

PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA
SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

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**SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**
General Conditions for Efficiency Tests
The expected outcomes are shown in italics.

AGES / CERTIFICATE COLOURS

Minimum ages for Candidates undertaking the Tests, and Certificate colours

D Standard	7 years	Yellow
D* Standard	9 years	Lime green
C Standard	12 years	Green
K Standard	14 years	Purple
C* Standard	14 years	Pink
B Standard – Horse Care	15 years	Brown
B Standard – Riding	16 years	Red
B Standard (Restricted Jumping)	16 years	White
H Standard	17 years	Orange
A Standard	17 years	Blue

PRE-REQUISITES:

Standards D, C, C* or K, B - Horsemastership, B - Riding, and A, must be gained in that order, i.e. each is a pre-requisite for the higher standard. There is no pre-requisite for the H Certificate.

EXAMINERS:

An Examiner within a Club may test for D and D*. Each State must have a panel of examiners. Examiners should not test in their own Club unless circumstances, such as excessive distance, make this necessary.

To remain on the Examiners' Panel, Examiners must be active members of a Pony Club and attend current refresher courses conducted by their State. The names of Examiners on the Panel will be reviewed by each State every three years.

EXAMINATION CREDITS:

Any section of a Test passed by the candidate will be held as credit/s until such time as all sections are passed (maximum two years from original practical examination date).

WRITTEN PAPERS:

All written tests **must** be passed prior to the practical examination. For certificates above “C” level written papers **must** be passed before the day of the practical assessment. It is recommended that written papers be taken with enough time to allow supplementary papers to be completed prior to the practical test.

Should candidates have difficulty in expressing themselves in writing for the written paper at any standard, it is permissible for questions to be answered orally, to use a tape recorder, or for an adult to write the answers as directed by the candidate. If an adult writer is used, it is desirable that the person not be a horseperson or be related to the candidate.

Suggested times allowed for completion of written papers are:

C Standard	30 minutes
C* Standard	1 hour
K Standard	1 hour
B Standard	2 hours
H Standard	2½ to 3 hours
A Standard	2½ to 3 hours

PASS MARKS FOR WRITTEN PAPERS:

65% for all written papers. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit a supplementary paper.

SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN TESTS:

PASS MARK TO BE 65% FOR ALL EXAMINATION PAPERS. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit another paper. Candidates not passing the second paper must reapply at the next intake.

SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS FOR PRACTICAL SECTIONS:

Supplementary testing must be completed as follows:

C, C Star & K min 3 months max 2 years from date of original examination

B, A, H min 6 months max 2 years from date of original examination

Candidates must be assessed to have reached the standard required prior to re-presenting for the practical tests.

Where possible one of the original examiners should be used for the supplementary test in consultation with the State Panel.

Should a candidate fail a Supplementary Test the full Certificate must be retaken.

WORKBOOKS:

Work certificates are required for K Standard and are recommended for C Star, B, A and H. Sheets are available from State Offices/Clubs. It is recommended that candidates keep a record of their own Pony Club experience.

PRESENTATION:

Candidates must wear formal Pony Club uniform for presentation and discipline appropriate uniform for all practical tests.

No jewellery to be worn. (Exception—Medic Alert bracelets)

Presentation of horse—See individual Test.

HORSES:

Horses used by the candidates for practical examinations must be the rider's qualified mount as per state rules.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD D

Minimum age of Candidate 7 years

STANDARD D CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES:

Candidates must have reasonable control of their ponies. Some help may be given, such as allowing ponies to work in company. Many games are suitable for teaching if taken at an appropriate pace.

EXAMINER:

Refer to the section on Examiners on Page 3.

OBJECTIVES:

- To gain confidence in riding, handling and caring for a pony.
- To be keen to learn and improve.

WRITTEN PAPER:

No written paper is required.

PRESENTATION:

Rider to be in formal Pony Club uniform.

Uniform to be clean and tidy. Boots must be clean.

Pony to be tidy.

The pony must look neat and tidy and be free of loose mud and sweat. Tack must be clean and fit correctly.

RIDING:

Mounting and dismounting. A mounting block may be used.

Candidate to show how to mount holding the pommel, not the cantle, using a mounting block if necessary. The pony should stand still or be held to assist the rider.

Being legged up.

Candidate to show how to be legged up. The candidate should understand the importance of landing lightly on the pony's back.

How to hold and use the reins.

Candidate must hold the reins correctly, and be able to shorten and lengthen the reins and put the reins into one hand correctly.

Capable of starting, guiding and stopping the pony, and riding at the walk, rising trot, and canter without being led.

Candidate must be able to make the pony go forward and stop without assistance and maintain control at walk, trot and canter.

Road Safety Rules—know the "do's and don'ts" of riding on the road.

Candidate must know which side of the road to ride on. Candidate to be able to demonstrate hand signals for turning and stopping. Candidate to exhibit awareness of the dangers of riding on the road.

Take part in simple mounted games and rider exercises.

Candidate must be able to stand in their stirrups at the halt without falling back or using the reins to balance and to demonstrate another exercise. Candidate to take part in a simple mounted game demonstrating control of the pony.

HORSE HANDLING:

Approach, catch and lead a quiet pony.

Candidate to demonstrate how to catch the pony from the side and to demonstrate where he/she should be when leading a pony.

Tie a pony up with rope at correct length, preferably to string, using a quick release knot.

Candidate to tie the pony up in a suitable place and understand why the rope must be neither too long nor too short. Pony to be tied with a quick release knot.

Let the pony go in the paddock.

Candidate to demonstrate how to turn pony to face the closed gate before letting go of the pony. Lead to be put around the pony's neck before the headcollar is removed.

Give a pony an apple or carrot safely.

Candidate to demonstrate holding their hand flat so the pony can take what is offered without biting fingers, recognising that the apple should be sliced and carrot should be cut into lengths

HORSE CARE:

Identify and demonstrate use of grooming tools:

Candidate to identify the following grooming tools - dandy brush, body brush, rubber curry comb, hoof pick and demonstrate the use of those items.

Candidate to brush the pony with particular attention to saddle and girth areas.

Saddle and bridle a pony, with assistance.

Where assistance is given to carry out any of these tasks the candidate must show (i.e., answer questions) a clear understanding of why it should be done in a certain way.

Know the comfortable living conditions for a pony.

Candidate to name three things that the pony needs in the paddock where he lives.

Know what a pony eats and drinks.

Candidate to know what his/her own pony eats. Candidate to understand the necessity to provide fresh clean water at all times.

Identify parts of the horse.

Candidates to be able to identify nostril, forehead, eye, ear, muzzle, forelock, crest, neck, mane, shoulder, wither, back, loins, rump, tail, hock, knee, fetlock, and hoof.

Identify parts of saddlery.

Candidates to be able to identify: bridle, bit, reins, cheekstrap, browband, nose band, throatlash, saddle, girth, stirrups, pommel, leathers, seat, crupper, surcingle.

Know how to wipe dust and mud off saddlery and put away tidily.

Candidate to demonstrate how to run up the stirrups before removing the saddle, demonstrate how to wipe dust and mud off the saddle including the girth and wash the bit.