

USPC D-Level Dressage COMPARISON Flow Chart (for Standards Revised 2024)

	D-1	D-2	D-3
Horse Management Expectations	<p>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.</p>	<p>The candidates 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.</p>	<p>The candidates should be able to demonstrate simple skills, without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, beginning to use common horse terms.</p>
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. Tucked-in collared shirt with sleeves; long pants, short or tall riding boots or shoes covering the ankle; and have a boot heel. Pony Club pin; and 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. • Ride in safe, neat, clean attire: Hair should be neatly secured 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 and/or boot clips) 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, 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, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Ride in safe, neat, clean attire: Hair should be neatly secured 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 and/or boot clips) 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), with feet 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,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> stress points clean, stirrup pads 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 a halter. • Demonstrate walk-halt 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	N/A	<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 that 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.
Conformation and Unsoundness	N/A	<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 <i>Purpose: to supply an outline of a member's (or borrowed or</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • Provide a hard copy (in a folder/binder or stapled) of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains records for at

<p><i>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.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Horse information and photo ➤ Contact information for veterinarian and farrier ➤ Feeding information and schedule • <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i> 	<p>least 3 months prior to the test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, and dentistry) * Daily schedule of care, which may include grooming, riding, feeding, etc. • <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i>
<p>Stable Management</p>	<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 for your mount, at either a trailer or a stall.
<p>Travel Safety</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<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.
<p>Nutrition</p>	<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. • Describe the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.
<p>Conditioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 1 reason for cooling out the mount after exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe 2 signs that show when a mount is properly cooled out. • Describe the condition of own mount (e.g., thin, fit, or overweight). • 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.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how you assisted 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 of rider equipment that are required when you ride in a Pony Club mounted lesson. Give 2 examples of when a riding helmet needs to be replaced.
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. 	N/A
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>Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without a lead line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the medium walk and working trot, and should begin to develop the canter. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the medium and free walk, working trot, and working canter. Candidate should show beginning development of aids used to influence rhythm and relaxation in their mount (refer to Training Scale). 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary). 	<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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot. • Perform gradual transitions from walk to trot and walk to halt. 		
Warm-Up	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorten and lengthen reins at walk. • Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at halt and walk and discuss 2 reasons for doing this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate and discuss mount's warm-up routine for everyday work. • Perform and discuss balancing and suppling exercises for rider at medium walk and working trot. • Shorten and lengthen reins at the trot.
Movements	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate free walk and medium walk on light contact. • Ride at the medium walk and working trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and 20-meter circles at the rising or sitting trot to show awareness of bend. • Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and correcting any wrong leads. • Ride without stirrups at the walk. • Discuss performance to include if mount was looking in the direction of the turns (bend) and whether or not mount was on correct leads. • Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate 20-meter circle, trot to halt transitions on centerline. Show application of bending aids in both directions at walk and working trot, sitting and rising with correct diagonals, and working canter with correct leads. • Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed in the trot. • Ride without stirrups at the working trot sitting. • Discuss performance to include rider's basic balanced position, aids for bending, mount's ease of bending comparing left to right, size, roundness of circles, and use of aids. • Candidate shows a basic balanced position while maintaining a secure base of support and developing balance, rhythm, and relaxation with their mount.
Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti	<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 a balanced position at the walk and/or trot over 3-4 ground poles or cavaletti in rising trot or half seat. • Discuss ways to improve ride and balance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss differences in position and stirrup length for riding on the flat, riding over fences, and riding in the open. • Ride over 3-4 ground poles at the trot, maintaining a balanced position in rising trot and half-seat. • Ride over 3-4 ground poles at the trot followed by an

			<p>elevated trot pole or raised cavaletti up to 6”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences, and ways to improve ride and balance.
Dressage Test	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform USDF Intro Test C (readers allowed). • Discuss performance to include whether mount picked up correct leads, mount looked in the direction of the turns (bend), and if circles were round and the correct size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss your goals for the test ride. • Perform USEF Training Level Test 1 (readers allowed). • Discuss the purpose of USEF Training level (printed at the top of the USEF test sheet), name the 5 collective marks (printed at the bottom of the test sheet), and discuss your performance relative to these.
Riding in the Open	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride with confidence and control, up and down hills (if available), on public or private property (open field or open space), and in a group at the walk. • Discuss 2-3 ways to show “good manners” or courtesy while riding on someone else’s property (e.g., regarding gates, planted rows in fields, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride safely with confidence and control to show consideration for public or private property (open field or open space) at the walk and/or trot. (Rider’s option to ride alone or in a group.) • Discuss performance and ways to control a mount in the open.



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