

The Irish Pony Club D Test

2022

Disc Colour: Yellow

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 8th year to sit D test

Outcomes:

Candidates should be safe and confident with their own pony and have a basic understanding of the care and wellbeing of ponies.

Format:

The D test consists of riding, horse care and knowledge and road sense theory.

Candidates can wear Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood), pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for jumping.

Riding:

Candidates should:

- Mount and dismount correctly, using a mounting block or getting a leg up if required.
- Show a reasonably correct position in the saddle.
- Hold and shorten the reins correctly
- Be able to ride a quiet pony safely in an arena in walk & trot
- Show how to halt
- Show changes the rein
- Ride over a pole on the ground (1 end slightly raised)

Horse Care and Knowledge:

Candidates should:

- Know the basic needs of your pony in summer and winter
- Recognise the hoof pick, dandy brush, body brush and curry comb
- Know how to approach and catch a pony
- Put on a headcollar (with assistance is required)
- Know the safe way to give your pony a small feed or treat
- Lead a pony in hand and turn correctly in walk
- Name simple points of a pony
- Name different parts of a saddle and bridle

Road Sense Theory:

Candidates should:

- Know which side of the road to ride on
- Understand the simple Junior Road Rider Code
- How to safely cross a road and say "Thank you"
- Know the importance of Hi-Vis clothing

The Irish Pony Club D+ Test

2022

Disc Colour: White

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 10th year to sit D+ test

Outcomes:

Candidates should be able to ride in a confident, balanced way and be working towards an independent position.

Candidates should understand the basic aids.

Format:

The D+ test consists of riding, including jumping three fences (max. height 65cm) and riding on undulating ground, horse care and knowledge and road sense theory.

Candidates can wear Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood), pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for show jumping and cross country.

Riding:

Candidates should:

- Mount and dismount correctly, with or without assistance
- Hold and shorten the reins correctly
- Carry a whip in either hand
- Walk on a long rein while maintaining a contact
- Be in control of a quiet pony in company and in an arena
- Walk without stirrups
- Ride simple turns and circles in walk and trot.
- Canter independently.
- Ride up and down hill in walk and trot (enclosed small paddock)
- Ride over a single pole
- Ride over 3 small fences (65 cm max) in an arena

Horse Care and Knowledge:

Candidates should:

- Know the basic needs and care of a pony living in a field
- Understand the need for fresh, clean water
- Put on a saddle and bridle (with assistance if required)
- Tell if the tack is fitting comfortably
- Know how to care for and clean tack
- Know how to safely catch a horse / pony from the field
- Know how to safely turn out a horse / pony into the field
- Lead a horse / pony in hand in walk and trot and turn correctly
- Tie up your horse / pony correctly
- Name the items in a grooming kit and their uses
- Pick up and pick out a front foot
- Know the points of the pony where the saddle and bridle sit
- Know common colours and markings
- Recognise turn out rugs and name parts of the rug
- Recognise when your pony is stressed and unwell
- Recognise basic signs of good health in your pony

Road Sense Theory:

Candidates should:

- Know which side of the road to ride on
- Understand the simple Junior Road Rider Code
- How to signal to turn left or right
- How to safely cross a road and say "Thank you"
- Know the importance of Hi-Vis clothing
- Recognise the dangers to ponies from cars and other traffic
- Know the likely hazards one could meet when riding in the road

The Irish Pony Club C Test

2022

Disc Colour: Green

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 12th year to sit C test
- C test is a Minimum Eligible Requirement (MER) to compete at ALL levels in the Irish Pony Club for show jumping, eventing, tetrathlon and hunter trials.
- Members must still be signed off by their DC/Coach to compete.

Outcomes:

Candidates should understand the first point on the Scales of Training - Regularity of Rhythm.

Candidates should ride in a safe, secure position, independent of the reins and be in control of their horse / pony.

Candidates should know and understand how to apply simple aids correctly.

Candidate should have knowledge and care of working a pony off grass.

Format:

The ridden section of the C test consists of flat work riding, jumping a round of showjumping (75cm), jumping a selection of cross-country fences (75cm).

The flat work and showjumping can take place in an arena or field, and the cross country will take place in a field.

Candidates can wear Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood), pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for showjumping and cross country.

Before mounting, candidates should meet the Assessors and walk both the showjumping and cross-country courses.

Candidates should bring their own clean and named grooming kit, with a tail bandage to the assessment to be used in the Horse Care and Knowledge section.

Riding:**Flat work:**

Candidates should:

- Mount and dismount correctly (a mounting block may be used)
- Show a balanced, secure position in all paces, independent of the reins
- Adjust stirrups while mounted
- Tighten or loosen girth while mounted
- Maintain a regular rhythm in all paces
- Walk on a contact and free walk on a long rein
- Rising trot, correctly change diagonal and show a small amount of sitting trot
- Correct canter leads on both reins
- Change of rein through trot
- 20m circles in trot and canter
- Transitions between paces
- Halt and salute
- Ride in closed and open order
- Understand the importance of warm up and cool down
- Time and sequence of legs in walk and trot
- Natural aids and artificial aids
- How to open and shut a gate while mounted

Show jumping:

Candidates should:

- Show a balanced light seat in trot and canter
- Ride over a pole on the ground.
- Ride over a small cross pole, upright and oxer
- Jump a simple 75cm show jumping course, with a minimum of 6 fences including a bending line and a two-stride double (upright as the second fence)

Cross-country:

Candidates should:

- Show a secure lower leg, with appropriate length of stirrup.
- Show control and balance appropriate to ground and weather conditions, while maintaining cross country position in canter
- Be able to ride up and down hill in trot and canter
- Jump some cross-country fences (75 cm) showing balance and control (fences can include: ditches, banks, logs and fly fences)
- Discuss fitness of pony

Horse Care and Knowledge:

Candidates should be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following topics:

- Describe a suitable paddock for your pony
- Recognise common poisonous plants
- Basic watering, feeding of a grass kept pony
- Rules of feeding
- What your own pony eats, roughage and hard feed
- How to groom a grass kept pony
- Care of the grass kept pony before and after a competition
- Identify all items in a grooming kit
- Points of the pony, including the external parts of the hoof
- Outdoor rugs for grass kept pony (Winter and summer)
- Put on and remove rugs safely.
- Recognise when a pony needs shoeing, care of feet after shoeing
- Tack up and untack your own pony,
- Name and explain what tack your horse / pony wears
- How to clean and care for tack
- How to clean and care for a small wound
- When to call an adult or vet
- Main indications of health and ill health
- Items in a First Aid Kit
- Lead in hand, walking, trotting and turning
- Put on a tail bandage
- Alternatives to tail bandage
- Importance of protecting legs while travelling
- Explain how to safely load and unload a pony
- Tie a pony up correctly



IRISH PONY CLUB RIDING AND ROAD SAFETY TEST CARD 2022

(Minimum Age 12 Years on date of test)

AIM

The aim of the Riding and Road Safety Certificate Test is:

- To alert riders to the potential dangers of riding on roads
- To ensure that candidates have sound knowledge of the precautions that must be taken to minimise these dangers
- To test the candidates' reaction to situations as they arise
- To test the candidates' control over their horses and the ability to ride safely
- To test their understanding of their responsibilities as road users

THE TEST

THIS IS A TEST OF THE RIDER AND NOT OF THE HORSE OR PONY

However, should the examiners consider that a candidate's horse or tack are, in their opinion, unsafe to carry out the road test, they are empowered to refuse to allow that candidate to proceed.

The test is made up of three parts:

Part 1 – Theory

The theoretical test is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of the rules, regulations and advice contained in the "Rules of the Road" and other reading material listed overleaf.

Part 2 – Field (Simulated Road – Enclosed Field/Arena) Test

This is designed to test in artificial and safe 'road' conditions:

- A rider's precautions against, and reaction to, the behaviour of the candidate's horse when confronted by a variety of potentially alarming sights and noises of a sort which might be expected locally.
- To test their ability to demonstrate the correct signals and their position on the road.

Some varying junctions must be incorporated into this section of the Test.

Part 3 – The Road Test

This is to test in practice on the public road the subjects that have been covered in Parts 1 and 2. Candidates will be tested on horseback, on roads carrying a reasonable amount of traffic. Candidates must instantly obey the examiner's instructions during this part of the test.

MARKS

Each part of the test will be allotted the same number of marks. The pass mark in each part will be 80% and candidates will be required to pass in each part to be successful in the whole. Candidates MUST pass all three parts of the Test on the same day.

EXAMINERS

Part 1 – Theory

The two Examiners for this part of the Test must be Irish Pony Club Riding and Road Safety Examiners, listed in the current year book or on an up-to-date list from Irish Pony Club Headquarters and not be the candidate's trainer.

Part 2 – Simulated Road Test

The Examiners for this part of the Test will be the Examiners for Part 1 or Part 3.

Part 3 – Road Test

The Examiners for this part of the Test will be Irish Pony Club Riding and Road Safety Examiners from the approved list.

READING MATERIAL

Irish Rules of the Road

AIRC Leaflet

Junior Road Rider – Please note that the road signs are English road signs

RSA Horse Road Safety Booklet

Note: Bear in mind the Rules of the Road when reading material is published outside of Ireland.

The Irish Pony Club C+ Test

2022

Disc Colour: Pink

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must have passed their IPC or BHS Riding and Road Safety, before taking the C+.
- Candidates must be in their 14th year or older at the time of taking the C+ test.

Outcomes:

Candidates should understand and apply the first three of the Scales of Training and should show a secure and balanced position in all paces, over a course of showjumps (90cm) and over a short course of cross-country jumps.

Candidates should be comfortable swapping horses and assessing each horse they ride on the flat.

Format:

The ridden section of this assessment consists of flat work, show jumping and cross country. The flat work and showjumping can take place in an arena or field, and the cross country will take place in a field.

Candidates can wear show jacket for the flat work and Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood) for jumping sections, pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for showjumping and cross country.

The show jumping and cross-country courses will be available to walk before the start of the assessment, it is recommended that candidate's avail of this.

The horse care section can take place in a stable yard or safely in the car park.

Riding:**Flatwork:**

Candidates should:

- Mount and dismount correctly (a mounting block may be used)
- Show a balanced, secure position in all paces
- Maintain an allowing contact
- Ride in open and closed order
- Show medium walk and free walk on a long rein
- Show rising and sitting trot
- Show various circles, 10m (walk) 15m and 20m in trot and canter
- Show some lengthened strides in canter
- Change of canter lead through trot
- Show loops and serpentines
- Turn about the forehand
- Introduction to Leg Yielding, through increase and decrease of circle
- Know the time and sequence of legs in walk, trot and canter
- Ride another candidate's horse on the flat and assess the way of going

Show Jumping:

Candidates should:

- Know what to look for and how to walk a showjumping course.
- Show a secure, balanced light seat between fences and jumping position where appropriate
- Warm up over a cross pole, upright and oxer
- Jump a course that should include a double, a bending line and a related distance (A minimum of 6 fences)
- Describe your round, including positives and areas for improvement

Cross-Country:

Candidates should:

- Show a balanced cross-country position, including over undulating ground
- Be able to ride over a variety of cross-country fences
- Ride with regard to weather, ground conditions
- Have a knowledge of different speeds for different fences
- Discuss the recommended speeds for IPC Junior / Intermediate eventing

Horse Care and Knowledge:

Candidates should be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following topics:

- Practical care of the stabled horse
- Recognise and fit a stable rug, outdoor rug, cooler and exercise sheet
- Clipping: Types of clip, why we clip, prepare a horse for clipping
- Different types of bedding.
- Understand the importance of daily checks
- Rules of watering and feeding.
- Identify common feeds in everyday use
- Understand the importance of roughage
- Describe your own horses feeding regime
- Describe your own worming programme
- Describe how you would get your horse fit for Pony Club activities.
- Have a knowledge of your own tack and its effects
- How to fit a running martingale
- How to fit and put on brushing, tendon, over-reach boots
- Travelling: how to protect the legs, travel bandage / travel boots, tail bandage / guard, documents to accompany the horse
- Different types of shoe and when they might be used
- Name a selection of farrier's tools
- Basic knowledge of the foot internal and external
- Common causes of lameness in the foot
- How to treat a variety of wounds
- Basic knowledge of azoturia, laminitis, sweet itch, mud fever
- Signs of colic and what action to take
- How to prepare and apply a poultice
- Contents of a veterinary cupboard
- Good paddock management
- Recognise and treat common poisonous plants

The Irish Pony Club B Test Riding

2022

Disc Colour: Red

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 16th year or older at the time of taking the B test.
- Candidates must have passed their C+ test.
- Candidates taking the complete B test (Riding and Horse Care) should attempt both modules together on their first attempt, however, if they are not successful in one module, they have only to resit the module they were unsuccessful in.
- Candidates who only wish to sit the Horse Care module do not have to present for the Riding module. It is not possible to only complete the Riding module of the B test.

Outcomes:

Candidates should understand and apply the first four of the Scales of Training, and be an effective, educated and balanced rider.

Candidates should be capable of riding a well-mannered horse and maintain a correct way of going, including riding a course of show jumps at 1m, maintaining a balanced, independent position, riding a number of cross country fences, over undulating ground, at a safe speed appropriate to conditions and showing consideration for safety when riding alone or in a group.

Please note this test card only outlines the Riding module, please see the B Test Horse Care test card for details on the Horse Care module.

Format:

The assessment will consist of three sections – Flatwork, show jumping and cross-country.

The flat work session will take place in an arena, half the horses must be in double bridles and half in snaffle bridles.

The show jumping can take place in an arena or on grass, fences will be 1 metre, the show jumping course should contain a related distance, a double and a bending line.

The cross-country will take place in an open field and will include a short course of a variety of solid fence (max. height 1m).

Candidates can wear show jacket for the flat work and Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood) for jumping sections, pale coloured jodhpurs and a hat for flat work. Cross country hat and back protector must be worn for showjumping and cross country.

The show jumping and cross-country courses will be available to walk before the start of the assessment, it is recommended that candidate's avail of this.

The horse care section can take place in a stable yard or safely in the car park.

Section 1:

Flatwork:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Work horses in line with the first four of the Scales of Training
- Show a balanced, independent position in all three paces (rising and sitting trot)
- Apply the aids to promote and maintain the correct way of going
- The aids for the Half Halt, when to use the half Halt
- Discuss how you feel your horse is going, and what exercises might help it.
- Accurate school movements, including, loops, serpentines, various size circles
- Forward, progressive transitions
- Transitions within the pace, medium steps in trot and canter
- Quarter pirouette in walk
- Leg yielding
- Give and retake the reins in trot
- Show a 20 m circle with the horse stretching forward and down
- Ride another candidate's horse on the flat and assess the way of going, relating to the Scales of Training and highlighting strengths and areas for improvement

Section 2:

Show Jumping:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Correct light seat position
- Correct show jumping position
- Ride a course of fences, maintain a suitable rhythm and balance
- Discuss the round and assess any areas for improvement
- Explain distances, between trotting poles, placing pole to a cross pole, doubles, related distances (all in metres)

Section 3

Cross-Country:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of, and be able to demonstrate in the ridden environment, the following points:

- Correct, secure, balanced position out of the saddle, on varying terrain
- Show a balanced round with correct speed and lines required for the various fences
- Discuss the round and assess any areas for improvement
- Discuss how different fences are ridden
- Cross-country speeds for Irish Pony Club competition

Equitation Theory:

Throughout all three ridden sections candidates are expected to show their knowledge in equitation theory, topics covered include:

- Scales of Training and how you apply it in your everyday work
- Aids for various movements
- Quality of the paces
- Which rein the horse is more supple
- Response to aids
- Balance in upward and downward transitions
- Different types of rein contact
- Different types of leg aids
- Correct way of going
- Quality of canter required for show jumping
- Tack the horse is presented in
- Effect of various types of snaffles
- Double bridge – action, fitting and parts
- Types of tack for different disciplines
- Types of boots for different disciplines
- The importance of a warmup and cool down of the horse after schooling

The Irish Pony Club B Test Horse Care

2022

Disc Colour: Brown

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 16th year or older at the time of taking the B Horse Care.
- Candidates may proceed from C+ to the B Horse Care, if successful candidates may continue on to the Lungeing test and H test.
- Candidates taking the complete B test (Riding and Horse Care) should attempt both modules together on their first attempt, however, if they are not successful in one module, they have only to resit the module they were unsuccessful in.
- Candidates who only wish to sit the Horse Care module do not have to present for the Riding module.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be aware of the 5 Welfares / Freedoms of the Horse.

Candidates should be capable of a high standard of care and turn out.

Candidates should follow standard daily, yard routine and be confident in basic yard maintenance.

Format:

There are 9 topics which candidates are expected to show a good knowledge and understanding of.

The assessment will take place in a stable yard environment and candidates will be expected to discuss and demonstrate various elements of each topic.

Please note this test card only outlines the Horse Care module, please see the B Test Riding test card for details on the Riding module.

Topic 1:**Stable design:**

Candidates should show a good knowledge of stable design and be able to discuss the following points:

- Health and safety awareness
- Fire and disease prevention
- Assess a stable for suitability and design
- Stable fittings
- Ventilation, drainage, light, warmth and bedding
- Location of feed room, hay barn, muck heap
- Location of tack room
- Seasonal management of fields
- Awareness of good environmental practice

Topic 2:**Tack:**

Candidates should show a good knowledge of tack and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Organisation of tack room and relevant facilities
- Inspect tack for safety and soundness
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of martingales
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of snaffle bits
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of nosebands
- Different types of reins
- Fit a snaffle bridle and saddle
- Fit a Double bridle
- The action of the double bridle and name all parts
- How to clean and store, tack, boots
- Identify a variety of boots and how they protect the horses' legs

Topic 3

Rugs:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of rugs and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- How best to store rugs
- How to maintain and clean rugs
- Fit a variety of rugs
- Recognise various types of rugs and their uses

Topic 4

Travel:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of travel and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Know the importance of safety and roadworthiness of a trailer/lorry
- The equipment taken to a competition
- The documents that must accompany the horse on any journey
- Tail guards / tail bandages
- Put on a travel bandage
- Travel boots, travel bandages
- Ways of assisting a difficult horse to load
- Travel first aid kit for the horse

Topic 5:

Conformation:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of conformation and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Recognise good and poor conformation
- Understand how this will effect the way of going, soundness
- Show a horse in hand and discuss step and type

Topic 6:

Foot and shoeing:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of foot and shoeing and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Recognise a well shod hoof
- Identify a variety of commonly used shoes
- Identify the farrier's tools and know their uses
- How a shoe is removed and fitted
- Comparison of hot and cold shoeing
- The internal structure of the hoof
- Management and products to assist in a healthy hoof
- How to treat common foot ailments, stone bruise, corn, nail bind, abscess etc
- Types and use of studs

Topic 7:

Feeding:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of feeding and be able to discuss the following points:

- Rules of watering and feeding
- Understand the importance of clean fresh water
- Understand the importance of roughage in the diet and explain the different types
- Recognise different types of feed and how to prepare them
- How to prepare all types of beet pulp
- The reasons why you feed such feeds and why you would need to feed some feeds together to maintain a balanced diet
- Explain any supplements you use on your own horse and why you feed them
- The diet of a horse on stable rest.
- The weight of the horses daily feed, what percentage is roughage / hard feed
- Explain your daily feeding regime (e.g. how many times a day you feed roughage / hard feed and why)
- Basic knowledge of the digestive system
- Different issues that can arise, colic, laminitis, ulcers, choke. Signs, causes and treatment.
- Care of teeth and problems that could arise, how often should you get a dentist and basic knowledge of ageing a horse.
- How some dental problems can cause digestive issues
- Annual worming programme
- Know when a grass kept horse may need extra feed

Topic 8:**Fittening:**

Candidates should show a good knowledge of fittening programme and be able to discuss the following points:

- Bringing a horse back to work from grass
- Interval training
- Tying up / azoturia
- The increase of hard feed as fitness progresses
- A typical week in the fitness programme
- The importance of electrolytes
- Issues that may affect a horse's fittening programme
- Have a basic knowledge of the horse's respiration system
- The importance of warming up and cooling down
- Care and management of a horse before, during and after a strenuous competition

Topic 9:**Health and Welfare:**

Candidates should show a good knowledge of basic veterinary care and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Temperature, pulse, respiration of a horse at rest
- How to take Temperature, pulse, respiration
- Essential vaccinations required
- Vaccination record keeping and appropriate timing of vaccinations
- Signs of good health
- Contents of your veterinary cupboard
- Daily health checks of competition / leisure horse
- Identify the internal structure of the front leg from the knee down
- The points of the horse
- Symptoms of lameness and common causes
- Symptoms of viral infections (i.e. common cold / equine influenza)
- Symptoms of bacterial infections (i.e. strangles, mud fever. Preventative measures)
- Symptoms of fungal infections, (i.e. ringworm, thrush. Preventative measures)
- Various bursal enlargements
- Various bony enlargements
- Various types of strains, sprains
- Various types of wounds and their treatment
- Various types of poultice and when and how to apply them
- Hot and cold treatments
- When to call a vet
- Sick nursing, care and isolation
- Put on a stable bandage, to hold a dressing or for comfort

The Irish Pony Club Lungeing Test

2022

Disc Colour: Beige

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must have passed their B test or their B standard Horse Care.
- Candidates must pass the Lungeing Test before sitting their H or A Test.
- Candidates must be in their 17th year to sit their Lungeing.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be able to work a horse correctly and safely in all three paces and to improve the way of going, be in control of the horse and equipment with a good understanding of the reasons and benefits of lungeing.

Candidates should be able to equate the first 4 in the Scales of Training to lungeing.

Format:

The test will consist of two sections.

First candidates will be asked to select appropriate tack and tack up a horse for lungeing.

Following this candidates will be asked to lunge the same horse that they tacked up.

Candidates should be dressed in tidy, sensible clothes suitable for the weather, all jackets zipped up. Safe sensible footwear (no spurs), gloves, hat etc.

Candidates may bring their own rope/lunge line to the test.

Section A

Tacking Up:

- A range of lungeing equipment will be available for candidates to choose from.
- Candidates should correctly fit the saddle, breastplate, bridle, cavesson and any other tack they have selected to use.
- Attach side reins and check height and length
- Correctly fit brushing and overreach boots

Irish Pony Club H test

2022

Disc Colour: Colour Orange

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must have passed their B test or B test Horse Care.
- Candidates must have passed their Lungeing test before sitting their H test.
- Candidates must be in their 18th year to sit their H.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be able to look after a small mixed yard, (stabled and grass kept horses) for up to one month with minimal direction.

Format:

Candidates will be in groups of two or three.

Candidates will rotate through every station throughout the day, each station will have an individual assessor.

Candidates should come dressed in jodhpurs, boots, IPC sweatshirts, with skull caps and gloves at hand.

The assessment will consist of five sections, details of what knowledge is expected in each section is outlined below.

Section A (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

A.1 Handling:

- FEI code of conduct
- Be aware of five freedoms / welfares of the horse
- Be aware of horse's behaviour and safe practice when handling (Emphasis on safe working procedures and the importance of good stable manners)
- Importance of morning and evening inspection
- Dealing with a cast horse in the box, and subsequent care
- Trotting a horse up for show or veterinary inspection
- Basic knowledge of the Nervous and Sensory Systems

A.2 Foot and Shoeing:

- The structure of a horse's foot and recognition of a well-shaped foot
- Balance and limb deviance
- Identify a selection of shoes, corrective shoes, pads, etc. Know when they might be used and why.
- The use of studs and pins
- Hoof care management
- Diseases and ailments of the foot
- Care and treatment of a foot abscess
- Select and apply a foot poultice

Section B (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

B. 1 Breeding:

- Discuss factors you would consider before breeding a foal in Ireland (all breeds included) including the importance of temperament, performance, and identifying the end user, and especially with regard to finances and facilities required
- Discuss best practice when looking after breeding mares
- Discuss your approach to riding different genders of horse
- The reproductive system of the mare, pregnancy, veterinary assistance for the in-foal mare, foaling facilities, signs that foaling is imminent, care of a new born foal and mare post foaling
- Discuss available breeding methods in Ireland and worldwide (embryo transfer, AI, ICSI etc)
- Discuss handling and care of young horses from foal, to weaning, to three year olds, including the decision to geld or leave entire.

B. 2 Common Ailments and Injuries:

- Importance of observations and management which can prevent common ailments or injuries
- Knowledge of vaccinations, timing and recording
- Discuss bacterial, viral and fungal infections, preventive measures and treatment
- Discuss laminitis, rain scald and treatment
- Discuss bony enlargements, location, common causes and treatment
- Discuss fractures and treatment
- Discuss bursal enlargements, location, common causes and treatment
- Correct protocol for dealing with death of a horse
- Strains, sprains and treatment
- Cuts, wounds, eye injuries types and treatment
- Bruising, inflammation and treatment
- How to deal severe bleeding

B. 3 Sick nursing:

- Knowledge of temperature, pulse, respiration
- Discuss when isolation is required and best practice
- Knowledge of tubbing, hosing etc.
- Knowledge hot and cold treatments
- Knowledge of and ability to select and apply a poultice (different types will be available to select from)
- Select and apply a stable bandage
- Basic knowledge of the Circulatory, Lymphatic and Endocrine systems
- Be aware of veterinary directional terms

Section C (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

C. 1 Stable and yard design:

- Discuss the planning of good yard design, stables, lighting, ventilation and water systems
- Location of manure heap, feed room, hay shed etc
- Precautions for fire, burglary, and safety for humans and horses
- Daily office management and record keeping
- Maintenance and upkeep of yard, arenas etc

C. 2 Design of tack room, fitting of tack:

- Discuss the layout of the tack room, maintenance, care and storage
- Recognise bits in everyday use and in competition including double bridle
- Describe the families of bits and their actions
- Be able to fit required tack and boots for different disciplines
- Select and apply an exercise wrap

C. 3 Field Management:

- Discuss yearly maintenance for equine grazing
- Discuss mixed grazing, harrowing and topping
- Discuss rotating and resting fields
- Understanding of Equine Atypical Myopathy
- Discuss sustainable and environmentally friendly grassland management
- Discuss feeding value of a variety of grasses and herbage
- Discuss the use of chemicals and safety precautions for humans and horses
- Discuss other considerations, secure fencing, shelter, water etc

C. 4 Conformation:

- Describe a horse, type and suitability for a specific job
- Demonstrate knowledge of Linear scoring
- Name the bones of the horses Axial and Appendicular Skeleton
- Name the major superficial muscles of the horse and know how the skeletal and muscular systems effect conformation
- Show knowledge of warranties and declarations related to the sale of horses
- Identify what is involved in a five-stage vetting
- Show knowledge of complementary therapies for the maintenance of peak performance / longevity in horses

Section D: (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

D. 1 Grooming Procedure:

- Discuss the thorough grooming process, reasons and benefits
- Discuss the difference between quartering and strapping and benefits
- Discuss the correct process of washing the horse's sheath and reasons for this
- Discuss different types of grooming equipment
- Discuss appropriate care of the horse after hard work, washing down / cooling off and what rugs are suitable for this process

D. 2 Trimming and plaiting section:

- Discuss different methods of pulling, trimming manes, tails, heels, and different equipment used.
- Demonstrate how to plait a mane

D. 3 Clipping:

- Discuss the care and maintenance of different types of clipping machines and blades, how to fit and adjust the blades
- Show knowledge of correct safety attire for handlers
- Describe the preparation of the horse and the clipping area, note the special requirements for the young or nervous horse
- Humane methods of restraint for clipping
- Discuss the care of the horse immediately after clipping

D. 4 Travelling and loading:

- Knowledge of required documents to accompany the horse on every trip
- Knowledge of safety checks on lorry or trailer
- Discuss care of horse on a long journey
- Discuss loading a difficult horse
- Knowledge of different types of travel equipment for the horse
- Demonstrate correct fitting of rugs
- Select and apply a travel bandage

Section E: (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

E. 1 Feeding:

- Describe the alimentary canal starting with the whiskers
- Common ailments of the digestive systems (Eg: Ulcers, colic, choke etc.)
- Discuss dietary management for prevention of colic, ulcers and laminitis etc.
- Knowledge and recognition of different feed stuffs available
- Understand the importance of constant clean fresh water
- Show knowledge and understanding of feed value and importance of roughage in the horse's diet and explain the different types of roughage that can be fed
- Discuss how hay / haylage is made and stored
- Show knowledge of nutritional requirements of the horse at different levels of fitness and age
- Understanding of different nutrients contained in different grains and which would you combine for a balanced diet.
- Knowledge of various compound feeds
- Discuss the nutritional content of various types of feed and selecting a suitable feed for each individual horse (eg: young horses, leisure, competition, etc.)
- Recognise different types of feeds and how to prepare them
- Discuss the effect that different types of feed could have on behaviour / condition
- Show knowledge of supplements and additives, including herbal supplements.
- Discuss an annual worming programme. How often should you worm? Discuss the worming cycle and different worms and when you should worm for various types
- Discuss care of teeth and problems that can arise. How often should you get the dentist and basic ageing of a horse
- Knowledge of how to check for sharpness, wolf teeth etc.
- Discuss how some dental issues can cause digestive issues

E. 2 Fittening:

- Knowledge of a basic 6 - 8 week fittening programme, taking into account the horses age, previous experience
- What further fitness is required for an event horse, show jumper, dressage and long distance
- Different fittening programmes
- Discuss importance of warm up and cool down
- Discuss azoturia and how to avoid it
- Discuss different ways of getting a horse fit such as hydrotherapy, treadmills etc.
- Discuss methods of monitoring the horse fitness
- Show knowledge of recognising and dealing with symptoms of pain, exhaustion, stress, dehydration
- Be aware of common ailments or injuries that can arise during the fittening and how to prevent them.

Sections B

Lungeing:

- Safely bring the horse from the tacking up area to the arena
- Show knowledge and demonstrate correct handling of the rope, whip and horse, and correct position while lungeing
- Demonstrate clear commands, and use of appropriate size circles
- Warm up the horse up and progress to working the horse
- Work the horse showing changes of rein, relating the work to the first four scales of training and in line with the horse's age and fitness
- Show appropriate cool down
- Discuss the quality of work shown, recognising the correct or incorrect way of going, and a plan for future sessions
- Lead the horse back to the stable and untack safely

Discussion Points:

Candidates should have detailed knowledge and be comfortable talking about the following topics:

- What dangers can arise while lungeing
- How weather, surfaces and various distractions can affect the lungeing session
- How to deal with any problems that may arise during lungeing
- Other training aids and their actions
- The use of poles while lungeing
- Various exercises that could be used while lungeing
- Starting the young horse on the lunge for the first time
- Lungeing in the young and older horse's programme
- How important it is to keep artificial surfaces in good order

The Irish Pony Club Foundation Coach

2022

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be 18 years old before taking the Foundation Coach assessment.
- Candidates must have passed their complete B test before their Foundation Coach.
- Candidates must complete 4 hours shadowing a senior coach in advance of sitting this assessment
- A log book of 10 sessions must be completed and submitted a week before the assessment, this must be done under the guidance of an IPC Senior Coach.
- Successful candidates must hold a valid First Aid Certificate (FAR or BHS Equine Specific), Safeguarding 1 and have been Garda Vetted through Horse Sport Ireland, to join the Irish Pony Club register and begin coaching

Candidates should have knowledge of the relevant test cards and tack sheets.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be capable of coaching up to and including “C” test level riders in a safe, fun and educational manner, with the Irish Pony Club ethos.

Format:

Candidates will be asked to coach two separate ridden sessions and one interactive horse care session.

The first ridden session should be 45 mins long and be an integrated flat work and show jumping session. In the first session candidates will have 2 or 3 ‘C’ test level riders to coach.

The second session should be 30 mins long, 10 mins on cross-country theory (discussed with Assessor) and 20 minutes on the cross-country session. In the second session candidates will have the same 2 or 3 ‘C’ test level riders to coach.

Session 1:

Flat Work:

Candidates should include and have relevant knowledge and understanding of how to coach the following topics:

- Basic control
- Secure and balanced position in all 3 paces on the flat
- Aids natural/artificial
- Awareness of types, ages and suitability of ponies
- How to manage and control small groups
- Coach in accordance with ground conditions, weather and venue.

Safety Aware:

- Check that the rider(s) are wearing suitable and correctly fitted clothing, footwear and equipment, including an up to standard back protector and helmet.
- Check the suitability and fitting of horse's tack and equipment.

Show Jumping:

Candidates should include and have relevant knowledge and understanding of how to coach the following topics:

- Secure and balanced position in light seat
- Secure and balanced show jumping position.
- Aids natural/artificial
- Phases of the jump
- Heights and exercises appropriate to the group
- Quality of the canter
- Coach according to ground conditions, weather and venue

Safety Aware:

- Check that the rider(s) are wearing suitable and correctly fitted clothing, footwear and equipment, including an up to standard back protector and helmet.
- Check the suitability and fitting of horse's tack and equipment.
- All poles to be safely raised on one end, have understanding of why this is necessary
- Knowledge of distances in metres, including 3 trotting poles, placing pole to a fence, fence to fence out of trot and canter (distance chart and tape allowed)
- Coaching in accordance with ground conditions, weather and venue.

Full list of topics for sessions on IPC website.

Session 2:**Cross-Country:**

Candidates should include and have relevant knowledge and understanding of how to coach the following topics:

- Secure and balanced cross-country position on flat and undulating ground
- Secure and balanced cross-country position over various types of fences
- Correct speed and balance
- Various types of cross-country fences
- Distances the factors that can affect distances
- Coaching in accordance with ground conditions, weather and venue.
- Awareness of rider and horse / pony fitness

Safety Aware:

- Check that the rider(s) are wearing suitable and correctly fitted clothing, footwear and equipment, including an up to standard back protector and helmet.
- Check the suitability and fitting of horse's tack and equipment.
- Safe approaches/landings and fences.

Full list of sessions on IPC website.

Session 3:**Interactive Theory Session:**

- Candidates will be asked to coach a session on horse care.
- This session should be 12 to 15 minutes long and include interactive and theory elements
- Candidates will be asked to deliver this session to a group of 'C' test level riders
- Candidates will be asked to involve the riders as much as possible
- Candidates will receive their topic, 5 days before the test

Full list of sessions on the IPC website.

Overall Preparation Required:

- Candidates should have their own tools/props for coaching
- Measuring tape, at least 30m long
- Pods for poles. Small cones for guidance
- Candidates should check all saddlery and clothing before the start of every session
- Candidates should check age, ability and aims of all riders and ponies
- Candidates should complete a risk assessment for every session
- Candidates should plan their session in advance
- Candidates will be required to evaluate their session after delivery and discuss this with the assessors

Open Discussion:

During the assessment candidates will be asked to discuss the following topics:

- Plan for a wet day
- How to deal with a very nervous rider
- How to deal with an unsuitable horse / pony (over/under weight, too fresh, poor shoeing etc)
- Know when to seek help from the DC or senior coach
- Ability to involve riders so they acquire skills in a fun and interactive way