Know what to feed grass kept ponies.
Be able to jump small fences from canter.	Know how to groom grass kept ponies.
Describe how you would get a pony used to something scary (desensitisation).	Explain how positive reinforcement works when training a pony.
Know the correct distances for trotting poles (in feet, yards or metres).	Talk about how pressure and release works when training a pony.
Describe the sequence of legs in walk.	Put on and take off turnout rugs.
Name some reflective clothing riders can wear.	Know how to clean tack (daily care only).
Know how to pass other riders on the road.	Know what protection a pony needs when travelling.
Dismount and lead from the offside and remount.	Know when a pony needs shoeing.
Be able to ride two left and two right turns on the road.	Know that ponies are herd animals, when this might be a problem and how it can be avoided.
Recognise common road signs.	

Gold 2 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Gold Award 2 Riding and Road Sense	Gold Award 2 Horsemanship
Reasonably correct, balanced position in walk, trot and canter.	Describe the ideal stable.
Walk on a long rein.	Know the names of the stable tools and how they are used.
Be able to ride in open order.	Be able to skip out a stable.
Be able to use aids for correct canter lead.	Know how to cool down a hot pony.
Understand the difference between tempo and rhythm.	Know how to measure the height of a pony.
Show the correct jumping position.	Understand that the majority of a pony's feed should be forage/bulk.
Be able to jump small grids and a small course of jumps (max height 60cm).	Know that some ponies require small amounts of additional hard feed.
Show a smooth progression from one fence to the next.	Recognise signs that a pony might be unhappy (stressed, worried or anxious).
Know how to ride in pairs and groups on the road and in the countryside.	Recognise when a pony is too fat or too thin.
Recognise when roads are slippery.	Know how to clean a minor wound.
Know how to ride across crossroads.	Know which wounds require veterinary attention.
Name some reflective clothing ponies can wear.	Put on a tail bandage.
Talk about observation, road positioning and signals.	Put on and take off a turnout rug.
	Show how to lift heavy objects safely.

Gold 1 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Gold Award 1 Riding and Road Sense	Gold Award 1 Horsemastership
Hold the reins in one hand.	Put on a saddle and bridle with a martingale and flash noseband.
Show exercises in sitting trot without stirrups.	Be able to muck out a stable and set fair.
Understand and start to establish rhythm and tempo in trot.	Know how to care for a pony working off grass.
Demonstrate use of seat and leg and hands to increase and decrease pace.	Show when to use positive rewards (food, scratching) when training a pony's stable manners.
Know how to correct canter leads.	Know how to wash down a hot pony.
Be able to ride independently in the open (e.g. in a collecting area at a show).	Know the rules of watering.
Be able to ride in walk, trot and canter in a large open space on a well-behaved pony.	Know the rules of feeding.
Have control over a pony when jumping a small course of jumps in the open.	Describe the parts of the foot that can be seen.
Explain why riding independently in the open might be a problem for a herd animal and explain a solution.	Know the reasons for routine dental care.
Have control over a pony when jumping a small course of jumps in the open.	Know the symptoms of colic, colds and equine influenza.
Show trot and canter in a balanced light seat.	Know how to protect against tetanus and equine influenza.
Describe the sequence of legs in canter and gallop.	Lead a pony in and out of a trailer or horse box.
Know how to ride across farmland.	Explain how to load a pony safely.
Show how to open gates.	Describe some things that a pony might do if they are in pain, frightened or insufficiently trained.
Know how to overtake stationary vehicles.	
Know how to ride around roundabouts.	
Know road signs and police signals.	
Know how to pass hazards.	
Know how to use a T-junction major to minor and minor to major road.	

Platinum 3 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Platinum Award 3 Riding & Road Sense	Platinum Award 3 Horsemanship
Dismount from the "incorrect" side.	Give an example of how you would use positive reinforcement (rewards – food, scratching) when handling horses/ponies on the ground.
Have a correct position at all paces.	Discuss the equine flight response; give an example of an event that might induce the flight response.
Maintain a balanced position when changing from rising to sitting trot to rising trot.	Give an example of how you would get a pony or horse used to a procedure.
Know and be able to explain the aids for transitions to and from halt, walk, trot and canter.	Know what is required to keep a pony living out at grass in terms of field size, quality of grazing, shelter, and water.
Be able to halt squarely and salute.	Talk about things you can do to make time in the stable more enjoyable for ponies and horses.
Be able to ride with the reins in one hand.	Know why it is important to keep a stabled pony well exercised.
Know which rein controls the pace.	Know the rules of watering and why water is important.
Name the Scales of Training.	Be able to put on a stable bandage.
Carry and use a short whip appropriately and effectively.	Know the reasons for putting on stable bandages.
Talk about the disadvantages of using the whip or spurs as an aid.	Know the external parts of the foot.
Be able to maintain a correct and balanced position when riding up and down hills.	Name the farriers' tools.
Maintain a correct jumping position around a course of jumps max height 75cm.	Explain the reasons for trimming/ shoeing ponies/ horses' feet.
Identify which was the best fence jumped and explain why.	Know what to look for when checking saddles and bridles for safety.
Know the name and action of the bit of the horse/pony you are riding.	Recognise a variety of bits that are allowed in Pony Club activities.
Describe what it feels like to ride a horse / pony that is lame.	Know the signs of good and poor health.
Know whose instructions must be obeyed when riding on the roads.	Know what might cause colic.

Know what to carry when hacking out on the roads.	Know when to call the vet and what information to give.
Know how to Look, Signal, Look again (life saver look) Manoeuvre.	
Be able to ride left and right turns with correct hand signals.	

Platinum 2 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Platinum Award 2 Riding & Road Sense	Platinum Award 2 Horsemastership
Mount from a mounting block on either side.	Give an example of how you would use negative reinforcement (pressure and release) when handling horses/ponies on the ground.
Be in balance with the horse at all paces.	Describe some of the ways that a pony/horse might stand that could indicate that it is in pain.
Maintain balance when changing diagonals.	Know how to prepare a grass kept pony for riding at all times of year.
Know the aids for turns and circles.	Know different types of bedding and give reasons for choosing one particular type.
Be able to carry a schooling whip in either hand, and move it correctly from hand to hand.	Explain the importance of forage in the diet.
Discuss whether there is any loss of balance during transitions.	Know the rules of feeding and why they are important.
Be able to perform a quarter turn on the forehand and know the correct aids.	Know which items are important in a grooming kit and use them effectively.
Be able to change the rein with the reins in one hand.	Know the advantages and disadvantages of washing horse and ponies.
Know the sequence of footfalls in trot.	Identify different types of bandages.
If spurs are worn, explain the reason why.	Know why padding must be put underneath bandages.
Explain the importance of timing when correcting a horse's/pony's mistake.	Know the bones inside the foot.
Be able to jump a variety of fences and ditches out of trot and canter.	Describe a general purpose shoe.
Describe what it feels like to ride a horse/pony that is stressed.	Know what to check to see that a bridle fits comfortably.
Know the signals to give when overtaking and negotiating junctions.	Know the names and actions of the more commonly known bits.
Know which common road signs must be obeyed and which signs are warning signs only.	Estimate the body condition (fat) score of a named horse, using the 0-5 scale for fat scoring.
Be able to ride major to minor, and minor to major road junctions.	Recognise symptoms of illness.
Be able to describe a Stop and a Give Way Sign.	Know horses and ponies normal resting respiration rate and how to take it

Know how, and who, to thank when riding on the road.

Know how to care for a wound until the vet arrives.

Platinum 1 Progressive Award
(may be taken on its own)

Platinum Award 1 Riding & Road Sense	Platinum Award 1 Horsemastership
Be able to keep a correct, balanced and effective position in all paces over all types of terrain.	Explain how you could minimise the amount of time that a stabled pony or horse is without food overnight.
Be able to change diagonals at appropriate places and know the reasons for changing diagonals.	Describe some obvious behaviours that might indicate a pony is stressed.
Be able to perform a turn on the forehand in either direction and know the correct aids and how the horses' legs should move.	Explain the importance of monitoring stress when correcting a pony's mistakes/ training.
Know the sequence of footfalls in canter and gallop on either rein.	Have knowledge of different routines (fully stabled, grass kept and combined system)
Be able to make a change of leg at canter through trot and discuss the balance of the horse.	Understand the importance of keeping the stable area clean and tidy.
Understand the meaning of suppleness as it relates to the Scales of Training.	Be able to recognise different feeds and forage including good and bad hay and haylage.
Know the aids and be able to ride leg yielding in walk.	Explain how to select feed for a pony/horse.
Explain the importance of progressive/ easy to achieve steps when training ponies/ horses.	Put on a stable bandage
Talk about what it feels like to ride a pony or horse that is tired.	Know the sensitive structures inside the foot.
List the dangers of over-working a pony or horse that is overweight or unfit.	Know what to look for to check that a saddle fits comfortably.
Be able to jump up and down hill, jump doubles and know the correct distances in a one stride double.	Recognise when a pony is lame.
Understand that it is the rider's use of observation that will help to keep him safe on the road.	Know that following any wound, a horses tetanus cover should be checked.
Know the advice given by the Highway Code regarding what to wear when riding and leading horses on the road and what the horse should wear.	Know how to cool the legs of a horse or pony after hard work.
Know what to do in the event of an accident.	Consider how you can reduce your horse-related waste by reducing, reusing and recycling.