

In Hand Exam

General Description and Emphasis: Examinee will demonstrate working a horse in hand with a bridle, both with the reins up on the neck of the horse as well as down and held under the chin. Emphasis will be on correct and systematic application of aids, good horsemanship and communication with the horse in order to correctly execute the required elements. Additionally when the reins are over the horse's neck the examinee will be judged on correct bending, flexion and balance in the exercises.

Procedures: Trainers will have up to fifteen minutes to show a groundwork session that includes all of the required movements and figures. The required aspects can be shown in any order but the session should be structured in a way that mirrors a true training session, with a warm up, working section and cool down, with the exercises in each phase of the session appropriate for that phase. Examiners may ask questions at their discretion related to decisions made in the set up and execution of the session, with the answers possibly affecting the marks when applicable. The trainer can stop the session before the allotted time is up, however they will be asked to stop at the 15 minute mark. The trainer will be given a five minute and a one minute warning.

Equipment: Horse will have a bridle on with a snaffle bit and a cavesson or drop noseband. Rider can carry a dressage whip. A helmet may be worn, but is not required.

Location: Exam will take place in an arena of a minimum size of 20x40m and a maximum size of approximately 20x60m. Larger arenas may be cordoned off to a minimum of 20x40m provided that the method of doing so is safe. Dressage letters must be on walls, fences or cones in their correct locations and be visible to the examinee.

Element	Description	Notes		Score
Reins down				
Walk-Halt-Walk	The trainer is appropriately positioned at the horse's side, and uses body language and aids correctly to ask for the transition to	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate position <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse halts obediently <input type="checkbox"/> Horse transitions		

	<p>halt. The horse leads obediently and calmly. The horse walks obediently and softly when asked. Good harmony. At least two transitions walk-halt-walk are performed, one on each side</p>	<p>well into walk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed 		
Walk-Trot-Walk	<p>The trainer is appropriately positioned at the horse's side, and uses body language and aids correctly to ask for the transition to trot. The horse leads obediently and calmly. The horse walks obediently and softly when asked. Good harmony. At least two transitions walk-trot-walk are performed, one on each side.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate positioning <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse transitions well into trot <input type="checkbox"/> Horse transitions well into walk <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed 		
Figure 8	<p>The trainer is correctly positioned at the horse's side, and uses body language and aids correctly. The horse leads obediently and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Correct body position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Even circle sizes 		

	<p>calmly. The trainer leads the horse from one side and the horse keeps the same distance to the trainer both on the left circle and the right circle. The size of the circles should be about 10 meters. The horse should turn smoothly with and away from the trainer and the speed should be consistent throughout the entire figure 8.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Good flow <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent speed <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive and relaxed 		
<p>Backing up</p>	<p>The trainer will ask the horse to take 4 steps back in both directions. The trainer should be positioned appropriately for the exercise. Horse is obedient to the back up aids and responds lightly. For a maximum score the horse should show engagement of the hind, backing up with coordination of the diagonal pair of legs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate body position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse stepping back smoothly <input type="checkbox"/> Horse stays straight <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is engaged 		

<p>Yielding front legs</p>	<p>Horse yields the front legs around the hind. Crossing the front legs. Trainer will show a front end yield 90 degrees each direction. These do not have to be shown consecutively. Though once is sufficient, the trainer may choose to show the exercise twice if needed for the horse, or if they believe the exercise can be improved upon. Trainer will correctly position themselves and use soft and correct aids.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate body position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse responds smoothly <input type="checkbox"/> Horse crosses front legs correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Horse maintains even walk rhythm <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed 		
<p>Yielding the hind legs</p>	<p>Horse yields the hind legs around the front, crossing the hind legs. Trainer will show a hind end yield 90 degrees each direction. These do not have to be shown consecutively. Though once is sufficient, the trainer may choose to show the exercise twice if</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate body position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Horse responds smoothly <input type="checkbox"/> Horse crosses hind legs correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Horse maintains 		

	needed for the horse, or if they believe the exercise can be improved upon. Trainer will correctly position themselves and use soft and correct aids.	<p>even walk rhythm</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed		
Reins over the head				
Walk-Halt-Walk	The trainer is appropriately positioned at the horse's side, and uses body language and aids correctly. The horse leads obediently and calmly. The horse stops obediently and softly to the rein contact, standing calmly and relaxed. Good harmony. At least two transitions are performed, one on each side.	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive handling of reins <input type="checkbox"/> Horse halts obediently <input type="checkbox"/> Horse transitions well into walk <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is relaxed		
6m-8m circles	A (roughly) 6m-8m circle has to be shown	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate body position		

	<p>in each direction. The trainer may choose the location and each circle can be shown at different times. The circles do not have to be a figure 8. The trainer should be positioned appropriately and direct the horse with light and soft aids. Circles should be even in size and the speed should be consistent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Even circle left <input type="checkbox"/> Even circle right <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent speed <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive and relaxed 		
<p>Leg Yielding</p>	<p>Leg yielding will be shown by the trainer in a manner of the trainer's choice. Options include: along the centerline, along the wall, from X to one of the corner letters or one of the corner letters to X. This will be shown at least once on each rein for at least 6 steps. Trainer will show that the horse understands the coordination of the aids. The horse is positioned correctly in the poll but straight in the body. The horse is</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate body position <input type="checkbox"/> Correct aids <input type="checkbox"/> Light aids <input type="checkbox"/> Correct crossing of legs <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable angle <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent speed <input type="checkbox"/> Horse is attentive and relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> Body of the horse is straight, with correct flexion in the poll 		

	soft and obedient and travels equally forward and sideways at approximately a 35-45 degree angle.			
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