

## USPC D-Level Hunter Seat Equitation COMPARISON Flow Chart (for Standards Revised 2024)

	D-1	D-2	D-3
<b>Horse Management Expectations</b>	<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>
<b>Presentation/Turnout and Tack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Groom mount and pick out hooves, with assistance if needed.</li> <li>• Tack up, with assistance if necessary.</li> <li>• Name 6 saddle parts and 4 bridle parts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Mount clean and well brushed, hooves picked out and showing farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Tack to be safe, especially stitching on stirrups/girth, and clean. No jockeys or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads adjusted.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groom and tack up, with assistance, if necessary.</li> <li>• Name and locate 10 saddle parts and 5 bridle parts.</li> <li>• Name the bit your mount is wearing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groom and tack up independently.</li> <li>• Describe the bit your mount is wearing and its adjustment.</li> <li>• Describe 4 ways to correctly fit your mount's bridle so it is safe and comfortable for your mount.</li> </ul>
Leading/Longeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approach mount safely and put on a halter.</li> <li>• Demonstrate walk-halt transitions and turning your mount in the correct direction, which is away from you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead mount correctly in tack.</li> <li>• Demonstrate walk-trot-halt transitions and turning your mount in the correct direction, which is away from you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead safely from both sides at the walk.</li> <li>• 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.)</li> </ul>
Bandaging	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 reasons why you would bandage a mount's leg(s).</li> <li>• Discuss 1 part of the horse's leg that a bell boot would protect and 1 part that a protective boot would protect.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe 5 critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots.</li> <li>• Describe the area a stable bandage covers and what materials are used.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Foot and Shoeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1 reason to pick out a mount's hoof.</li> <li>• Tell whether your mount wears shoes or not.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give reasons for daily hoof care.</li> <li>• Give 2 reasons why a farrier regularly checks your mount.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name 3 parts of the hoof.</li> <li>• Describe 3 obvious signs of a foot needing shoeing or trimming.</li> </ul>
Conformation and Unsoundness	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate and name 15 parts of the mount.</li> <li>• Name and describe 6 colors of mounts.</li> <li>• Name and describe 5 markings a mount might have.</li> <li>• Name 5 pony or horse breeds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate and name 20 parts of the mount.</li> <li>• Name 10 equine breeds.</li> <li>• Know 1 common conformation fault for each of the following: head, neck, shoulder, back, and pasterns.</li> <li>• Describe the eyes' location and how this affects the mount's vision.</li> </ul>
Health and Maintenance Record Book  <i>Purpose: to supply an outline of a member's (or borrowed or virtual) mount's basic health and care information</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>➤ Horse information and photo</li> <li>➤ Contact information for veterinarian and farrier</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

<p><i>in order for someone else to care for mount if member was laid up or called away.</i></p>		<p>➤ Feeding information and schedule <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></p>	<p>• In addition to the information from the D-2 Record Book, records must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>D-2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Horse information and photo</li> <li>* Contact information for veterinarian and farrier</li> <li>* Feeding information and schedule</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>D-3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dated list of routine care (vaccinations, deworming, shoeing, and dentistry)</li> <li>* Daily schedule of care, which may include grooming, riding, feeding, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></p>
<p>Stable Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 2 reasons for cleaning tack.</li> <li>• Bring a completed D-1 USPC stall card for your own mount and explain why it is important.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate tying a quick-release knot, with assistance if necessary.</li> <li>• Name 5 grooming tools and describe how to use them.</li> <li>• List 3 examples of unsafe horse equipment.</li> <li>• Name 3 common stable vices.</li> <li>• Discuss 2 points of good halter adjustment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss steps and reasons for cleaning a stall.</li> <li>• Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket for your mount, at either a trailer or a stall.</li> </ul>
<p>Travel Safety</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name 2 pieces of equipment that your mount should wear for travel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss safety rules for riding on public roads.</li> <li>• Describe the proper steps to load and unload a mount.</li> </ul>
<p>Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate how to feed a treat to a pony.</li> <li>• Give 1 example of a succulent.</li> <li>• Discuss why and how often water should be available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 3 basic rules for feeding.</li> <li>• Explain feeding schedule for own mount.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 5 basic rules of feeding.</li> <li>• Describe how feeds are measured and weighed.</li> <li>• Describe the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.</li> </ul>
<p>Conditioning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give 1 reason for cooling out the mount after exercise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe 2 signs that show when a mount is properly cooled out.</li> <li>• Describe the condition of own mount (e.g., thin, fit, or overweight).</li> <li>• What does TPR stand for?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include: cooling out, checking legs, watering, and feeding.</li> <li>• Describe 2 signs that a mount might not be fit enough for the work asked.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the normal range of vital signs (TPR) of a mount at rest.</li> </ul>
Land Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 2 different places in your area where you see horse activities taking place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 1-2 ways that you can thank a landowner for riding on their property or facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 3 important rules when riding across privately owned land.</li> </ul>
Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss what a veterinarian is.</li> <li>Give 1 reason to call the veterinarian.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give 2 reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 3 symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help.</li> <li>Name 3 diseases your mount can be vaccinated against.</li> </ul>
Teaching	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how you assisted 1 unmounted Pony Club activity.</li> </ul>
Rider Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 3 pieces of clothing or equipment that you should wear for your safety when you ride.</li> <li>Name 2 basic rules of safe and courteous riding in an enclosed area or ring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give 1 reason for checking girth, stirrup leathers, and stirrup bars before mounting.</li> <li>Describe what you should do for yourself when you fall off a horse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 2 items of rider equipment that are required when you ride in a Pony Club mounted lesson.</li> <li>Give 2 examples of when a riding helmet needs to be replaced.</li> </ul>
Equine Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 2 disciplines listed on the USPC website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 4 disciplines listed on the USPC website.</li> </ul>	N/A
Riding Expectations	<b>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.</b>	<b>Candidate should ride in a hunter seat equitation position in an enclosed area demonstrating control at the walk and trot, and should begin to develop the canter and 2-point position. No need to canter over fences. Fences 18". These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</b>	<b>Candidate should ride in a hunter seat equitation position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate should demonstrate a secure base of support while developing balance and a steady position on the flat and over fences. Fences 2'3". These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</b>
Riding on the Flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary.</li> <li>Pick up and hold reins correctly at halt.</li> <li>Pick up stirrups at halt.</li> <li>Shorten and lengthen reins correctly at the halt.</li> <li>Demonstrate basic correct position at the halt and walk.</li> <li>Ride at the walk and trot, with control, keeping mount on rail.</li> <li>Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot.</li> <li>Perform gradual transitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).</li> <li>Shorten and lengthen reins at walk.</li> <li>Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at halt and walk and discuss 2 reasons for exercises.</li> <li>Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.</li> <li>Ride at the trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns, large circles, and an awareness of correct bend.</li> <li>Ride at the canter in both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).</li> <li>Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.</li> <li>Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.</li> <li>Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot.</li> <li>Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work under Examiner supervision.</li> </ul>

	<p>from walk to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trot and walk to halt.</li> </ul>	<p>directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot.</li> <li>Discuss how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area.</li> </ul> <p>Discuss performance to include rider's position and demonstration of correct diagonals and leads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride at the walk, sitting and rising trot on correct diagonal, and canter on the correct leads, demonstrating circles with correct bend in both directions.</li> <li>Ride a figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonal.</li> <li>Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk and trot.</li> <li>Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back.</li> <li>Ride without stirrups at the rising trot.</li> <li>Discuss performance to include: the effectiveness of rider's position, correct use of natural aids, and roundness of circles.</li> </ul>
Riding Over Fences	<p><b>Riding Over Ground Poles/Cavaletti</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk over a single pole on the ground in jumping position.</li> <li>Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain 2-point (jumping) position at the trot on the flat and over 3 trot poles (cavaletti).</li> <li>In an enclosed area, ride a simple jumping course of 6-8 obstacles of cross rails and verticals to include 1 change of direction with the majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 18".</li> <li>Discuss ways to improve ride.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical set at, but not exceeding, 2'3" and set at appropriate distances for mount's stride (adjust for individual mounts).</li> <li>Ride a jumping course of 8 obstacles to include 2 changes of direction, 2 ramped oxers (stationary ground lines) with a majority of fences set at, but not exceeding 2'3".</li> <li>Discuss performance to include reasons for any problems or disobediences.</li> </ul>
Riding in the Open	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride safely and considerately a the walk outside the ring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride Safely with a group at the walk and trot outside of the ring.</li> <li>Discuss performance including ways to control mount outside the ring.</li> </ul>



© 2024 The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.  
4041 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511  
(859)254-7669 ~ www.ponyclub.org

Copying permitted for internal use only by members and volunteers of  
The United States Pony Clubs, Inc.