



IRISH PONY CLUB STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY TEST SHEET 2017 'B' STANDARD

GENERAL

The test centre must be prepared in advance, read for Show-Jumping and Cross Country course walk by candidates before the test begins.

PRACTICAL

Some time working in a professional yard recommended.

OBJECTIVE

- To become an effective and educated horseperson who knows the reasons for what he is doing. Demonstrating and understanding the correct way of going of the pony/horse.
- To ride over different types of fences at all paces.
- To gain practical experience and knowledge of the care of the stabled pony/horse and grassland management and relevant environmental issues.
- To be quite capable of doing all stable duties on their own, under general supervision.
- To be capable of riding a schooled pony/horse in different competitions (hunting, dressage, show-jumping and eventing) and their care before, during and after the day's activity.
- To be capable of riding another candidate's pony/horse on the flat and make a realistic assessment of the pony/horse using the scale of training.
- To ride sensibly and with due regard for others in the country, with a knowledge of pace, distance and discipline when riding alone or in groups.

RIDING

- Mount and dismount correctly.
- To show an established and balanced position at walk, trot, canter and gallop, including lateral movements. Riders should demonstrate an awareness of straightness and balance in position at all times. Ride without stirrups if required.
- Understand the meaning of BALANCE, IMPULSION, RHYTHM and TEMPO.
- Understand and apply the correct means of communication (aids) with the pony/horse for the movements and school figures used during the test.
- Ride a pony/horse at his basic paces, transitions, turns, circles and comment on the pony/horse after working independently.
- Riders will be required to ride, assess and discuss observations of another candidate's pony/horse on the flat.
- Medium steps in canter and trot.
- Be able to work towards and perform leg yield, shoulder fore, **travers** and quarter pirouette.
- Demonstrate a change of lead through trot and a simple change using canter/walk-canter.
- Ride with both reins in one hand.
- Understand the action of bits in everyday use and double bridle.
- Ride in a double bridle (pony/horse presented in a double bridle – two for every four candidates).

SHOW-JUMPING

- Jump a show-jumping course of 1 meter including a related distance, a double and a bending line. Debrief the round.

CROSS COUNTRY

- Be able to ride over undulating terrain using a suitable safe speed appropriate to ground conditions while negotiating a variety of fixed cross country fences.
- To be able to show a secure position with an independent seat to maintain the balance and security of both the horse and rider while riding cross country. Be able to debrief the cross country ridden.

HORSEMASTERSHIP

- Describe a horse, outlining positive and negative points of conformation.
- Discuss how to get a horse fit for various types of competitions including Interval Training. (Point-to-Point/Eventing).
- Know the rules of watering and feeding and be able to put them into practice.
- Discuss different items of forage. Draw up a feed programme relating to the requirements of the activity that the pony/horse is doing.
- Know the importance of grooming and the effect it has on the health of the horse.
- Discuss the advantages of maintaining health and happiness in ponies/horses kept for competition and leisure. Be able to fit and put on a stable and travelling rug, support bandages and boots in common use. Discuss ways of protecting the legs for exercise.
- Prepare a horse for travel and discuss equipment used and be capable of loading and unloading pony/horse into a horsebox, trailer or lorry.
- Know when a pony/horse is sick, injured or in poor condition and common causes, e.g. strangles and flu.
- Know when a horse is lame. Be able to identify the common causes and sites of lameness, e.g. bursal and bone enlargements, strains and sprains.
- When to use or cold treatments, suggested poultices, types and how to apply.
- Know the structure of the horse's lower leg. Be able to name parts of the lower leg and hoof.
- Know the methods of shoeing and the steps used for putting on a shoe and be able to remove a shoe.
- Studs and their uses.
- Know how to fit and care for saddlery and check that it is safe and fit for purpose.
- Demonstrate and fit a double bridle and discuss families of bits and their actions.
- Have some knowledge of stabling, ventilation, light, drainage, shelter and warmth.
- Seasonal management of field and benefits of good environmental practices.

READ

The Complete Riding Manual by William Micklem
The Manual of Horsemanship
Training Young Horses
Rule books for Irish Pony Club: Dressage, Show-Jumping and Horse Trails
Grassland Management for Horse and Pony Owners, B.H.S.
Look! No Hands – Straightforward Cross-Country
by Erick Smiley

VIEW

Irish Pony Club Training Videos

Minimum Age 16 Years (in year of test)

Disc Colour - Red