

Gait Exam

General Description and Emphasis: Examinees will demonstrate the four basic gaits (walk, tolt, trot, canter) in an order of their choice. They will also demonstrate some transitions between walk and tolt, tolt with speed variations and transitions between canter and gallop. Examinees demonstrate good horsemanship and sportsmanship. Riders will be judged on their ability to execute the single gaits, demonstrating a balanced and correct seat, correct and appropriate aids, a soft and harmonious connection between horse and rider and correct exercises. The gaits should be presented with consistency in keeping the gait, an acceptable beat and an appropriate outline. The horse should be willing and relaxed in all gaits. Minor faults in beat or balance influence the marks only slightly as long as the rider's aids are correct. The highness and width of the horse's movements do not influence the marks.

Procedures: This test will be ridden individually. Riders will have a maximum of 17 minutes once they start their test. Riders will receive a 5 minute warning and a 1 minute warning. Riders will demonstrate half a round of medium walk, one round of slow to medium trot in each direction, about 1.5 rounds of medium tolt with some speed variation in both directions, one round of slow to medium canter in each direction, speed variations in canter on the long sides only for one round in one direction as well as transitions between walk and tolt for about half a round.

Riders will warm up their horses independently. They choose the order of gaits as well as the exact length per gait based on basic requirements, choosing transitions as they see fit. Between some of the gaits, the riders are allowed and encouraged to give their horses appropriate walking breaks. If the judges would like to see any part of the performance again, they may ask the riders to repeat certain sections.

For the speed variation at tolt and canter, the rider is asking the horse to lengthen the strides for only a short amount of time on a long side and chooses a speed that is appropriate for the horse and situation. The expectation is to show an understanding and correct aids for the speed difference, not the fastest possible speed. The safety of horse and rider is most important and the emphasis is on the harmony of the transitions.

In the transition walk to tolt, the focus is on a good preparation of the horses as well as correct seat and aids.

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: Oval Track or similar sized arena either in or outdoors. The perimeter of the arena should be at least 250m.

Element	Description	Notes		
Any speed tolt	Riders present their horses at their chosen speed in tolt for about one round in each direction. The beat should be acceptable with the horse being reasonably supple and relaxed and with a soft topline. The rider's seat should be balanced, the aids soft and correct and the connection of relative consistency and softness.	<input type="checkbox"/> Required gait <input type="checkbox"/> Gait consistency <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat left rein <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat right rein <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat <input type="checkbox"/> Soft, correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable connection <input type="checkbox"/> Soft topline <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed		
Speed variation in tolt	Riders show 2-4 speed variations with a lengthening of the stride. This can be shown in one or both directions. The emphasis is on smooth transitions with the horse responding softly to	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft, correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse softly responding to the aids <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transitions <input type="checkbox"/> Visible, appropriate speed difference <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat and balance <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable form		

	<p>the rider's correct and harmonious aids. The horse should show visible, appropriate difference in speed with acceptable beat and should stay reasonably supple and relaxed throughout the exercise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed 		
<p>Walk tolt transition</p>	<p>Riders show 1-2 transitions from walk into tolt. The transitions should be well prepared and executed. Riders should apply soft and correct aids and the horse should stay reasonably supple and relaxed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Correct preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transition into tolt <input type="checkbox"/> Correct, soft aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed 		
<p>Tolt walk transition</p>	<p>Riders show 1-2 transitions from tolt into walk. The transitions should be well prepared with the horse staying connected throughout the exercise while also</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Horse stays connected <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transition into walk <input type="checkbox"/> Correct, soft aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed 		

	being reasonably supple and relaxed. The rider's aids should be soft and correct.			
Slow to medium trot	Riders present their horses at slow to medium trot for about one round in each direction. The beat should be acceptable/clear with the horse being reasonably supple and in an acceptable connection with a soft topline. The rider can choose which seat to use but it must be balanced and fitting for the horse. The aids should be correct and soft.	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transition into trot <input type="checkbox"/> Required gait <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat <input type="checkbox"/> Required speed <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable connection <input type="checkbox"/> Correct, soft aids <input type="checkbox"/> Soft topline <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed		
Medium walk	Riders show their horses in medium walk for about half a round or one round. The transition into walk should be appropriately prepared and	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transition into walk <input type="checkbox"/> Required gait <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat <input type="checkbox"/> Required speed <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat		

	<p>smooth. The beat should be acceptable with the horse being reasonably supple and relaxed and with a soft topline. The rider's seat should be balanced, the aids soft and correct, and the connection of relative consistency and softness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable connection <input type="checkbox"/> Correct, soft aids <input type="checkbox"/> Soft topline <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed 		
<p>Slow to medium canter</p>	<p>Riders show their horses at slow to medium canter for about one round in each direction. The transition into canter should be appropriately prepared, smooth and prompt. The beat should be acceptable with the horse being reasonably supple and relaxed and with a soft topline. The rider's seat should be balanced, the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth transition into canter <input type="checkbox"/> Required gait <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat <input type="checkbox"/> Required speed <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable connection <input type="checkbox"/> Correct, soft aids <input type="checkbox"/> Soft topline <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed 		

	aids subtle and correct and the connection of relative consistency and softness.			
Canter-Gallop -Canter Transitions	Riders show a speed variation extending from canter to gallop with a clear loosening of the reins, with the rider lightening into half seat while increasing speed, as well as in gallop. This can be shown in one or both directions on the long sides only. The horse responds promptly and smoothly to the rider's aids both when increasing and decreasing speed. Riders should apply soft and correct aids, be balanced in their seat and the horse should stay reasonably supple and relaxed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft, correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse promptly responds to the aids <input type="checkbox"/> Visible, appropriate speed difference between canter and gallop <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable beat and balance <input type="checkbox"/> Clear loosening of the rein <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced seat <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is reasonably supple and relaxed		

