



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH RIDING SCHOOLS

RIDING & HORSE CARE CERTIFICATE

SYLLABUS

There is no minimum age limit but our experience suggests that it would be unusual for a candidate to have the necessary skill and experience to fulfil the requirements of the syllabus before the age of 16.

The test is almost entirely practical. Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of and/or perform the following tasks safely, correctly and efficiently and have understanding of the reasons for so doing. This test is almost entirely practical, and will be held over a day working in a yard. This test can be held at the yard at which you ride or train.

The test is open to established riding school clients, livery owners and grooms starting out in the equine industry.

Two testers will be in attendance, one of which will be an external tester and one who comes from your yard and will know the horses and layout of the yard.

CONTENT OF EXAMINATION AND REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

Throughout the day candidates must show knowledge of Safe Practice, Health and Safety including fire drills and procedure in event of an accident as relevant to their yard.

Practical Care

- The candidate will be required to care for and look after a horse for the day, performing all tasks as required – e.g. mucking out, grooming, tack cleaning, feeding and putting to bed.
- Help keep the muck heap tidy, showing safe practice when storing tools. Skip out periodically during the day and keep surrounding areas clean, tidy and free from hazards.
- Make early morning and evening inspections and know what to report and to whom.

Grooming

- Demonstrate grooming which may include stable stains
- The name and function of each item of grooming kit and its use
- The reasons for grooming and differences in the stabled and grass kept horse
- Pick out feet and know what to check for
- Plait a mane with bands or thread

Clipping

- Reasons for clipping and types of clip
- Safety procedures for both horse and handler prior to and during clipping, including safe and protective clothing

Horse Clothing

- Different types of rug, their uses and fitting
- Care and storage of rugs
- Fit boots and know their uses
- Preparing a horse for travel

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Watering and feeding

- Discuss basic rules for feeding and watering
- Various types of feeds including mixes and straights, know a little about different feeds fed at your own yard.
- Know why a change in horses feeding behaviour could be important
- Recognise mouldy and poor quality hay. Fill, weigh and tie a hay net
- Understand the difference between hay and haylage, and be able to discuss the differences

Shoeing

- The external structure of the foot
- Recognize when a horse needs shoeing
- Recognize a worn or loose shoe and how to take off a shoe

Veterinary

- Recognize signs of good health and ill health
- Be able to take a horses temperature
- Know how to stop bleeding
- Treat minor wounds
- Demonstrate leading a horse in hand for a veterinary check
- Contents of a equine first aid box
- Common ailments e.g. colic, laminitis, sweet itch, mud fever etc
- What routine health care procedures would take place during the year

Saddlery

- Tack up and fit a saddle and bridle
- Clean and care for tack, taking it apart and re-assembling it, at the same time checking for defects
- Recognise the different types of tack in your tack room

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Lungeing

- Prepare a horse for lungeing
- Lunge an experienced horse in an enclosed space – to include walk and trot but not canter.
- Be prepared to discuss common problems

Riding

- Mount and dismount, either using a mounting block or from the ground
- Correct position and balance in halt, walk, trot and canter through transitions, circles, turns and changes of direction
- Walk and trot without stirrups
- Be able to ride on the correct diagonal
- Have knowledge of canter leads
- Show leg yield and turn on or about the forehand
- Jump up to 2ft 3' (this is optional)
- Have a knowledge of riding and road safety
- Ride a steady horse in the open
- Assist other riders to mount/dismount (not including a leg up)
- Care of a horse after exercise

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GENERAL

Testers will take into consideration the candidate's manner in handling horses as well as their general approach and tidiness in their work. Candidates are expected to arrive 30 minutes before the test which will commence at 8:30 a.m. and finish no later than 5:00 p.m. **Smoking is forbidden** throughout the period of the test and while on the Test Centre premises. Candidates must make their own arrangements for food.

Clothing and Equipment

Earrings, necklaces, rings, sleepers and studs must be removed before the test. Wedding rings will be allowed

Riding: candidates must wear suitable and appropriate for riding and lungeing and a back protector for jumping. Please take into account weather conditions.

Disability/Doctors' Notes

These should be given to a tester before commencement of the test.

Candidates are advised that working with/handling and riding horses involves a degree of risk. It is recommended, therefore, that candidates take out individual personal accident insurance.

The testers' decision will be final.