



Middle California Region C2 Study Guide



The C1 – C2 Ratings

The C-1 and C-2 is a Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for pony and tack and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing. The C-1 and C-2 show development towards a secure, independent seat and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding. The C-1 and C-2 ratings are awarded at the club level.

How to use the Study Guide:

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

Riding Test Expectations: This section lists the riding skills you will be tested on at your rating. Please review them carefully with your instructor to insure you are prepared for the C1 test!

Horse Management Expectations: This section has the Horse Management Standards you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to answer the questions you will be asked at your test. Be as thorough as possible with your answers!

When you are done with the rating, keep your Study Guides. They will help you prepare for the next rating, rally or even your next lesson plan!

Best of luck on your rating!

Testing Information for C-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.

Riding Test Expectations

Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate should begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing alight contact.

Riding on the Flat

Ride test consistently demonstrating riding test expectations.

(C-1 Manual, pages 3-24)

- **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-and 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.

(C-1 Manual, pages 24-38)

- **Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.**
- **Perform simple gymnastic grid exercises set at appropriate distances for mount's stride at 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 using riding test expectations.

(C-1 Manual, pages 38-48)

- **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.**
- **Ride over five to seven cross-country obstacles, at appropriate speed (350-375 ppm) 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.

(D Manual, pages 283-296)

Components of correctly formal attire:

Components of correctly informal attire:

Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat;

- **No sweat or dirt.**
- **Mane 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.**

(D Manual, pages 293-295, C Manual, pages 176-180)

Turn Out/Tack

Describe a *well-groomed* mount that reflects *regular care*:

Pony:

Mane & tail:

Nose & dock:

Hooves:

Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished.

- No jockeys or dust,
- No cracked leather
- All stress points clean.

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

Demonstrate proper adjustment and reason for tack used on mount.

(D Manual, pages 292-293, C Manual, pages 180-181)

Describe tack that is *safe, clean, and properly adjusted*.

Give reason for use of tack on mount:

- Bridle:
- Pad:
- Saddle fit:
- Saddle wear:
- Leathers:
- Stirrups & pads:

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)

Measure and record pulse, temperature and respiration of own pony at rest in front of Examiner. Practice this!

Know vital signs of own mount at work:

Temperature:

Pulse:

Respiration:

List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area.

Nutrition

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

(C Manual, pages 201 – 203)

Explain different rations for different purposes:

Stable Management

(C Manual, pages 155 - 166)

Describe caring for a mount efficiently and economically when:

Stabled- feed and water schedule, minerals needed, clothing, exercise, grooming.

At grass - safety check of pasture, fencing, water, mineral supply, shelter, feed, and grooming.

Stable Management

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

Discuss pasture safety and fencing

(C Manual, pages 164 - 165)

List 4 things a pasture must be free of:

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

List 5 types of acceptable fencing material:

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

Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance.

(C Manual, pages 167 - 170)

- 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).

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

Name and locate on a mount the following unsoundnesses:

Ringbone

Curb

Bowed tendons

Sidebone

Spavin

Navicular

Splint

Thoroughpin

Sprains

Travel Safety

Be able to load and unload, with assistance, an experienced, cooperative mount.
(Be sure to review D Manual, page 224)

Record Book

Record Book (health, maintenance, immunizations) must be kept up to date and brought to test. Must have records for at least 9 months prior to test. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area.

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

List prevalent internal parasites in your area.

Describe routine parasite prevention for your mount.

Describe how tetanus and strangles are transmitted.

Tetanus:

Strangles:

Explain the need for the regular care of teeth.

Teaching

Demonstrate knowledge of safe grooming, handling and tacking up by assisting a D-1 or D-2 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.

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.

Longeing

**Longe own mount for exercise in an enclosed area with assistance.
Discuss methods, equipment, and safety precautions for longeing.**

List equipment and safety procedures for longeing.

(C Manual, pages 281-286)

Equipment:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Safety Procedures:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

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 poor 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 267-270)

Reasons for use:

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

Be sure to PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!