



USEF TRAINING LEVEL RIDER TEST

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Updated Dec. 1, 2014

Purpose: To confirm that the rider sits in the correct posture and alignment and shows correct mechanics in walk, rising trot and canter. The seat is sufficiently independent for the rider to maintain a steady, elastic rein contact and encourage the horse to stretch into that contact. The horse is ridden actively forward showing impulsion and balance required for the level, bends equally to the left and right sides on turns and circles, and makes smooth, willing transitions.

<p>All trot work to be ridden rising except for a few steps (4-8) of sitting trot during transitions. Transitions to halt may be performed through the walk.</p> <p>READER PLEASE NOTE: Anything in parentheses should not be read.</p>	<p>CONDITIONS Arena: Small/Standard Actual Average Time: 3:30/5:00 Recommended Scheduled Time: 6:00/8:00 Maximum Possible Points: 100</p>
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TEST		DIRECTIVE IDEAS
1. A X C	Enter working trot Halt, Salute Proceed at working trot Track left	Rider's alignment, symmetry, steady, elastic rein contact. Straightness on centerline; smooth transitions to balanced halt and active trot. Bend and balance through turn.
2. E-B Near center line B	Half circle left 20 meters 3-6 steps of walk Proceed working trot Working trot	Rider maintains posture and alignment in turns and transitions. Horse is bent on half circle; shows smooth, forward transitions with a few well-defined walk steps.
3. HXF	Change rein, working trot	Rider's posture, symmetry and alignment; correct mechanics in rising trot. Horse is bent through turns and straightened on diagonal; moves with lively activity and is encouraged to reach into the contact.
4. A Near center line	Circle right 20 meters Working canter right lead	Rider maintains balanced, vertical position through transition; shows correct seat mechanics and timing in canter. Horse is bent on circle; makes a balanced transition; moves willingly forward in canter.
5. KXM X	Change rein Working trot	Correct rider mechanics; balanced, vertical position in transition; steady, elastic rein contact. Horse is bent through the turns; straightened on diagonal; performs a smooth, balanced transition to an active trot.
6. C	Medium walk	Rider maintains posture, vertical alignment and steady, elastic contact; seat follows the horse's movements in transition and walk. Horse steps actively forward in walk.
7. HXK KA	Free walk Medium walk	Correct rider mechanics. Rider gives complete freedom for horse to lengthen the stride while stretching head and neck forward and downward. Transitions smooth with obvious difference in length of strides and frame.
8. A	Working trot	Rider shows correct mechanics in rising trot; steady, elastic rein contact. Horse moves willingly into an active trot.
9. B-E Near center line E	Half circle left 20 meters 3-6 steps of walk Proceed working trot Working trot	Rider maintains posture and alignment in turns and transitions. Horse is bent on half circle; shows smooth, forward transitions with a few well-defined walk steps.
10. A Near center line	Circle left 20 meters Working canter left lead	Rider maintains balanced, vertical position through transition; shows correct seat mechanics and timing in canter. Horse is bent on circle; makes a balanced transition; moves willingly forward in canter.
11. FXH X	Change rein Working trot	Correct rider mechanics; balanced, vertical position in transition; steady, elastic rein contact. Horse is bent through the turns; straightened on diagonal; performs a smooth, balanced transition to an active trot.
12. C Before C C	Circle right 20 meters allowing the horse to stretch forward and downward Pick up the reins Working trot	Rider maintains posture and alignment; encourages horse to stretch to a light rein contact. Horse stretches willingly by lowering the neck and rounding the topline; shows smooth transitions to longer and shorter rein contact.
13. B-X G	Half circle right 10 meters Halt, Salute	Riders posture, alignment and symmetry; steady, elastic rein contact. Straightness on centerline; smooth transition to balanced halt.

Leave arena at A in walk on a long rein

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION : 4047 IRON WORKS PARKWAY : LEXINGTON, KY 40511

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USEF FIRST LEVEL RIDER TEST

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Updated Dec. 1, 2014

Purpose: To confirm that the rider, in addition to the requirements of training level, shows correct alignment, posture and mechanics in sitting trot, including maintaining a steady, elastic rein contact. In turns on forehand and leg yields the rider remains centered and the horse responds willingly to the aids. The transitions are ridden in a better balance and with more thoroughness than at training level. In response to the correct application of the rider's aids, the horse moves actively forward showing a consistent tempo and correct rhythm in each gait, shows appropriate bending, lengthens and shortens the stride in trot and responds willingly to both longitudinal and lateral aids

TEST		DIRECTIVE IDEAS
All trot work to be ridden rising, unless stated. READER PLEASE NOTE: Anything in parentheses should not be read.		CONDITIONS Arena: Standard Actual Average Time: 5:00 Recommended Scheduled Time: 8:00 Maximum Possible Points: 100
1. A X	Enter working trot Halt, Salute Proceed working trot	Rider's alignment and symmetry; steady, elastic rein contact. Straightness on centerline; smooth transitions to balanced halt and active trot.
2. C H-B B	Track left Change rein, lengthen stride in trot rising Working trot sitting	Rider maintains posture and alignment in turns and transitions; shows correct rising and sitting mechanics; maintains an elastic connection with horse's mouth. Horse is bent through turns and straight on diagonal; shows moderate lengthening of stride and frame with a consistent tempo.
3. P Over L V	Turn right A few steps of walk Proceed working trot sitting Turn right	Rider maintains vertical posture and correct alignment through transitions. Horse performs smooth, forward transitions with a few well-defined walk steps.
4. E S	Ride toward second track Halt (parallel to and approximately one meter in from track). Turn on forehand left Proceed working trot sitting	Rider maintains posture, balance and steady rein contact in transitions. Horse responds willingly to the aids; turns with balanced lateral steps that have a forward inclination.
5. E V	Ride toward second track Halt (parallel to and approximately one meter in from track) Turn on forehand right Proceed medium walk.	Rider maintains posture, balance and steady rein contact in transitions. Horse responds willingly to the aids; turns with balanced lateral steps that have a forward inclination.
6. E-M M	Change rein, free walk Medium walk	Rider allows the horse complete freedom to lengthen the stride and to stretch the head and neck forward and downward. Transitions smooth with obvious difference in length of strides and frame.
7. C	Proceed working trot sitting	Rider shows correct sitting mechanics with vertical posture. Horse responds promptly and willingly to the aids.
8. E E	Working canter left lead and circle left 20 meters On second half of circle, lengthen stride in canter Straight ahead	Rider is centered, vertical and symmetrical; shows correct mechanics and timing in working and lengthened canter strides; maintains elastic rein contact. Horse responds willingly to the aids; performs balanced transitions; lengthens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo; is bent and balanced on circle.
9. Between E & K	Develop working canter	Rider shortens the stride while maintaining activity, balance and tempo; maintains vertical posture and correct alignment during transition.
10. A	Working trot sitting	Rider maintains vertical posture and balance; transitions seamlessly from canter to trot mechanics; maintains an elastic contact with the horse's mouth. Horse performs a clear transition.
11. F-X X-I	Leg yield left in sitting trot Working trot sitting	Rider and horse are aligned and well-balanced in leg yield and on centerline. Horse is reactive to the aids; maintains tempo and activity in leg yield.
12. I-R	Half circle right in sitting trot	Rider is centered, symmetrical and vertical; maintains contact with the horse's mouth. Horse bends on half circle, maintains tempo and activity.
13. B B	Working canter right lead and circle right 20 meters On second half of circle lengthen stride in canter Straight ahead	Rider is centered, vertical and symmetrical; shows correct mechanics and timing in working and lengthened canter strides; maintains elastic rein contact. Horse responds willingly to the aids; performs balanced transitions; lengthens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo; is bent and balanced on circle.
14. Between B & F	Develop working canter	Rider shortens the stride while maintaining activity, balance and tempo; maintains vertical posture and correct alignment during transition.
15. A-C	Serpentine of three loops changing lead through trot when crossing centerline	Rider shows control of posture and balance; prepares well for transitions and changes of bend; maintains an elastic contact. Horse is obedient, well balanced and shows prompt transitions.
16. C	Working trot sitting	Rider maintains vertical posture and balance; transitions seamlessly from canter to trot mechanics; maintains an elastic contact with the horse's mouth. Horse performs a clear transition.
17. M-X X-L	Leg yield right in sitting trot Working trot sitting	Rider and horse are aligned and well-balanced in leg yield and on centerline. Horse is reactive to the aids; maintains tempo and activity in leg yield.
18. L-P	Half circle left 10 meters sitting trot	Rider is centered, symmetrical and vertical; maintains contact with the horse's mouth. Horse bends on half circle, maintains tempo and activity.
19. B Before E E	One and a half circles left 20 meters in rising trot allowing the horse to stretch forward and downward Shorten the reins Working trot	Rider maintains posture, alignment and balance; encourages horse to stretch to a light rein contact. Horse stretches willingly by lowering the neck and rounding the topline; shows smooth transitions to longer and shorter rein contact.
20. A X	Down centerline Halt, Salute	Rider's alignment and symmetry; steady elastic contact. Horse is bent in turn and straight on centerline; makes a clear, well-balanced transition to halt.

Leave arena at A in walk on a long rein



USEF SECOND LEVEL RIDER TEST

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

Updated Dec. 1, 2014

Purpose: To confirm that the rider, having achieved the requirements of first level, is able to ride the horse reliably on the bit with an uphill tendency. The rider lengthens and shortens the horse's stride in trot and canter while maintaining correct alignment, posture and mechanics. In lateral movements the rider stays centered and demonstrates an appropriate angle and bending of the horse. As a result of the correct application of the rider's aids, the horse shows a greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, throughness, balance and self-carriage than at first level.

<p>All trot work to be ridden sitting.</p> <p>READER PLEASE NOTE: Anything in parentheses should not be read.</p>	<p>CONDITIONS Arena: Standard Actual Average Time: 5:30 Recommended Scheduled Time: 8:00 Maximum Possible Points: 100</p>
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TEST		DIRECTIVE IDEAS
1. A X	Enter collected trot Halt, Salute Proceed working trot	Rider's alignment and symmetry; steady, elastic rein contact. Straightness on centerline; clear transition to halt maintaining uphill balance. Prompt transition to trot.
2. C HXF F	Track left Change rein, medium trot Collected trot	Rider shows correct sitting mechanics in collected and medium trot; bends and straightens the horse. Horse lengthens and shortens the stride and frame with a consistent tempo.
3.	(Transitions H and F)	Rider is stable and well-balance. Horse shows clear reactivity to subtle aids; well-defined, straight, balanced transitions; remains reliably on the bit.
4. A D-X	Turn down center line Shoulder-in right	Rider sits centered and vertical; uses inside and outside aids to control angle, bend, balance and impulsion in shoulder-in. Horse is reliably on the bit.
5. X	Circle right 10 meters	Rider sits centered and vertical with correct sitting mechanics. Horse is active, correctly bent and maintains a consistent tempo. Connection of hand to bit remains elastic and consistent.
6. X-G G	Travers right Straighten	Rider sits centered and vertical; uses inside and outside aids to control the angle, bend, balance and impulsion in travers; straightens the horse at G. Horse is reliably on the bit.
7. C MXK K	Track right Change rein, medium trot showing a few clear steps of collected trot over X Collected trot	Rider shows correct sitting mechanics in collected and medium trot; bends, straightens and balances the horse. Horse lengthens and shortens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo.
8.	(Transitions M, X and K)	Rider is stable and well-balanced. Horse shows clear reactivity to aids; transitions are well-defined, straight and balanced; remains reliably on the bit.
9. A D-X	Turn down center line Travers left	Rider sits centered and vertical; uses inside and outside aids to control the angle, bend, balance and impulsion in travers. Horse is reliably on the bit.
10. X	Circle left 10 meters	Rider sits centered and vertical, with correct sitting mechanics. Horse is active, correctly bent and maintains a consistent tempo. Connection of hand to bit remains elastic and consistent.
11. X-G G C	Shoulder-in left Straighten Track right	Rider sits centered and vertical; uses inside and outside aids to control angle, bend, balance and impulsion in shoulder-in. Horse is reliably on the bit.
12. Between C & M Before R	Medium walk Shorten the stride and half turn on haunches right Proceed medium walk	Rider sits centered; makes a smooth transition to walk; controls bend, balance, activity and sideways motion in turn on the haunches. Horse steps willingly and fluently with active hind legs. Maintains a soft elastic connection to bit.
13. Before C	Shorten the stride and half turn on haunches left Proceed medium walk	Rider sits centered; controls bend, balance, activity and sideways motion in turn on the haunches. Horse steps willingly and fluently with active hind legs. Maintains a soft elastic connection to bit.
14. M-E	Change rein, free walk	Rider allows the horse complete freedom to stretch the neck forward and downward. Horse lengthens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo.
15. E-K	Medium walk	Rider shortens the stride and frame without changing the tempo or rhythm. Horse accepts the shorter rein smoothly and willingly.
16. Before K K	Shorten the stride in walk Collected canter left lead	Rider sits centered and vertical; shows correct mechanics in walk and canter. Horse is appropriately reactive, straight, in uphill balance and performs the transition without trot steps while maintaining a soft elastic connection to bit.
17. A-C	Three loop serpentine with simple change each time crossing the center line	Rider sits centered and vertical; shows correct mechanics in canter and walk; prepares well for each transition and bends the horse appropriately on each loop. Horse performs clear, balanced, straight transitions without trot steps. Correct geometry of serpentine and accurate placement of transitions.
18. H-P P	Change rein, medium canter Collected canter	Rider sits centered and vertical; horse is bent in corner and straightened on diagonal line. Horse lengthens and shortens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo.
19.	(Transitions H and P)	Rider is stable and well-balanced. Horse shows clear reactivity to aids; transitions are well-defined, straight and balanced; rider's rein and seat aids are accepted without resistance.
20. PFA	Counter canter	Rider sits centered and vertical; bends the horse appropriately; influences the horse to remain on outside rein. Horse maintains activity, balance and consistent tempo.
21. A	Simple change	Rider is stable and well-balanced; prepares well for the transitions; shows dominant influence of outside rein in both canter leads. Horse remains reliably on the bit.
22. K-R R	Change rein, medium canter Collected canter	Rider sits centered and vertical; horse is bent in corner and straightened on diagonal line. Horse lengthens and shortens the stride and frame in a consistent tempo.
23.	(Transitions K and R)	Rider is stable and well-balanced. Horse shows clear reactivity to aids; transitions are well-defined, straight and balanced; rider's rein and seat aids are accepted without resistance.
24. RMC	Counter canter	Rider sits centered and vertical; bends the horse appropriately; influences the horse to remain on outside rein. Horse maintains activity, balance and consistent tempo.
25. C S	Simple change Collected trot	Rider is stable and well-balanced; prepares well for the transitions; shows dominant influence of outside rein in both canter leads. Horse performs clear transitions; remains reliably on the bit.
26. V-L G	Half circle left 10 meters Halt, Salute	Rider's alignment and symmetry; correct sitting mechanics; straightness on centerline; clear transition to halt maintaining uphill balance.

Leave arena at A in walk on long rein

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