



Camino Real Region D-3 Rating Prep Guide (Revised for January 1, 2007 Standard)

Boxed items are additions based upon the 2009 changes to the Standards of Proficiency

How to Use This Guide

There are two sections to the Guide to help you prepare for your rating.

Riding Expectations—This section tells you the riding skills you will be tested on at your rating. You may want to take this list to your instructor and make sure you are comfortable with all aspects of the riding skills needed for your rating.

Horse Management—This section has all the horse management standards you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to fill in the blanks and answer the questions. Be complete as possible, and share the information with other Pony Clubbers. Feel free to have the DC, or higher level members help you completely fill in the answers. This is a study guide for you, so you have the complete picture on each aspect of horse management. For sections that have multiple parts, like unsoundness, horse parts, etc., try to make a complete list, rather than just writing down a few answers.

When you are done with the rating, keep your Prep Guide. Each rating builds on the other, so you will see similar standards for the next level, just more detail, or a different aspect of the subject.

Note on D-3 Rating: The D-3 Rating usually takes a half day. But the preparation just before the rating takes time, too. You are advised to set one whole day aside for the D-3 Rating in order to be properly prepared. The cleanliness of you and your horse will be scrutinized closely. Your answers should be complete and thoughtful. Make sure you and your instructor are comfortable in all aspects of the riding skills and you are sharp on Horse Management.

Best of luck on your rating!

INFORMATION FOR C-1/C-2 LEVEL CANDIDATES

Requirements for All Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined by club policy, having paid local, regional and national dues and fees.
- C-1 and C-2: Be a member of Pony Club for at least 3 months.
- Attain each rating before next level is attempted.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of the level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- Candidate must be tested on and pass all sections of the test and in the appropriate area/arena/open terrain before being awarded the new Rating.
- Any special testing requests including exceptions or exemptions must be submitted to the USPC National Office, through the DC. These requests will be reviewed on an individual basis and the final decision for any exception will be the responsibility of the D-1 through C-2 Program Committee Chair and the Vice President of Instruction.

Attire

Safe, workmanlike attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts.

Correct formal or informal attire will be worn for formal inspection and presentation of mount at rating. Refer to the USPC Horse Management Handbook, section on Attire, and the USPC Manual of Horsemanship I and II.

ASTM/ SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn at formal inspection, when mounted and when longeing.

Equipment

Saddlery and biting for USPC Testing should comply with the Horse Management General Rules on Saddlery and Biting. Whips, no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm) including lash, will be allowed on the flat section of testings. Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

At the C-1 and C-2 levels, all bits with more than one point of attachment (i.e. gag, Pessoa, elevators) must have one rein attached so that the snaffle action of the bit is in effect. If other bit actions are to be used, two reins will be required. (At the D levels only, converters are allowed on Pelham bits.) If the Pessoa type bit is used, a single rein may be attached to the first or second ring. If a third or lower ring is used, a second rein must be attached higher so that the snaffle action can be in effect.

Testing Information (C-1 and C-2)

Testings may be held more often if practical for the club, but must be offered a minimum of twice a year. Testing dates are determined by the DC(s). By networking with other clubs within the Region to establish group ratings with other clubs, increased opportunities to rate can be made available to members.

A testing is designed to and should be conducted in one day if possible, or, if due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather or footing, it is not possible to complete a test in one day, all sections must be tested/completed within a one-month period.

A testing shall be an instructional, working session, covering only requirements listed in the Standards but must not become a “lesson” on each section.

Oral testing or demonstration is required for all parts of the horse management phases. Written tests are not allowed.

Upon recommendation of the Examiner only, a candidate who does not meet standards on not more than one-third of tested sections may be retested within one month on only the requirements not passed including riding sections (D-1 through C-2).

There is no set time limit between taking any of the C-level tests, but each level is attained at a separate testing, and rating levels may not be skipped.

Sharing of mounts for the C-level testings is not allowed.

Appropriate Horse

It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/ her parent(s) or guardian to bring an appropriate mount(s) to the testing. The conditioned mount(s) must be capable of completing the flat, longeing and jumping phases at the heights indicated at the appropriate skill levels. Embracing USPC’s commitment to safety for all horses and riders is of the utmost importance. Failing to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standard on that given day.

Presentation of Mount for Inspection

Braiding is not allowed.

All tack must be clean, show regular care and suppleness, and be well adjusted, and in good repair.

Stand by mount, on near side, with Examiner, facing rear, reins in left hand below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.

Examiners (D-1 through C-2)

D-1 through C-2 Examiners are chosen by the DC(s).

Examiners should be selected with care, should be completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) they are testing, as well as the level(s) above and below the one(s) they are testing.

Examiners should be familiar with the Standards D through A. Examiners should be sensitive to young people and conduct the test in an educational framework.

Examiners must be furnished a copy of all the USPC Standards, test, and study guides prior to testing.

The Examiners must set the tone of the testing as a teaching situation, making every effort to draw the best from each candidate, without allowing the test to become a lesson on the skill in question.

Care should be taken throughout a testing to encourage the candidates to express what they know, rather than what the Examiner knows.

Examiners should bear in mind that there may be a range from adequate to superior, and anyone within that range, i.e. that meets Standard or better, should pass.

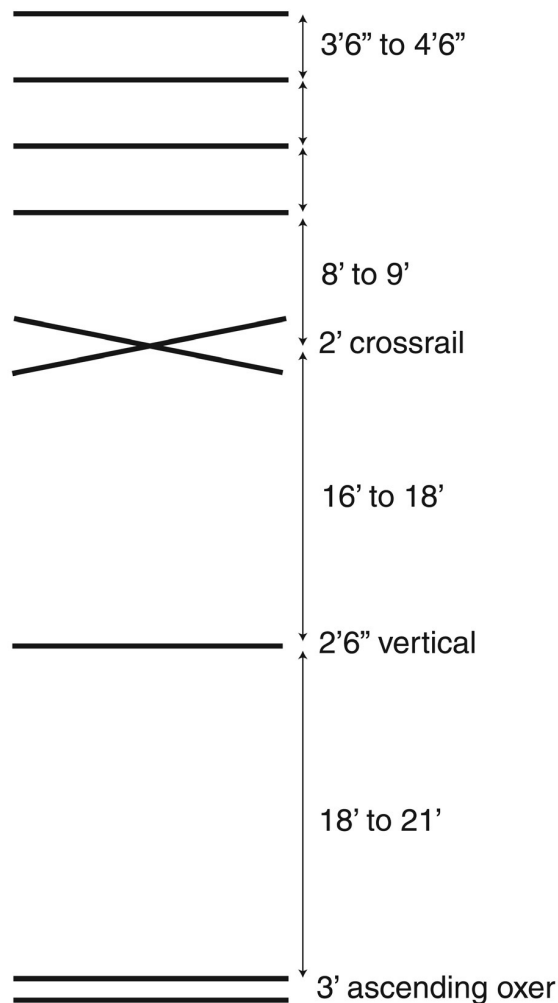
Refer to the current D-1 through C-2 testing guidelines, test organizers guide, and the USPC Examiners Handbook, available online at www.ponyclub.org under Forms and Publications.

Over Fences

C-2 Level

a. Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Use 4 trot poles placed at 3'6" to 4'6" apart, according to mount's size. You might need to set different distances inside the gymnastic line as well.



- b. Course work: 8 to 10 fences, 1/3 of which should be oxers. Set the majority at 3'. Course should include related distances, bending line and 1 one-stride combination.

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Riding Test Expectations

Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure basic balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids; ~~should initiate free forward movement while developing a steady light feel of mount's mouth.~~

The Candidate should begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.

Riding on the Flat

Discuss the meaning of the Riding Test Expectations. Ride consistently demonstrating riding test expectations.

Demonstrate warm-up for flat work including rider exercises.

Discuss candidate's warm-up for rider and mount. Discuss warm-up schedule for three different activities of candidate's choice.

Work mount at walk, trot and canter, changing directions at least twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm, balance and impulsion and smooth transitions. Demonstrate 15 - 20 meter circles, figure-8's, serpentines and work on the center or quarter lines to develop suppleness and straightness.

Demonstrate a free walk on a long rein, returning to a walk on contact.

Halt squarely on centerline and stand quietly for five seconds.

Ride mount without stirrups at all gaits.

Discuss aids for and demonstrate a rein-back of 2-3 steps.

Discuss aids for and then demonstrate leg yield at walk.

Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return to canter smoothly.

Discuss performance with examiner including the rider's position, and whether mount was moving forward in balance and rhythm.

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.

Perform simple gymnastic grid exercises set at appropriate distances for mount's stride at a trot or canter, finishing with an ascending oxer set at 3'. Fences not to exceed 3'.

Develop a plan of how to ride a stadium course. Course to consist of 7 - 9 jumps. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed 3'.

Ride course according to plan

Discuss performance with Examiner, including rhythm maintained throughout the course.

Riding in the Open

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

(C-1 Manual, pages 80-93)

- Ride in a group at the walk, trot, and canter on a suitable mount.

Demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, as conditions allow. Discuss safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e. water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement.

- Safety measures for:

- Ice:

Bog :

- Water:

Rocks :

- Mud:

- Hard Ground:

- Sand:

- Pavement:

Ride over five to seven cross-country obstacles, at appropriate speed (350-375 mpm) connecting fences as a course. The majority of fences should be set at but not exceed 3'

- Discuss performance with Examiner, including reasons for any disobediences.

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should show a solid awareness of cause and effect in horse management skills. Assistance/supervision is allowed in the demonstrations of bandaging, longeing, and loading mount.

Turn Out/Tack

Attire to be correctly formal or informal. Pony Club pin. Long hair neatly up or back. No inappropriate jewelry. Boots polished and in good repair. Spurs (if used) polished and put on properly.

Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Main and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean.

Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No jockeys or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.

Explain reasons for equipment used on own mount for flat work and over fences.

- Equipment for flat work - why used?

- Equipment for over fences - why used?

Demonstrate proper adjustment and reason for tack used on mount.

LAND CONSERVATION

Name the zoning requirements for the county in which you keep your horse. Example: A minimum of 10 acres is required to keep one horse.

Know what public land is available to ride on in your county.

Conditioning

Present a written outline of a six-to-eight-week conditioning and feeding program in preparation for a specific competition of Candidate's choice.

(C Manual, pages 233-249)

What is conditioning?

Activity Chosen: _____

Discuss Program

Measure and record pulse, temperature, and respiration of own mount at rest in front of Examiner.

(C Manual, pages 234-237)

Why is it important to know your pony's vital signs?

Demonstrate ability to record Temperature, Pulse & Respiration:

Temperature:

Pulse:

Respiration:

Know vital signs of own mount at work.

Nutrition

Describe own mount's ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking day off, sick, roughed out.

(C Manual, pages 201-203)

- Maintenance:
- Conditioning:
- Rest-Day:
- Sick:
- Roughing Off:

Stable Management

Describe caring for a mount efficiently and economically when stabled and at grass

Stabled

- feed and water schedule:
- minerals needed:
- clothing:
- exercise:
- grooming:

At Grass

- safety check of pasture
- fencing:
- water:
- mineral supply:
- shelter:
- feed:
- grooming:

Discuss knowledge of safety measures, preparation and care of mount and equipment on day of strenuous work, including feeding schedule, consideration of mount's condition, consideration of climate and terrain, cooling out, treatment of any injuries, and making mount comfortable.

Feed Schedule:

Consideration of pony's condition:

Consideration of climate and terrain:

Cooling out:

Treatment of injuries:

Making pony comfortable:

Discuss pasture safety and fencing

(C Manual, pages 164-165)

List the advantages and disadvantages of these fencing materials:

a. Wooden

b. Plastic

c. Metal pipe

d. Wire mesh

e. Electric fence

f. Barbed wire

Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance.

(C Manual, pages 167-169)

1.

2.

3.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Name five basic conformation qualities that you want in a mount for your own use, and how they affect the basic movement and soundness (i.e., sloping shoulder means longer stride).

What is conformation and why is good conformation desirable?

Name five conformation qualities you would look for in a pony, and list the reasons why.

1.

2.

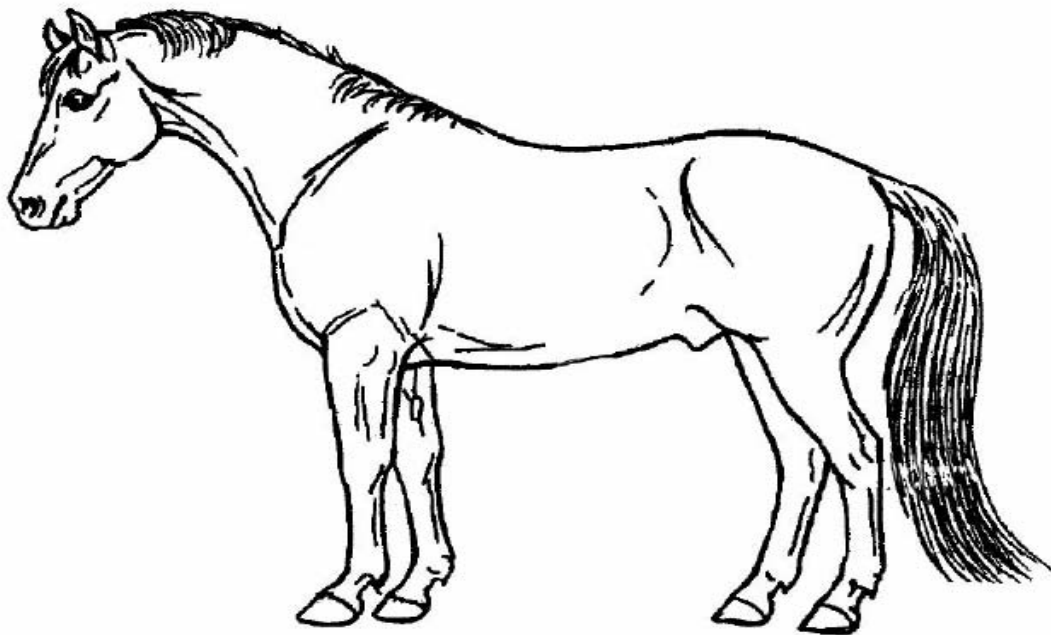
3.

4.

5.

Name and locate on a mount the following unsoundnesses: ringbone, curb, bowed tendons, sidebone, spavin, navicular, splint, thoroughpin, sprains.

- Ringbone:
- Curb:
- Bowed tendons:
- Sidebone:
- Bone spavin
- Bog spavin::
- Navicular disease:
- Splint:
- Thoroughpin:
- Sprains:



Travel Safety

Be able to load and unload, with assistance, an experienced, cooperative mount.

What are the steps to safely loading an experienced pony into a trailer?

What are the steps to safely unloading a pony?

Record Book

The C-2 is expected to keep a careful Record Book of all immunizations, veterinary visits, farrier visits, etc. The book must be brought to the test for review and critique. Must have records for at least 6 months. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

Please have record book up-to-date for review.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area.

Do you know your local immunization and health requirements?

List prevalent internal parasites in your area.

List of parasites:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Describe routine parasite prevention for your mount.

Parasite prevention routine:

Describe how tetanus and strangles are transmitted.

(C Manual, pages 216-217)

Tetanus:

Strangles:

Explain the need for the regular care of teeth.

(C Manual, pages 211-215)

Answer:

Teaching

Demonstrate knowledge of safe grooming, handling and tacking up by assisting a D1 or D2 to prepare for turnout under direct supervision of Examiner. Explain to the D member what the appropriate steps are and what safety procedures should be followed. Assess turnout and equipment for safety and explain to the D member any safety concerns and how to fix them.

Candidate must bring a letter from DC that they are assisting in simple unmounted instructional programs for D-level Pony Club members with supervision.

Date letter requested:

Date letter received:

Longeing

Longe own mount for exercise in an enclosed area with assistance.

Demonstrate skill

Discuss methods, equipment, and safety precautions for longeing.

(C Manual, pages 279-299)

- What is longeing and what are its uses?
- List the longeing equipment needed for pony:
- List the longeing equipment needed for the rider:
- List the safety rules for longeing:
- Explain the following voice commands for longeing:
 - Upward transition –
 - Downward transition –
 - To move pony out on circle –
 - To praise pony –
 - To reprimand pony –
- What are two ways of holding the longe line, and how should you hold the excess?
- Where should you longe?
- Explain how to use the whip:
- Explain where to position your body when longeing:
- Explain how to longe a trained pony:
 - To start –
 - To stop –
 - To trot –
 - To change direction –
 - To canter –

Foot & Shoeing

Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing.

(C Manual, pages 255-257)

Signs of good shoeing:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Signs of bad shoeing:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Bandaging

Apply a shipping and stable bandage, under supervision of examiner, and give reasons for use

(C Manual, pages 266-270)

What is the purpose of a shipping bandage, and what critical areas must it cover?

What is the purpose of a stable bandage, and what areas must it cover?

Name five important points for safe bandaging.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.