



Middle California Region C2 Study Guide



The C Ratings

The C is a Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for mount and tack, and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing. The C shows development towards a secure, independent seat, and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding. The C1 and C2 ratings are awarded at the club level. The C3 is a National rating and reflects a basis of competence in riding and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses.

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 C2 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 C2 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

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined by club policy, having paid local, regional and national dues and fees.
- Have a record of regular attendance and participation.
- 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.
- C-1 and C-2: Be a member of Pony Club for at least three months and must be recommended by the DC.
- C-3: Be a member of Pony Club for at least six months. Be at least 13 years of age prior to January 1 of year of application and must be recommended by the DC and RS.
- The C-3 and above Candidate will fulfill the active participation criteria as defined by the region. The criteria will include: teaching; participating in mounted and unmounted instructional programs and activities at the local and regional levels.
- The C-3 candidate is required to compete in at least one mounted rally on a mounted or unmounted basis.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- *Testing dates are determined by the District Commissioner*
 - Testings may be held every three months or more often if practical for the club, but 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 (D-1 through C-2).
 - A testing shall be an instructional, working session, covering only requirements listed on the Standards.
 - Oral testing is required for all parts of the horse management phase.
 - Written tests are not allowed.
 - Upon recommendation of the Examiner, a candidate who fails 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 ponies for a C-level testing is not allowed.
 - Any special testing requests must be submitted to the USPC National Office, through the DC (C-1 and C-2 Level) or RS for the C-3 Level. 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 or C-3 Program Committee Chair and the VP 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, exceptions to meet local conditions may be designated by the District Commissioner. Refer to the USPC Horse Management Handbook, USPC Rules for Eventing, and the USPC Manual of Horsemanship I and II.
 - C-3: Must be correctly formal or informal. Refer to the USPC Horse Management Handbook, USPC Rules for Eventing, 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.
 - 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 bitting for USPC Testings should comply with the Horse Management General Rule on Saddlery and Bitting and with the USPC Eventing Rules for Saddlery and Bitting. Whips, no longer than 48 inches including lash, will be allowed in the flat section of testings although they are not allowed at the C level and above at Eventing rallies. Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.
 - C-1 – C-3: 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.
- *Appropriate Horse*
 - Sharing of ponies for a C-level testing is not allowed.
 - 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, longeing and jumping phases at the heights indicted at the appropriate levels. At the C-3 Level, this would include a course at 3'3". The mount(s) must also be available for change of riders for the C-3 Level. Embracing USPC's commitment to safety for all horses and riders is of utmost importance. Failing to follow these guidelines may make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standard on that given day. *Page 6 C Standard January 1, 2004*
- *Presentation of Mount for Inspection (D-1 through C-3)*
 - Braiding is not allowed.
 - All other tack must be clean, 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.

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.

Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

(C-2 Manual, pages 49-67)

- Demonstrate emergency dismount at the trot or canter.
- Demonstrate warm-up for flat work.
- Discuss warm-up schedule for three different activities of candidate's choice.
- Perform suppling exercises for the mount at walk and trot, to include large circles, small circles, and serpentines.
- Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, changing directions twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm and smooth transitions.
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including evenness of rhythm & smoothness of transitions.
- Halt squarely and stand quietly for five seconds. Ride without stirrups at all gaits.
- Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return to canter smoothly (performed individually).
- Demonstrate aids for moving mount away from leg (sideways) at walk.

Riding Over Fences

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

(C-1 Manual, pages 67-80)

- Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.
 - Reasons for adjusting stirrups:
- Perform simple gymnastic exercises for rider over grid at trot or canter.
- Develop a plan of how to ride a stadium course, at height suitable for mount not to exceed 3'. Ride course according to plan.
 - Plan:
- Discuss performance with Examiner, including impulsion 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.
- Discuss and/or demonstrate safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e. water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement.
- Safety measures for:
 - Ice:
 - Water:
 - Mud:
 - Hard Ground:
 - Sand:
 - Pavement:
- Ride over several cross-country obstacles, not to exceed 3', at appropriate speed (350-375 mpm).
- 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, or as designated by the DC.

(D Manual, pages 283-296)

Mount to show thorough grooming, with attention to mane and tail, reflecting regular care.

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

Describe mount that has been *thoroughly groomed with attention to mane and tail, reflecting regular care:*

- Pony:
- Mane & tail:
- Nose & dock:
- Hooves:

Tack to be safe, clean, with metal polished and well adjusted, reflecting regular care.

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

Describe tack that is *safe, with metal polished, and well adjusted, reflecting regular care:*

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

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

Equipment used for flat work:

Reasons equipment used:

Equipment used over fences:

Reasons equipment used:

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:

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.

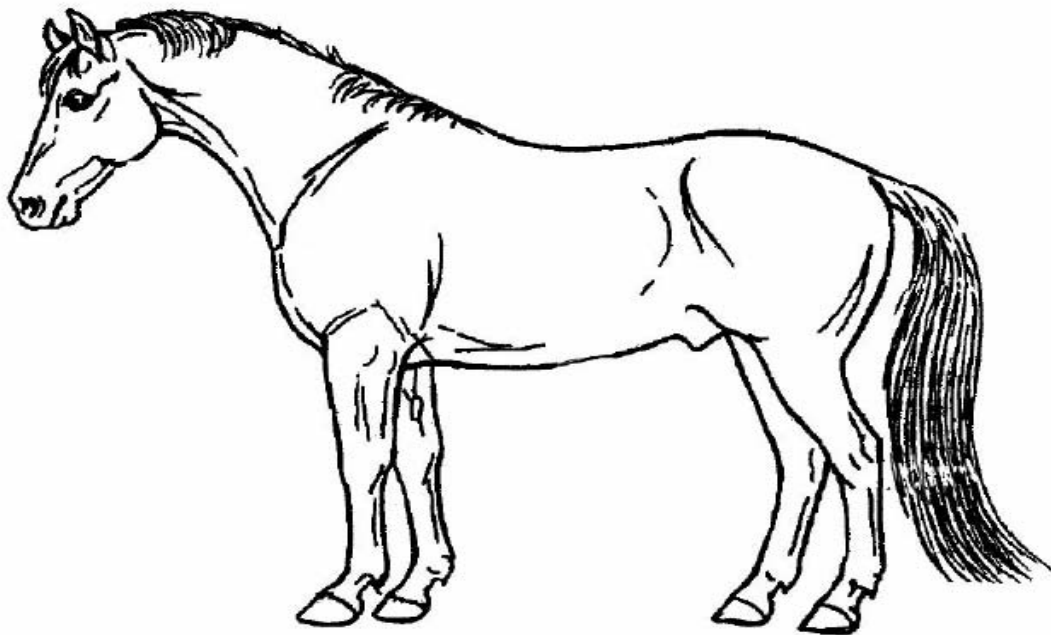
3.

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

Assist a D-1 and/or D-2 to prepare for turnout.

(C Manual, pages 306-307)

Steps to preparing for turnout:

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.