

PURPOSE of DRESSAGE:

To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose and that it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit.

Must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll

EXPECTATIONS AT VARIOUS LEVELS

Walk/Trot Tests:

The horse is obedient to the rider's aids, moving forward and beginning to develop rhythm. Riders are not required to demonstrate diagonals but are required to demonstrate evidence of developing balance (not on reins/mouth), positive control, generally staying on track and exhibiting a positive attitude.

Preliminary and Novice Tests

The Rider:

- a) Adopts a correct position in the saddle with a seat independent of the reins
- b) Is free from stiffness
- c) Maintains a constant, light, acceptable contact with the horse's mouth
- d) Applies aids clearly and effectively, avoiding unnecessary movement

The Horse:

- a) Has true, regular and unhurried paces
- b) Is calm, relaxed and obedient to the aids of the rider
- c) Maintains balance and rhythm and a natural rounded outline without restriction
- d) Moves freely forward without collection but with active hindquarters.
In Novice there should be a slightly greater degree of engagement
- e) Accepts the bit willingly and without tensions or resistance.
In Novice there should be a constant, light acceptable contact with the horses mouth
- f) Remains straight when moving on straight lines and bends accordingly when moving on curved lines
- g) Executes transitions smoothly and within the prescribed markers.
Transitions may be progressive with a higher degree of accuracy expected in Novice.

Elementary and above:

The Rider:

Has attained sufficient knowledge and competence to execute the movements correctly and precisely

The Horse:

- a) Has acquired in addition to those qualities of Novice standard a greater muscular development, suppleness and impulsion to enable it to execute with ease the more demanding movements of the test.
- b) Shows a slightly higher rounded outline than at the Novice level as a result of the increased engagement of the hindquarters
- c) At this standard, when asked for collection, riders are only expected to show sufficient engagement to carry out the required movements