



IRISH PONY CLUB
H TEST
HORSE AND PONY CARE 2004

H

**SYLLABUS AND TIMETABLE FOR FOUR EXAMINERS AND
EIGHT CANDIDATES**

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The Irish Pony Club 'H' Test stands alone as the highest Test of Horse and Pony care available in the Irish Pony Club. It is a pre-requisite for the 'A' Test.

Candidates must be 17yrs. or over and hold the 'B' Test Certificate to attempt the Test. Candidates will not be allowed to attempt the 'A' Test without successfully completion of the 'H' Test. All Candidates must have completed at least six days of preparation training with a listed trainer, which must be completed prior to the date of the Test. *They should also hold a current Basic First Aid Certificate (copy of which must be sent to HQ before the test).

Candidates should be thoroughly familiar with all practical requirements of the Test so that they are able to carry them out with speed and efficiency even under Examination conditions. It is important to work in a yard beforehand, handling strange horses under all conditions and keeping to a routine. In addition, veterinary surgeons and farriers are often willing to take interested and responsible candidates on their rounds, which provides invaluable experience. Candidates should try to read widely, as methods of feeding and veterinary treatments, in particular, are constantly changing and developing. Whilst having a firm grip of traditional methods, candidates should be able to discuss modern thinking on these subjects, particularly, and have seen them in practice. *Candidates should be able to manage a small yard with stabled and grass kept horses with minimal direction for one month.

Remember:

1. Only wear your gloves when actually lunging, riding, loading or leading a horse. Do not tack up or bandage with them on; it will make you slow and fumbly.
2. When checking tack, be methodical, look at both sides and only do it once.
3. Always untie the horse when looking at its teeth.
4. Always hang up the headcollar, or remove it from box if the horse is not wearing it.
5. Always give quantities of food in pounds or kilos, not scoops.
6. *Helmet should be worn when lunging or loading a horse.

Examiner A **40 minutes**

Requirements: One horse, headcollar, rope, use of stable and yard.

Handling:

- A1. How to approach, tie up, move about and handle a horse in a stable, and the importance of good stable manners for the horse.
- A2. Dealing with a cast horse in the box, and subsequent care.
- A3. Care of horses' teeth. How to examine for sharp teeth or wolf teeth.
- A4. Running a horse up for show or veterinary inspection.
- A5. Basic knowledge of the Nervous System.

Conformation:

- A6. Describe a horse fully, including sex, colour, size, age markings, type *and suitability of horse for a specific job.
- A7. Outline knowledge of the skeletal and muscular system *and their effect on performance and movement.
- A8. Horseman-like terms or equivalent terms.
- A9. *Warranties related to the sale and soundness of horses. Veterinary procedure for a vetting
- A10. *FEI code of practice.

Lameness:

- A11. How to detect lameness.
- A12. Detection of heat and swelling in the horse's leg.
- A13. Seats of lameness. Splints, curbs, spavins, etc. Where to find them what they are and causes.

Requirements: One horse in stable. Shoeing tools and shoes.

Foot and Shoeing:

- A14. Structure of horse's foot.
- A15. Recognition of well-shaped and shod foot. Faults to look for
- A16. Notice unusual shoeing, pads, etc., wear of shoes and relate to possible unsoundness, disease or poor movement.
- A17. Use of various types of shoes to correct interference, brushing, over-reaching, etc.
- A18. Use of studs.
- A19. How to remove a loose shoe. Tools to use, either farrier's or substitutes if these are not available.
- A20. Disease and ailments of the foot

Examiner B 40 minutes

Requirements: One horse in stable yard.
 Well equipped tack room.

Stable Yard:

- B1. Planning a stable yard, boxes, buildings, lights, ventilation, water supply and systems.
- B2. Locating, building and disposal of muck heap.
- B3. Precautions to be taken against fire and burglary.

Tack Room:

- B4. Insurance. Accident books and forms.
- B5. Daily routine.
- B6. Organisation and fittings of tack room.
- B7. Inspection of tack for soundness, stitching, broken trees, etc.
- B8. Tack cleaning and storage.
- B9. Recognition of various types of saddles *for different disciplines e.g. XC, SJ, Long Distance, and Racing.
- B10. Recognition of various normal *(know five main families) types of bits, uses, advantages, disadvantages and actions.

Tack fitting:

- B11. Fitting of saddles, bridles, to include a double bridle, and other items of saddlery: martingales, breastplates, etc.
- B12. Be able to tack up.
- B13. Be able to leave a horse tacked up safely in a stable for exercise.

Examiner C ***40 minutes***

Requirements: Lunge area – Lunge horse and equipment.

Lungeing:

- C1. Working the horse towards the correct way of going on the lunge.
- C2. *Lunging as a form of exercise.
- C3. Respiratory System, outline knowledge of whistling, roaring, broken wind and allergies.

Examiner D ***40 minutes***

Requirements: One horse in stable. Feed room with adequate feed samples, hay barn if possible.

Feeding:

- D1. Recognition of good and poor condition.
- D2. Rules of watering and feeding and *outline knowledge of the digestive system.
- D3. Organisation of feed store; rodent control.
- D4. Hay and alternatives – horsehage, haylage, etc. Types, quantities, purchasing, storage, quantities to be fed.
- D5. Recognition of basic traditional feedstuffs. Knowledge of coarse mixes, nuts, micronised and cooked feedstuff. Advantages; disadvantages; constituents – carbohydrates, proteins, etc. Quality, quantities to be fed.
- D6. *Preparation of boiled feeds and reason for using. Feeding of older horses.
- D7. Reasons for use of minerals and additives.
- D8. Green fodder and succulents.
- D9. Tempting a difficult feeder.
- D10. Types of bedding, advantages and disadvantages.

Paddock Management:

- D11. Avoiding worm infestation by regular picking up of droppings and topping rough patches, resting paddock or grazing with sheep or cattle.
*Care of paddock – the daily, monthly and yearly routine.
- D12. Checking for poisonous plants, shrubs or trees.
- D13. Precautions necessary after use of sprays, fertilisers, lime, etc.

Exercise and Fitness:

- D14. Bringing up and roughing off.
- D15. *Getting a horse fit for competition or hunting. Understanding progressive and interval training systems.
- D16. Relation of feeding to work and condition.

Examiner E **40 minutes**

Requirements: One horse in stable. Grooming kit. Plaiting box. Clippers.

Grooming:

- E1. Stabled horses and ponies.
- E2. Reasons and methods for washing and drying grooming kit and stable equipment.
- E3. Making and using a hay wisp. Alternatives – leather pads, etc. – purpose and effect on system of strapping.
- E4. How to wash a horse's sheath, mane and tail.
- E5. Cooling off a horse after work, including washing down and drying off a wet horse.
- E6. *Care of competition horses, before, during and after competing.
- E7. *Use of appropriate rugs.

Clipping, Trimming and Plaiting:

- E8. How to hold a horse for treatment or clipping.
- E9. Handling difficult horses in and out of stables. Use of a twitch.
- E10. How to pull or thin manes and tails.
- E11. Trimming the horse's legs and heels.
- E12. How to plait manes and tails.
- E13. How to clip. Preparation of: horses, person clipping, stable, safety measures.
- E14. Care of clippers; before, during and after clipping.
- E15. Types of clip and their uses. Marking horse for clipping.
- E16. Dealing with nervous or difficult horses.

Requirements: Horse box or Trailer attached to vehicle. Suitable rugs, bandages equipment. One horse.

Travelling and Loading:

- E17. Routine preparation for travelling horses *nationally and internationally for P.C. competitions.
- E18. Inspection of vehicle – horse box/trailer.
- E19. Loading and unloading.
- E20. *Care of horse in transit, legal requirements, vet checks etc.

Rugs and Clothing:

- E21. Types of rugs, including modern materials and alternatives to rollers and Surcingles.
- E22. Cleaning and storage of rugs, bandages, etc.
- E23. Rugging up; taking rugs off.

- E24. Types and uses of bandages, materials, alternatives to gamgee.
- E25. Types of boots for travelling and exercise.
- E26. Tail and poll guards.
- E27. Putting on a stable, exercise, and tail bandages.

Examiner F 40 minutes

Requirements: One horse in stable. Access to First Aid equipment

***Breeding and knowledge of Studwork**

Health and Condition:

- F1. What to look for when inspecting the horse's first thing in the morning and last thing at night.
- F2. Getting a tired horse to stale. Recognising and dealing with symptoms of exhaustion, stress or dehydration after competition or hunting.
- F3. The urinary system.
- F4. Pulse, temperature and *respiration.

Common Ailments. Nursing. First Aid:

- F5. Recognition of good and ill health.
- F6. Simple medical and veterinary terms.
- F7. Precautions against infection and contagion. The horse's skin.
- F8. Sick nursing.
- F9. Support and surgical bandaging. – Fig of 8, Medical.
- F10. Treatment of saddle sores and galls.
- F11. Fomenting, tubbing, hosing.
- F12. Hot and cold poultices, types and uses; applying to foot.
- F13. How to deal with severe bleeding, circulatory system.
- F14. *Inoculations -types and timing. Vaccinations – legal requirements.
- F15. Precautions against flies and around stables.
- F16. Treatment of coughs, colds, flu and strangles.
- F17. Colic; recognition and treatment until vet arrives.
- F18. Treatment for all kinds of worms.
- F19. Ailments relating to feeding; laminitis, azoturia.
- F20. *Skin diseases. Sweet itch, etc.
- F21. Eye diseases.
- F22. Wounds - different types and treatment. When to call the vet for stitching or advice.
- F23. *The lymphatic, and endocrine systems – outline knowledge.

READ - Pony Club Publications as under:

Manual of Horsemanship

Breeding, Backing and Bringing on Young Horses & Ponies

Keeping a Pony at Grass

Suggested further reading:

BREEDING

*Foal to Five years by Anne Hyland – published by Ward Lock

Horse Breeding – a Practical Guide by Tony Pavard & Marcy Drummond – published by Crowood Press

STABLE MANAGEMENT

*Horse & Stable Management by Jeremy Houghton Brown & Vincent Powell Smith, published BSP Professional Books

Horsemaster's Notebook (3rd edition) by Mary Rose, published by Kenilworth Press

*The Competition Horse – Breeding, Production & Management by Susan McBane, published by BSP Professional

*Feeding Horses and Ponies – Overcoming common Feeding Problems, by Susan McBane, Published by David & Charles

*Lungeing the Horse & Rider by Sheila Inderwick (revised edition) published by David & Charles
Lungeing by Sylvia Stanier

VETERINARY

The Equine Veterinary Manual by Tony Pavard & Rod Fisher – Equine Veterinary Surgeons

Lameness by Peter Grey, MRCVS

The Horse: Physiology, by Julie Brega: The Open College Series Book 4

*Veterinary Notes for the Horse Owner by Horace Hayes, published by Stanley Paul revised

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

*Field Management, by Mary Fordon Watson, Book 8 of the Threshold Books series

A Photographic Guide to Conformation by Robert Oliver & Bob Langrish, published by JA Allen

Supplementary Notes for the Pony Club H Test Standard by Carrie Passmore

These hole punched A4 notes are available from HQ (on order) Phone 056 32966
Fax 056 32965 Cost €15

The Horse's Body Guide – a set of 7 colour copied A4 poster guide to equine anatomy (from Horse & Rider) Cost €15 available from HQ – to order phone 056 32966 & send chq.

Video:

Virginia Leng's Master Class Vol. 2 Stable Management.

This video should be available from stockists of Equestrian Videos.

* = Especially recommended