

# PONY CLUB



**THE PONY CLUB**  
TEST SHEET  
2023

**D+ STANDARD**

## **Recommended study:**

- Road Rider Achievement Badge
- Learning Theory Achievement Badge

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To understand the importance of putting a pony's welfare first
- To understand the Five Freedoms of pony welfare
- To have an understanding of pony behaviour
- To have a basic knowledge of the care and working of a pony at grass
- To begin to understand how a pony learns
- To be working towards developing a balanced seat independent of the reins

## **SAFETY**

1. **List what you should be wearing when working with and riding ponies**
2. Explain why each item on your list is important
3. **Show how to handle a pony safely on the ground**

## **UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOUR PONY NEEDS (Dismounted discussion)**

4. **Explain why your pony's health and happiness are important**
5. Tell the assessor about two of the Five Freedoms of pony welfare that you give a pony that you know
6. **Explain why it is important for ponies to have water and grass, hay, or haylage**
7. Explain why it is important for ponies to have turnout and pony friends

## **TRAINING YOUR PONY (Dismounted discussion)**

8. **Talk about how you would use pressure (aids) to train a pony**
9. **Explain how release of pressure rewards/helps to train ponies**

**10. Describe how you would use the positive reward of voice or scratching when training a pony**

11. Understand why you shouldn't punish a pony when they do something you don't want them to
12. Understand that ponies do not think the same as people (not naughty on purpose)
13. Suggest two reasons why a pony might not be doing what you want
14. Describe some things your pony might do that may be caused by pain
15. Explain how you would get a pony used to something scary
16. Know why ponies like to be with other ponies

**RIDING**

16. Mount and dismount (a mounting block may be used)
- 17. Know how to alter your stirrups correctly when mounted; recognise when a stirrup is twisted**
- 18. Know how to check your girth**
- 19. Sit correctly at the walk and be able to describe the correct/balanced position**
- 20. Hold the reins correctly and carry a whip in either hand**
- 21. Walk on a long rein and shorten the reins**
- 22. Demonstrate the beginnings of a correct/balanced seat in trot and canter**
23. Explain tempo
  - a. Start to establish the pony's speed
  - b. Count the footfalls in trot of the pony you are riding
24. Give a simple definition of a pony working forwards
25. Demonstrate correct use of your legs and hands as aids (to include leg without hand and hand without leg); to include an understanding of pressure and release
26. Describe the aids to halt, walk, trot, canter, turn, and circle, and be able to apply them
27. Make simple turns and ride in circles in walk and trot
28. Show rising trot on either diagonal and change the diagonal
29. Ride in walk without stirrups
30. Ride up and down hills in walk
31. Ride over a single pole and small fence (maximum height, 50 cm)
32. Be able to control a quiet pony in company, on the roads, and in the countryside

## PONY CARE

- 33. Have some knowledge of the care and working of a pony at grass in summer and winter**
34. Catch a pony and turn it out in a field
35. Lead a pony in hand at walk and trot and turn correctly
36. Show how you would teach a pony to stand still and back up
- 37. Pick up and pick out feet safely**
38. List the names and uses of the items in a basic grooming kit
- 39. Show how to use a brush on both sides of the pony's body**
- 40. Show how to brush a face, mane, and tail**
- 41. Put on a bridle, saddle, and saddle cloth**
- 42. Have some knowledge of correctly fitting tack (noseband, throatlash, saddle cloth)**
43. Know about basic care of saddlery (daily bit washing; importance of clean girths and saddle cloths)
44. Describe ponies' colours and markings
45. Recognise turn out rugs and rugs suitable for travel
46. Explain how to manage hot, sweaty ponies
47. Know basic points of the pony
48. Describe what a healthy pony looks like and how it behaves
49. List some signs that a pony may be unwell

### Test notes:

- All content covered in lower tests may be reassessed in this test
- The items shown in bold are particularly important; competence in these items will be given emphasis by the assessor when considering the result
- The D Test must be achieved before taking the D+ Test.

**Recommended Minimum age: 10 years**

**Felt Colour: White**

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