



Maryland 4-H Handling Test: Tier One

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

NOTE: During your warm up the Examiner may check off different maneuvers.

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
1. Approach a horse safely and put on a halter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Lead and turn horse safely in hand.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Lead horse in and out of a stall safely.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
4. Tie horse in a safe place with a quick release knot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
5. Perform walk/trot transitions in hand.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
6. Demonstrate proper grooming techniques, including picking out hooves (with assistance if needed).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
1. Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Mount to be neatly brushed, feet picked out (with assistance if needed), and showing regular farrier care.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
1. Tack safe, neat, and properly adjusted for your chosen discipline, with assistance if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Comments:	
RIDING	
HANDLING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates control while maintaining a safe, position while leading the horse.	
1. Demonstrate how to 'set up' your horse.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Demonstrate the proper quadrants.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Complete required pattern for tier 1, demonstrating safe, and basic handling with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

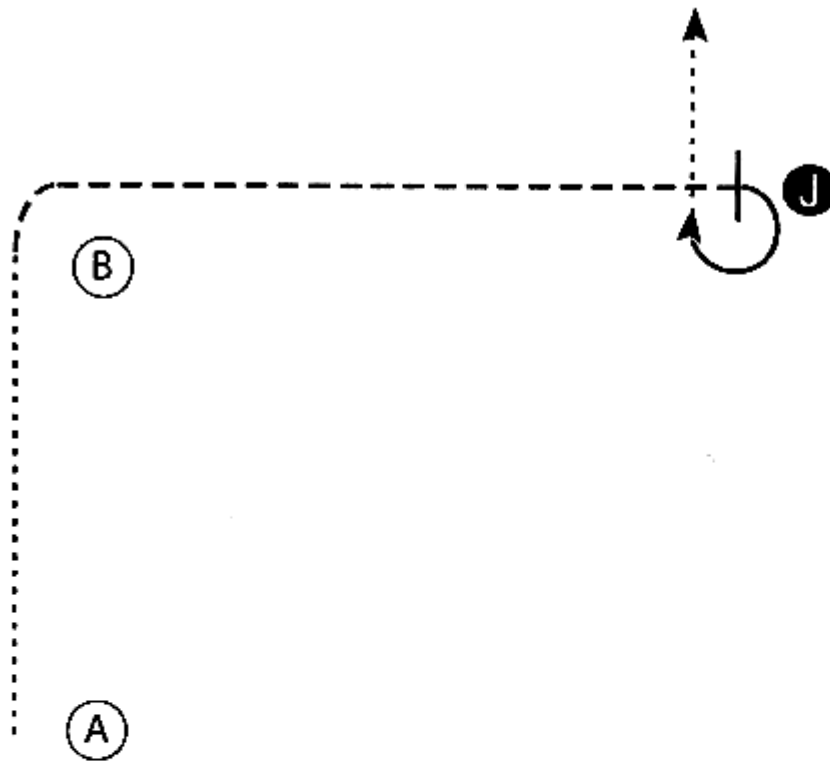
Sections Requiring Retesting:

A candidate may be retested as follows:

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner of their proxy.

ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Signature _____

Tier One Pattern



1. Walk from A to B.
2. Trot from B to the Judge.
3. Stop and set up for inspection.
4. When dismissed perform a 270 degree turn and walk straight away from the Judge.

Walk
Trot	-----
Back	← ↔↔↔↔↔ ↔↔↔↔↔
Marker	Ⓟ
Judge	Ⓝ



Maryland 4-H Riding Test: Tier Two (State Fair NOT jumping)

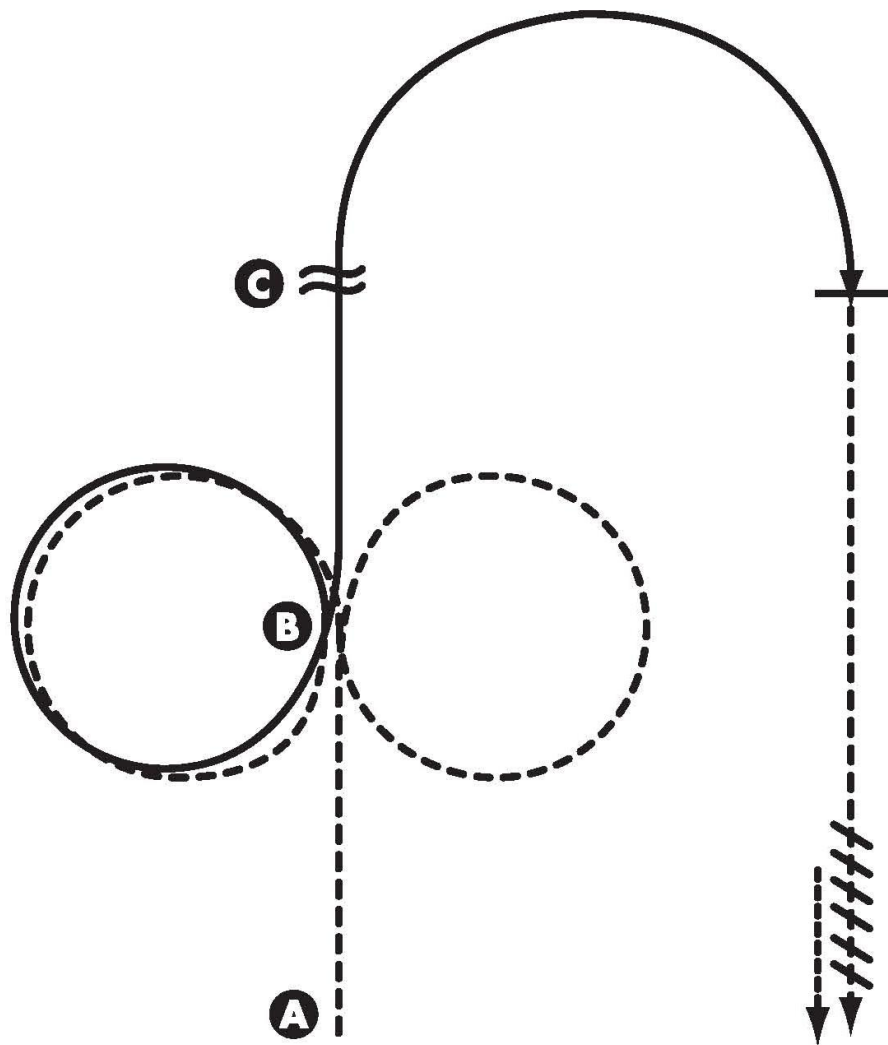
4-H Member: _____ County: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
1. Discuss at least two precautions (safety measures) that should be taken when properly securing a hay net/hay bag.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Apply protective boots (simple galloping or brushing boots – one front, one hind on diagonal pairs – and front bell boots), with assistance if needed, and describe their purpose.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Demonstrate putting a blanket on a horse, recognizing proper fit. (Horse handler may be used)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
1. Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), with feet picked out, and showing regular farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. Appropriate areas of hair trimmed as suitable to discipline.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Discuss and demonstrate (if possible) rules of courtesy and safety that should be followed when riding with others in a ring and on a trail.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
1. Tack to be safe – especially stitching on stirrup leathers/girth – and clean – no grease, sweat, or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Discuss how to recognize properly fitted tack.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Demonstrate how to check fit of girth.	ES _____ MS _____

	DNMS _____
Comments:	
RIDING	
RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates a safe, basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions.	
1. Mount and dismount independently with mounting block if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt and walk.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Adjust stirrups and girth while mounted at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
4. Halt squarely and stand for five seconds.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
5. Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk trot/jog, and canter/lope.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
6. Ride without stirrups at the walk and trot (sitting).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
7. Perform 20 meter circles at the walk, jog/sitting trot, rising trot (English only), and canter/lope with correct lead in both directions.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
8. Perform figure 8's at the walk, jog/trot, rising trot, and canter/lope with a simple change of lead.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
9. Demonstrate a halt from the walk, trot, and canter on a straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
10. Complete required pattern for tier 2, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

Tier Two Pattern



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.) Jog/Posting Trot from A to B
- 2.) At B, jog/trot a circle to the right.
- 3.) When circle is closed, jog/trot a circle to the left.
- 4.) When circle is closed, lope/canter a circle to the left and continue cantering to C.
- 5.) At C perform a simple change of lead and continue around in a half circle until even with C.
- 6.) Jog/Posting trot on right diagonal from C until even with B.
- 8.) At B jog/sitting trot until even with A.
- 9.) At A, halt and back 5 steps. Exit at a walk.

Key

-----	WALK
-----	TROT
- - - - -	EXTENDED TROT
—————	CANTER
//////	BACK
≈	CHANGE LEADS
~~~~~	SIDEPASS

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

_____  
Examiner Name

_____  
Examiner Signature

_____  
Date

-----  
Sections Requiring Retesting:

_____  
_____  
_____  
_____  
_____  
_____

**A candidate may be retested as follows:**

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner OR porxy.

**ES** _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____  
Signature _____



# Maryland 4-H Riding Test Three: Tier Three (Speed and Jumping)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

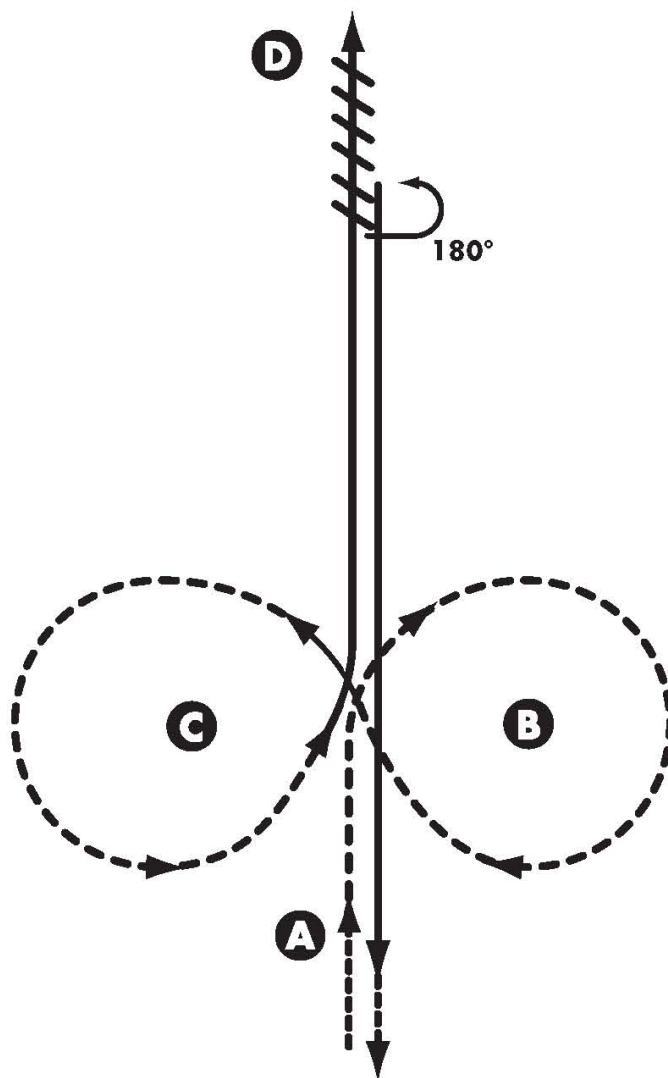
KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT</b>	
1. Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Mount to be well groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>TACK</b>	
3. Tack to be safe, properly adjusted, supple, and reflecting regular care. No grease, sweat, or dust. All stress points clean. No cracked leather. Metal clean and polished and stirrup pads (if used) clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
4. Describe three artificial aids and their use.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>RIDING</b>	
<b>RIDING EXPECTATIONS:</b> Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, trot, and canter, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position and use of natural aids. Candidate is beginning to ride mount freely forward with balance and rhythm while developing a light contact with the horse's mouth.	
1. Perform basic suppling exercises for the rider. Discuss benefits to riders.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Ride at the walk, trot, and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing 20 meter circles and figure 8's with a correct bend at each gait, showing simple change of lead.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Demonstrate aids for moving a horse away from the leg at a halt and walk.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____



4. Ride without stirrups at the walk and jog/trot while performing 20 meter circles in both directions and performing changes of direction, demonstrating posting on the correct diagonal (English only).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
5. Discuss and demonstrate the difference between lengthening stride and increasing speed at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
6. Demonstrate working jog/trot, to an extended jog/trot, back to a working jog/trot in both directions. Discuss performance.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
7. Discuss correct distances between jog/trotting and canter/lope poles for both horses and ponies.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
8. Demonstrate a turn in the forehand and a turn on the haunches.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
9. Complete required pattern for tier 3, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
10. Complete required jumping grid pattern (Optional), demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
11. Complete required jumping pattern (Optional), demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	
Comments:	

# Tier Three Pattern



## INSTRUCTIONS

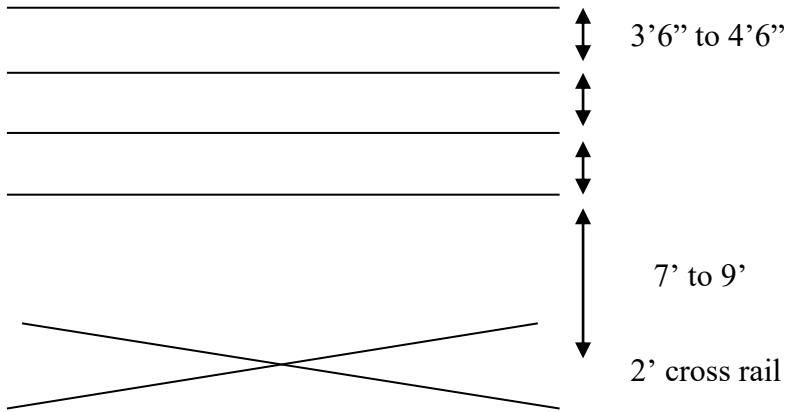
1. Begin before A. When judge signals, walk to A. At A, begin jog/posting trot.
2. Jog/Trot a small circle around B.
3. Jog/Trot a small circle around C.
4. When circle is closed, lope/canter on the right lead to D. Halt. Back 5 steps.
5. Execute a 180 turn on the haunches to the left.
6. Lope/Canter on the left lead back to A. Halt.
7. Exit at a walk.

## Key

-----	WALK
-----	TROT
- - - - -	EXTENDED TROT
—————	CANTER
//////	BACK
≈	CHANGE LEADS
~~~~~	SIDEPASS

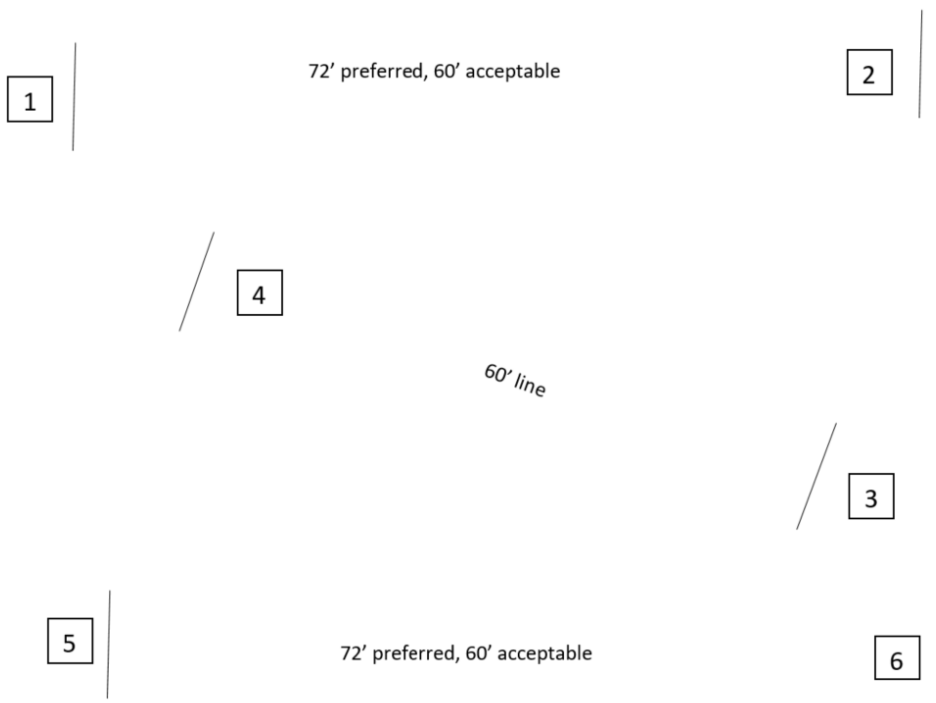
Jumping Grid Exercises

Use 3 to 5 trot poles placed at 3'6" to 4'6" apart, according to mount's stride. Distances within the gymnastic line might need to be adjusted according to mount's stride as well. Candidate should ride over trot poles first and then build the gymnastic line according to the diagram below.



Course work: 2 cross rails and 5 vertical jumps (all with ground lines), with the jump height 2' for ponies and 2'6 for horses, and appropriate striding - no bending lines, combinations, or related distances.

Sample Tier 3 Jump Course



ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

4-Her has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) _____

Sections Requiring Retesting:

A candidate may be retested as follows:

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner OR proxy.

ES _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____

Signature _____



Maryland 4-H Riding Test Tier 4 (Advanced)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

***NOTE: During your warm up the Examiner may check off different maneuvers.**

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
1. Apply a stable bandage (one front OR one hind). Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and differences between front and hind application. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Demonstrate the ability to safely load a cooperative horse or pony with assistance if needed.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Longe a horse, to its appropriate level, for the purpose of exercise in an enclosed area, demonstrating safe lunging techniques, with assistance if necessary. Evaluate horse's performance with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
1. Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Discuss selected farrier care for presented horse and why it has been chosen.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
1. Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No grease, sweat, or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Explain purpose of equipment used on own horse (i.e. bit, girth, pads, breast plate, etc.)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Comments:

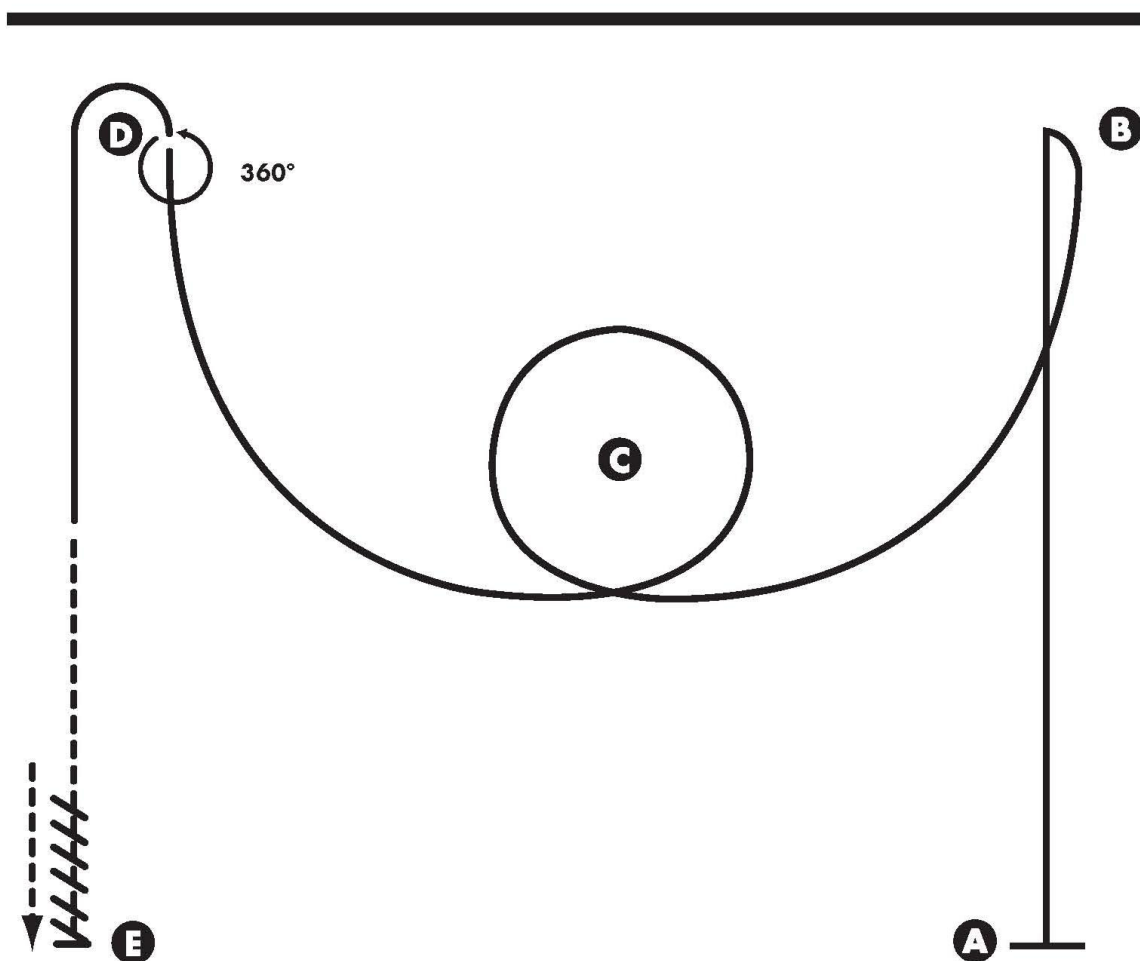
RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, trot, and canter, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate is beginning to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact with the horse's mouth.

1. Demonstrate an appropriate warm-up for flat work, discuss and evaluate performance with examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
2. Ride at the walk, jog/trot, and lope/canter, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles (12-15 meters), serpentines, and figure 8's with a correct bend while maintaining an even rhythm with smooth transitions. Evaluate figures with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
3. Ride without stirrups at the walk, trot, and canter, maintaining balance and control.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
4. Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return smoothly to the canter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
5. Demonstrate the aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the jog/trot and lope/canter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
6. Complete required pattern 4 demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
7. Complete required jumping grid (Optional), demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
8. Complete required jumping pattern (Optional), demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate test/pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Comments:

Tier Four Pattern



INSTRUCTIONS

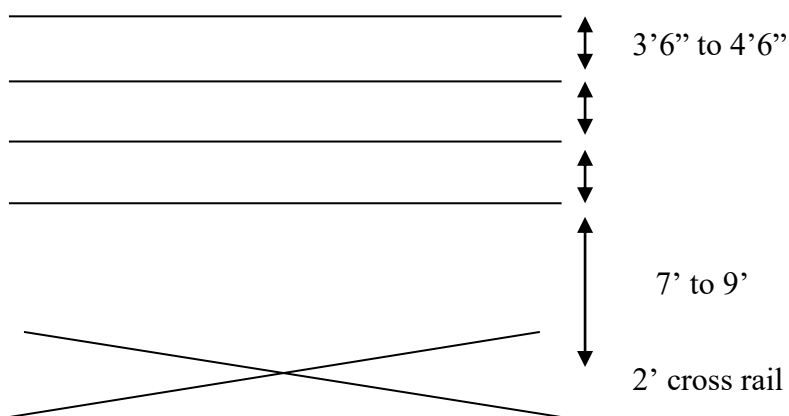
- 1.) Lope/Canter on the left lead from A to B.
- 2.) Halt and preform a 180 turn on the forehand to the left.
- 3.) Immediately lope/canter off on the right lead and lope/canter a small circle around C. Continue to D.
- 4.) At D, halt and execute a 360 turn on the haunches to the left.
- 5.) Jog/sitting trot around D.
- 6.) When even with C, break to a jog/working trot on the correct diagonal.
- 7.) At E, halt and back 5 steps.
- 8.) Exit at a walk.

Key

-----	WALK
-----	TROT
- - - -	EXTENDED TROT
————	CANTER
//////	BACK
≈	CHANGE LEADS
~~~~	SIDEPASS

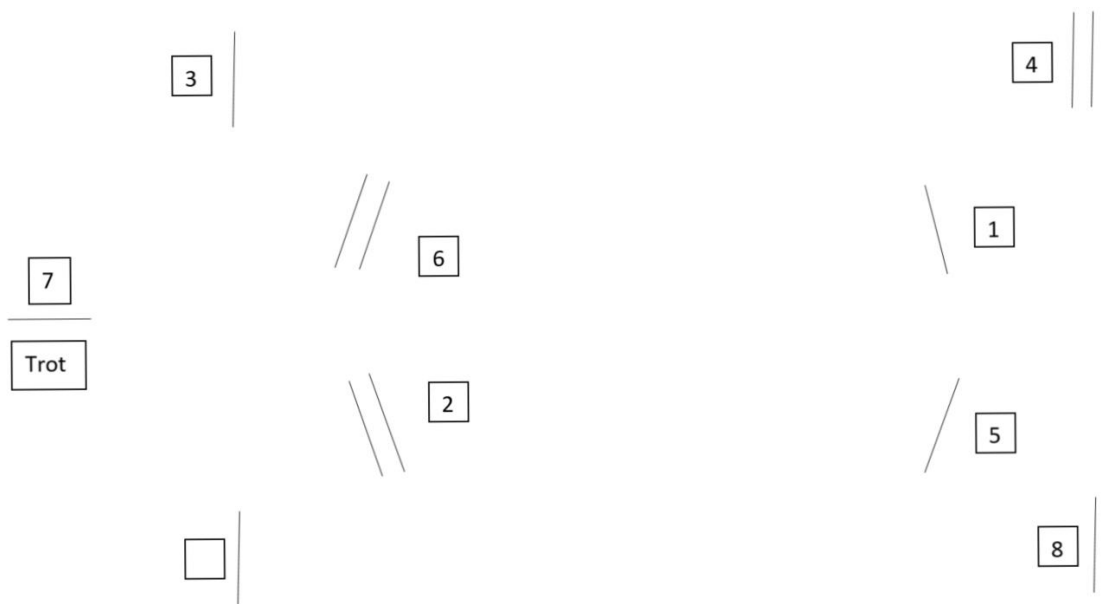
# Jumping Grid Exercises

Use 3 to 5 trot poles placed at 3'6" to 4'6" apart, according to mount's stride. Distances within the gymnastic line might need to be adjusted according to mount's stride as well. Candidate should ride over trot poles first and then build the gymnastic line according to the diagram below.



Course work: 2 cross rails and 5 vertical jumps (all with ground lines), with the jump height 2' for ponies and 2'6 for horses, and appropriate striding - no bending lines, combinations, or related distances. *ADD IN THE DISTANCE AND TAKE OUT THE EXTRA JUMP*

## Sample Tier 4 Jump Course





ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

ame

Examiner Signature

Date

4-Has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) _____

Sections Requiring Retesting:

_____  
_____  
_____  
_____  
_____  
_____

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- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner OR proxy.

**ES** _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____

Signature _____

