

## USPC D-Level Western COMPARISON Flow Chart

(for Standards Revised 2024)

	D-1	D-2	D-3
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 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.	The candidates 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"> <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 long or short sleeves; long pants with shirt tucked in, short or tall riding boots that cover 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>• Rider to be in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves; long pants with shirt tucked in; short or tall riding boots that cover 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). Chaps are optional. Spurs may be used but shank and rowel no longer than 2". Rowel to be blunt and may not exceed 1". 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, cinch, hobble straps, 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>• Rider to be in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves; long pants with shirt tucked in; short or tall riding boots that cover 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). Chaps are optional. Spurs may be used but shank and rowel no longer than 2". Rowel to be blunt and may not exceed 1". 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, cinch, hobble straps, and stirrups. No obvious jockeys or heavy dust.</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</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>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"> <li>➤ Feeding information and schedule</li> <li>• <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the information from the D-2 Record Book, records must contain: <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> </li> <li>• <i>Template may be USPC design or own design that contains the same data.</i></li> </ul>
<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> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name 3 important rules when riding across privately owned land.</li> <li></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 cinch, rear cinch (if applicable), hobble straps, and stirrup leathers 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
<b>Riding Expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 jog on a mount suitable for a beginner. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without a lead line, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and job, and should begin to develop the lope. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, jog, and lope. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while riding though obstacles and out in the open. These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</li> </ul>
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>Put feet in 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 jog, with control, keeping mount on rail.</li> <li>Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and jog.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride on flat using Riding Expectations.</li> <li>Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).</li> <li>Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk. Demonstrate proper hand position for bit and rein equipment, and for sage and appropriate control of mount.</li> <li>Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride on flat using Riding Expectations.</li> <li>Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).</li> <li>Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and jog under direction of Examiner.</li> <li>Ride mount demonstrating 20-meter circles, showing correct position in both directions at walk, jog, and at the lope with correct leads.</li> <li>Ride without stirrups at the jog.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform gradual transitions from walk to jog and walk to halt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.</li> <li>• Ride without stirrups at the walk.</li> <li>• Ride with balance at the jog performing simple turns and large circles.</li> <li>• Ride at the lope in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.</li> <li>• Discuss performance with Examiner, indicating whether or not mount was on correct lead.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed either alone or with others as appropriate.</li> <li>• Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back. With attention given to seat position during the halt.</li> <li>• Discuss performance with Examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and where or not circles were round and natural aids were used correctly.</li> </ul>
Riding Over Obstacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk over a single pole on the ground in a balanced position.</li> <li>• Discuss with Examiner the reason for different hand position when riding on the trail and through various obstacles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride over obstacles using Riding Expectations.</li> <li>• Maintain balanced position at the jog, on the rail, and over poles.</li> <li>• In an enclosed area, complete a simple obstacle course to include poles (walk and jog over), halt, walk, jock, backing, turns, and navigation around cones or upright poles.</li> <li>• Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride over obstacles using Riding Expectations.</li> <li>• Complete a simple obstacle course of five to seven obstacles, to include poles (walk and jog over), halt, walk, jog, backing, turns, side-passing (over a pole), a single-hand maneuver (such as a gate or pick-up), and navigation around cones or upright poles.</li> <li>• Discuss performance, reasons for any disobedience.</li> </ul>
Riding in the Open	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride safely and considerately on public and private property, in a group, at the walk and jog.</li> <li>• Ride with control, up and down hills, at the walk and jog.</li> <li>• Navigate several natural obstacles, to include logs (no more than 12"), trees, and small divots (lowered sections of ground) where available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ride safely with a group at the walk and jog, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain if available. Complete for to five natural trail obstacles, which may include gates, dismounting/mounting, ditches, hills (up and down), showing proper balance and hand position).</li> <li>• Discuss ways to control mount in the open.</li> <li>• Discuss performance with Examiners.</li> </ul>



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