



Middle California Region D3 Study Guide



The D Ratings

The D ratings are an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a mount and tack. The D1 through D3 Pony Club member learns to ride independently and with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot, and canter and over low fences. All D 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 D3 rating!

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 D3 rating. 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 D Candidates

Requirements for Candidates (D-1 through D-3)

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined by club policy, having paid local and regional and national dues and fees.
- Have a record of regular attendance and participation.
- Be member of Pony Club for 1 month or more, no minimum age limit.
- Be recommended by the District Commissioner for each rating.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirement for all previously attained Standards.
- Attain each rating before the next level is attempted.
- Any special testing requests 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. Refer to USPC HM Handbook, USPC Rules for Eventing, and the USPC Manual of Horsemanship I.
- ASTM/SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn.
- Correct formal or informal attire should be worn. Exceptions to meet local conditions may be designated by the DC.
- **Formal Dress:** Black or dark-colored, uniform-colored coat; white stock tie with plain horizontal pin; white, canary, tan or buff breeches; black boots, Pony Club pin.
- **Informal Dress:** Riding coat (other than solid black); plain color shirt; choker, necktie or turtle neck; breeches or jodhpurs of any color; appropriate boots as described in USPC Horse Management Handbook, Pony Club pin.

Equipment

- Saddlery and biting for USPC Testings should comply with the Horse Management General Rule on Saddlery and Biting and with the USPC Eventing Rules for Saddlery and Biting.
- Whips, no longer than 48 inches including lash, will be allowed in the "flat" section of testings.
- Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.
- 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 level, converters will be 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

- Testing dates are determined by the DC.
- Testings may be held every three months or more often if practical for the Club, but they must be offered a minimum of twice a year.
- A testing should be conducted in one day or all requirements tested within a one-month period.
- A testing shall be an instructional working session, covering only requirements listed under the

Standards.

- Oral testing is required for all parts of the horse management phase. Written tests are not allowed.
- On recommendation of the Examiner only, a candidate who fails not more than one-third of tested sections (including riding) may be re-tested within one month on only the requirements not passed.
- There is no set time limit between taking any of the D- Level Tests, but each rating level must be attained in the proper order and no levels may be skipped.
- Borrowing/sharing of suitable mounts for a D-level testing is allowed, but only if the rider is familiar with the mount and has ridden it prior to the testing both on the flat and over fences successfully and safely at the level being tested.

Appropriate Horse

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

Presentation of Mount for Inspection (D-1 through D-3)

- Stand by head of mount on near side with Examiner, facing towards rear, reins in left hand, below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.
- Braiding is not allowed.

Examiners

- Examiners at the D-1 through C-2 level are to be chosen by the DC.
- Examiners should be selected with care, should not only be knowledgeable, but sensitive to young people and able to conduct the test in an educational framework.
- Examiners must be furnished a copy of all the USPC Standards, tests, and study guides prior to testing.
- Examiners must be knowledgeable of Pony Club philosophy and the Standards, D-1 through A.
- The Examiners must set the tone of the testing as a teaching situation, making every effort to draw the best from each candidate.
- 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 the range should pass.
- Refer to the current D-1 through C-2 Testing Guidelines and the USPC Examiners Handbook, both available through the USPC Bookstore.

Riding Test Expectations

Candidate should ride in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while developing balance and a steady position over fences.

Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations

- Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary).
- Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt.
- Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot under direction of examiner.
- Ride mount on flat demonstrating 20-meter circles showing correct positioning in both directions at walk, at sitting and rising trot with correct diagonals and at the canter with correct leads.
- Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot.
- Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed either alone or with others as appropriate.
- Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back.
- Demonstrate emergency dismount at the trot.
- Discuss performance with examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and whether or not circles were round and natural aids were used correctly

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations

- Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical set at, but not exceed, 2'6" set at appropriate distances for mount's stride.
- Jump a simple stadium course of five to seven obstacles. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 2'6".
- Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences.

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with a group at the walk and trot, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain (ditches to be unrevetted).
- Jump simple cross country obstacles, not to exceed 2'6".
- D-3 speed should not exceed 240 meters per minute or 300 meters per minute appropriate or the size of mount.
- Discuss ways to control a mount in the open.
- Discuss performance with Examiners.

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss pony care, using common horse terms.

Turn Out/Tack

Rider in safe and neat attire.

- Collared shirt (polo, turtleneck, dress shirt or ratcatcher) with long or short sleeves
- Breeches, jodhpurs or riding tights with shirt tucked in, belt (if belt loops)
- Tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps
- Pony Club pin
- ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Long hair neatly up or back.
- Gloves, neckwear and show coat optional.
- No inappropriate jewelry

Mount to be neatly groomed

- Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt)
- Feet picked out, showing farrier care.
- Mane and tail brushed
- Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off.

Tack to be safe –especially stitching on stirrups/girth –and clean.

No jockeys or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean.

All tack must be properly adjusted.

Describe formal attire, informal attire.

What are the components of correctly formal attire?

What are the components of informal attire?

Turn Out/Tack

Describe proper adjustment of the snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband.

Describe proper adjustment of curb chain if appropriate.

Conditioning/Nutrition

Know 5-7 basic rules of feeding.

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

Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include cooling out, inspection of legs, watering and feeding.

Know vital signs of mount at rest:

- Temperature:

- Pulse:

- Respiration:

Discuss the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.

Stable Management

Demonstrate how to clean a dirty / soiled stall.

Demonstrate the proper steps and methods for removing manure and wet areas, how to bank a stall, and discuss the reasons for and benefits of regular stall cleaning for the health and safety of your mount.

For testing purposes, a soiled horse trailer may be used.

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

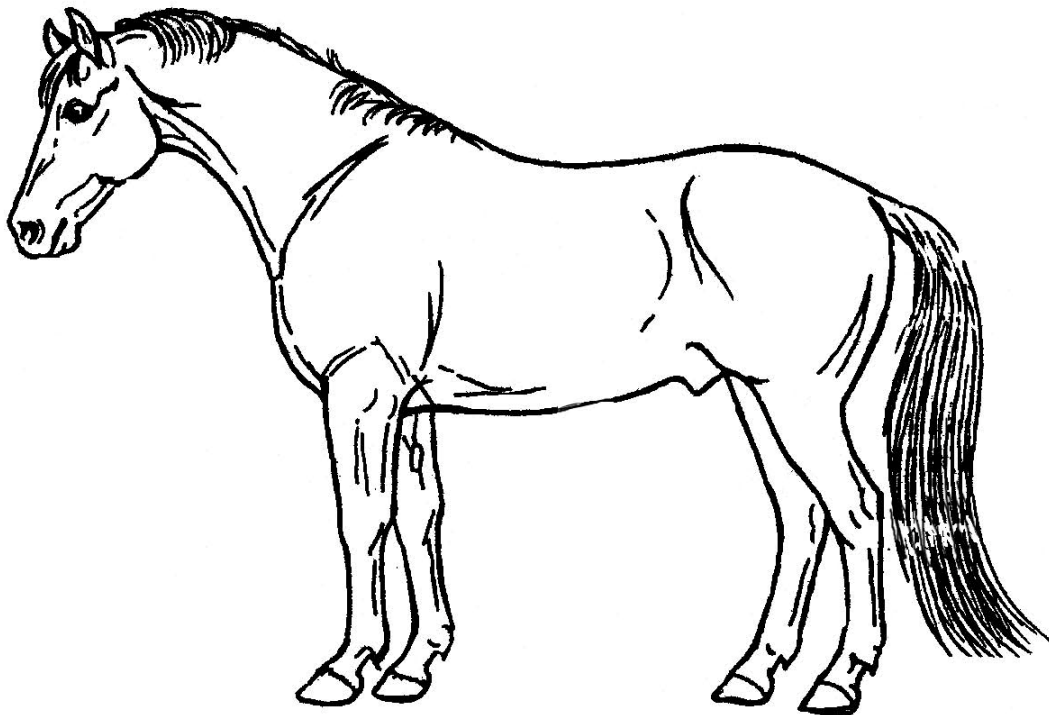
Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket and haynet / haybag, hanging both at a proper height for your mount, at either a trailer or stall.

Discuss the different needs of your horse during a day rally or clinic, or overnight stay.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Describe how to measure height of mount.

Identify at least 20 parts of the mount, to include hock, gaskin, withers, croup, fetlock, pastern, etc.



Know common conformation faults of neck, back, shoulder, head and pasterns.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Describe the characteristics of a strange mount clearly enough for another person to recognize it within a group.

Include: color, breed, markings, size, sex, and obvious conformation characteristics.

Travel Safety

Know rules for riding safely on public roads in your state.

Know procedure for mounted group crossing a public roadway.

Discuss the proper procedure for loading and unloading a mount.

Record Book

- **The D-3 is expected to keep careful records of veterinary visits, and general health of mount.**
- **Record Book must be brought to the test.**
- **A minimum of three months of records is required.**
- **Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.**

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Name some symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help.

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

Introduction to Horse Sports

Name five horse sports that are offered in USPC.

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

Teaching

- **D-3s are encouraged to assist D-1s and D-2s during unmounted Pony Club activities -- not mounted activities.**
- **No child is responsible for the safety of another child. There must always be adult supervision.**

Land Conservation

Name three important rules when riding across privately-owned land.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write thank-you notes to two landowners who support your club and tell them why you appreciate being able to use their land.

If you ride on public land, write a thank-you note to the manager or contact person.

Leading & Longeing

- Lead correctly, moving mount forward with whip or assistance (if necessary).

- Lead safely from both sides.

Foot & Shoeing

Describe obvious signs of a foot needing shoeing or trimming.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Bandaging

Describe critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots, and give reasons for their use.

Shipping Bandages:

Shipping Boots:

Apply protective boots (with supervision) on own mount.