



The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Senior Championships 2024

Team Number:	
Assessor:	

Round 1 – Loading

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Look at this trailer and discuss / demonstrate the checks that should be made prior to loading and travelling a horse or pony. (2 team members)	10		
2	Select the travelling equipment you would like to use on a horse/pony when setting out in a) summer b) winter. What additional equipment might you take? Give reasons for your choices. (1 per team member)	10		
3	How often should the trailer be given a thorough examination and service by an experienced professional and what should be included?	5		
4	Demonstrate how you would load and unload a compliant horse or pony.	5		
5	Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of: This single trailer A double trailer A trailer with a side ramp eg an equitrec What are the differences, if any, in the methods used for loading and unloading to ensure safety of horse / pony and handlers?	10		
6	How would you encourage a reluctant loader? Consider learning theory.	10		
	Total	50		
	Outstanding Individual			



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Round 2 – Management of Horses and Ponies

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	How can the land around the stable yard be managed to maximise the amount of time that horses or ponies live out? How important is it to do this?	15		
2	Discuss how you might combine turn out time and stabled time with a horse or pony that is in regular work (for example Pony Club Open Eventing level fitness) Discuss any seasonal differences in routines.	15		
3	Select the equipment you would need to clip a horse / pony. How would you prepare a) the horse / pony b) the stable c) the equipment? d) yourself? e) your helpers?	10		
4	Select methods of restraint that could be used to ensure safety of both handlers and horse / pony during clipping or veterinary treatment. How do they work?	10		
	Total	50		
	Outstanding Individual			



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Round 3 – Bitting

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Put this selection of bits into the six families. Name the bits.	10		
2	Look at these bits (a single joint snaffle, a double joint snaffle, a set of double bridle bits, a lever, a gag and a pelham) and say how they should act. How might they affect the way of going correctly or incorrectly?	10		
3	Look at the skull and discuss how the various structures (including the tongue) are impacted by bitting, bridle structure and nosebands. (Examples provided)	10		
4	Discuss how this double bridle should be correctly fitted.	5		
5	How often should the horse / pony have its teeth checked by a Vet or EDT? What is usually involved in routine mouth and dental care?	5		
6	How might the horse's / pony's way of going and / or behaviour indicate discomfort in the mouth?	5		
7	What other issues might present as bitting, rein contact or mouth issues? (Foot, back, tack fitting issues.)	5		
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Round 4 – The Digestive System and Feeding

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Name the parts of the digestive tract. (Diagram)	10		
2	Give examples of fibre / forage. Why is fibre so important in the horse's diet? How is fibre processed as it passes through the system? What effect can fibre have on each part of the system?	10		
3	Explain how and why a) a suitable daily amount of food is calculated b) the ration is divided between forage and concentrate	5		
4	What are these feed samples? Discuss why these feeds might be used and the effect they are likely to have.	10		
5	Relate the structure of the digestive system to the management or prevention of the following: Choke Ulcers Colic	15		
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Round 5 – Environment and Safety

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Each team member to give two examples of safe practice on a yard. Suggest ways that you can promote these practices when a) working alone b) working with 6 or more others	10		
2	Look at this blank risk assessment for the activity “ Taking horses (two or more) that have been stabled overnight to a field for turnout” Suggest what you could put in the first three columns.	10		
3	Each team member to give three examples of ways that the carbon hoofprints and footprints of a yard can be reduced.	10		
4	What is classed as vermin in the stable yard? Why is it important to control vermin around the stable yard? How can this be done safely and effectively?	10		
5	How can grazing be maintained and improved, minimising the use of chemicals and large machinery?	10		
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Round 6 – Bandaging and First Aid

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	One team member puts on a stable bandage One team member puts on a knee bandage One team member puts on a hock bandage	20		
2	State why you selected the materials you did. What other types of veterinary dressings and bandages are available?	10		
3	What signs could suggest that a horse or pony has sustained damage to a tendon or ligament in the lower leg? What actions would you take if you suspected tendon or ligament damage and why?	10		
4	How, why and when do you tub a foot? How, why and when do you poultice a foot? Select suitable materials and equipment for both.	10		
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	Outstanding Individual			



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Round 7 – Tack

	(Horse in this stable)	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Look at the saddle that is on this horse. (Dressage saddle without numnah or pad) Assess the fit of the saddle and its suitability for this horse. Discuss how this type of saddle might affect the rider.	15		
2	Select tack that would be suitable for this horse for the cross country stage of an event. (Selection of saddles, breastplates, martingales, girths)	15		
3	Discuss the fitting of the boots that this horse is wearing. What are they suitable for?	10		
4	Look at these numnahs and pads. Why might you choose them? What would you consider when fitting them?	10		
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Round 8 – Health and Condition Scoring

	(Horse in this stable)	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	<p>How do you arrive at a condition score? Give the condition score for this horse/pony. What is the ideal condition score for a fit horse or pony competing in these sports::</p> <p>Endurance Dressage Pony Racing</p>	10		
2	<p>How will you manage a horse or pony that is obese?</p>	5		
3	<p>Each team member to give an example of a condition that can be caused by and has to be managed by feeding. Suggest how to adapt the feeding to manage each of the examples.</p>	15		
4	<p>What are the normal ranges of temperature, pulse and respiration for a horse or pony? Demonstrate how these are taken.</p>	10		
5	<p>How would you arrive at a normal average temperature for an individual horse / pony? Why is it important to do this?</p>	10		
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Round 9 – Conformation and Soundness

	(Horse in this stable)	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	Look at this horse's static conformation Each Team member to discuss two features selected by the assessor. Suggest how these features could affect the way of going and suitability to do a particular type of work.	15		
2	What is meant by Dynamic Conformation? How would you assess this? (Walk and trot in hand, lunge, watch being ridden, video etc)	10		
3	Demonstrate how you would assess lameness. (Use a team member as the horse) Comment on surfaces, gradients, methods of restraint etcetera as well as what to look for on the horse.	20		
4	What is included in a 5 stage pre purchase examination?	5		
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Round 10 – Welfare Responsibilities, Training Horses and Social Licencing

		Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1	What do you understand about the term ‘Social Licence’?	5		
2	Each team member to give an example of how the horse’s natural instincts and behaviour could be used to enhance its physical and mental well being. Relate these examples to the Five Freedoms or Domains.	15		
3	The following methods can be used when training horses and ponies: a) Positive Reinforcement b) Pressure and Release c) Desensitisation Give an example of each.	15		
4	Each team member to give an example of stereotypical behaviour in horses. Discuss what could be causing each example and suggest how the behaviour could be prevented or minimised.	15		
	Total	50		
	Outstanding Individual			