

THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, Inc.



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

TRADITIONAL “A” TEST SHEET

National Examiners will use this form when conducting a Traditional A 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: *The candidate should maintain a basic balanced position appropriate for dressage, jumping and cross-country riding, based upon the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. Candidates must be able to competently ride different mounts (schooled, green or spoiled) at various stages of training displaying confident, consistent and effective performances. They should assess and demonstrate schooling techniques beneficial to each mount, and ride with tact and empathy for its capabilities, utilizing the training pyramid and its importance to each phase of Eventing. After each performance the candidate will evaluate the mount's stage of schooling (strengths and weaknesses) and discuss whether they, the rider/trainer, have been effective in achieving their goals*

Dressage

Warm Up with Required Movements

- Demonstrate organization
- Demonstrate effective warm up appropriate for the level of the mount
- Perform exercises and movements to improve mount's rhythm, balance, engagement, and suppleness
- Ride the mount "on the aids," demonstrating an understanding of the training pyramid with and without stirrups

Warm up should include the following movements:

- Free, medium and extended walk
- Medium and collected trot
- Medium and collected canter
- Leg yield
- Shoulder-in
- 10-meter trot and canter circles
- Travers (haunches in)
- Canter from walk
- Change of lead through the walk (simple change)
- Counter canter
- Reinback

Ability to evaluate and discuss any of the above

_____ ES
_____ DNMS
_____ MS

Required Test

- Be prepared to ride the current USEF Intermediate Eventing Test A
- Evaluate and discuss performance as a trainer and as a competitor

_____ ES
_____ DNMS
_____ MS

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard

MS = Meets Standard

DNMS = Does Not Meet Standard

Training on the Flat

- Ride different mount(s) appropriately for level of training, demonstrating understanding of training pyramid.
- As a trainer, evaluate performance, commenting on strong and weak points, suggesting training techniques to benefit mount

____ES ____DNMS ____MS

Riding over fences

Gymnastics

- Set up and ride effectively over trotting poles and a gymnastic grid at heights and distances required for the test, progressing to 3'9"
- Demonstrate organization and relaxation and understanding of rhythm and pace over gymnastic exercises beneficial to the horse
- Ride through gymnastic grid at 3'6" without stirrups

____ES ____DNMS ____MS

Stadium

- Set up and ride over a stadium course at 3'9" including verticals, oxers and a triple combination
- Evaluate performance and training techniques used

____ES ____DNMS ____MS

Training over fences

- Demonstrate ability to handle unfamiliar, difficult or refusing mount(s)
- Discuss and/or demonstrate effectiveness of trotting poles, gymnastic exercises, shape of fences, and distances as a training aid
- As a trainer, evaluate performance of horse, level or schooling and techniques beneficial to improving mount

____ES ____DNMS ____MS

Riding in the Open *(must be done)*

- Demonstrate strong, effective galloping position over fences at 3'7" to include ditches, banks, drops, water and combinations at a pace up to 520 ppm
- Evaluate ride in the open

____ES ____DNMS ____MS

GENERAL REMARKS

Attitude and maturity for level of testing

Suggestions for improvement

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standard

Withdraw

Date Tested _____

Signature of Examiners

PIP _____

