

Ponying Exam

General Description and Emphasis: Examinees will demonstrate ponying off of a ridden horse both in an arena as well as outside on a track or straight road. They will be asked to demonstrate mounting and dismounting, switching sides of the ponied horse, various figures as well as transitions within and between gaits and will show walk, trot/tolt and canter. Examinees will be judged on correct positioning of the ponied horse, speed and direction control of ridden and ponied horse as well as use of aids and harmony.

Procedures: The examinee will have a maximum of 20 minutes to demonstrate all required elements. Examinees may choose how they allocate their time between indoor and outdoor segments. The clock may be paused if the examinee cannot ride directly out of the arena to complete the outdoor segment/s. A 10 minute verbal time warning will be given as well as a minute left verbal time warning. Where in the arena or outdoor space the elements are performed, as well as in what order the elements are shown are at the discretion of the examinee. Elements can be repeated if necessary, however every element only has to be shown once for full marks. Though the order of the program is at the discretion of the examinee, the set up of their program will be part of the mark for overall harmony. Though it is not the main emphasis, programs that flow well and show planning and preparation will be rewarded with higher marks in the overall marks portion of the grading rubric. Examinees may ask examiners if they are missing any elements, but they are not to do this more than twice.

Equipment: Examinees may choose between ponying with a halter or bridle with a snaffle bit. The ridden horse may only be ridden in a basic snaffle. The equipment must be properly fitted to the ponied horse and must be appropriate for that horse's training level. No side reins or shank chains are allowed on the ponied horse.

Location: Ponying will be demonstrated in a 20x40 arena as well as a track or straight road at least 200m in length. Round pens are not allowed for the arena portion and indoor arenas large enough to function as a track for competition are not permitted to be used as a "track" for the outside portion of the ponying exam.

Element	Description	Notes	
Arena Portion			

<p>Leading and mounting</p>	<p>The examinee will lead the ponied and ridden horse into the arena. The ponied horse is put into position and the ridden horse is mounted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safe and systematic techniques and aids are used when leading ● Ponied horse is positioned correctly ● Mount is organized and safe 		
<p>Ponying at walk</p>	<p>The examinee will demonstrate ponying at a walk on both sides of the ridden horse on the rail as well as choosing one other figure that demonstrates changes of bend and direction. Ex: Serpentine, long diagonal, figure eight of 10 or 20m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ponied horse is in the correct position ● Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness ● Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse ● Rider gives ponied horse appropriate space when riding near a wall or barrier ● Speed control is effective and apparent ● Directional control is apparent from figure correctness 		

Ponying at trot or tolt	<p>The examinee will demonstrate ponying in trot or tolt on both sides of the ridden horse on the rail as well choosing one other figure that demonstrates changes of bend and direction. Ex: Serpentine, long diagonal, figure eight of 10 or 20m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ponied horse is in the correct position ● Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness ● Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse ● Rider gives ponied horse appropriate space when riding near a wall or barrier ● Speed control is effective and apparent ● Directional control is apparent from figure correctness 		
Walk-halt-walk	<p>Examinees will demonstrate at least 2 walk-halt-walk transitions with the ponied horse on both sides of the ridden horse. These transitions should be performed while performing the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness ● Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse 		

	ponying at the walk section of the exam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horses halt softly and obediently and within an appropriate time frame • Horses are relaxed in the halt 		
Examinee May Choose to Do the Following Sections Indoors or Outdoors				
Canter	Examinee will show ponying at the canter. While the ridden horse should maintain the canter throughout the section, the ponied horse may transition in and out of the canter provided that they stay in the correct position throughout. Similarly the lead of the ponied horse will not be judged, however the lead of the ridden horse should be correct if applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness • Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse • Speed control is effective and apparent • Ridden horse maintains the canter until asked to slow down • Rider rides at a speed that canter is possible for the ponied horse, even if the canter is not maintained through 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the entire exercise • Correct lead of ridden horse if appropriate 		
Trot/tolt speed change	The examinee will demonstrate a speed transition within tolt/trot showing a shortening and then lengthening of the stride. The ridden horse should maintain tolt or trot throughout the speed change. The ponied horse may be in either tolt or trot at any time during the speed change but must not break into a canter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness • Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse • Speed control is effective and apparent • Rider gives soft and effective aids for both speeding up and slowing down 		
Outdoor Portion				
Ponying at walk	The examinee will demonstrate ponying at a walk on both sides of the ridden horse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponied horse is in the correct position • Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness • Rider is systematic with their aids 		

		<p>when directing the ridden and ponied horse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider reacts appropriately if ponied horse rushes or becomes excited 		
Ponying at trot or tolt	The examinee will demonstrate ponying in trot or tolt on both sides of the ridden horse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponied horse is in the correct position • Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness • Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the ridden and ponied horse • Speed control is effective and apparent 		
Walk-trot/tolt-walk	Examinees will demonstrate at least 2 walk-trot/tolt-walk transitions with the ponied horse on both sides of the ridden horse. These	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponied horse follows with fluidity and lightness • Rider is systematic with their aids when directing the 		

	transitions should be performed while performing the ponying at the trot/tolt section of the outdoor exam.	<p>ridden and ponied horse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horses transition softly and obediently and within an appropriate time frame • Horses are relaxed in the walk 		
Overall Marks				
Horsemanship and use of aids regarding ridden horse	The examinee rides the horse in a manner that is respectful, fair and demonstrates good horsemanship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider is systematic with their aids with regards to their ridden horse • Rider is considerate of their ridden horse when maneuvering and directing their ponied horse • Rider demonstrates a good and balanced seat, though deviations from a “neutral” seat may be needed to direct the ponied horse, it should be done in a way that doesn’t 		

		negatively affect the ridden horse		
Harmony and coordination	<p>The overall picture should be harmonious and feel coordinated and fluid. The rider will use equipment properly and safely and in a way that aids them in ponying the horse they are working with. Though the set up of the program is at the discretion of the examinee, the set up of their program will be part of the mark for overall harmony. Programs that flow well and show planning and preparation will receive the highest marks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall picture is harmonious • Examinee appears confident and well practiced • Equipment is used properly, safely and in a coordinated manner • Examinee sets up program in a way that flows well and makes sense for their horses 		
Switching sides	<p>Examinees will demonstrate how they change the pony horse from one side to the other at least once during the inside portion of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct procedure is followed in accordance with equipment used, dismount is allowed IF equipment set up requires it 		

	<p>exam and at least once during the outdoor portion. The type of change and whether they dismount or not will be determined by the type of equipment they are using and proper safety protocol. Both a change from right to left and left to right should be shown at some point in the test.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Changing sides happens in a safe and coordinated manner● The changing of sides happens in a reasonable time frame		
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--