

USPC Show Jumping B and A Level COMPARISON Flow Chart (for Standards Revised 2024)

	B	A
Riding Expectations	<p>Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure position for show jumping and an independent seat and tactful coordinated use of the aids. The candidate should ride mounts forwards, establishing rhythm, elasticity, and balance while maintaining contact. Candidate should be able to discuss the application, reasons, and effect of aides used. The candidate should be confident in coping with any challenges. Fence heights will be 1.10m (3'7") to 1.15m (3'9") with spreads up to 1.20m (3'11"). These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>	<p>Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure position for show jumping and an independent seat and effective coordination and timing of the aids. The candidate should ride mounts forward, establishing even rhythm, impulsion, balance, and engagement while maintaining contact. Candidates must be able to ride and evaluate different mounts at various stages of training, displaying a confident, consistent, and effective performance on the flat and over fences, while demonstrating tact and empathy for its capabilities. Fence heights will be 1.15m (3'7") to 1.20m (3'11") with spreads up to 1.25m (4'1"). These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p>
Warm-up	<p>RIDING ON THE FLAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate and discuss warm-up for flat work for mount and rider, including rider exercises for preparation for jumping • Work mount at walk, trot, and canter, using tactful coordinated aids to maintain even rhythm, elasticity, balance, and smooth transitions. • Ride without stirrups at all gaits. • Demonstrate at trot and canter: circles, 10-meter half-circles, figure-eights, leg yields, and serpentines to develop suppleness and straightness. • Demonstrate simple (through the walk or trot) flying change of lead on a straight line and in a 3 loop serpentine. Demonstrate a canter on the counter lead through a shallow serpentine. • Demonstrate a halt and stand quietly for 5 seconds. • Demonstrate a rein back of 2-3 steps. • Demonstrate half-turn on the forehand and a half-turn on the haunches through the walk on the rail. • Demonstrate a hand gallop. 	<p>RIDING ON THE FLAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate and discuss warm-up for flat work for mount in preparation for jumping. • Work mount at walk, trot, and canter using coordinated independent aids to maintain even rhythm, impulsion, balance, and engagement with smooth transitions. • Ride without stirrups at all gaits. • Demonstrate at trot and canter maintaining rhythm and impulsion: circles, 10m canter circles, figure-eights with simple and flying changes of lead, leg yields, and serpentines to develop suppleness and straightness. • Demonstrate simple (through the walk or trot) flying change of lead on a straight line and in a 3 loop serpentine. • Demonstrate a canter on the counter lead through the corners of the arena. • Demonstrate a halt and stand quietly for 5 seconds. • Demonstrate a rein back of 2-3 steps. • Demonstrate half-turn on the forehand and a half-turn on the haunches through the walk on the rail.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a lengthening and shortening of stride at trot and canter. • Discuss performance with Examiner: the rider's position and use of coordinated aids to maintain the horse staying on the aids, the reasons for specific warm-up exercises used and the time required for mount, and whether mount moved forward in even rhythm, elasticity, balance, and smooth transitions. • Discuss the strong and weak points of mount being ridden. • Discuss the relationship of flatwork to jumping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a lengthening and shortening of stride at all gaits. • Demonstrate a shoulder in and haunches in. • Discuss performance with Examiner: the rider's position and use of coordinate independent aids, evaluate the reasons and effectiveness of the selected warm-up exercises and time required for mount, and whether mount moved forward in even rhythm, impulsion, balance, engagement with smooth transitions. • Evaluate the strong and weak points of mount being ridden and further exercises to address its current needs. • Evaluate the relationship between the mount's flatwork to its jumping.
Switch Ride	<p>RIDING ON THE FLAT - SWITCH RIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride an different mount with confidence and control to maintain even rhythm, elasticity, balance, and smooth transitions at all gaits. While performing schooling figures. • Discuss with Examiner: the mount's forward movement in rhythm, elasticity, and balance, while staying on the aids. • Discuss the strong and weak points of the mount being ridden. 	<p>TRAINING – SWITCH RIDE (Schooled Horse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount with confidence and control, moving forward in rhythm, impulsion, balance, and engagement, while staying on the aids. • Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of different exercises for training challenges. • Discuss with the Examiner: evaluate the strong and weak points of mount being ridden, the level of schooling of the mount, and a plan for training in relationship of flatwork to jumping.
Gymnastics	<p>Riding On the Flat (Gymnastics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must bring a tape measure to set gymnastic line provided on Standards (candidates may alter the grid to best suit their horse and training goals). • Demonstrate warm-up for jumping using flat exercises appropriate for the mount. May include poles for trot or canter rails. • Discuss benefits of using poles and different distances between jumps for gymnastic exercises. • Discuss a short crest release, long crest release, and an automatic release. • Ride with stirrups over gymnastics at a height of up to 1.15m. • Ride without stirrups over a gymnastic of up to 1.10m. • Discuss performance with Examiner: rhythm, balance and straightness, and if gymnastic exercise was set appropriately for mount. Identify the type of changes that can be made to a gymnastic exercise to help with any challenges faced. 	<p>Riding Over Fences (Gymnastics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must bring a tape measure to set gymnastic line provided on Standards (candidates may alter the grid to best suit their horse and training goals). • Demonstrate warm-up for jumping using flat exercises appropriate for the mount. May include poles for trot or canter rail. • Discuss and demonstrate the effectiveness of the types of releases and seats for jumping different types of obstacles and mounts at various stages of training. • Ride with stirrups over gymnastics at a height of up to 1.20m. • Ride without stirrups over a gymnastic of up to 1.15m. • Discuss performance with Examiner. Evaluate to include the horse's rhythm, balance and straightness, and if the gymnastic exercise was set appropriately for the mount. Identify the changes that can be made to the gymnastic exercise to help with training, including placing

		rails, distances, and types of jumps (verticals, Swedish oxers, and ascending oxers).
Riding Over Fences (Courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride one of the show jumping courses provided on the USPC website (candidates may alter the course to best suit their horse and training goals). Course to be set at a height of 1.10m to 1.15m to include verticals and oxers and widths up to 1.20m. Course will include a triple combination, related distances, bending line, rollback, and might include a Liverpool. • Discuss the difference between Tables 2.1, 2.2b, and 2.2c and strategies for how to ride a jump off. • Discuss performance with Examiner: whether ride could be improved, including rhythm, balance, straightness, and striding while on course. • After completing the course on own mount, candidate will ride a shortened course, to reflect a “jump off round”. Discussion to include speed, rhythm, and rideability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride one of the show jumping courses provided on the USPC website (candidates may alter the course to best suit their horse and training goals). Course to be set at a height of 1.15m to 1.20m to include verticals and oxers and widths up to 1.25m. Course will include a triple combination, related distances, bending line, rollback, and might include a Liverpool. • Discuss the difference between Tables 2.1, 2.2b, and 2.2c and strategies for how to ride a jump off with horses in various stages of training. • Discuss performance with Examiner: whether ride could be improved, including rhythm, balance, straightness, and striding while on course. • After completing the course on own mount, candidate will ride a shortened course, to reflect a “jump off round”. Discussion to include speed, rhythm, and rideability.
Riding Over Fences (Switches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount, showing confidence and control, over a shortened show jumping course not to exceed 1.10m. • Discuss performance with Examiner; the mount’s rhythm, balance, and straightness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate ability to ride a different mount, showing confidence and control, over a shortened show jumping course not to exceed 1.15m. • Discuss performance with Examiner; to evaluate the mount’s rhythm, balance, and straightness. • Evaluate the mount’s level of training and discuss training options and exercises to help further mount’s education.
Effective Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider shows development of an effective secure position appropriate for show jumping, through a secure lower leg with weight in the heel and the ability to maintain a half-seat position. • Rider shows the development of an independent seat and coordinated effective use of the aids on the flat and over fences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider shows development of an effective secure position appropriate for show jumping, through a secure lower leg with weight in the heel and the ability to maintain a half-seat position. • Rider shows the development of an independent seat and coordinated effective use of the aids on the flat and over fences. • Rider maintains position and effectiveness while riding mounts of various stages of training.
Training (Lower Level or Green Horse)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate must bring a less experienced horse jumping 0.8m (2’6”) – 1m (3’3”) in order to demonstrate training of a green horse. • Candidate should demonstrate ability to ride a green or lower level mount on the flat and over fences with confidence and control, moving

		<p>forward in rhythm, while demonstrating schooling techniques to achieve training goals, relative to the Training Scale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate should evaluate mount's strong and weak points, the level of schooling, and a plan for training for jumping through flatwork. • Candidate should discuss and/or demonstrate effectiveness of trotting poles gymnastic exercises, course patterns, canter rains/placing poles, shape of fences, and the effect of varying distances on the horse's development.
Longeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how to teach a mount to longe. • Discuss benefits and safety concerns of longeing the mount and the rider. • Discuss and demonstrate proper fit and use of equipment to include a snaffle bridle, and side reins. • Longe own mount on a 20-meter circle to develop connection through effective longeing technique and proper use of the aids and equipment. Side reins must be used. The candidate maintains the mount's free forward movement, and influences the mount's rhythm/tempo, relaxation, and suppleness. 	N/A
Bandaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present one of the following bandages: ice, poultice, sweat. Discuss materials used, purpose, and dangers of chosen bandage. 	N/A
Conditioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a 6-to-8-week conditioning and feeding program designed to get a totally unfit (out of work 6-12 months), but healthy horse to a basic fitness level for daily riding (described on pages 229-230 in the <i>USPC Manual of Horsemanship C-Level</i>). The plan must include a description of mount (e.g., age breed, body score), current fitness level (unfit & amount of time off), the amount and type of work to be done, at least one day off, and should demonstrate an understanding of the basic conditioning principals and type of work most appropriate for this horse. • Explain how you would build on the basic level of fitness you achieved with the above plan, in order to further condition the horse for a competition or more intense work. The type of work or level of competition must be stated. • Discuss the different types of work (e.g., building flexibility, strength, cross training) that 	N/A

	<p>you included in the plan and their intended effect on conditioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan (TPR recovery rates/strength/flexibility) and any nutritional changes that might need to be made as the plan progresses. 	
<p>RETEST PROCEDURES</p>	<p>See General National Testing Information on the Pony Club Website</p>	



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