



Middle California Region D2 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 D2 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 D2 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 control, while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and trot and should begin to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences

Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).

Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.

Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this.

Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.

Ride without stirrups at the walk.

Ride at the trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and large circles.

Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.

Discuss performance with Examiner, indicating whether or not mount was on correct lead.

Discuss performance

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

Maintain jumping position at the trot on the flat and over ground poles.

In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course of four to five obstacles not to exceed 18".

Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride.

Riding in the Open

Ride safely and considerately on public and private property, in a group, at the walk and trot.

Ride with control, up and down hills, at the walk and trot. Jump simple and natural obstacles, not to exceed 18" (no ditches or banks).

Horse Management Expectation

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for own mount.

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.

Mount neatly brushed; feet picked out, 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 and if they are put on certain times, etc.

Tack safe and clean, with attention to stitching, girth, stirrups (properly adjusted by Examiner 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.
- Leathers should be adjusted for flat work. They should show no signs of wear or breakage.
- Stirrups should be shining. Pads should be white.

Apply (with assistance of examiner if needed) protective boots and bell boots, if appropriate, to mount's leg.

- Have boots available to apply on horse.
- Know what the boots protect and why those areas need protection.

Conditioning

Know basic condition of own mount.

D Manual, pages 195-198

- Is pony fit and ready for work?
- What kind of work can the pony do?
- Are there any special things you need to watch for with this pony (jumping limitations, etc.)

Describe ways to know if mount is properly cooled out.

D Manual, page 166

1.

2.

3.

Nutrition

Know 3-5 basic rules for feeding and explain feeding schedule for own mount.

D Manual, pages 192-192

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Give feeding schedule of own mount:

Stable Management

Groom mount; pick out feet with assistance if needed.

D Manual, pages 170-173

Please give a step-by-step description for grooming:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

Name five grooming tools and explain how to use them.

D Manual, pages 169-170

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

Tack up and untack independently.

D Manual, pages 148-154

Describe each step you do to tack up your horse.

Describe each step you do to untack your horse.

List three examples of unsafe equipment.

D Manual, pages 258-262

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name three common stable vices

D Manual, pages 180-182

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name *and* describe six colors of mounts.

D Manual, pages 232-233

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

Name *and* describe five markings of ponies.

D Manual, pages 232-233

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

Name four horse or pony breeds

D Manual, pages 242-243

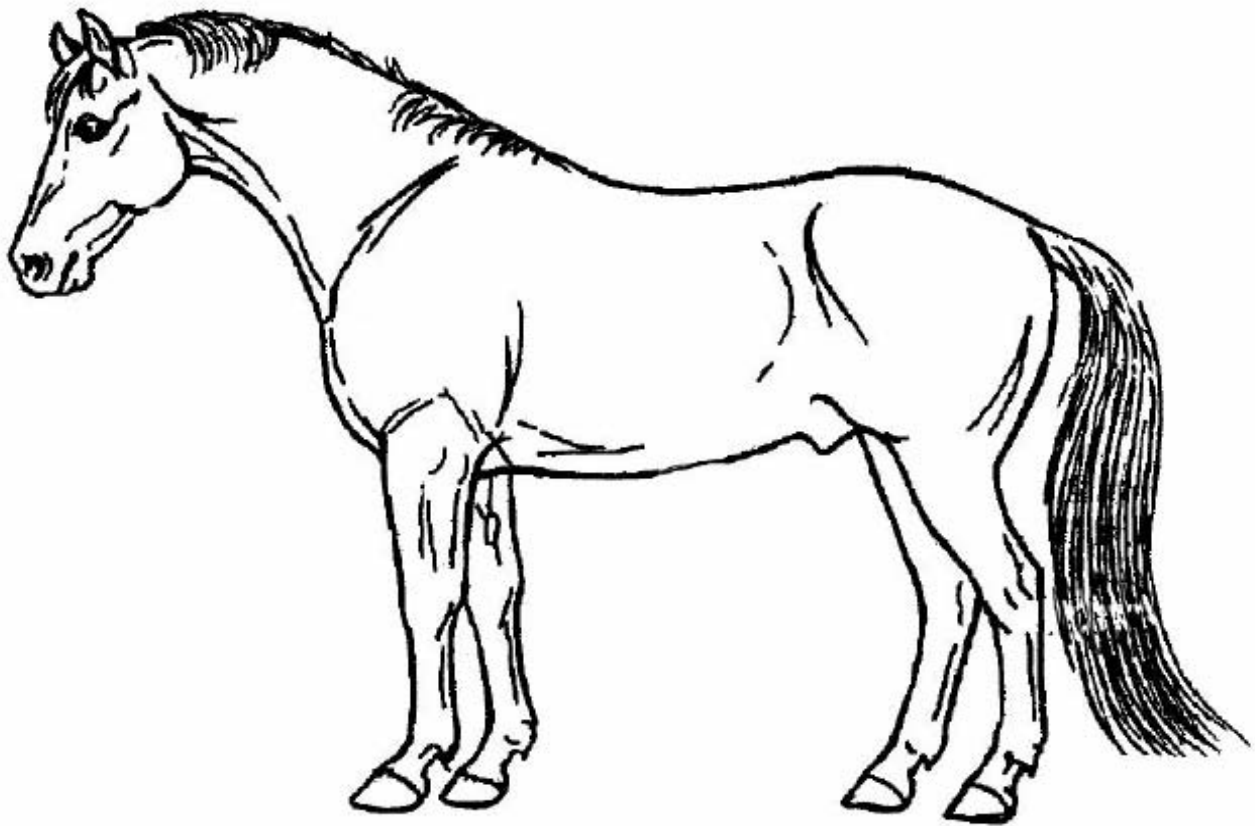
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Name any 15 parts of the mount

D Manual, pages 231, 201

Name any 15 parts of the pony below



Travel Safety

Know the basic rules for riding on public roads in your state.

D Manual, pages 220-221

Name two ways you can help your mount be safe in a trailer.

D Manual, pages 222-228

1.

2.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Give two reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.

D Manual, pages 209-210

1.

2.

Land Conservation

Talk with grandparents, parents, instructors and/or older friends/neighbors about where they rode when they were young and how it is different from today.

Tell of the different experiences you learned:

Leading & Longeing

Lead mount correctly in hand and while tacked up.

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?

Demonstrate walk-halt-walk transitions in hand.

Lead mount in and out of stall safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick-release knot.

D Manual, page 144

Foot & Shoeing

Know reasons for daily foot care.

D Manual, pages 199-200

1.

2.

3.

Give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your mount.

D Manual, page 206

1.

2.

Bandaging

Give two reasons why you would bandage your pony's leg(s).

D Manual, page 216

1.

2.