



Pony Club Efficiency Tests

The Pony Club Training structure encourages Members to take tests which enable them to learn progressively about horse and pony care and riding. The tests are taken at recommended ages and are designed with certain objectives in mind.

D STANDARD

Recommended Minimum age 8 or 9 years. Felt colour yellow.

OBJECTIVE

To have a basic understanding of ponies.
To achieve confidence in handling and riding a pony.
To improve and enjoy learning about ponies.

RIDING

Mount and dismount.
A reasonably correct position in the saddle.
How to hold the reins.
To be able to ride a quiet pony safely, in an enclosed area without the leading rein, in walk and trot.

ROAD SENSE

To know on which side of the road you should ride.
To understand a simple 'green cross' code.
How to ride along a road, cross a road and say 'thank you'
To know it is safer to ride on the road with adults or parents.

HORSEMASTERSHIP

Approach and handle a pony correctly.
Know basic needs of a pony in summer and winter.
Catch a pony and put on a headcollar or halter.
Proper way to give a pony an apple or carrot.
Lead a pony in hand.
Name simple points of the pony.
Name different parts of saddle and bridle.

READ

'The Manual of Horsemanship'
Points of the Horse.
Mount and dismount (Omit 'to dismount using the stirrup').
The correct length of stirrup.
The position of the rider in the saddle.
Holding single reins.
Handling a horse.
Fitting a headcollar or halter.

To lead in hand.
The parts of a saddle,
The parts of a snaffle bridle.
Putting on a saddle and bridle
Pony Club Booklet 'Riding on the Road'

VIEW

Pony Club Videos
'You and Your Pony' Programme 1.
Handling and Leading
Health and Condition

D+ STANDARD

Recommended age 10. Felt colour white.

GENERAL

This is an official voluntary test of a standard half way between 'D' & 'C'. It is not necessary to either take or pass it before attempting 'C'.

OBJECTIVE

To be working towards developing a balanced seat independent of the reins.
To understand elementary aids and be able to apply them.

RIDING

Mount and dismount,
Hold the reins correctly and carry a whip in either hand
To be able to control a quiet pony in company, on the roads and in the countryside
Walk without stirrups
Use of legs as aids
Simple turns and circles in walk and trot
Walk on a loose rein and shorten the reins
Ride up and down hills in walk
Be able to canter
Ride over a single pole and very small fence

ROAD SENSE

To know on which side of the road you should ride
To understand a simple 'green cross' code
How to ride along a road, cross a road and say 'thank you', and how to signal to turn right or left
To know it is safer to ride on the road with adults or parents
To show an awareness of dangers when riding on the road, understanding what is likely to frighten a pony or cause him to slip
To understand how to ride with a friend whilst on the road
Recognise the dangers to ponies from cars and other traffic.

HORSEMASTERSHIP

To have some knowledge of the care and working a pony off grass
Put on a saddle and bridle
Have some knowledge of correctly fitting tack
Elementary care of saddlery
Catching a pony and turn it away in the field
Lead a pony in hand at walk and trot, and turn correctly
Tie up a pony correctly
Names and uses of essential grooming kit.

Pick up and pick out feet
Points of the pony, colours and markings
Be able to recognise New Zealand Rugs, sweat rugs and a night rug

READ

'The Manual of Horsemanship'
Points of the Pony
Colours and markings
Care and working a pony off grass
Putting on a saddle
Putting on a bridle
Unsaddling
Saddle fitting
Bridle fitting
To tie up correctly
Care of saddlery
Grooming
Aids (Omit gallop and rein-back)
Jumping position
Pony Club Booklet 'Junior Road Rider'

VIEW

Pony Club Videos 'You and Your Pony' Programme 1
Handling & Leading, Health & Condition, Top Rider Part 1

Riding and Road Safety

A Certificate will be awarded to successful candidates

AIM

The aim of the Riding and Road Safety Test is to promote safety on the road by recognising riders who can show that they ride with courtesy and responsibility, are aware of, and obey the law, the Highway Code and The Pony Club or British Horse Society Riding and Road Safety Manual.

Before being awarded the 'C' Test Certificate, Candidates must pass either the BHS Road Safety Test or The Pony Club's Road Safety Test.

Details of the running, organisation and administration of The Pony Club Road Safety Test are given below.

For details of the B.H.S. Test please contact the BHS Safety Office. It is the BHS Test that will be needed by those wishing to progress up the BHS ladder.

The test is open to any rider over 10 years old and under 65 years old, Membership of the British Horse Society or affiliated Riding Club, or the Pony Club is not necessary.

EXAMINATION PANEL

For The Pony Club Test:

Riding Examiner: A Pony Club C Test or above examiner who is also an experienced driver.

Road Safety Examiner: The police or road safety Officer, or a Pony Club examiner who has been to a one-day course in basic road safety, organised and run by the local authority and is also an experienced driver.

THE TEST

The Test is of the rider's roadcraft and riding ability and not of the horse or pony.

N.B. There is no such thing as a bomb proof horse or pony.

Test candidates are required to take the test in three parts consecutively:

Theory Test

Designed to test a rider's knowledge of the Highway Code and of the generally accepted rules of riding on the highway as set out in the current edition of the Riding and Road Safety Manual. Questions may be given orally or in the form of a test paper and should invite factual answers, not opinions. Recommended sample questions are given at the back of the Riding and Road Safety Manual.

Tack and Turnout Inspection

This inspection is entirely a safety measure carried out to make sure that the horse's tack and rider's clothing are in a safe and satisfactory condition for riding. It is neither a test nor a 'show' inspection. Hats must be to the current BSI Standard(s) and properly secured.

Simulated Road Route

Designed to test in safe but simulated road conditions, a rider's precautions against, and reactions to, a series of noises and sights which could be reasonably be met with locally on the roads and which might make a horse shy. Road junctions must be included so that candidates may demonstrate their road craft and ability to use arm signals. Hazards must so be replaced as to permit candidates to show trot between each or any of them. Trot must be shown by candidates at this stage of the test.

ROAD TEST ON THE PUBLIC HIGHWAY

Designed to test in practice the rider's knowledge of road craft application of the requirements of the Highway Code and the current edition of the Society's Riding and Road Safety Manual. As in the Simulated Road Route, trot must be shown by candidates on the Public Highway. The stretch of Public Highway should afford candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of road craft together with their riding ability.

MARKING

The candidate to be successful must pass in all three parts of the test. A candidate who fails in either part one, or part two, may not take part three. The test is of the rider not the horse. To be successful, the candidate must satisfy the examiners in the three parts of the test consecutively. Eight of the ten theory questions must be correctly answered. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in parts two and three of the test at a level of 80% if an arithmetical method of marking is used. Alternatively a safe tick or unsafe cross or 'B' for borderline may be used from a possible ten. Any manoeuvre which judged as dangerous to other road users, e.g. failure to look behind before a signal is given will result in instant failure.

REQUIRED READING

The Highway Code - Current Edition available from HMSO and Stationers. The British Horse Society Riding and Road Safety Manual - Current Edition available from The Pony Club.
The Children's Highway Code - Current Edition available from the Society's book shop
The Pony Club Junior Road Rider

VIDEOS

Essential visual training aid for this test:
HORSENSE: ROADCRAFT FOR THE RIDER,
Available from the Safety Office at Stoneleigh. Current price on application.
RIDE SAFELY
Available from The Pony Club. Current price on application

CAUTION:

The Pony Club and the Society recommend that young riders who have passed the Riding and Road Safety Test shall ride on the road unaccompanied only when the person responsible for their safety is entirely satisfied that, in their opinion, it is safe for the young person(s) so to do.

'C' TEST

Recommended minimum age 11 or 12. Felt colour green.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the importance of, and to be working towards a secure seat independent of the reins

To apply simple aids correctly

To have a knowledge of the care and working of a pony off grass

To be in control of the pony on the roads and in the countryside. To have a proper regard for country lore

NOTE: Before being awarded the 'C' Test Certificate, Candidates must have attained either the BHS Road Safety Test or The Pony Club's Road Safety Test.

RIDING

Turn-out of pony and rider

Mount and dismount correctly on either side

Hold the reins correctly

Alter stirrups when mounted

Tighten and loosen girth when mounted

Position at walk, trot, canter and gallop

Use of legs and hands as aids to increase and decrease pace

Simple turns and circles at walk, trot and canter

Aids for canter on a named leg on a circle

Walk with a long rein

Ride up and down hill

Independent work in the open

Walk and trot over heavy poles as a preliminary to jumping

Ride over small fences and ditches

Riding in the countryside, across farm land and bridle paths

HORSEMASTERSHIP

Care and working of a pony off grass

Elementary feeding, watering and cleanliness of the pony

Names and uses of the essential grooming kit

Picking up and picking out the feet

Know when a pony needs shoeing and what to look for in a newly shod foot

Elementary care and cleaning of saddlery

Know the main indications for health in the pony

Elementary knowledge of the treatment of minor wounds

Recognise when a pony is lame

Lead a pony in hand walking, trotting and turning

Know how to take a pony in and out of a horse-box or trailer

Understand the importance and the means of protecting the legs while travelling

Put on a rug, roller and tail bandage, and a New Zealand Rug

Points of the Pony, colours and markings

READ the following Pony Club Publications:

'Keeping a Pony at Grass' - The whole book

'The Manual of Horsemanship'

Points of the horse

Mounting and dismounting (Omit 'to dismount using the stirrup')

The stirrups

The position of the rider in the saddle

Holding the single rein

Position of the rider in motion

The aids

The basic paces (Omit 'the rein back')

Jumping

The correct approach Fig 19.
Handling and leading a horse
To lead in hand
Classification and identification
Saddlery - General considerations
Saddling up
Putting on and fitting a bridle, unsaddling (Omit 'fit and adjust the curb chain')
Care of saddlery
The signs of good health
Lameness - Identifying the lame leg
Loading - with an assistant
Unloading
'The Country Code' - The Countryside Commission

VIEW

Pony Club Videos
Top Rider Parts 1 and 2
When to Call the Vet
Handling and Leading, Health and Condition

C+ TEST

Recommended minimum age 14 years. Felt Colour - Pink

GENERAL

This is an official voluntary test of a standard half way between C & B. It is not necessary to either take or pass it before attempting B.

NOTE: Before taking the C+ Test, candidates must have passed the British Horse Society Riding and Road Safety Test.

OBJECTIVE

To become an educated and practical horseman
To ride over fences at all paces
To gain practical experience and knowledge of the care of a stabled pony and of a pony at grass
To be capable of riding a well-mannered pony out hunting and in all Pony Club activities
To ride intelligently and with due regard for others on the roads and in the country, and with a knowledge of pace, distance and discipline when riding alone and in groups

RIDING

Mount and dismount correctly on either side
Position at walk, trot, canter and gallop
Sitting trot, rising trot on either diagonal, change of diagonal
Application of aids for increase and decrease of pace, turns and circles
Turns on the forehand from the halt
Stand still. Salute
Free walk on a long rein or with a loose rein
Change of leg at the canter, through the trot
Know sequence of legs at all paces
Ride with reins in one hand
Ride up and down steep hills and banks
Bits and their uses
Jump a variety of fences and ditches at trot and canter
Jump up and down hill. Jump doubles

ROAD SENSE

Behaviour when riding in groups and in pairs
Dealing with an accident

HORSEMASTERSHIP

Practical care and working of a pony off grass
Knowledge of the care and working of a corn-fed stabled pony
Know principles of watering and feeding. Have a knowledge of the difference items of forage
Know the articles of grooming kit and be able to use them
Be able to rug up and put on a stable bandage correctly
Shoeing. Know something of the structure of the horse's foot
Know the names of the farriers tools
Be able to name parts of the foot and describe a hunter's shoe
Be able to fit a saddle and bridle
Know when a horse is lame, sick or in poor condition. Elementary first aid
Be able to carry out prescribed treatment of wounds, ailments and lameness

READ

Pony Club Publications
'The Manual of Horsemanship'
'Keeping a Pony at Grass'
BHS Riding and Road Safety Manual - Riding Safely on the Roads'
'The Country Code' - The Countryside Commission

VIEW

Pony Club Videos 'You and Your Pony'
Programme 1 - Chapters 4, 5, 8, 9 & 10
Programme 2 - Chapters 1 - 7
Handling and Leading, Health and Condition
Top Rider Parts 1 and Two
When to Call the Vet

'B' Standard – Riding

Only those 14 years or over are eligible for B Standard. The recommended age is 15/16 years.
Felt Colour - Red
The B Test may be taken as a whole or in two parts:

B Standard Riding
B Standard Horse and Pony Care

These Tests may be taken on different occasions and in any order.

OBJECTIVE

To become an effective horseman who knows the reasons for what he is doing
To ride over fences at all paces
To be capable of riding a well-mannered horse or pony out hunting, in horse trials, or on a long distance ride, to look after a pony before, during and after all these activities
To ride intelligently and with due regard for others in the country, with a knowledge of pace, distance and discipline when riding alone and in groups
NOTE: Candidates may be required to ride more than one horse.

Before taking the 'B' Test, Candidates must have passed the 'C' Test including BHS Riding and Road Safety Test.

The practice of bringing pressure to bear on Area Representatives, D.Cs, Examiners and other Pony Club

Officials to treat as special cases those who happen to be using the Test as an Entry/Professional Qualification is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

RIDING

Mount and dismount correctly

Basically correct position at walk, trot, canter, gallop and over fences

Understand and apply the correct aids for the movements ridden during this Test

Try a horse at his basic paces, transitions, turns and circles, and comment on what you find

Understand the meaning of balance, impulsion, rhythm and tempo

Understand the aids for, and ride, turn on the forehand from the halt and work towards half pirouette at the walk

Sitting trot, rising trot on either diagonal and change of diagonal

Lengthened strides and leg yielding in walk and trot

Halt and salute

Free walk on a long rein

Change of leg at the canter through the trot

Ride with reins in either hand

Candidates should have some knowledge of riding with two pairs of reins

Elementary riding school drill

How to show off a horse

Open a gate mounted

Ride up and down steep hills and banks

Jump a variety of fences and ditches at trot and canter

Jump up and down hill; jump drop fences, jump doubles and awkward fences

Show a knowledge of pace and balance suitable for the level of training and fitness of their horse whilst riding at a cross-country speed.

READ

The following Pony Club Publications:

'The Manual of Horsemanship'

Young Persons Guide to Eventing

Endurance Riding and Trekking

Suggested Further Reading:

Rule Books for Pony Club Dressage, Show Jumping and Horse Trials

VIEW Pony Club Training Videos:

Top Rider Parts 1 and 2

B Standard - Horse and Pony Care

Only those 14 years or over are eligible for B Standard. The recommended age is 15/16 years.

Felt Colour - Brown

The Test may be taken as a whole or in two parts:

B Standard Riding

B Standard Horse and Pony Care

These Tests may be taken on different occasions and in any order.

OBJECTIVE

To gain practical experience and knowledge of the care of a stabled horse/pony and of a horse/pony at grass

To look after these before, during and after the day's hunting or other activity

NOTE: Before taking the 'B' Test, Candidates must have passed the 'C' Test including BHS Riding And Road safety Test.

The practice of bringing pressure to bear on Area Representatives, D.C.s, Examiners and other Pony Club Officials to treat as special cases those who happen to be using the Test as an Entry/Professional Qualification is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

HORSEMASTERSHIP

Knowledge of the care and working of a pony off grass and of a corn-fed, stabled horse and of exercising and getting a horse fit

Daily routine

Have some knowledge of stabling - ventilation, light, drainage, shelter and warmth

Know principles of watering and feeding and be able to put them into practice. Have a knowledge of the different items of forage

Know the articles of grooming kit and be able to use them

Be able to rug up and bandage correctly for stable and for travel and discuss types of rug, surcingles, tail and poll guards etc

Prepare a horse for travel and be capable of loading and unloading it in a horse box/ trailer having first inspected the vehicle for safety and road-worthiness

Describe a horse, recognising good and bad points of conformation

Know something of the structure of the horse's foot. Be able to name parts of the foot

Know the parts of the horse's shoe and different types of shoe

Understand the methods of shoeing. Know the names of the blacksmith's tools and their uses

Know when a horse is lame, sick or in poor condition, and know the most common causes of these ailments

Elementary first aid

Be able to carry out prescribed treatment of wounds, ailments and lameness

Organisation and fitting of tack room

Understand and discuss the action of the three basic types of bit i.e. snaffle, pelham and the double bridle

Know how to fit, care for, clean, store, inspect for soundness and stitching saddlery, rugs, bandages etc

Recognition of various types of saddle and uses

READ

The following Pony Club Publications:

'The Manual of Horsemanship'

'Keeping a Pony at Grass'

Young Persons Guide to Eventing

Suggested Further Reading:

Grassland Management for Horse and Pony Owners - (BHS)

VIEW

When to call the Vet

Handling and Leading

Health and Condition

The 'B' Test and the British Horse Society Exemption

Only a "complete" Stage 3 application (i.e. Care and Riding) can be accepted in the first instance, thereafter it is possible to apply to re-sit a failed section, providing a "direct entry" application form is completed.

'B' test holders may go directly to Stage 3. They may take the Preliminary Teaching Test (once old enough) AFTER passing the complete Stage 3 exam.

APPLICATION for the Preliminary Teaching Test cannot be made until the Stage 3 has been passed.

Any exemption allowed will require:

- a) Age seventeen years for Stage 3. Age seventeen and a half (with academic qualifications as stipulated in Examinations Structure leaflet), otherwise eighteen years of age for PTT.
- b) A BHS Riding & Road Safety Certificate must be presented with each application.
- c) Every application form must be accompanied by the special form supplied by the Examinations Office,

which must be countersigned by the DC and the Area Representative stating that the candidate is a CURRENT Member and is involved in the activities of their branch.

d) It is strongly recommended that applicants have helped/worked at a riding establishment (preferably BHS Approved) for at least four weeks during the preceding year (not necessarily four consecutive weeks).

e) Once a 'B' Test holder leaves the Pony Club or is not currently involved in Pony Club activities, the exemption no longer applies.

f) The candidate must be a BHS Member.

'A' Test - Riding

The Pony Club A Test is the highest Test within The Pony Club structure. It is recognized world wide and is very much sought after!

Candidates must be over 17 and must hold the A Test Horse and Pony Care certificate.

Applications must be made to The Pony Club Office on the official card having first been sanctioned by the District Commissioner and Area Representative.

A list of recommended reading is given in the A Test syllabus.

The Test may be attempted on three occasions. Candidates who fail, cannot re-take the Test for three months.

'A' TEST EXEMPTIONS FROM JAN. 1ST 1999.

The A Test Riding is accepted by the BHS as an exemption from their Stages III and IV Examination in Riding and Horse Care, subject to recommendation by the Pony Club Training Committee and approval by the BHS Training and examination Committee.

Any holder of the Pony Club 'A' test, wishing to obtain a BHS TEACHING QUALIFICATION may apply to:- The Chairman of the Pony Club Training Committee with a full C.V. which must include details of their involvement with horses BOTH Stable Management and Riding aspects. (The fee at January 2005 is £50 (subject to change).

1. The Pony Club will forward acceptable C.V.'s with BHS Riding & Road Safety Test certificate to the BHS Examinations Advisory Group who at their next meeting will consider the application.

2. The greatest exemption that can be given is:-Exemption from Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 Riding and Care sections. Direct entry to Preliminary Teaching Test.

a) On passing the PTT the Preliminary Teachers Certificate will be awarded.

b) On logging 500 hours teaching experience the Assistant Instructors Certificate (BHSAI / International Level 1) will be awarded to those holding a current First Aid at Work Certificate).

c) The BHSAI is a pre-requisite for the Intermediate Teaching Test.

d) On passing the Intermediate Teaching Test, the Intermediate Instructors certificate (BHSII. / International Level 2) will be awarded.

ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE BHS WHEN APPLYING FOR ENTRY AND WHEN SITTING A BHS EXAM. An application form for the appropriate exam will be sent with the result of the exemption request.

CANDIDATES MUST HAVE REACHED THE MINIMUM AGE FOR THE EXAM WHICH THEY ARE TAKING, as shown on the BHS syllabus.

A FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO THE 'A' TEST HOLDER BY THE BHS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE TIME WHICH WILL NOT BE RETURNABLE UNLESS NO EXEMPTION AT ALL IS GIVEN. THE FEE MUST BE FORWARDED WITH THE C.V. The fee at January 2005 is £75 (subject to change).

Candidates whose C.V.'s show a lack of broad experience of horse care, in the opinion of the Pony Club Training Committee/Chairman and/or the BHS Advisory Group, will be required to take the Stage 3 and 4 sections or just the Stage 4 Care.

'A' Test - Horse and Pony Care

The Pony Club A Test is the highest Test within The Pony Club structure. It is recognized world wide and is very much sought after! The A Test Horse and Pony Care is the Stable Management phase of the A Test. As from 1st January 2001, the Test features a Mares and Foals Section that was formally in the A Test Riding Test.

Only Members 17 years of age and over, who have passed their full B Test, can take the Test.

Those who have passed B (horse & pony care) Test only and have been recommended after an assessment by an A (horse & pony care) examiner can also take the Test.

The fee is £75. This is forfeited if the candidate withdraws within three weeks of the Test.

Applications must be made to Area Representative on the official card having first been sanctioned by the District Commissioner.

A Member who has failed the A (horse & pony care) Test cannot re-take it until at least three months after failing.

The Test may be attempted once during the year following the one in which Membership ceases, providing they are nominated prior to their 21st birthday and remain fully paid up Members of The Pony Club.

An A (horse & pony care) honours can be given to a candidate who has reached an exceptionally high standard in all sections of the Test.

'AHPC' TEST EXEMPTION

Current and active Members with their AHPC (who also hold the full B Test) will be allowed to apply for direct entry to the PTT before taking stage III.

This will enable the Member to make a start on the 500 hours whilst training for the Stage III.

Any exemption allowed will require:-

A BHS Riding & Road Safety Certificate must be presented with each application.

Every application form must be accompanied by the special form supplied by the Examinations Office, which must be countersigned by the DC and the Area Representative stating that the candidate is a CURRENT Member and is involved in the activities of their Branch.

Once a 'AHPC' Test holder leaves the Pony Club or is not currently involved in Pony Club activities, the exemption no longer applies.

The candidate must be a BHS Member.