



Middle California Region D1 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 D1 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 D1 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 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.
- 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 without lead line, demonstrating basic balanced position in an enclosed area at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot.

Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

USPC D Manual, pages

- **Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary.**
- **Hold reins correctly at the halt.**
- **Shorten and lengthen reins correctly at the halt.**
- **Demonstrate basic correct position at the halt and walk.**
- **Ride at the walk and trot, with control, keeping mount on rail.**
- **Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot.**

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

- **Walk over poles on the ground in jumping position**
- **Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences.**

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routines necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained mounts. Knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience.

Turn Out/Tack

Rider in safe and neat attire

D Manual, pages 283-296

- Wear your Pony Club polo or any other shirt with a collar and sleeves.
- Wear riding breeches or jodhpurs, no chaps. If wearing jodhpurs, be sure to have knee garters or elastic under shoes. If you are wearing riding breeches, you should have high boots.
- Wear a properly fitted ASTM helmet.
- Wear appropriate boots – smooth sole with a heel.
- Wear your Pony Club Pin.
- For girls: Your hair should be neatly pulled back in a hair net (no show bows), or braided.
- No extra jewelry. Stud earrings are OK.
- Other Tips:

Mount neatly brushed; feet picked out (with assistance); showing farrier care.

D Manual, pages 293-295

- Pony should be brushed, with no dirt or sweat marks showing.
- Mane and tail should be clean, with no dandruff.
- Nose and dock should be wiped clean.
- Hooves should show no dirt anywhere.
- Hooves picked out and perfectly clean. Shoes in good repair. If pony does not have shoes, know why.

Tack safe and neat (properly adjusted with assistance if necessary).

D Manual, pages 292-293

- Bridle should fit properly with noseband and cheek piece correctly fitted. No dirt, dust or jockeys should show.
- Pad should show no dirt (get as clean as you can) and fit with the saddle.
- Saddle should properly fit horse. If school tack explain any fit problems.
- Saddle should be clean (no jockeys, dirt or dust), well-conditioned and supple. If the saddle is new, explain to instructor what you have done to condition it so far.

- **If you are using a martingale, it should be clean and properly fitted. Take it off for flat work.**
- **Leathers should be adjusted for flat work. They should show no signs of wear or breakage.**
- **Stirrups should be shining. Pads should be white.**

Conditioning

Know one reason for cooling out mount after exercise.

D Manual page 162

1.

Nutrition

Know how to give water, grain, hay, and tidbit to a mount safely.

D Manual, pages 186-190

Water:

Grain:

Hay:

Tidbit:

Stable Management

Groom mount with brush and curry comb, pick out feet, with assistance.

D Manual, pages 167-173

Step-by-step description for grooming:

Tack up and untack mount, with assistance.

Describe each step you do to tack up your horse:

Describe each step you do to untack your horse:

Know two reasons for cleaning tack.
D Manual, pages 253-255

1.

2.

Name 10 parts of saddle and bridle.
D Manual, pages 248-252

1.

6.

2.

7.

3.

8.

4.

9.

5.

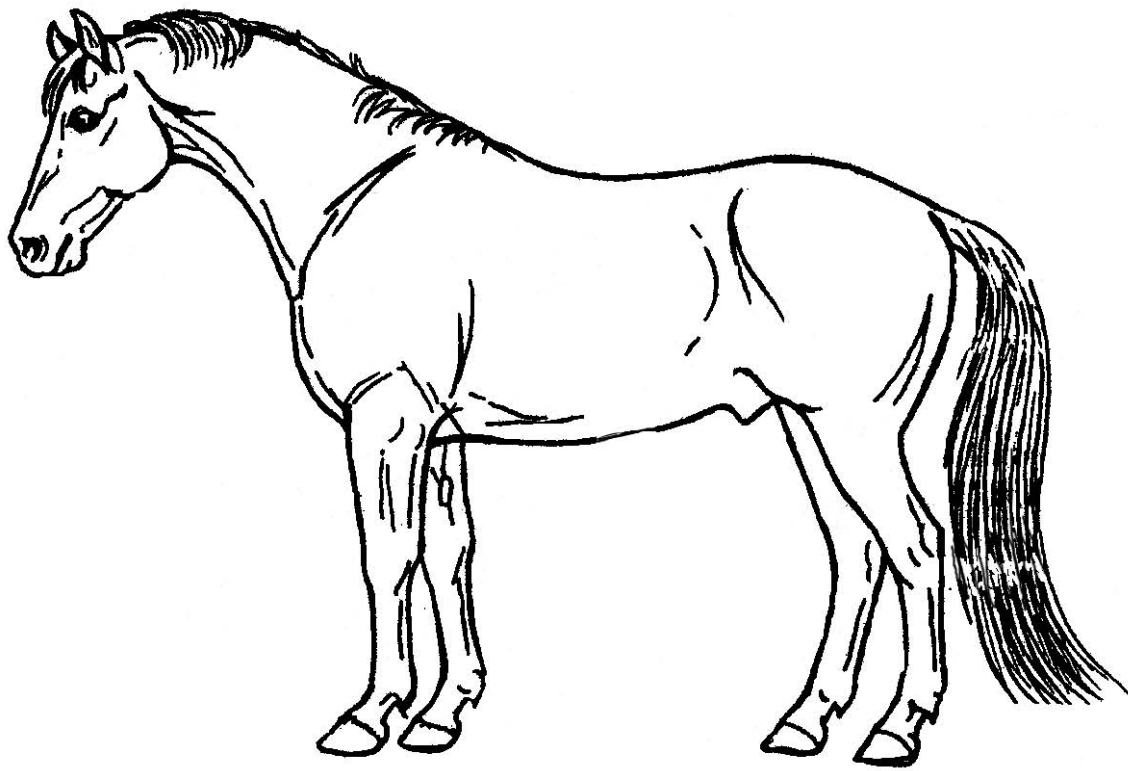
10.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Name any 10 parts of the mount

D Manual, page 231

Fill in any 10 pony parts on the diagram below



Travel Safety

Know basic rules of safe riding in a group, in an enclosed area.

D Manual, pages 219-220

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Discuss what a veterinarian is.

D Manual 209-214

Give one reason the vet might treat your mount.

D Manual 209-214

Land Conservation

Verbally list three different places in your area where you see horse activities taking place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Leading & Longeing

Approach mount safely, put on halter, lead and turn correctly and safely.

D Manual, page 137

What side of the pony should you be on?

Where should your hands be?

How should you hold the lead rope?

How do you turn your pony?

Foot & Shoeing

Give one reason to pick out feet.

D Manual, page 199