

USIHC Basic Instructor Exam

United States Icelandic Horse Congress

Description of Testing Areas

Theory Exams

Oral Exam

Description: Questions will be asked from a list that is divided into different content areas. Examinees will be asked one question from each content area. Please see our Study Guide for information on which content areas will be present on the oral exam and relevant resources for studying.

Written Exam

Description: Short answer essay questions will be asked from a list that is divided into different content areas. Examinees will be asked one question from each content area. Please see our Study Guide for information on which content areas are on the written exam as well as relevant resources for studying.

Horsemanship Exams

Longeing Exam

Description: Examinees will demonstrate a training session with their horse on the longe. The examinee will set up the session to mirror a normal constructive training session with a warm up, working section, and cool down. The examinee will demonstrate how to train the gaits on the longe line, as well as transitions between gaits. A methodical approach that shows correct and systematic training will be rewarded. The session should have a positive impact on the horse's lateral and longitudinal suppleness, and relaxation and focus should improve throughout the presented session.

Dressage Exam

Description: Examinee will show a comprehensive dressage test in which they will demonstrate a variety of figures and seats in walk, trot, tolt and canter. They will also show the dressage exercises of shoulder-in, stretching down and forward, leg yield, turn on the forehand, lengthening of the stride, and backing up. They will also demonstrate proper mounting and dismounting as well as the exercise kiss-the-stirrup in the saddle. Dressage test will be provided to examinees with registration.

Horse Assessment Exam

Description: Examinees will be presented one horse that they will evaluate for body condition, appearance under saddle and training level when ridden. They will then be asked to

make recommendations as to appropriate feeding, shoeing (if applicable), conditioning and training in order for the horse to be healthy and the rider to progress forward in their goals. They may also offer potential problem solving recommendations as suitable. Examinees will be judged by the thoroughness and correctness of their analysis as well as the professionalism and respect shown to horse and rider when trying the horse and making recommendations.

Teaching Exams

Group Lesson Exam

Description: The examinee will teach a section of a group lesson for two to three students. The section and content of the lesson will be selected at random from a list of common novice level topics made by the judges. Examinees will be judged as to the fulfilment of the lesson content, communication style, positioning and use of voice in the arena, safety practices and structure as well as appropriateness of the selected exercises. While the students will not be complete beginners they will also be no more experienced than a novice level rider.

Private Lesson Exam

Description: Examinees will teach a private lesson to a student on that student's horse. As part of this test section the examinee will develop a lesson plan tailored to the rider's riding level as well as what they have seen in a short provided video. The examinee will be judged as to their lesson content, communication style, positioning and use of voice in the arena. They will be graded further as to their safety practices and structure and the appropriateness of the selected teaching material.