

PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA
SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

INDEX

	Page
General Conditions	2
Ages / Certificate colours	2
Pre-requisites	2
Examiners	2
Examination Credits	2
Written Papers	3
Pass Marks for Written Papers	3
Supplementary Written Papers	3
Supplementary Tests for Practical Sections	3
Workbooks	4
Presentation	4
Horses	4
Standard D Certificate Requirements	5
Standard D Star Certificate Requirements	8
Standard C Certificate Requirements	11
Standard K Certificate Requirements	18
Standard K Certificate Endorsements	31
Standard C Star Certificate Requirements	32
Standard B Certificate Horse Care Requirements	38
Standard B Certificate Riding Requirements	44
Standard B Certificate Restricted Jumping	44
Standard H Certificate Requirements	47
Standard A Certificate Requirements	56

**SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**
General Conditions for Efficiency Tests
The expected outcomes are shown in italics.

AGES / CERTIFICATE COLOURS

Minimum ages for Candidates undertaking the Tests, and Certificate colours

D Standard	7 years	Yellow
D* Standard	9 years	Lime green
C Standard	12 years	Green
K Standard	14 years	Purple
C* Standard	14 years	Pink
B Standard – Horse Care	15 years	Brown
B Standard – Riding	16 years	Red
B Standard (Restricted Jumping)	16 years	White
H Standard	17 years	Orange
A Standard	17 years	Blue

PRE-REQUISITES:

Standards D, C, C* or K, B - Horsemastership, B - Riding, and A, must be gained in that order, i.e. each is a pre-requisite for the higher standard. There is no pre-requisite for the H Certificate.

EXAMINERS:

An Examiner within a Club may test for D and D*. Each State must have a panel of examiners. Examiners should not test in their own Club unless circumstances, such as excessive distance, make this necessary.

To remain on the Examiners' Panel, Examiners must be active members of a Pony Club and attend current refresher courses conducted by their State. The names of Examiners on the Panel will be reviewed by each State every three years.

EXAMINATION CREDITS:

Any section of a Test passed by the candidate will be held as credit/s until such time as all sections are passed (maximum two years from original practical examination date).

WRITTEN PAPERS:

All written tests **must** be passed prior to the practical examination. For certificates above “C” level written papers **must** be passed before the day of the practical assessment. It is recommended that written papers be taken with enough time to allow supplementary papers to be completed prior to the practical test.

Should candidates have difficulty in expressing themselves in writing for the written paper at any standard, it is permissible for questions to be answered orally, to use a tape recorder, or for an adult to write the answers as directed by the candidate. If an adult writer is used, it is desirable that the person not be a horseperson or be related to the candidate.

Suggested times allowed for completion of written papers are:

C Standard	30 minutes
C* Standard	1 hour
K Standard	1 hour
B Standard	2 hours
H Standard	2½ to 3 hours
A Standard	2½ to 3 hours

PASS MARKS FOR WRITTEN PAPERS:

65% for all written papers. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit a supplementary paper.

SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN TESTS:

PASS MARK TO BE 65% FOR ALL EXAMINATION PAPERS. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit another paper. Candidates not passing the second paper must reapply at the next intake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS FOR PRACTICAL SECTIONS:

Supplementary testing must be completed as follows:

C, C Star & K min 3 months max 2 years from date of original examination

B, A, H min 6 months max 2 years from date of original examination

Candidates must be assessed to have reached the standard required prior to re-presenting for the practical tests.

Where possible one of the original examiners should be used for the supplementary test in consultation with the State Panel.

Should a candidate fail a Supplementary Test the full Certificate must be retaken.

WORKBOOKS:

Work certificates are required for K Standard and are recommended for C Star, B, A and H. Sheets are available from State Offices/Clubs. It is recommended that candidates keep a record of their own Pony Club experience.

PRESENTATION:

Candidates must wear formal Pony Club uniform for presentation and discipline appropriate uniform for all practical tests.

No jewellery to be worn. (Exception—Medic Alert bracelets)

Presentation of horse—See individual Test.

HORSES:

Horses used by the candidates for practical examinations must be the rider's qualified mount as per state rules.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD B

STANDARD B CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES

This certificate may be taken in two sections. The first section, Horsecare, can be done from the age of 15, prior to the practical riding, lungeing and jumping section.

Instructors and candidates must understand that there is a marked change of approach to instructing 'B' standard and what they endeavour to achieve by schooling the horse.

The Examiners should not expect perfection at this standard, however the candidate should understand what is being attempted. The candidate should have sufficient 'feel' to realise what is and what is not being achieved, and have an idea of how to set about improving the work.

The candidate must appreciate that the improvement in the horse's balance and performance is entirely dependent on the improvement in the rider's seat and the co-ordination of the aids. Automatically, with the strengthening of the rider's seat, will come an increase in ability to ride the horse up to steady contact to the bit. Through this the rider will come to influence the quality of the horse's movements. The ability to do this, even to a degree, is a basic requirement for this standard.

The candidate should be able to work and care for a fully stabled horse, and maintain its standard of training and health (i.e., for approximately one month period).

If the candidates was asked to look after a horse belonging to someone else they would be expected to maintain the horses standard of stable management, lunge the horse and ride the horse on the flat to maintain its level of fitness.

EXAMINER:

Refer to section on Examiners on Page 3.

EXAMINATION FORMAT:

The test will be conducted in three sections:

- Written paper.
- Horse care, lungeing and general knowledge.
- Riding and jumping.

Questions may include any work in pre-requisite certificates. The Candidate must pass all sections to gain the 'B' Certificate in Horse and Pony Care.

THE CANDIDATE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN:

1. Horse care.
2. Flat work
3. Jumping – including showjumping and cross country.
4. Lungeing.
5. Riding a variety of horses and an understanding of their schooling standard.
6. Designing and building showjumping courses under qualified supervision (worksheet required).

WORK SHEETS:

As per state requirements.

WRITTEN PAPER:

Approximate time 2 hours.

The paper may include riding, jumping, lungeing and horse care.

PRESENTATION:

For the Horse care test the horse must be presented for a led show class.

For the Ridden test the horse must be presented as for a ridden show class.

Candidates must wear formal Pony Club uniform for presentation and discipline appropriate uniform for all practical tests.

STANDARD B

HORSE CARE

Minimum age of Candidate ... 15 years

OBJECTIVES:

- To gain knowledge and practical experience of the care and conditioning of horses and to be able to look after a stabled horse.

PRE-REQUISITES:

D, C, and either C* or K Certificates.

HORSE HANDLING:

Show safety and efficiency in all aspects of handling the horse.

HORSE CARE:

Paddocking:

Understand the management of paddocks appropriate to their area.

Candidate must understand

- *Noxious weeds and poisonous plants*
- *Knowledge of suitable pasture*
- *Pasture management – knowledge of harrowing, rotation, fertilizing*

Feeding, Watering, Conditioning:

Know types of feed and be able to assess value and quality.

Candidate must understand the relationship of feed to the type of work the horse is doing.

Candidate to have a basic knowledge of feed programs for their horse, feeding by weight of feed including

- *horse not in work*
- *horse in light work (3-4 days per week)*
- *horse in full competition work for all disciplines*
- *rest day*

Be able to prepare a horse for strenuous work, for example, a Pony Club One Day Event.

Care for the horse before, during and after strenuous work including knowledge of feed program on the day of competition.

Grooming, Trimming, Clipping:

Groom efficiently and effectively to show ring standard.

Care for the clipped horse and understand the different types of clip.

Candidate to identify the following clips. Full, Belly, Trace, Hunting and Blanket

Care of Feet and Shoeing:

Understand the principles of shoeing and recognise a well shod horse.

Know the parts of the foot and how they function.

Candidate to identify the following; heel, bulbs of heel, cleft and point of frog, bars, wall, toe, white line, coronet band and the bone structure.

Stabling:

Be able to care for the fully stabled horse.

The candidate should be able to work and care for a fully stabled horse and maintain its standard of training and health. If the candidate is asked to look after a horse belonging to someone else he/she would be expected to maintain the horses standard of stable management, lunge the horse and ride the horse on the flat to maintain its level of fitness. Candidate to:

- *outline a stable routine*
- *describe different types of bedding and their care*
- *have knowledge of stable vices and their causes*
- *recognise signs of ill health.*

Transport of horses:

Explain what parts of the Float or truck need regular maintenance.

Candidate to:

- *have knowledge of maintenance of brakes, lights, floor, ramp, tyres, hitch and ball, breeching bar or safety chain.*
- *demonstrate appropriate rugging and horse protection*

Health, Ailments, Injuries:

Take temperature, pulse and respiration.

Know how to care for the horse's teeth and recognise potential problems.

Ageing of horse by the teeth up to 8 years.

Knowledge of internal and external parasites. Administer a worm paste.

Candidate to know the life cycles of large and small strongyles, bots, ascarids, tape worm and pin worms.

Recognise and treat lice, ringworm, ticks, onchacerca.

Be able to recognise, know the cause of, and where applicable, treat the following:

- Azoturia
- Heat stress / dehydration
- Hoof abscess
- Stomach ulcers

Be able to administer first aid to the horse.

Candidates must be able to apply a pressure bandage and figure of eight bandage.

Know when to call the Veterinarian and be able to carry out prescribed treatment of wounds, ailments and lameness.

Know the Horse:

Recognise good and poor conformation of the horse and the effect of this on soundness and action.

Describe conformation faults that affect a horses performance and longevity.

The candidate must be able to discuss the following unsoundness and blemishes, both hereditary and acquired.

- Bog spavin
- Bone spavin
- Broken wind
- Curb
- Navicular disease
- Ringbone
- Roaring and whistling
- Sidebone
- Splints
- Tendon problems
- Thoroughpin
- Windgalls

Saddlery and Equipment:

Bandage for exercise, competition and travel.

Candidate to demonstrate the bandages described above.

Fit saddlery correctly.

Know the five groups of bits/bridles and their action.

Snaffle, pelham, double, gag, bitless.

Be familiar with biting allowed for Pony Club competitions.

Candidates to know what bits are permitted for dressage, mounted games and jumping.

Understand the care, cleaning and storage of equipment.

LUNGEING:

Know principles, benefits, and potential dangers of lungeing.

Gloves, suitable footwear and an approved helmet to be worn.

Know correct equipment required for horse and handler.

Horse to be turned out as for presentation, with correct, well fitting and well cared for equipment. Snaffle bridle to be used including reins correctly secured but no noseband. Correctly fitted lunge cavesson with jowl strap and rings. Saddle, including stirrups correctly secured. (Suitable roller may be used instead of the saddle when design/type does not allow for correct positioning of the side reins.) Side reins correctly secured, may be solid or have elastic inserts. Candidate must have knowledge and reasons for both. Boots or bandages must be used. Lunge whip to be of the correct length and in good condition. Lunge rein to be of suitable length and thickness.

Understand safe practices to be adopted when lungeing. Demonstrate control of horse at walk, trot, canter and show a few lengthened strides of trot.

Candidate to:

- *start horse off correctly*
- *demonstrate a warm up phase without side reins*
- *demonstrate the work session with side reins correctly attached*
- *cool down without side reins.*

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

Racing.

Hunting.

Famous horses and horse people.

Our Olympic Equestrian record and teams in an Olympic year.

Topical and local horse events.

Pony Club structure, State and National.

STANDARD B RIDING

Minimum age of Candidate ... 16 years

OBJECTIVES:

- To become a competent, all-round rider, who knows the reasons for what he/she is doing and is able to assess results.
- The candidate should be reasonably proficient at the sitting trot. The candidate must appreciate what effect the sitting trot has on the movement of the horse. It is permissible to hold the pommel to correct the position in the trot. The rider's position at sitting trot must not adversely affect the horse's balance, rhythm, tempo and acceptance of contact.
- To ride over different types of fences at specified paces.
- To be capable of riding and jumping their own horse, and assessing its performance.
- To be capable of joining in any suitable Pony Club activities of interest to the rider, for example, eventing, hunting, trekking, gymkhanas, etc., and looking after the horse before, during and after the day's activity.
- To ride intelligently and with due regard for others on the roads.

RESTRICTED JUMPING 'B' STANDARD CERTIFICATE:

The Candidate may obtain a 'B' standard certificate with restricted jumping, but must jump a horse over a minimum of 0.60 m and a maximum height of 0.85 m and be able to ride across country, including up and down steep terrain. It is necessary for the Candidate to demonstrate proficiency in flat riding.

PRE-REQUISITES:

D, C, and either C* or K Certificates plus B Certificate Horse Care.

EXAMINATION FORMAT:

The test will be conducted in four sections:

- Written – to be passed prior to practical testing.
- Presentation.
- Riding on the flat.
- Jumping.

Questions may include any work in pre-requisite certificates. The Candidate must pass all sections to gain the 'B' Certificate.

RIDING ON THE FLAT:

1. Position at all paces becoming well-established and showing some depth, enabling the rider to apply aids smoothly and accurately.
2. Understand the importance of warming up and demonstrate same.
3. Assess what is and what is not being achieved with the horse.
4. Improved knowledge of the horses footfalls.
5. Recognise and understand the horses movement including faults.
6. Explain the following:—
 - Rhythm and tempo
 - 'Accepting the bit' and 'being on the bit'
 - Straightness.
 - Impulsion
7. Ride the following movements and explain the aids for (to be ridden in a 20 x 60 m arena):
 - Medium walk, and free walk on a long rein.
 - Working trot and canter.
 - Lengthened strides at trot and canter – must cover more ground – including across the diagonal and on a circle.
 - Halt.
 - Circles to 10 m. at walk and trot and 15 m. at canter.
 - Serpentine at trot.
 - Walk-canter transition
 - Counter canter – 2 m loop off the long side.
 - Change the canter lead through trot and walk,
 - Ride and explain the turn on the forehand including the horses outline and correct placement of the feet.
 - Ride and explain the leg yield including the horses outline and correct placement of the feet – to be shown on a circle and from the quarter line to the long side.
9. Knowledge of P.C.A., E.F.A. and F.E.I, dressage rules.
10. Traffic rules in the arena and general etiquette.

JUMPING:

Maximum height of fences 1 m., minimum height of fences, 0.85 m.

1. Show a balanced jumping position with steady lower leg and independent hands.
2. Jump a variety of fences and combinations, demonstrating balance, tempo, line and rhythm in showjumping and cross country.
3. Understand and show use of poles and/or caveletti and grids including trot and canter exercises to improve the horse's jumping.
4. Land on the correct lead after jumping a fence. Candidate should recognise when they need to rebalance and correct canter lead.
5. Candidate to show an ability to retain a balanced position over fences on varied terrain including drop fences, banks and ditches.
6. Demonstrate a sense of striding and know approximate length of own horse's stride.
7. Show lengthening and shortening of the canter stride and understand the application of this when riding related lines.
8. Know how to deal with disobedient horses (i.e. those that stop, run-out, rush etc.) , including correct use of the whip, and show understanding of the reasons for the disobedience.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of pace, riding at 350, 400 and 450 metres per minute.
10. Be able to build simple schooling fences and combinations.
11. Plan a simple showjumping course.
12. Walk and discuss a jumping course, both showjumping and cross country.
13. Know P.C.A., E.F.A. and F.E.I, Showjumping and Horse Trials rules.

ASSESSMENT OF DIFFERENT HORSES:

Ride and assess different horses and be able to give accurate feedback using correct terminology. The horses provided to be well mannered, known to the examiner and suitable for the task.