



PONY CLUB



PONY CLUB B TEST - TOP TIPS

B TEST TOP TIPS

CARE TEST

Before the Test – Master the Syllabus

- ▶ Don't just learn it—review and reinforce it regularly. This builds confidence and ensures you can demonstrate competence in horse care, even under pressure.
- ▶ Go beyond rote memorization of the Blue Book; develop a deep understanding of topics like stabled horse care.
- ▶ Take charge of your learning—don't rely solely on coaches. Research, seek knowledge, and improve independently.
- ▶ Practice correctly at home to build good habits. Avoid shortcuts.
- ▶ Focus on practical skills like stable bandaging and understand new topics like welfare, training, and clipping.

On the day Preparation Tips

- ▶ Wear clean and tidy attire: jodhpurs/breeches, shirt, Pony Club tie, sweatshirt, badge, felt, hat, boots, and gloves.
- ▶ You won't be asked everything, but prepare thoroughly as any topic might come up.
- ▶ Demonstrate practical skills confidently and competently, using equipment safely. Examples: crouch, don't kneel; skip out; tie up the horse; use equipment correctly; handle unfamiliar horses calmly.
- ▶ For tasks like assessing conformation, actively engage—look at the horse, move around it, feel its legs—don't just observe passively.
- ▶ Be ready to share your knowledge; assessors can only pass you if you demonstrate what you know.
- ▶ If unclear on a question, politely ask for clarification or rephrasing.

RIDING TEST

Before the Test

- ▶ Know the syllabus and practice all movements in advance—don't try anything new on test day.
- ▶ Arrive early to walk the show jumping course and get familiar with the venue.
- ▶ Pack your kit yourself using a checklist and double-check everything—this is your responsibility.
- ▶ Practice riding other horses before the test.

During the Test

- ▶ **Dress Code:** Wear clean jodhpurs/breeches, shirt, Pony Club tie, badge/felt, jacket, gloves, hat, clean boots, and body protector. Use spurs and whip only if necessary and as per rules. Ensure your horse and tack are clean, safe, and well-fitted, with the horse plaited.
- ▶ **Swapping Horses:** Remove spurs if wearing them.
- ▶ **Tack:** Ride in your usual tack; you can use a dressage saddle for flatwork and switch before jumping, but this is not essential as you will not be penalised for riding in a GP saddle. Be quick during tack changes and have help ready.
- ▶ **Basics:** Focus on details—adjust stirrups properly, hold reins correctly, check diagonals, leads, and prepare thoroughly for jumping.
- ▶ **Riding Skills:** Discuss how the horse moves, learns, and how you adapt your riding. Maintain the horse's way of going but don't worry about improving it.
- ▶ **Thinking Rider:** Plan your aids and approach with purpose, knowing what you're doing and why.
- ▶ **Jumping:** Show safe, sensible riding over fences with determination, planning your route and approaches carefully.

Your Horse

- ▶ Bring an experienced, sound horse suitable for the B test—not too young or green.
- ▶ The horse doesn't need to excel in dressage but must manage some lateral work. Be prepared to explain how you are trying to achieve movements like rein-back or medium trot.
- ▶ The horse must jump show jumps and cross-country fences at 85cm. While not all jumps will be full height, the horse should handle an appropriate course confidently.
- ▶ Ensure your horse is safe for other candidates to ride and be willing to share.
- ▶ If your horse needs a thorough warm-up, start early and work quietly to be ready for the test.

Assessors & Assessment

- ▶ Assessors aim to pass you but need clear evidence you meet the standard.
- ▶ The 2023 syllabus includes new topics like welfare, training, social license, and behaviour—ensure these are part of your training.
- ▶ You'll receive verbal and written feedback, whether you achieve or don't achieve the standard on the day
- ▶ Bring a parent, DC/Centre Proprietor or coach for feedback as it can be hard to absorb everything after a long day.
- ▶ Parents and coaches cannot watch or record; DC/Centre Proprietor may observe by invitation only.