

USPC D-Level Eventing Comparison Flow Chart (for D Standards 2020)

| | D-1 | D-2 | D-3 |
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| Riding Expectations | <p>Candidate should ride in an enclosed area without lead line, demonstrating basic balanced position at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot on a mount suitable for a beginner.</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p> | <p>Candidate rides in an enclosed area, demonstrating control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and trot, and begins to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences.</p> <p>Fences to 18".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p> | <p>Candidate rides in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate is developing a secure base of support, balance and a steady position over fences.</p> <p>Fences to 2'3".</p> <p>These expectations are applied to each block of the test.</p> |
| Riding on the Flat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary. • Pick up and hold reins correctly at halt. • Pick up stirrups at 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. • Perform gradual transitions from walk to trot and walk to halt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly 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 how to pass others safely while riding in an enclosed area. • Discuss performance of turns, circles, diagonals, and leads. • Rider demonstrates control while maintaining a safe balanced position at walk and trot. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate correct mounting, using mounting block if necessary. • Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in the stirrups while mounted at the halt. <p><u>Warm-up</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot. • Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work. Ride mount at walk, rising trot with correct diagonals, sitting trot, and correct canter leads. <p><u>Movements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate 20-meter circles showing correct bend in both directions at all gaits. • Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot. • Discuss and demonstrate arena etiquette for riders at different gaits and traveling in different directions. • Demonstrate a halt. • Discuss aids for and demonstrate a simple step back of 1-2 steps. • Discuss performance including rider's basic balanced position, whether or not circles were round, and if natural aids correctly influenced the mount. |
| Riding over Fences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk over a single pole on the ground in jumping position. • Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain jumping position at the trot on the flat and over individual ground poles. • In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course of 4-5 obstacles of cross rails and verticals (no spreads). The majority of fences set at, but not to exceed, 18". • Rider demonstrates control while developing a safe basic balanced position over fences. (No need to canter over fences.) • Discuss ways to improve ride. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". Grid to be set at appropriate distances for mount's stride. • Ride a simple stadium course at the canter consisting of 5-7 obstacles, including a simple over in an enclosed area. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". • Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work. • Discuss performance and reasons for any disobediences. |
| | Not applicable. | | |

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| Riding in the Open | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride safely and considerately, on a suitable mount, on public or private property, in a group, at the walk and trot. • Ride with control, up and down small hills, as conditions allow, at the walk and trot. • Ride over a minimum of 3 simple and natural obstacles. The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 18" in height or 18" in width. No ditches, banks, or water. All fences may be jumped at the trot. • Speed should not exceed 240 meters per minute (mpm), appropriate for size of mount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss ways to control a mount in the open. • Ride safely with a group on a suitable mount, at the walk and trot, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain, as local conditions allow. • Ride over 4-5 simple cross-country obstacles ranging from 2'-2'3". The majority of fences set at, but not exceeding, 2'3". • D-3 speed should not exceed 300 mpm, as appropriate for the size of mount. • Discuss performance and pace. • Rider demonstrates development of a secure base of support, steady position, and balance over cross-country fences. |
| Horse Management Expectations | The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routine necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained horses. His or her knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience. | 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 his or her own mount. | The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, beginning to use common horse terms. |
| Presentation/ Turnout and Tack | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, and clean attire: Long hair reaching below the shoulder must be neatly secured away from the eyes (e.g., hairnets, Showbows, or braids), collared shirt with sleeves and tucked in, long pants, short or tall riding boots or shoes covering the ankle and have a boot heel, Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A). Half-chaps, gloves, and belt optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Groom mount and pick out hooves, with assistance if needed. • Tack up, with assistance if necessary. • Name 6 saddle parts and 4 bridle parts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: Long hair reaching below the shoulder must be neatly secured away from the eyes (e.g., hairnets, Showbows, or braids), collared shirt with sleeves (e.g., polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) and tucked in, breeches, jodhpurs (with garters and/or pant clips) or riding pants, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps, Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A). Gloves optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Mount clean and well brushed, with hooves picked out and showing farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. • Tack to be safe and clean (properly adjusted with assistance if necessary), with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious jockeys or heavy dust. • Groom and tack up with assistance if necessary. • Name and locate 10 saddle parts and 5 bridle parts. • Name 2 different bits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount and tack to reflect the Horse Management Handbook's Turnout expectations. • Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: Long hair reaching below the shoulder must be neatly secured away from the eyes (e.g., hairnets, Showbows, or braids), collared shirt with sleeves (e.g., polo style shirt, turtleneck, dress shirt, or ratcatcher) and tucked in, breeches, jodhpurs (with garters and/or pant clips) or riding pants, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps, Pony Club pin, USPC or USEA medical armband or bracelet, and a properly fitted equestrian helmet securely fastened (see USPC Policy 0800.A). Gloves optional. No inappropriate jewelry. • Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), hooves picked out, and showing farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and 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. • Groom and tack up independently. • Describe proper adjustments of the snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband. • Describe proper adjustment of the bit your mount is wearing. |
| Leading/ Longeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach mount safely and put on halter. • Demonstrate walk-halt-walk transitions and turning in the correct direction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead mount correctly in tack. • Demonstrate walk-trot-halt transitions and turning in the correct direction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead safely from both sides at the walk. • Demonstrate correctly jogging a mount in a bridle and turning in the correct direction. (Whip must be carried and, if necessary, used to move mount forward.) |

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| Bandaging | Not applicable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 2 reasons why you would bandage a mount's leg(s). • With assistance from Examiner, apply 1 protective boot and 1 bell boot to mount's leg. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots and give reasons for their use. • Describe the area a stable bandage covers and what materials are used. • With assistance if needed, apply 1 polo wrap to a front leg. |
| Foot and Shoeing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 1 reason to pick out a mount's hoof. • Tell whether your mount wears shoes or not. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give reasons for daily hoof care. • Give 2 reasons why a farrier regularly checks your mount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 3 parts of the hoof. • Describe 3 obvious signs of a foot needing shoeing or trimming. |
| Breeds, Pony Parts, Colors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and name 10 parts of the mount. • Name color and breed of own mount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and name 15 parts of the mount. • Name and describe 6 colors of mounts. • Name and describe 5 markings a mount might have. • Name 5 equine breeds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and name 20 parts of the mount. • Name 5 ways a mount could be identified. • Name 10 equine breeds. • Know 1 common conformation fault for each of the following: head, neck, shoulder, back, and pasterns. • Describe the eyes' location and how this affects the mount's vision. |
| Health and Maintenance Record Book | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a completed USPC stall card for own mount and explain why it is important. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a hard copy of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Horse information and photo. ➢ Contact information for veterinarian and farrier. ➢ Feeding information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a hard copy of mount's Health and Maintenance Record Book that contains records for at least 3 months prior to the test. • In addition to the information from the previous level, records must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Contact information for equine dental professional. ➢ Dated list of routine care (vaccinations, deworming, shoeing, dentistry) |
| Stable Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 2 reasons for cleaning tack. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate tying a quick release knot, with assistance if necessary. • Name 5 grooming tools and describe how to use them. • List 3 examples of unsafe horse equipment. • Name 3 common stable vices and give 1 possible cause for each vice named. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate and discuss the steps involved in cleaning a stall and discuss the reasons for cleaning a stall. (For testing purposes, a soiled horse trailer may be used.) • Explain the importance of 'banking a stall'. • Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket and hay net/hay bag. • Discuss how to fit a halter. |
| Travel Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name basic rules of safe riding in a group in an enclosed area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name 2 pieces of equipment used on your mount for its safety in a trailer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name rules for riding safely on public roads in your state. • Describe the procedure for a mounted group crossing a public roadway. • Describe the proper steps to load and unload a mount. |
| Nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how to feed a treat to a pony. • Give 1 example of a succulent. • Discuss why and how often water should be available. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 3 basic rules for feeding and explain feeding schedule for own mount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 5-7 basic rules of feeding. • Describe how feeds are measured and weighed. • Discuss the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount. |
| Conditioning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 1 reason for cooling out mount after exercise. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe 2 signs that show when a mount is properly cooled out. • Describe condition of own mount (e.g., thin, fit, or over weight). • What does TPR stand for? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include: cooling out, checking legs, watering, and feeding. • Describe 2 signs that a mount might not be fit enough for the work asked. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the normal range of vital signs (TPR) of a mount at rest. |
| Land Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 2 different places in your area where you see horse activities taking place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk with grandparents, parents, instructors, and/or older friends/neighbors about where they rode when they were young, and if those places are available to ride on today. Discuss this information with your Examiner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 5 important rules when riding across privately owned land. Write thank you notes to 2 landowners who support your club/center to 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. |
| Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss what a veterinarian is. Give 1 reason the veterinarian might need to provide care for your mount. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give 2 reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 3 symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help. Name 2 diseases your horse can be vaccinated against. |
| Teaching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 1 of your instructors where you ride. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give 1 reason for checking girth and stirrup bars before mounting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how you assisted at 1 unmounted Pony Club activity. |
| Rider Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 3 pieces of clothing or equipment that you should wear for your safety when you ride. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 3 items that should be included in a human first aid kit. Name 3 pieces of information that are required on the medical armband or medical bracelet. Describe what you should do for yourself when you fall off a horse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 2 items that are required to ride in a Pony Club mounted lesson. Give 2 examples of when a riding helmet needs replacing. List some common injuries that may happen when a rider falls off a horse. |
| Equine Sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 2 disciplines listed on the USPC website. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 3 disciplines listed on the USPC website. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name 5 disciplines listed on the USPC website. |
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| RETEST INFO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retest to cover not more than a total of five sections of the test (not more than two riding sections). A candidate may retest only if the candidate qualifies for a retest by passing the minimum number of sections stated on the test sheet and the original Examiner has recommended the candidate to retest. Failure of any section on that day will require retaking the entire test. Those testing during the current year have until December 1st of the following year to retest. Candidates must arrange for retests through their DC/CA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A candidate may retest only if the candidate qualifies for a retest by passing the minimum number of sections stated on the test sheet, and the original Examiner has recommended the candidate to retest. Not meeting standard of any section on that day will require retaking the entire test. Those testing during the current year have until December 1st of the following year to retest. Candidates must arrange for retests through their DC/CA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A candidate may retest only if the candidate qualifies for a retest by passing the minimum number of sections stated on the test sheet, and the original Examiner has recommended the candidate to retest. Not meeting standard of any section on that day will require retaking the entire test. Those testing during the current year have until December 1st of the following year to retest. Candidates must arrange for retests through their DC/CA. |



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