

**PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA**  
**SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR**  
**EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**

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**SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION FOR  
EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**  
**General Conditions for Efficiency Tests**  
*The expected outcomes are shown in italics.*

**AGES / CERTIFICATE COLOURS**

Minimum ages for Candidates undertaking the Tests, and Certificate colours

D Standard	7 years	Yellow
D* Standard	9 years	Lime green
C Standard	12 years	Green
K Standard	14 years	Purple
C* Standard	14 years	Pink
B Standard – Horse Care	15 years	Brown
B Standard – Riding	16 years	Red
B Standard (Restricted Jumping)	16 years	White
H Standard	17 years	Orange
A Standard	17 years	Blue

**PRE-REQUISITES:**

Standards D, C, C\* or K, B - Horsemastership, B - Riding, and A, must be gained in that order, i.e. each is a pre-requisite for the higher standard. There is no pre-requisite for the H Certificate.

**EXAMINERS:**

An Examiner within a Club may test for D and D\*. Each State must have a panel of examiners. Examiners should not test in their own Club unless circumstances, such as excessive distance, make this necessary.

To remain on the Examiners' Panel, Examiners must be active members of a Pony Club and attend current refresher courses conducted by their State. The names of Examiners on the Panel will be reviewed by each State every three years.

**EXAMINATION CREDITS:**

Any section of a Test passed by the candidate will be held as credit/s until such time as all sections are passed (maximum two years from original practical examination date).

## **WRITTEN PAPERS:**

All written tests **must** be passed prior to the practical examination. For certificates above “C” level written papers **must** be passed before the day of the practical assessment. It is recommended that written papers be taken with enough time to allow supplementary papers to be completed prior to the practical test.

Should candidates have difficulty in expressing themselves in writing for the written paper at any standard, it is permissible for questions to be answered orally, to use a tape recorder, or for an adult to write the answers as directed by the candidate. If an adult writer is used, it is desirable that the person not be a horseperson or be related to the candidate.

Suggested times allowed for completion of written papers are:

C Standard	30 minutes
C* Standard	1 hour
K Standard	1 hour
B Standard	2 hours
H Standard	2½ to 3 hours
A Standard	2½ to 3 hours

## **PASS MARKS FOR WRITTEN PAPERS:**

65% for all written papers. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit a supplementary paper.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY WRITTEN TESTS:**

PASS MARK TO BE 65% FOR ALL EXAMINATION PAPERS. Candidates not achieving 65% will be required to sit another paper. Candidates not passing the second paper must reapply at the next intake.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY TESTS FOR PRACTICAL SECTIONS:**

Supplementary testing must be completed as follows:

C, C Star & K min 3 months max 2 years from date of original examination

B, A, H min 6 months max 2 years from date of original examination

Candidates must be assessed to have reached the standard required prior to re-presenting for the practical tests.

Where possible one of the original examiners should be used for the supplementary test in consultation with the State Panel.

Should a candidate fail a Supplementary Test the full Certificate must be retaken.

**WORKBOOKS:**

Work certificates are required for K Standard and are recommended for C Star, B, A and H. Sheets are available from State Offices/Clubs. It is recommended that candidates keep a record of their own Pony Club experience.

**PRESENTATION:**

Candidates must wear formal Pony Club uniform for presentation and discipline appropriate uniform for all practical tests.

No jewellery to be worn. (Exception—Medic Alert bracelets)

Presentation of horse—See individual Test.

**HORSES:**

Horses used by the candidates for practical examinations must be the rider's qualified mount as per state rules.

# **CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS STANDARD D STAR**

Minimum age of Candidate . . . . . 9 years

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## **STANDARD D STAR CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES:**

Candidates must have control of their ponies and show a more secure and correct position for flat work and jumping.

This Certificate is an extra activity for any Club wishing to include it in their curriculum, and fills in the years from 9 to 12. The D\* Certificate is not a pre-requisite for any subsequent Test.

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## **PRE-REQUISITE:**

D Certificate.

## **EXAMINER:**

Refer to the section on Examiners on Page 3.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- To work towards a balanced seat independence of the reins.
- To improve the rider's control of the pony.
- To have an elementary knowledge of the handling and care of the pony.

## **WRITTEN PAPER:**

No written paper is required.

## **PRESENTATION:**

Rider to be in formal Pony Club uniform.

*Uniform to be clean and tidy. Boots must be clean.*

Pony to be tidy.

*The pony must look neat and tidy and be free of loose mud and sweat. Tack must be clean and well fitting.*

## **RIDING:**

Mount correctly—from a mounting block if necessary.

*Candidate to mount holding the pommel, not the cantle, using a mounting block if necessary. The pony should stand still or be held to assist the rider.*

Dismount from either side of the pony.

*Candidate to demonstrate a safe dismount from either side.*

Walk, rising trot, and canter in a large area, including circle and straight line, and change of direction.

*Candidate must maintain control of their pony at walk, rising trot and canter in a large area.*

Make transitions on command.

*Candidate to ride transitions from halt to walk, walk to trot, etc.*

Trot and canter at varying speeds.

*Candidate to demonstrate increase and decrease of speed within trot and canter.*

Ride with reins in one hand. Hold and use a short whip correctly.

*Candidate to put their reins correctly into one hand and demonstrate use the whip behind the leg.*

Trot on a loose rein.

*Candidate to demonstrate lengthening and shortening the rein at trot.*

Change trot diagonal on command.

*Candidate to show a change of diagonal on command.*

Rising trot over poles on the ground in a forward position.

*Candidate to trot over poles on the ground. Candidate may hold a neckstrap or mane if necessary.*

Negotiate small jumps of varied design from the trot – maximum height 45 cm.

*Candidate to jump single small fences (holding a neckstrap or mane if necessary).*

Know simple traffic rules when riding on the road.

*Candidate must*

- *know which side of the road to ride on*
- *be able to demonstrate hand signals for turning and stopping*
- *exhibit an awareness of the dangers of riding on the road*
- *be familiar with their state's road rules for horses.*

## **HORSE HANDLING:**

Lead and turn a pony in hand at the walk and trot (with bridle).

*Candidate to lead the pony and turn safely.*

Pick up and clean out front feet.

*Candidate to safely pick up and clean out the front feet of a pony.*

## **HORSE CARE:**

Knowledge of basic feeding and care of the pony.

*Candidate to know what their own pony eats and the basic daily care required.*

Basic care of the feet.

*Candidate to be able to explain the daily care.*

Identify parts of the hoof.

*Candidates to be able to identify: wall, frog, sole and heels.*

Identify the farriers tools.

*Candidates to be able to identify: rasp, hammer, toe knife, buffer and pincers.*

Identify parts of the horse.

*Candidates to be able to identify the following parts of the horse – throat, elbow, pastern, dock, coronet, hips, hock, stifle, ribs, cheek.*

Identify and demonstrate use of: Dandy brush, body brush, curry comb, hoof pick.

*Candidate to identify the following grooming tools - dandy brush, body brush, curry comb, hoof pick and demonstrate the use of those items.*

Identify parts of the saddle.

*Candidate to identify parts of the saddle: cantle, waist, gullet, stirrup bar, sweat flap.*

Clean and put away saddlery.

*Candidate to explain how to clean their own saddle and bridle. Candidate to show how to place their saddle safely on the ground and to explain how to store saddlery between rides.*

Describe the following conditions: Girth Gall, Cold, Colic and Laminitis (Founder).

## **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:**

Know the names of the Club Executive.

*Candidate to know the names of their Club President, Secretary and Chief Instructor.*