

The Irish Pony Club D+ Test

2022

Disc Colour: White

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 10th year to sit D+ test

Outcomes:

Candidates should be able to ride in a confident, balanced way and be working towards an independent position.

Candidates understand the basic aids.

Format:

The D+ test consists of riding, including jumping three fences (max. height 65cm) and riding on undulating ground, horse care and knowledge and road sense theory.

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

Riding:

Candidates should:

- Mount and dismount correctly, with or without assistance
- Hold and shorten the reins correctly
- Carry a whip in either hand
- Walk on a long rein while maintaining a contact
- Be in control of a quiet pony in company and in an arena
- Walk without stirrups
- Ride simple turns and circles in walk and trot.
- Canter independently.
- Ride up and down hill in walk and trot (enclosed small paddock)
- Ride over a single pole
- Ride over 3 small fences (65 cm max) in an arena

Horse Care and Knowledge:

Candidates should:

- Know the basic needs and care of a pony living in a field
- Understand the need for fresh, clean water
- Put on a saddle and bridle (with assistance if required)
- Tell if the tack is fitting comfortably
- Know how to care for and clean tack
- Know how to safely catch a horse / pony from the field
- Know how to safely turn out a horse / pony into the field
- Lead a horse / pony in hand in walk and trot and turn correctly
- Tie up your horse / pony correctly
- Name the items in a grooming kit and their uses
- Pick up and pick out a front foot
- Know the points of the pony where the saddle and bridle sit
- Know common colours and markings
- Recognise turn out rugs and name parts of the rug
- Recognise when your pony is stressed and unwell
- Recognise signs of good health in your pony

Road Sense Theory:

Candidates should:

- Know which side of the road to ride on
- Understand the simple Junior Road Rider Code
- How to signal to turn left or right
- How to safely cross a road and say "Thank you"
- Know the importance of Hi-Vis clothing
- Recognise the dangers to ponies from cars and other traffic
- Know the likely hazards one could meet when riding in the road