



Assessment Criteria for Gold Riding Certificate

Five out of the 7 areas should be 6/satisfactory or above, with the overall impression at 6 or above

10 - Excellent	9 - Very Good
8 - Good	7 - Fairly Good
6 - Satisfactory	5 - Marginal
4 - Insufficient	3 - Fairly Bad
2 - Bad	1 - Very Bad
0 - Not Executed	

Criteria	Insufficient (4)	Satisfactory (6)	Good (8)
1. Check horse is correctly prepared for riding and rider mounts and dismount efficiently with assistance if needed	Inadequate safety checks of tack Rider needs prompting to carry these checks out Little/No consideration given to the welfare of the horse in mounting/dismounting	Rider is able to check girth, bridle and stirrups for safety, or instruct assistant to do so Stirrups are adjusted efficiently either by rider or assistant as directed by rider Consideration for the horse shown throughout	Detailed tack check carried out, either by candidate, or by assistant under instruction of candidate Accurate and perceptive comment on fit and suitability of equipment Thoughtful consideration is given to the horse's back and mouth throughout
2. Show a clear warm up plan demonstrating a good use of the arena and a variety of different exercises and figures	Inadequate variety of work shown to prepare horse physically and mentally	Warm-up plan is appropriate to school conditions, the session ahead and fitness of horse/rider	Rider shows well-thought plan, tailored to the horse on the day Rider can describe the reason for selecting different exercises



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	<p>Requires prompting to include suitable exercises</p> <p>Unaware of potential hazards and insufficient action taken to mitigate them, may need prompting to avoid hazards</p>	<p>Exercises chosen prepare the horse for the work ahead</p> <p>Rider shows:</p> <p>A logical plan</p> <p>Work on both reins</p> <p>Appropriate rein contact as they progress to improved contact</p> <p>Transitions</p> <p>Awareness of others in arena</p> <p>Awareness of hazards</p>	<p>Rider can adapt plan where necessary</p> <p>Highly aware of potential hazards and actions taken to overcome them.</p> <p>Consideration given to other riders</p>
<p>3. Show transitions within a pace</p>	<p>Rider unable to show a discernible difference within paces</p>	<p>Rider able to make a clear effort to show a difference in stride length which results in some changes being shown in the way of going of the horse</p> <p>The ability of the horse is taken into account</p> <p>Effective and sympathetic riding is demonstrated, with work focussed on establishing rhythm and balance through transitions</p> <p>Use of half halts to improve balance</p>	<p>Rider able to show clear distinctions within pace – for example working trot – lengthened strides, or medium walk to free walk</p> <p>The transitions lead to an improvement in the way of going</p>



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4. Ride simple lateral movements (e.g. leg yield, turn on the forehand)	Rider makes minimal efforts towards recognisable lateral movements even with significant prompting	Rider demonstrates an attempt at lateral movements May require some prompting	Rider demonstrates correct movements as far as the horse is able to Able describe the value of these exercises and how they contribute to training Able to recognise and describe correct movements
5. Have an understanding of the footfalls in all paces	Rider unable to describe footfalls in all three paces	State the footfalls in all paces, either verbally or using physical movement/gesture or props	Recognise when a named leg is hitting the ground Recognise if the footfalls become irregular
6. Have an understanding of the scales of training	Inadequate knowledge of scales of training; unable to name them all or relate them to then equines used for assessment	Can list the scales of training Rhythm, suppleness, contact, Impulsion Straightness and Collection Basic grasp of Rhythm suppleness and contact	Has firm understanding of scales of training, may have an opinion on order of importance or differences of opinion in equestrian world Able to relate to equines way of going. Can relate these to the impact on horse performance Riding throughout the session demonstrates this understanding
7. Discuss ways to improve the horse's way of going	Inadequate information shared	Describe way of going to include Paces, temperament, Responsiveness, Willingness	Can accurately assess current level of training of the horse and provide suggestions for



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	Inability to describe how the horse is going and what steps to take to improve	Identify areas of strengths and development in equines used for assessment. Can suggest exercises to improve way of going May be able to demonstrate some of these	exercises which may help, demonstrating where appropriate May include comment on conformation, Stiffness or hollowness, Outline Able to assess current Level of dressage training for RDA/Para/BD Ability to move from leg to hand Work they would ask another rider to undertake if they were unable to
Overall impression - must have 3 out of 4 of the elements at a 6 or above			
Disability is always taken into consideration. Riders may wish to discuss ways they have come up with to improve position, harmony etc.			
Rider position and seat	No attempt to absorb any movement, frequent bouncing in saddle or hands pulling	A positive overall picture; may have some positional flaws but these don't overly impact on the horse	Good/Very good position, Effective and harmonious
Correctness and effectiveness of aids	Any rough riding, heavy contact, nagging legs	Mostly Effective and well-timed aids given	Use of aids is sensitive, well-timed and often imperceptible



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Skill and accuracy of rider	Inaccurate beginning and end of movements or not on correct line Rhythm/Tempo not maintained Horse often crooked with little/no attempt to correct	Movements mostly begin and end in the correct place and generally follow the correct line The correct tempo is mostly maintained, may require some prompting	Movements and transitions are precise and correct Tempo/rhythm correct with little or no prompting
Harmony with equine	Picture Lacks harmony, resistance shown in the horse Rider has a negative effect on horse performance Incorrect paces shown e.g., ambling/lateral walk, unbalanced trot, unclear rhythm in canter with little/no attempt to correct these Riding in a way which is detrimental to the horse	Good cooperation between horse and rider Effective and sympathetic riding is demonstrated, with work focussed on establishing rhythm and balance throughout the session Paces mostly correct, can identify when they are not and attempt to correct	Good partnership quickly established and demonstrated Horse ridden to best/nearly best of its ability with clear, correct paces and issues corrected swiftly

5 out of 7 of criteria 1-7 should be at 6 or above, Overall impression - must have 3 out of 4 elements at a 6 or above

Use Dressage scale of Marks

Riders who demonstrate 8 or above in an area will have this mentioned on the certificate



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- Riders will discuss with assessors beforehand which paces they will show work in and how long to work each horse
- For example, they may only wish to canter on a known horse but show walk/trot on a strange horse
- Where riders complete the whole assessment in walk, the work should be of a high enough level to assess all elements.
- The majority of the session will be in Open order to assess level of horse and work towards transitions, lateral work and improving rhythm and balance.
- The Assessor may stop the rider at various points to ask a question, to allow rider to rest briefly, or to suggest work to try
- Two horses should be ridden where possible
- If a rider is riding their own or a known horse at their own venue, another horse should be ridden where possible to demonstrate breadth of skills
- If riding own horse away from home, another horse should be ridden at least briefly where possible and a suitable horse is available
- If riding strange horses away from home, two should be ridden if possible
- When two horses are ridden, plenty of time between will be allowed where necessary to rest.
- Rider will come away with a clear plan how to progress their riding as a result of clear and helpful comments on the mark sheet and post-assessment discussion
- Riders who demonstrate 8 or above in an area will have this mentioned on the mark sheet/certificate and at presentation
- A suitable occasion will be identified to formally present the certificate although riders will receive a copy on the day