

**PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA**  
**'C' CERTIFICATE TESTING AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA DOCUMENT**  
**Effective 31/3/2021 as produced by PCASA.**

<b>Name of candidate:</b>		<b>Date of birth:</b>
<b>Club or Centre:</b>		<b>Venue:</b>
<b>Name of Assessor:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
Overall Result		
	Competent (yes/no)	Comment
Written Paper (need 75% to pass)		
Riders Tool Kit		
On the Ground		
Under the saddle		
Horse Management		
Result overall		

The following is a technical criterion for the rider wishing to achieve "C" certificate. The candidate must:

<b>PRESENTATION</b>				
<i>Syllabus item</i>	<i>Technical Criteria</i>	<b>C</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<i>Notes</i>
Wear Pony Club Uniform.	The rider must wear full PC or PCA accredited Centre official uniform and must be clean and tidy.			
	wear clean boots (as permitted by rules).			
	Wear a correctly fitting helmet which is one of the following: ASNZS3838 or VG1 or ASTM F1163			
	not be wearing jewellery (except as per rules).			
Punctuality, courtesy, overall impression.				
Miscellaneous equipment	Spurs if worn must be of the type allowed in Pony Club and be correctly fitted.			
	If the rider carries a whip, it must be the right size and type allowed.			
Horse clean and tidy (not required to be clean to the skin).	The horse must be well groomed (plaiting is not required) and have clean eyes, nostrils and dock.			
	The mane and tail must be washed.			
Hooves clean and showing evidence of regular care.	The horse must be appropriately trimmed or shod.			
	Feet must be cleaned out and oiled (hoof black not to be used).			
Clean and correctly fitted gear.	The bridle and bit must be clean.			
	The bridle and bit must be the correct size and fitting correctly.			
	The saddle must be clean (including the girth).			
	The saddle must be correctly fitted.			
	The stirrup leathers and irons must be safe.			
	If a breastplate is used, it must be clean and correctly fitted			
	If a martingale is used, it must be clean and correctly fitted			
	The saddlecloth must be clean and the correct size for saddle.			
	If boots or bandages are used, they must be clean and correctly fitted. (Bandages must be stitched.)			
All saddlery must be in good repair.				
Overall Impression (Assessors may comment here)				

Name of candidate:

**Riders Tool Kit**

<b>Syllabus Item</b>	<b>Technical Criteria — discuss</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>Notes</b>
An understanding of the horse's evolution and how it still influences the modern horse.	Horses have been around for 55 million years and domesticated for 6 thousand years. They have evolved over time to have excellent hearing, vision, smell, speed, reflexes (including the flight response), memory and ability to form bonds. Their digestive system allows them to continue to move after eating all these things and has enabled the horse to survive.			
Understand and manage the flight response	What is the flight response? The flight response is an automatic physiological reaction to an event that is perceived as stressful or frightening. The perception of threat activates the sympathetic nervous system and triggers an acute stress response that prepares the body to fight or flee. Need to control the front legs, by training the horse to respond by answering the aids trained in all situations			
Discuss the three parts of pressure-release training. (light aid, stronger, release)	Apply a light aid, immediately followed by a stronger aid if there is no response. Immediately followed by release. There is no gaps between, timing is very important. The pressure motivates the horse, the release trains the horse			
Discuss reward training, punishment (and the pit falls of punishment) and habituation in more detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reward training is adding something.</li> <li>Punishment is the last tool in the tool kit, only tells the horse what you don't want.</li> </ul> Explain habituation: give examples			
Discuss classical conditioning	Explain classical conditioning and how it is used in training-learning by association e.g., hearing the feed shed door mean food, adding a voice cue to established aid.			

Overall Impression. (Assessors may comment here)

**Ground Work in bridle preferably**

<b>Syllabus item</b>	<b>Technical Criteria</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Demonstrate accurate stop, step back and slow from light signals	Reins held in bridge or finger between. Stop within 2.5 steps, horses' legs to stop first & pressure released quickly, step back with light signal handler to face back and horse to take 2 steps, slow within walk from a light signal. Showing correct body positioning throughout			
Demonstrate accurate go and turn from light signals	Go within 2 sec and demonstrate turns from a light signal, leading from the shoulder with handler using rein not body to turn.			
Demonstrate park	Park for short period (15-20 seconds) handler at end of rein and move around horse in an arc from shoulder to shoulder and back			
Explain how a voice cue is trained	Once horse has been trained through operant conditioning (pressure release) to a light response, the voice cue is added immediately before the pressure is applied (physical aid)			
Complete a groundwork dressage test with accuracy and control (in	Complete the dressage test on page 20 in the C certificate manual.			

manual)				
Overall Impression (Assessors may comment here)				
<b>Name of candidate:</b>				
<b>Under Saddle</b>				
<b>Syllabus item</b>	<b>Technical Criteria</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Demonstrate correct riding position	Show a balanced independent seat with the 3 straight lines, and a stable lower leg.			
Stop with accuracy and from light signals	Halt within 2.5 steps from light signals at a marker.			
Clear, accurate upward transitions	Demonstrate upward transitions at markers, horse responds within 2-3 front leg steps from given aid			
Clear, accurate downward transitions	Demonstrate downward transitions at markers, horse responds within 2-3 front leg steps from given aid			
Change pace within each gait in self-carriage  <b>SA note:</b> riders set horse in pace and the horse maintains the pace without undue influence from the rider.	Show self-carriage in Walk			
	Faster walk (longer walk strides) Slower walk (shorter walk strides)			
	Trot			
	Faster Trot (longer trot strides) Slower trot (shorter trot strides)			
	Canter			
	Faster canter (Longer Canter strides) Slower canter (shorter canter strides)			
	Show correct rising diagonals	must be able to identify which diagonal they are riding on.		
always be on the correct diagonal (and be quickly able to change their diagonal if incorrect).				
Demonstrate canter on straight lines and 20m circles (both reins) and recognise leading leg	Demonstrate canter on straight lines and 20m circles (both reins) and recognise leading leg. Maintain canter throughout exercise.			
Know footfalls at trot and canter	Know footfalls at trot and canter			
Ride without stirrups at walk and trot	be able to maintain a relatively secure position without unduly upsetting the horse.			
Ride with reins in either hand at walk, trot	hold the reins correctly in one hand.			
	correctly change the reins from one hand to the other.			
	stop the horse with the reins in one hand.			
	steer the horse with the reins in one hand.			
Shorten and lengthen reins whilst one-handed	Shorten and lengthen reins whilst one-handed, on both reins.			
Alter the stirrups and girth whilst halted and mounted (at the halt).	keep their foot in the stirrup at all times while adjusting the stirrups and must not let go of the reins.			
	keep their foot in the stirrup at all times while adjusting the girth and must not let go of the reins.			
Demonstrate two-point and three-point position. Discuss when to use them.	2 point legs in contact, 3 point legs and seat in contact.			
Demonstrate balanced riding over poles, both single and in sequence.	allow the horse freedom to round over the poles by adequately allowing with the hands over the poles (correctly fitted neckstraps are strongly recommended to assist with this).			

Negotiate small show jumps (height and width of 65cm)	allow the horse freedom to round over the fence by adequately allowing with the hands over the fence (correctly fitted neckstraps are strongly recommended to assist with this).			
	ride in balanced jumping position over fences - rider remaining balanced and not being "left behind" over the fence. Show straight approaches and get away and smooth curves around course.			

Name of Candidate:

Demonstrate riding over small cross-country obstacles (max height 65)	Demonstrate riding over small cross-country fence over varied terrain			
Know a range of types of show jumping fences	Straight, oxer, cross bar.			
Know jumping strides and distances.	Know basic striding for trot poles, 1 and 2 stride combinations.			
Walk a show jumping course, demonstrating a knowledge of the rules and an understanding of the factors to take into consideration.	have basic knowledge of how to walk a showjumping course and why.			

Overall Impression (Assessor may comment here)

### **Horse Management**

<b>Syllabus item</b>	<b>Technical Criteria – What you need to know</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NYC</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Know these parts of the horse	Poll, point of hip, hind quarters, gaskin, flank, jowl, breasts, ribs, cannon bone, forearm, chestnut and ergot.			
Know these markings of horses	Star, snip, blaze, stripe, socks, stockings			
Know these colours of horses	Chestnut, bay, brown, black, palomino and grey			
Know how horses are measured	know how to measure a horse, and ensure the horse is on level ground. understand the units of measurement.			
Know and demonstrate the correct use of the following grooming tools:	Combs, sponge, towel and bot knife			
Discuss correct hoof management practices (shoeing, trimming etc)	know how often a horse should be shod.			
	be aware and understand when a horse needs shoeing or re-shoeing.			
	understand care of the unshod foot.			
Identify the bars of the hoof.	Show where the bars of the hoof are.			
Know these farriers' tools.	rasp, knife, cutters, hammer, buffer, pincers			
Discuss the requirements of transporting horses	Float/truck safety			
	Rugging			
	Travel boots or bandaging			
Know the daily paddock checklist.	Water, fences, gates, pasture, rug, horse			

Know the main rules for feeding horses	Little but often, good clean feed, clean water, no sudden changes, plenty of roughage, feed same time each day, feed according to work horse is doing.			
Know how to treat a girth gall, sore back, sore mouth	Treatment of girth gall			
	Sore back			
	Sore mouth			
Discuss tetanus prevention and parasite control	Tetanus			
	Parasite control			
Name of Candidate:				
Know what to have in a basic first aid kit for horses	Know what a basic vet kit should contain.			
Discuss when to call a vet	show some understanding of when a horse requires professional veterinary treatment and to have the ability to notice that all is not well, and treatment may be needed			
Know the symptoms of these listed illness	know the signs and symptoms of a colic			
	know the signs and symptoms of greasy heel			
	know the signs and symptoms of a lameness			
	know the signs and symptoms of a minor wounds			
	know the signs and symptoms of seedy toe			
	know the signs and symptoms of stone in the foot			
	know the signs and symptoms of strangles			
Discuss appropriate dental care for horses	know the signs and symptoms of thrush			
	Know the signs of laminitis			
Discuss appropriate dental care for horses	What is your dental care routine for your horse			
Discuss saddle fitting	Gullet clearance, free shoulder, saddle cloth size etc			
Demonstrate a correctly fitting saddle and bridle	fit their own saddle in the correct position on the horses back for safety and the comfort of the horse.			
	understand pommel and gullet clearance.			
	use a saddle blanket of appropriate size that creates no pressure points.			
	know how to tell if a bridle and bit is correctly fitted, for safety and the comfort of the horse..			
Know how to care for tack (incl checking stitching)	Candidate to be able to name the bit they are using			
Identify parts of the saddle listed	know how to care for saddlery.			
Discuss use of martingales, breast plates, surcingles and cruppers	cantle, waist, gullet and sweat flap			
	be able to describe and understand the use of a martingale			
	Breastplate			
	Surcingle			
Demonstrate a correctly fitted rug and safe rugging practices;	crupper			
	consider safety aspects of rugging the horse.			
	rug a quiet horse.			
	demonstrate how to fold a rug and place on the horse.			
	know when to use and when not to use rugs.			
	explain the correct fitting of rugs.			
know how to care for rugs.				
What is the thermoneutral zone				

Know the horse's thermoneutral zone and understand the implications for rugging	<p>Explain the thermoneutral zone and what implications there are for rugging.</p> <p>Is defined as the range of temperature in which the horse maintains its body temperature with little to no additional energy expenditure. Rugging must not increase the temperature beyond this zone.</p>			
Overall Impression. Candidates safety, knowledge and proficiency (Assessors may comment here)				

Candidate Name:	Club or Centre:
Assessor Name:	Assessor Signature:
Date:	
Result: C or NYC	

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