

The Irish Pony Club B Test Riding

2022

Disc Colour: Red

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 16th year or older at the time of taking the B test.
- Candidates must have passed their C+ test.
- Candidates taking the complete B test (Riding and Horse Care) should attempt both modules together on their first attempt, however, if they are not successful in one module, they have only to resit the module they were unsuccessful in.
- It is not possible to only complete the Riding module of the B test.

Outcomes:

Candidates should understand and apply the first four of the Scales of Training, and be an effective, educated and balanced rider.

Candidates should be capable of riding a well-mannered horse and maintain a correct way of going, including riding a course of show jumps at 1m, maintaining a balanced, independent position, riding a number of cross country fences, over undulating ground, at a safe speed appropriate to conditions and showing consideration for safety when riding alone or in a group.

Please note this test card only outlines the Riding module, please see the B Test Horse Care test card for details on the Horse Care module.

Format:

The assessment will consist of three sections – Flatwork, show jumping and cross-country.

The flat work session will take place in an arena, half the horses must be in double bridles and half in snaffle bridles.

The show jumping can take place in an arena or on grass, fences will be 1 metre, the show jumping course should contain a related distance, a double and a bending line.

The cross-country will take place in an open field and will include a short course of a variety of solid fence (max. height 1m).

Candidates can wear show jacket for the flat work and Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood) for jumping sections, pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for showjumping and cross country.

The show jumping and cross-country courses will be available to walk before the start of the assessment, it is recommended that candidate's avail of this.

The horse care section can take place in a stable yard or safely in the car park.

Section 1:

Flatwork:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Work horses in line with the first four of the Scales of Training
- Show a balanced, independent position in all three paces (rising and sitting trot)
- Apply the aids to promote and maintain the correct way of going
- The aids for the Half Halt, when to use the half Halt
- Discuss how you feel your horse is going, and what exercises might help it.
- Accurate school movements, including, loops, serpentines, various size circles
- Forward, progressive transitions
- Transitions within the pace, medium steps in trot and canter
- Quarter pirouette in walk
- Leg yielding
- Change horse and access way of going
- Give and retake the reins in trot
- Show a 20 m circle with the horse stretching forward and down
- Ride another candidate's horse on the flat and assess the way of going, relating to the Scales of Training and highlighting strengths and areas for improvement

Section 2:

Show Jumping:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Correct light seat position
- Correct show jumping position
- Ride a course of fences, maintain a suitable rhythm and canter
- Discuss the round and assess any areas for improvement
- Explain distances, between trotting poles, placing pole to a cross pole, doubles, related distances (all in metres)

Section 3

Cross-Country:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Correct, secure, balanced position out of the saddle, on varying terrain
- Show a balanced round with correct speed and lines required for the various fences
- Discuss the round and assess any areas for improvement
- Discuss how different fences are ridden
- Cross-country speeds for Irish Pony Club competition

Equitation Theory:

Throughout all three ridden sections candidates are expected to show their knowledge in equitation theory, topics covered include:

- Scales of Training and how you apply it in your everyday work
- Aids for various movements
- Quality of the paces
- Which rein the horse is more supple
- Response to aids
- Balance in upward and downward transitions
- Different types of rein contact
- Different types of leg aids
- Correct way of going
- Quality of canter required for show jumping
- Tack the horse is presented in
- Effect of various types of snaffles
- Double bridge – action, fitting and parts
- Types of tack for different disciplines
- Types of boots for different disciplines
- The importance of a warmup and cool down of the horse after schooling