

USPC D-Level Eventing Comparison Flow Chart (for D Standards 2024)

	D-1	D-2	D-3
Riding Expectations	<p>Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating basic balanced position at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot on a mount suitable for a beginner.</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>Candidate rides in an enclosed area, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and trot, and begins to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences. Fences to 18".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>Candidate rides in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate is developing a secure base of support, balance and a steady position over fences. Fences to 2'3".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>
Riding on the Flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary. • Pick up and hold reins correctly at halt. • Pick up stirrups at halt. • Shorten and lengthen reins correctly at the halt. • Demonstrate basic correct position at the halt and walk. • Ride at the walk and trot, with control, keeping mount on rail. • Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot. • Perform gradual transitions from walk to trot and walk to halt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary). • Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk. • Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this. • Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles. • Ride without stirrups at the walk. • Ride at the trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and large circles. • Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads. • Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area. • Discuss performance of turns, circles, diagonals, and leads. • Rider demonstrates control while maintaining a safe balanced position at walk and trot. 	<p><u>Dressage Warm-Up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate correct mounting, using mounting block if necessary. • Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt. • Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot. • Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work. • Ride mount at walk, rising trot with correct diagonals, sitting trot, and correct canter leads. <p><u>Movements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate 20-meter circles showing correct bend in both directions at all gaits. • Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot. • Discuss and demonstrate arena etiquette for riders at different gaits and traveling in different directions. • Demonstrate a halt. • Discuss aids for and demonstrate a simple step back of 1-2 steps. • Discuss performance including rider's basic balanced position, whether or not circles were round, and if natural aids correctly influenced the mount.
Riding over Fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk over a single pole on the ground in jumping position. • Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain jumping position at the trot on the flat and over individual ground poles. • In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course of 4-5 obstacles of cross rails and verticals (no spreads). The majority of fences set at, but not to exceed, 18". • Rider demonstrates control while developing a safe basic balanced position over fences. (No need to canter over fences.) • Discuss ways to improve ride. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". Grid to be set at appropriate distances for mount's stride. • Ride a simple stadium course at the canter consisting of 5-7 obstacles, including a simple oxer in an enclosed area. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". • Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work. • Discuss performance and reasons for any disobediences.

Riding in the Open	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride safely and considerately, on a suitable mount, on public or private property, in a group, at the walk and trot. • Ride with control, up and down small hills, as conditions allow, at the walk and trot. • Ride over a minimum of 3 simple and natural obstacles. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 18" in height or 18" in width. No ditches, banks, or water. All fences may be jumped at the trot. • Speed should not exceed 240 meters per minute (mpm), appropriate for size of mount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss ways to control a mount in the open. • Ride safely with a group on a suitable mount, at the walk and trot, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain, as local conditions allow. • Ride over 4-5 simple cross-country obstacles ranging from 2'-2'3". The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". • D-3 speed should not exceed 300 mpm, as appropriate for the size of mount. • Discuss performance and pace. • Rider demonstrates development of a secure base of support, steady position, and balance over cross-country fences.
Horse Management Expectations	The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routine necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained horses. His or her knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience.	The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own mount.	The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, beginning to use common horse terms.
Presentation/ Turnout and Tack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, and clean attire: Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes. Collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in, long pants, short or tall riding boots or shoes covering the ankle and have a boot heel. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0810). Half-chaps, gloves, and belt optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Groom mount and pick out hooves, with assistance if needed. • Tack up, with assistance if necessary. • Name 6 saddle parts and 4 bridle parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes. Collared shirt with sleeves (e.g., polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) and tucked in, breeches, jodhpurs (with garters) or riding pants, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0810). Gloves optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Mount clean and well brushed, with hooves picked out and showing farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. • Tack to be safe and clean (properly adjusted with assistance if necessary), with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious jockeys or heavy dust. • Groom and tack up with assistance if necessary. • Name and locate 10 saddle parts and 5 bridle parts. • Name the bit your mount is wearing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: Hair should be neatly secured and away from the eyes. Collared shirt with sleeves (e.g., polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) and tucked in, breeches, jodhpurs (with garters) or riding pants, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps. Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0810). Gloves optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), hooves picked out, and showing farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. • Tack to be safe, especially stitching on stirrups/girth and clean. No jockeys or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean. All tack must be properly adjusted. • Groom and tack up independently. • Describe the bit your mount is wearing and its adjustment. • Describe 4 ways to correctly fit your mount's bridle so it is safe and comfortable for your mount.

Leading/ Longeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach mount safely and put on halter. Demonstrate walk-halt-walk transitions and turning your mount in the correct direction which is away from you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead mount correctly in tack. Demonstrate walk-trot-halt transitions and turning your mount in the correct direction which is away from you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead safely from both sides at the walk. Demonstrate correctly jogging a mount in a bridle and turning your mount in the correct direction which is away from you. (Whip may be carried and, if necessary, used to move mount forward.)
Bandaging	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give 2 reasons why you would bandage a mount's leg(s). Discuss 1 part of the horse's leg that a bell boot would protect and 1 part a protective boot would protect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe 5 critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots Describe the area a stable bandage covers and what materials are used. Under direct supervision, apply 1 protective boot and 1 bell boot to a mount's leg and apply 1 polo wrap to a front leg with assistance if needed.
Foot and Shoeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give 1 reason to pick out a mount's hoof. Tell whether your mount wears shoes or not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give reasons for daily hoof care. Give 2 reasons why a farrier regularly checks your mount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 3 parts of the hoof. Describe 3 obvious signs of a foot needing shoeing or trimming.
Breeds, Pony Parts, Colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate and name 10 parts of the mount. Name color and breed of own mount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate and name 15 parts of the mount. Name and describe 6 colors of mounts. Name and describe 5 markings a mount might have. Name 5 pony or horse breeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate and name 20 parts of the mount. Name 10 equine breeds. Know 1 common conformation fault for each of the following: head, neck, shoulder, back, and pasterns. Describe the eyes' location and how this affects the mount's vision.
Health and Maintenance Record Book	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose: to supply an outline of member's (or borrowed or virtual) mount's basic health and care information in order for someone else to care for mount if member was laid up or called away. Provide a hard copy (in a folder/binder or stapled) of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse information and photo. Contact information for veterinarian and farrier. Feeding information and schedule. <p><i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose: to supply an outline of member's (or borrowed or virtual) mount's basic health and care information in order for someone else to care for mount if member was laid up or called away. Provide a hard copy (in a folder/binder or stapled) of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains records for at least 3 months prior to the test. In addition to the information from the D-2 Record Book, records must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse information and photo Contact information for veterinarian and farrier Feeding information and schedule D-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dated list of routine care (vaccinations, deworming, shoeing, dentistry) Daily schedule of care which may include grooming, riding, clinics etc. <p><i>*Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i> <i>*See the complete Record Book progression on the D Level Certification web page.</i></p>

Stable Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 2 reasons for cleaning tack. • Bring a completed D-1 USPC stall card for your own mount and explain why it is important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate tying a quick release knot, with assistance if necessary. • Name 5 grooming tools and describe how to use them. • List 3 examples of unsafe horse equipment. • Name 3 common stable vices. • Discuss 2 points of good halter adjustment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss steps and reasons for cleaning a stall. • Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket and hay net/hay bag at a proper height for your mount, at either a trailer or stall.
Travel Safety	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 pieces of equipment that your mount should wear for travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss safety rules for riding on public roads. • Describe the proper steps to load and unload a mount.
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how to feed a treat to a pony. • Give 1 example of a succulent. • Discuss why and how often water should be available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 3 basic rules for feeding. • Explain feeding schedule for own mount. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 5 basic rules of feeding. • Describe how feeds are measured and weighed. • Discuss the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.
Conditioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 1 reason for cooling out mount after exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe 2 signs that show when a mount is properly cooled out. • Describe condition of own mount (e.g., thin, fit, or over weight). • What does TPR stand for? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include: cooling out, checking legs, watering, and feeding. • Describe 2 signs that a mount might not be fit enough for the work asked. • Describe the normal range of vital signs (TPR) of a mount at rest.
Land Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 different places in your area where you see horse activities taking place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 1-2 ways that you can thank a landowner for riding on their property or facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 3 important rules when riding across privately owned land.
Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what a veterinarian is. • Give 1 reason to call the veterinarian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 2 reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 3 symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help. • Name 3 diseases your mount can be vaccinated against.
Teaching	Not applicable	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how you assisted at 1 unmounted Pony Club activity.
Rider Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 3 pieces of clothing or equipment that you should wear for your safety when you ride. • Name 2 basic rules of safe and courteous riding in an enclosed area or ring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 1 reason for checking girth, stirrup leathers and stirrup bars before mounting. • Describe what you should do for yourself when you fall off a horse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 items or rider equipment that are required to ride in at a Pony Club mounted lesson. • Give 2 examples of when a riding helmet needs replacing.
Equine Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 disciplines listed on the USPC website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 4 disciplines listed on the USPC website. 	Not Applicable



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