

- At the halt, the horse should stand attentive, engaged motionless, straight and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised, the poll as the highest point and the noseline slightly in front of the vertical. While remaining "on the bit" and maintaining a light and soft contact with the athlete's hand, the horse may quietly chew the bit and should be ready to move off at the slightest indication of the athlete
- The halt is obtained by the displacement of the horse's weight to the hindquarters by a properly increased action of the seat and legs of the athlete, driving the horse towards a softly closed hand, causing an almost instantaneous but not abrupt halt at a previously fixed place. The halt is prepared by a series of half-halts
- The quality of the paces before and after the halt is an integral part of the assessment

The Halt

The Walk

- The walk is a marching pace in a regular four-time beat (left hind, left fore, right hind, right fore) with equal intervals between each beat. This regularity combined with full relaxation must be maintained throughout all walk movements
- When the foreleg and the hind leg on the same side move almost on the same beat, the walk tends to become an almost lateral movement. This irregularity, which might become an ambling movement, is a serious deterioration of the pace
- The following walks are recognised – Collected, Medium, Extended and Free
- There should always be a clear difference in the attitude and over-tracking in these variations

Medium Walk A clear, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening. The horse, remaining "on the bit", walks energetically but relaxed, with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoofprints of the fore feet. The athlete maintains a light, soft and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the head and neck.

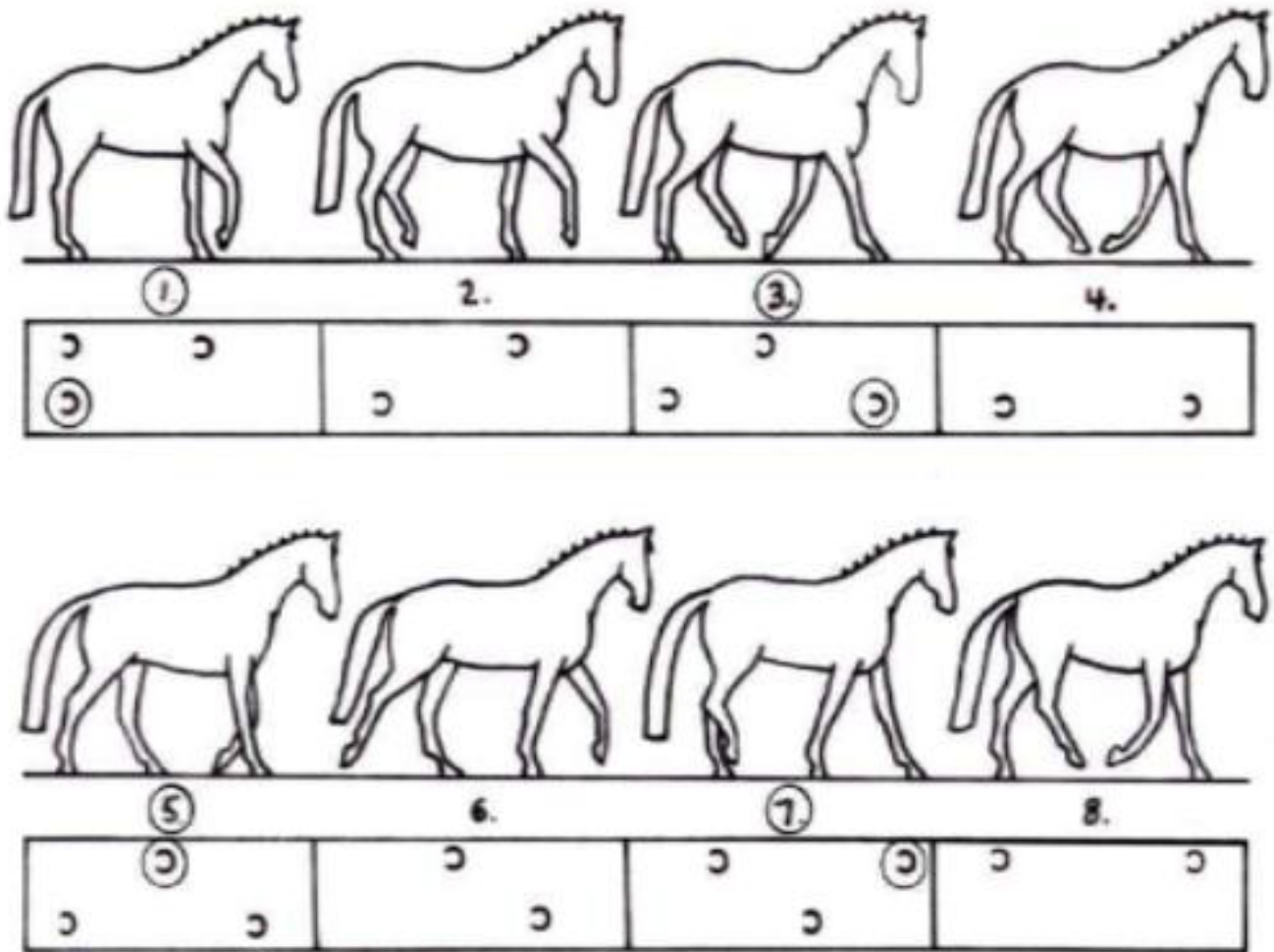
Collected Walk

The horse, remains "on the bit", moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The pace should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

Extended Walk

The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the footprints of the fore feet. The athlete allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.

The Walk



Free Walk

The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck. The degree of ground cover and length of strides, with hind feet stepping clearly in front of the footprints of the front feet, are essential to the quality of the free walk.

Stretching on a Long Rein

- This exercise gives a clear impression of the thoroughness of the horse and proves its balance, suppleness, obedience and relaxation in order to execute the exercise stretching on a long rein correctly, the athlete must lengthen the reins as the horse stretches gradually forward and downward
- As the neck stretches forward and downwards, the mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- An elastic and consistent contact with the athlete's hands must be maintained
- The pace must maintain its rhythm, and the horse should remain light in the shoulders with the hindlegs well engaged
- During the retake of the reins the horse must accept the contact without resistance in the mouth or poll.

The Trot

- The trot is a two-beat pace of alternate diagonal legs (near left fore and right hind leg together and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension
- The trot should show free, active and regular steps
- The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and elasticity of the steps, the cadence and impulsion in both collection and extension. This quality originates from a supple back and well engaged hindquarters, and by the ability to maintain the same rhythm and natural balance within all variations of trot
- All trot-work is executed sitting, unless otherwise indicated in the test concerned
- The following trots are recognised – Working, Lengthening of Steps, Collected, Medium, Extended

Working Trot

This is a pace between collected and medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse, shows proper balance and, remaining "on the bit", goes forward with even elastic steps and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

Collected Trot

The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. The horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

Medium Trot

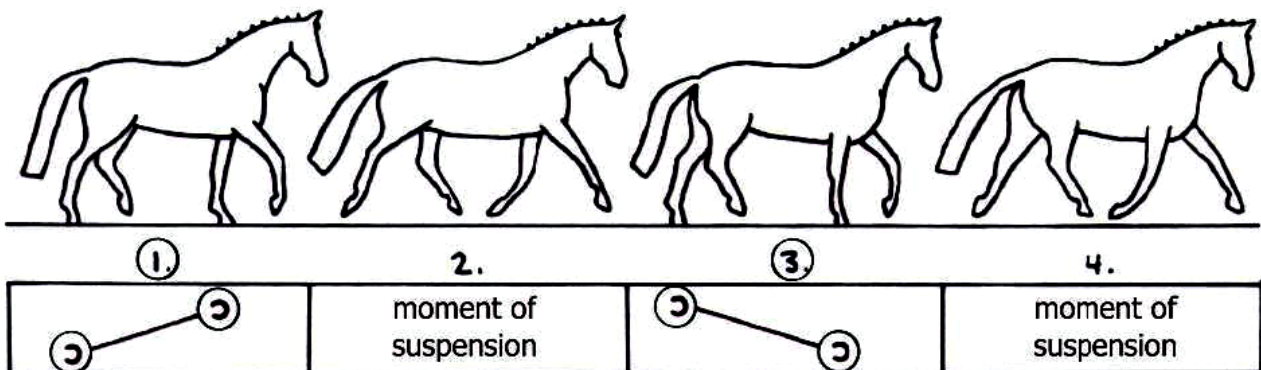
This is a pace of moderate lengthening compared to extended trot, but „rounder“ than the latter. Without hurrying the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps and with impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot, and to lower the head and neck slightly. The steps should be even, and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

Extended Trot

The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying the steps are lengthened to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll, and to gain ground. The fore feet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should reach equally forward in the moment of the extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

Lengthening of Steps

This is a variation between the working and medium trot in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium trot



The Canter

- The canter is a three-beat pace where, in canter to the right the footfalls are as follows: left hind, left diagonal (simultaneously left fore and right hind), right fore, followed by a moment of suspension with all four feet in the air before the next stride begins
- The canter, always with light, cadenced and regular strides, should be moved into without hesitation
- The quality of the canter is judged by the general impression, i.e. the regularity and lightness of the steps and the uphill tendency and cadence originating from the acceptance of the bridle with a supple poll and in the engagement of the hindquarters with an active hock action – and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and a natural balance, even after a transition from one canter to another. The horse should always remain straight on straight lines and correctly bent on curved lines
- The following canters are recognised – Working, Lengthened Strides, Collected, Medium, Extended including Counter Canter, Simple Change of Leg and Flying Change of Leg

Working Canter

This is a pace between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while, remaining "on the bit", and goes forward with even, light and active strides and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

Collected Canter

The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with its neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well engaged, maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility thus demonstrating complete self-carriage and an uphill tendency. The horse's strides are shorter than in the other canters, without losing elasticity and cadence.

Medium Canter

This is a pace between working and extended canter. Without hurrying the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened strides and impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than in the collected and working canter and at the same time allows him to lower the head and neck slightly. The strides should be balanced and unconstrained.

Extended Canter

The horse covers as much ground as possible. Without hurrying, the strides are lengthened to the utmost. The horse remains calm, light and straight as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The athlete allows the horse to lengthen the frame with a controlled poll and to gain ground. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transitions to collected canter should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters.

Lengthening of Strides

In the national (EA) Novice tests and the test for four-year-old horses "lengthening of strides" is required. This is a variation between the working and medium canter in which a horse's training is not developed enough for medium canter.

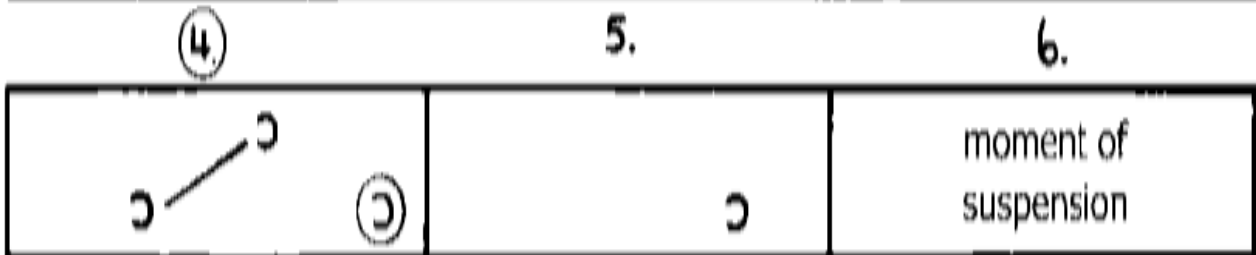
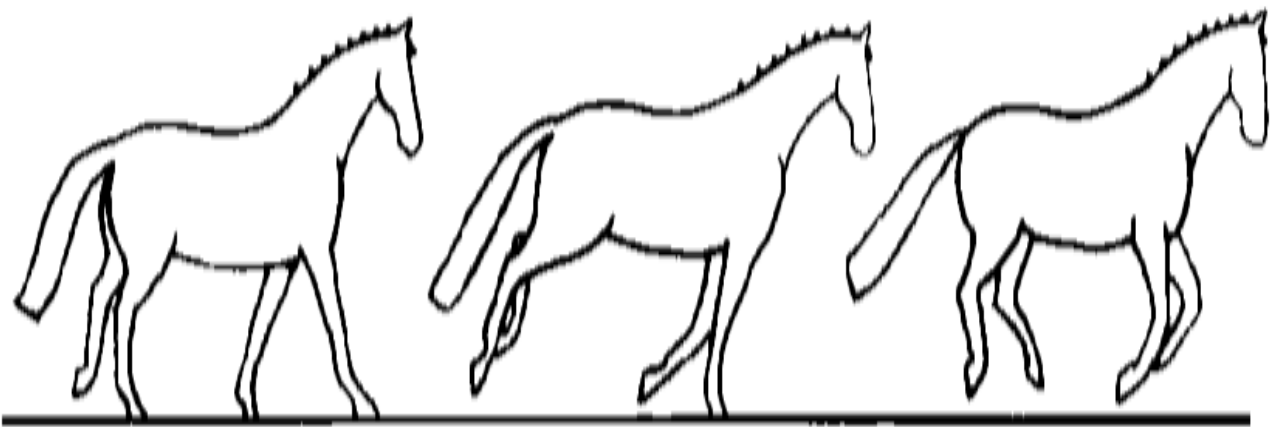
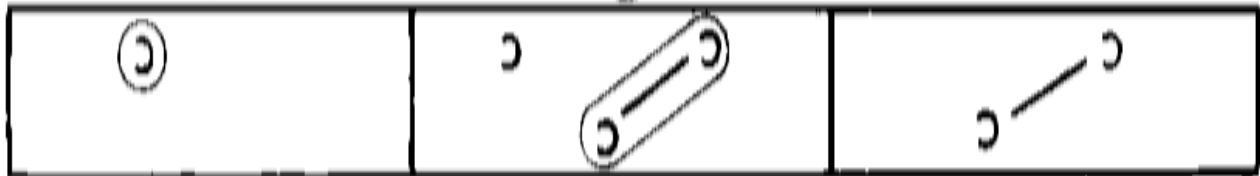
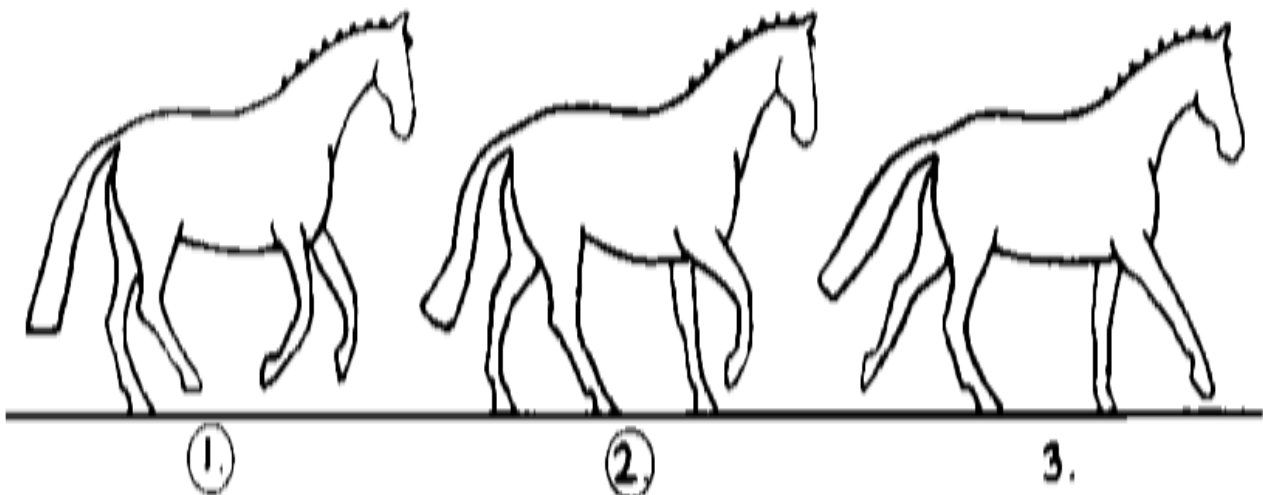
Counter-Canter

The counter-canter is a balancing and straightening movement that must be executed in collection. The horse canters in correct sequence with the outside foreleg leading with positioning to the side of the leading leg. The foreleg should be aligned to the same track as the hindleg.

Simple Change of Leg at the Canter

This is a movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with three to five clearly defined walk steps, a transition is made into the other canter lead.

The canter is a pace in three beat rhythm with six phases



The Rein-Back

- The rein-back is a rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension.
- Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hindlegs
- During the entire exercise, the horse, should remain "on the bit", maintaining its desire to move forward
- Anticipation or precipitation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging forefeet are serious faults
- The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back
- After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square halt, or move forward in the required pace immediately
- In tests where a rein back of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps
- Rein back series (Schaukel or see-saw) is a combination of two rein-backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps

The Transitions

- The changes of pace and variations within the paces should be exactly performed at the prescribed marker.
- The cadence (except in walk) should be maintained up to the moment when the pace or movement is changed or the horse halts.
- Transitions within the pace must be clearly defined whilst maintaining the same rhythm and cadence throughout.
- The horse should remain light in hand, calm and maintain a correct position.
- The same applies to transitions from one movement to another, for instance from the passage to the piaffe and vice-versa.

The Half-Halts

Every movement or transition should be invisibly prepared by barely perceptible half-halts. The half-halt is an almost simultaneous, coordinated action of the seat, the legs and the hand of the athlete, with the object of increasing the attention and balance of the horse before the execution of the movements or transitions to lower and higher paces. In shifting slightly more weight onto the horse's hindquarters, the engagement of the hind legs and the balance on the haunches are improved for the benefit of the lightness of the forehand and the horse's balance as a whole.

Changes of Directions

- At changes of direction, the horse should adjust the bend of its body to the curvature of the line it follows, remaining supple and following the indications of the athlete, without any resistance or change of pace, rhythm or speed
- Changes of direction can be executed in the following ways:
 - ❖ ⤵ right angle turns including riding through the corner (one quarter of a volte of approx 6m diameter)
 - ❖ ⤵ short and long diagonal
 - ❖ ⤵ half-voltes and half-circles, with changes of rein
 - ❖ ⤵ half-pirouettes and turn on the haunches
 - ❖ ⤵ serpentine loops