



Irish Pony Club

A Test

Disc Colour: **Pale Blue**

(Honours: Navy Blue)

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must have passed their Lungeing and H test.
- Candidates must bring two horses to the A test, one for the jumping section, both show jumping and cross-country, one for the flatwork section (details outlined below).
- All horses must be suitable to be shared with other candidates.
- Candidates must be in their 18th year to sit their A test.

Outcomes:

Candidates should understand and apply the Scales of Training and show a secure, balanced, independent position, on the flat and over fences.

Candidates should show a consistent, allowing contact and demonstrate effective use of the aids.

Format:

Candidates are required to bring two suitable horses to the assessment – one for show jumping and cross-country and one for flatwork.

Horses must be capable of jumping up to 1.10m for the show jumping and cross-country and be working at Elementary level dressage. Horses must have their own suitable tack and be suitable to be ridden by other candidates. No green horses or stallions allowed.

Candidates are advised to arrive early and to walk the show jumping and cross-country courses. The assessment will consist of three sections, details are outlined below.

Candidates should wear cross country attire for both show jumping and cross-country sections. The cross country and show jumping will take out place outside.

For the flat work section half of the horses will be in snaffles and half will be in double bridles. The arena will be 20m X 60m.

Candidates should wear jacket, shirt, tie and white, beige, plain black or plain navy jodhpurs as for competition for the flat work session.

Show Jumping:

- Show a correct, secure, balanced and independent position, and set stirrups an appropriate length
- Demonstrate light seat and show jumping position
- Work the horses in a logical and progressive manner
- Show a good quality canter, suitable for 1.10m course
- Ride a course of show jumps, showing correct rhythm, confidence, appropriate canter, good use of arena and feel for the horse
- Discuss appropriate work for progressive development
- Maintain a regular, fluent tempo
- Present the horse to the fence in a way that allows him to jump easily
- Have a clear knowledge of distances, all in meters
- Accurately assess and comment on the rounds, horses and have a plan to improve the horse and further his education
- Candidates will ride 2 or 3 horses at the discretion of the assessors

Cross Country:

- Show a balanced, effective position over undulating ground
- Show a regular rhythm between the fences, appropriate to ground and weather conditions
- Demonstrate correct cross-country position, with a secure lower leg, showing an ability to slip the reins if required
- Ride in accordance with age and stage of training of the horse.
- Have a knowledge cross-country speed (in meters per minute) for 1m and 1.10m courses
- Know how to ride a variety of cross-country fences including up and down banks, drops, water, ditches, skinny's corner fences etc.
- Accurately assess the horse's cross country and have a plan to improve them
- Candidates will ride 2 or 3 horses at the discretion of the assessors