Dressage Exam

General Description and Emphasis: 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.

Procedures: Riders will perform the following test in the order written. Riders may have a test reader, who, if used, must read each element as written under the element heading of each row. The first time a rider goes off pattern a full point will be deducted from the full score of the exam. If the rider goes off pattern more than twice, the test will be considered failed.

Equipment: Tack should be that which is typical to an Icelandic riding horse, and must meet FIPO requirements. In addition only snaffle bits are allowed.

Location: Test will take place in an arena measuring 20x40m. Larger arenas may be cordoned off to 20x40m provided that the method of doing so is safe. The basic dressage letters must be on walls, fences or cones in their correct locations and be visible to the student.

Element	Description	Notes		Score
1. At **X** rider mounts and dismounts from both sides	Rider mounts using correct procedure and positioning, finding the stirrup on the opposite side before sitting softly in the saddle. The reins are correctly held and the horse stands calmly. The examinee gives the impression that without a	☐ Rider mounts softly and lightly ☐ Rider positions themselves correctly ☐ Rider finds opposite stirrup before sitting ☐ Rider ensures		

	girth the saddle would have stayed still, without twisting. Rider dismounts softly and correctly.	saddle does not twist or pull on the horse's back ☐ Horse stands softly and reins correctly held		
2. Rider mounts. Horse **kisses the stirrup** to both sides	Horse bends softly in the neck towards the stirrup on both sides. The horse stands still and waits for the rider to straighten up the neck. The outside rein is appropriately loosened. The rider helps the horse find the bent position	☐ Horse is calm and stands still ☐ Horse waits until the rider straightens them up again ☐ Rider helps the horse through the exercise ☐ Outside rein is appropriately loosened		
3. **X-C-M** walk **M-B-K** trot half seat, **K-M** change reins over the long diagonal **M-C-A** trot half seat	Transition is directly into trot with correct aids.Rider has a correct and balanced half seat, and follows the movement softly.. Horse is in a balanced, clean trot. Though the horse does not need to be on the bit for this section, they should be soft and round in the topline.	☐ Rider has a correct half seat ☐ Correct figures ridden ☐ Horse has a soft topline ☐ Trot is balanced, with correct and even beat and rhythm		

4. **A** 20m circle, trot, half-seat x2. Horse is allowed to stretch down and forward while maintaining rein contact. In the second half of the second circle, the rider will return the horse smoothly to working form in trot and transition to walk, full seat.	Horse stretches forward and downward over the back into light and consistent contact. Rider helps the horse to stretch and maintains light contact throughout. The quality and rhythm of the trot stays consistent. Half seat is correct, in balance and follows movement softly. Horse returns softly to working form and transitions correctly to walk.	☐ Good half seat ☐ Rider follows movements of horse ☐ Horse stretches down and forward into soft, consistent contact, opening the throat latch. ☐ Consistent rhythm and correct beat in trot ☐ Figure and bend is correct ☐ Downward transition correctly ridden		
5. **A-F** walk. **F-X** leg yield to the left off of the right leg in walk. **X-M** leg yield to the right off the left leg in walk. Walk **M-C**.	Rider is in a good full seat. Horse is correctly flexed in the poll and performs the exercise softly. The horse goes equally forward and to the side and is on the bit. The horse clearly understands the interplay between the forward and restraining aids. Rider uses exact aids. Rider changes between the flexions and directions smoothly and correctly.	☐ Good preparation ☐ Correct positioning in body and poll ☐ Good fluidness and beat ☐ Good full seat ☐ Correct and soft aid		

6. **C-F** trot full seat. **F-X-H** change reins across the diagonal showing a clear speed change. **H-C-A** trot, full seat, right rein.	Good full seat. Horse is on the bit. Rider prepares the horse correctly for the transition. Clean beat and soft contact. Speed change is done softly, with precise aids. Note: the emphasis is not on an extreme speed difference, rather that the speed is increased noticeably between F and X and then slowed down softly between X and H. A rather small speed difference is more than adequate provided it is correctly ridden and apparent.	☐ Correct trot beat ☐ Horse is softly on the bit ☐ Clear speed difference ☐ Clear and soft slow down ☐ Good full seat ☐ Exact figure ridden		

7. **A** canter. Full seat on the rail. At **E** 20 m circle. **E-C** canter.	Exact and correct canter transition. Canter beat is correct, with a clear moment of suspension. Rider has a good full seat and follows the horse well. Circle is exact, with the correct bend. Horse is on the bit and has a soft, correct topline.	☐ Exact and correct canter transition ☐ Good beat in canter ☐ Good full seat that follows the horse ☐ Exact circle ridden ☐ Correct bend in horse ☐ Soft correct topline and good posture		
8. **C-M** trot or tolt, full seat. **M-X-K** change rein over the long diagonal. **K-A** trot or tolt.	Soft and balanced downwards transition. Good beat. Horse is on the bit and has a correct topline. Correct figure ridden.	☐ Correct full seat ☐ Good beat in chosen gait ☐ Rider maintains the same gait through the figure ☐ Exact figure ☐ Correctly ridden, balanced downwards transition.		
9. **A-B** canter, left lead. **B** 20 m circle. **B-C**	Exact and correct canter transition. Canter beat is correct, with a clear	☐ Exact and correct canter transition		

canter left lead.	moment of suspension. Rider has a good full seat and follows the horse well. Circle is exact and ridden with a correct bend. Horse is on the bit and has a soft, correct topline.	☐ Good beat in canter ☐ Good full seat that follows the horse ☐ Exact circle ridden ☐ Correct bend in circle ☐ Soft correct topline and good posture		
10. Between **C and E** transition to walk through trot or tolt. At **E** angle to the quarter line, proceeding parallel to the long side level with **K.** At **K** demonstrate a 180 degree turn on the forehand off the right leg.	Horse is correctly flexed in the poll and yields softly to the lateral leg aid. The horse thinks forward in the exercise and keeps the beat of the walk throughout. Horse has a soft topline and is on the bit.	☐ Rider prepares the horse well ☐ Correct and exact aids from the rider ☐ Soft cooperation ☐ Horse is on the bit ☐ Figure correctly ridden		
11. Continue forwards and walk on the quarterline until level with **H** Demonstrate a 180 degree turn	Horse walks straight and balanced on the quarter line. In the turn on the forehand horse is correctly flexed in the poll and yields softly to the lateral leg aid. The horse thinks forward in the exercise	☐ Rider rides straight and the horse is balanced on the quarter line. ☐ Rider prepares the horse well		

on the forehand off the left leg. Return to the rail at **E**.	and keeps the beat of the walk throughout. Horse has a soft topline and is on the bit.	☐ Correct and exact aids from the rider ☐ Soft cooperation ☐ Horse is on the bit ☐ Figure correctly ridden		
12. **E-K** walk, left rein. **K-F** posting trot on the rail. **F-X-H** posting trot. Change diagonals at **X**	Transition is correct and soft. Rider posts the correct diagonal in a good rhythm. Diagonal is correctly and softly changed at X. Horse is on the bit and the trot has a good beat.	☐ Rider posts correctly ☐ Horse trots in a good beat ☐ Horse is on the bit ☐ Rider correctly changes diagonals ☐ Correctly ridden figure		
13. **H-M** posting trot. **M-X-K** change rein over the long diagonal. **K-A** trot	Rider posts the correct diagonal in a good rhythm. Diagonal is correctly and softly changed at X. Horse is on the bit and the trot has a good beat.	☐ Rider posts correctly ☐ Horse trots in a good beat ☐ Horse is on the bit ☐ Rider correctly changes diagonals ☐ Correctly ridden figure		

14. **A** walk. **A-F** preparation for shoulder-in. *Rider may add a 10m circle in the corner to aid in preparation.* **F-B** shoulder-in to the left. **B-E** walks straight across the midline. **E-H** shoulder in right. **H-C** walk.	Rider prepares the horse well, and sits straight. Exercise is performed correctly, with horse on three tracks, and is correctly flexed in the poll and bent in the body. Horse is active and soft in the exercise. Rider is exact in the aids and sits in a seat that corresponds to the bend. Horse transitions softly through the figure.	☐ Rider correctly prepares the horse ☐ Exercise is correctly performed ☐ Horse is active and soft ☐ Horse is on the bit ☐ Rider is exact in the aids ☐ Figure is ridden smoothly		
15. **C** tolt. **C-A** three loop serpentine in tolt, full seat.	Tolt transition is correct and smooth. Good full seat, with seat changing in correspondence with the bend. Even speed and correct beat. Horse is soft and on the bit. Horse is correctly balanced and switches softly between left and ride bends.	☐ Figure is ridden smoothly and correctly ☐ Good full seat ☐ Seat corresponds to bend ☐ Correct beat ☐ Horse is softly on the bit ☐ Horse smoothly switches between left and right bend ☐ Horse bends correctly		
16. **A-C** tolt **M-X-K** Change rein	Good full seat. Horse is on the bit. Rider prepares the	☐ Correct tolt beat ☐ Horse is softly		

across the long diagonal, showing a clear change of speed across the diagonal. **K-A-C** tolt on the rail, free tempo.	horse correctly for the transition. Clean beat and soft contact. Speed change is done softly, with precise aids. Note: the emphasis is not on an extreme speed difference, rather that the speed is increased noticeably between M and X and then slowed down softly between X and K. A rather small speed difference is more than adequate provided it is correctly ridden and apparent.	on the bit ☐ Clear speed difference ☐ Clear and soft slow down ☐ Good full seat ☐ Exact figure ridden ☐ Free tempo speed correct for horse in arena of this size		
17. **C-H** tolt. **H** walk. **E** halt and back 3-5 steps. **E-A** tolt.	Smooth transition from tolt to walk to halt at the correct locations. Horse halts calmly and softly. Back up is active and obedient. Horse is on the bit throughout. Transition to tolt is prompt but not abrupt. Rider maintains a good full seat throughout.	☐ Correct full seat throughout ☐ Downwards transitions are soft and correct ☐ Horse is cooperative and active while backing ☐ Horse halts and backs straight ☐ Upward transition to tolt is prompt but not abrupt ☐ Horse is softly on the bit		

18. **A-X** tolt. **X-G** walk. **G** halt and salute.	Horse turns correctly and in balance onto the centerline. Horse is ridden straight. Transitions to walk and then to halt are straight and soft. Horse remains on the bit throughout	☐ Horse turns correctly onto the center line ☐ Horse is balanced and straight on center line ☐ Rider is in a good full seat ☐ Transitions are straight and soft ☐ Horse is on the bit throughout ☐ Horse is balanced in the halt		