

## **Pony Club A Test Riding Theory: Sample Questions**

### **Dressage.**

Have a working knowledge of the scale of training, explaining what each one means

Showing understanding of common terms used to describe performance such as:

- impulsion
- collection
- roundedness
- engagement
- connection.

Explain how to train and ride plus the problems presented: Include an understanding of learning theory in your answers

- leg yield
- shoulder-in
- counter canter
- rein back
- variations within the pace

Show an understanding of the different types of transitions.

Know the requirements for riding, and the current rules pertaining to:

- Prelim
- Novice
- Elementary dressage test

Have a basic understanding of the BD rule book

Be able to explain the collective marks at the bottom of the sheet

Discuss the quality of the paces

### **Jumping.**

Be able to discuss the use of poles and grids to improve performance of both horse and rider

Show a detailed understanding of distances and how they are affected by terrain, going, ground conditions, speed and size of horse

Go into the training of young horse through his early jumping experiences both show jumping and cross country

Show an understanding of the requirements in a British novice, Discovery and a Newcomers course

Discuss eventing through BE 80 to Novice level and the possible course variations within each

Have a working knowledge of the rule books for both BS and BE

Debate how to correct problems such as running out, refusing, jumping crookedly, poor technique in front or behind, or rushing: include the use of learning theory in your answers

### **More specific questions**

When and how do you start to teach a horse lateral work? Tell me how you would progress the lateral work.

When would you feel, your horse is prepared to go out and do a novice / elementary test?

When do you feel a horse is ready to learn to shoulder in?

Tell me how you go about teaching a horse to shoulder in.

What kind of difficulties may occur and how can you overcome them?

When do you feel, a horse is set to learn to counter canter?

Explain to me how you would build up to teaching him to do this.

What kind of difficulties can occur and how can you overcome them?

When and how do you teach a horse to rein back?

How would you use learning theory to help you in this process both from the ground and mounted?

Discuss self-carriage.

How do you go about teaching a horse to jump?

What problems may arise and how can you overcome them?

When your horse is happily jumping a single fence how would you progress its' education?

When and how would you introduce gridwork?

What are the benefits for the horse?

Are there any types of horse you would not do gridwork with and why?

When and how would you introduce a bounce?

Are there any benefits for the horse?

What distance would you set a schooling bounce / one stride double / two stride double from trot / canter?

What distances would you expect to find in a bounce / one stride double / two stride double in affiliated competitions?

How would you introduce your horse to show jumping competitions?

What sort of tests would you find in British Novice / Discovery / Newcomers competitions?

How could you help a horse who did not have a good front / back leg jumping technique?

How and when would you teach your horse to jump cross country fences?

How would you introduce him to XC competitions?

What kind of XC fences can cause trouble and how can you help to overcome these?

How do you teach a horse to jump a corner / ditches / arrowhead?

How can you teach a horse to gallop well enough to make time for XC competitions?

What is involved in registering a horse for affiliated competitions?

Discuss the horse's welfare when out competing include his mental and physical well-being.

Chat about how you would recognise signs of anxiety / tension while competing.

What actions might you take if the horse was exhibiting signs of nervous tension?

## **Pony Club A Test Young Horse Theory - Sample Questions.**

Tell me how you would handle a foal / yearling / two-year-old.

Talk about the weaning process and how you reduce stress in both parties.

How would you teach a young horse to tie up / lead in hand / load?

Chat about how and when you introduce the young horse to the farrier.

Do you think it is a good idea to take a young horse showing? Give me some reasons for your answer.

If you had a three-year-old in for 'starting' described as being well handled, what would you expect the horse to be able to do?

How do you incorporate learning theory into your starting process?

What do you understand by the term 'ridden away'?

How long would you expect it to take to get a horse backed and ridden away?

Debate the value of using a bit with 'keys' in the mouth of a young horse.

Tell me how to teach a horse to lunge, and the equipment you are likely to use.

Discuss the safety of any assistants that may be used in the starting process.

What is your view on long reining?

Describe your 'backing' process.

Discuss the horse's welfare during the 'starting' process: include his mental and physical well-being.

How would you recognise stress in the young horse, at any stage throughout the process?

What actions would you take if the horse exhibited stress or tension during the early stages of his work?

Give me some idea of how you would further a three / four-year-old horse's education.

How many days a week would you work a three/four-year-old and for what duration?

Why do you think that the young horse need breaks in its education? Discuss both during work and possible 'turning away'

How do you evaluate when a young horse is ready for his first rally / competition / hunt?

What is your outlook on the use of training aids on the young horse?