

# THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, Inc.

The Kentucky Horse Park • 4041 Iron Works Pike • Lexington, KY 40511 • (859) 254-PONY (7669)



## DRESSAGE "A" TEST SHEET

National Examiners will use this form when conducting a Dressage A Specialty Rating. The candidate will receive a copy of the completed form following the examination. The original is sent to the National Office within four days of the test and returned in due course to the candidate. A copy will be sent from the National Office to the Regional Supervisor and District Commissioner. To achieve the rating, candidates must meet the standard in each section. **Examiners must have a copy of the appropriate Standard to use with the test sheet.**

Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pony Club \_\_\_\_\_

District Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

**Riding Test Expectations:** *Candidates must demonstrate that they can competently ride and train at USEF Third Level or above, with tact, confidence and security. In addition, Candidates must be able to ride different mounts at various stages of training, displaying a confident, consistent and effective performance on each. Candidates must demonstrate competence and tact on a schooled, green or spoiled mount, discuss and/or demonstrate schooling techniques required for each mount and display a knowledge and implementation of the proper use of artificial and natural aids. Candidates are expected to assess each mount's level of schooling and to ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities. After each performance, the candidate will evaluate and discuss the stage of schooling, strengths and weaknesses of each mount. The candidate must understand and demonstrate the use of body position (core, seat, back) and the effect on the horse when executing movements.*

### Riding on the flat

- Demonstrate efficient warm-up appropriate for the level. Perform exercises to improve each mount's rhythm, relaxation/suppleness/looseness, engagement, impulsion, throughness, lightness, elasticity, straightness, collection, and ride the mount with correct contact.

*Warm-up should include the following movements:*

- Free, medium and extended walk
- Medium, collected and extended trot
- Collected and extended canter
- Shoulder-in
- Half pass at the trot and canter
- Halt from the collected trot
- Reinback w/transition to extended walk
- Half-turn on the haunches
- 3 loop canter serpentine with simple change (walk) at centerline
- 8 meter trot circles
- 10 meter canter circles
- Flying changes
- Counter canter
- 20 meter canter circle, showing clear release of reins
- Critique ride

_____ ES
_____ DNMS
_____ MS

- Demonstrate ability to ride at all gaits without stirrups with a secure and independent seat.
- Optional movements may be demonstrated at the discretion of the candidate:
  - Collected walk
  - 1/2 Pirouette
  - Canter circle with 5-6 strides of very collected canter

_____ ES
_____ DNMS
_____ MS

**KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard**

**MS = Meets Standard**

**DNMS = Does Not Meet Standard**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be prepared to ride a 2007 USDF Dressage Test at Third Level, Test 3 or above</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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**Training**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Candidate must bring to the test a less experienced horse to be put into the 'switch pool.'</li> <li>- At the discretion of the examiners, ride one or more assigned mounts; critique ride, evaluating level of training of mount.</li> <li>- Apply training pyramid to evaluation of switch rides.</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up and ride effectively over cavalletti exercises at any gait to the benefit of the horse.</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written plans for exercises with cavaletti/ground poles and methods of training should be presented.</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate the correct fit, application and use of the double bridle</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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**Riding in the Open**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ride in the open, safely, over a variety of terrain at all three gaits, confidently and in a secure, independent position.</li> <li>- Critique ride, discuss importance of riding in the open for the dressage horse.</li> </ul>		<p>___ES                  ___DNMS                  ___MS</p>
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**GENERAL REMARKS**

Attitude and maturity for level of testing

Suggestions for improvement

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Meets Standards       Does Not Meet Standard      Signature of Examiners  
 Withdraw      PIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Tested \_\_\_\_\_