



Middle California Region

HB Study Guide



The HB, C3, B, H/HA and A Ratings are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the earlier ratings. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen, active and contributing members of USPC, who participate in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all levels.

The HB Rating, a non-riding rating, covers Horse Management knowledge that demonstrates increasing knowledge and competence in the care and handling of horses.

Pony Club members may choose to follow one or all of three riding tracks. They are: Traditional Eventing, Show Jumping or Dressage.

The C3 Rating reflects a basis of competence in riding and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. If the C3 riding test is passed before the HB, the member becomes a C+.

The B Rating is for the active horseman and Pony Club member who is interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts with confidence and control. The B should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced mount, maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and to contribute to the education of younger Pony Club members.

The A Rating, the highest rating, is divided into two parts: the H/HA, which covers horse management, teaching and training and the A, which tests the riding phase. The H/HA has the knowledge, experience and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances, and to teach riding and horse care to others. The A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling with judgment, tact and effectiveness; to train young mounts; and to retrain spoiled mounts.

How to use the Study Guide:

The **HB Study Guide** reviews the Horse Management Expectations you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to answer the questions you will be asked at your HB test. Be as thorough as possible with your answers! Then before your rating, review the HB Standard and the test sheet -- then review *completed* Study Guide. You are certain to have a successful rating!

When you are done with the rating, keep your Study Guides. They will help you prepare for the next rating, rally or even your next lesson plan!

Best of luck on your rating!

Testing Information for National Testings Requirements for Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined in club policy, having paid local, regional and National dues and fees for at least the current and preceding years.
- Have a record of regular attendance and participation.
- Be at least 13 years of age prior to January 1 of the year of application for the HB and C3, 14 for the B, 16 for the H/HA and A.
- Be recommended by the District Commissioner and Regional Supervisor.
- Candidates may take the HB or C3 Riding test in whichever order they choose. If the C3 Riding test is taken first, the C3 Certificate is not awarded until completion of the HB; candidate is recognized as a C+ until that time.
- Fulfill the active participation criteria set by the region.
- Compete in at least one mounted rally on a mounted or unmounted basis.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements for the ratings and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.

Attire

- Safe, working attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts.
- Proper informal attire (boots and breeches) is required for teaching mounted lessons, longeing, and riding phases. Refer to USPC Horse Management Handbook, USPC Rules for Eventing, and USPC Manuals of Horsemanship, Volume I, II and III.
- ASTM/SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn.

Equipment

- Saddlery and bitting for USPC Testings should comply with the Horse Management General Rule on Saddlery and Bitting and with the USPC Eventing Rules for Saddlery and Bitting.
- Be able to discuss equipment used on own mount.
- Whips, no longer than 43 inches including lash, will be allowed in the flat section of testings.
- Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

General

- There are no waiting periods between the HB/C3 through A ratings, as long as all applications are submitted by the Application Deadline. However, candidates must successfully pass all sections of the HB before obtaining the C3 (if they pass the riding test first, they are called C+ members until they pass the HB).
- Test dates are established by the National Testing Committee in response to Regional requests. Candidate applications must be made through the District Commissioner and Regional Supervisor. Candidates may apply for the date of their choice, but those living within the host Region will be given priority.
- Information on testing dates, sites and equipment needed may be obtained from the District Commissioner, Regional Supervisor, the USPC Web site, or the National Office.
- Testing applications, USPC medical release, and club check for the test fee, must be mailed by the DC to the RS. Except in the case of HB/C3 tests being facilitated by a Region, the RS must forward all completed application materials (with required signatures) to USPC National Office postmarked by the Application Deadline.

Horse Management Expectations

Candidates should be competent and must demonstrate sound judgment and maturity in the continuing care of their mounts and equipment. Candidates should understand reasons for their decisions and know when to seek assistance, if necessary. They must show, through discussion and demonstration, knowledge of veterinary care and teaching principles. Candidates should have the ability to explain stable and veterinary routines to D-level Pony Club members.

Tack

Identify the three basic bit categories: snaffle, pelham and curb. Demonstrate their action.

- Describe basic actions of a snaffle:

- Describe basic actions of a curb:

- Describe basic actions of a pelham:

Identify *different types* of bridles, nosebands, saddles, pads, girths, martingales, breastplates, cruppers and boots.

Bridles: List different types, their purpose and their correct fit.

Saddles: List different types, their purpose and their correct fit.

1.

2.

3.

Saddle pads: List different types, their purpose and their correct fit.

Girths: List different types, their purpose and their correct fit.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Martingales: List different types, their purpose and their correct fit.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Breastplate and crupper: Discuss their purposes and their correct fit.

Boots: List different types of boots used on a horse, their purpose and their correct fit.

1.

2.

3.

Fit a snaffle bridle.

Describe how to fit a snaffle bridle:

Conditioning

Discuss how to prepare a horse to be conditioned for activity of choice.

Methods of conditioning for various activities:

Activity 1: _____

Conditioning method:

Activity 2: _____

Conditioning method:

Activity 3: _____

Conditioning method:

Present a conditioning schedule of 8 weeks preparing a horse for a stated activity or competition (Pony Club or otherwise). In addition, you may present your record of daily riding.

Demonstrate how to take a horse's temperature, pulse and respiration. Discuss what they should be at rest, at work and in recovery.

Respiration & pulse at rest:

Respiration & pulse after work:

Other vital signs:

Nutrition

Relate feeding principles and their effect on the mount's digestive system.

Discuss the 6 classes of nutrients needed by mount, why they are needed, and primary sources.

1. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

2. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

3. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

4. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

5. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

6. Nutrient & primary source:
Why is it needed?

Evaluate samples of hay, grain, and bedding for suitability and safety.

Evaluate, identify and describe different **hays** as to suitability and safety:

Evaluate, identify and describe different **grains** as to suitability and safety:

Evaluate, identify and describe different **bedding** as to suitability and safety:

Evaluate, identify and describe different **supplements** as to suitability and safety:

For your area, know availability, cost, and origin of feed.

Hay availability:

Cost:

Origin:

Grain availability:

Cost:

Origin:

List any supplements given to own mount and reasons for their use.

- List and discuss the nutritive value of your own horses' supplements:

- Reasons for use:

Identify three out of five examples/pictures of toxic plants in your area. Explain when they are most toxic, what parts are toxic and general symptoms of poisoning which would indicate a need to call the veterinarian i.e. change in temperature, pulse and respiration.

- Name & description of plant:
When most toxic: Parts most toxic:
Symptoms of poisoning:

- Name & description of plant:
When most toxic: Parts most toxic:
Symptoms of poisoning:

- Name & description of plant:
When most toxic: Parts most toxic:
Symptoms of poisoning:

- Name & description of plant:
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Symptoms of poisoning:

- Name & description of plant:
When most toxic: Parts most toxic:
Symptoms of poisoning:

Discuss preparation of mount for safe, comfortable travel for short and long distances.

Short distances:

Long distances:

Discuss preparation and checklist for vehicle and trailer safety.

Vehicle and trailer safety checklist:

Conformation and Lameness

Identify the anatomy of the front and hind leg from shoulder and hip down, to include principal bones, tendons and ligaments (study an anatomical illustration).

- List principal bones of front leg:

- Tendons of front leg:

- Ligaments of front leg:

- List principal bones of hind leg:

- Tendons of hind leg:

- Ligaments of hind leg:

Discuss both good and bad points of conformation of mount being presented and how they relate to long-term soundness.

- Discuss **good conformation points** of horse:

- Discuss the **not so good conformation points** of horse:

- Discuss how good conformation relates to long term soundness of the mount:

Discuss *conformation of the mount* as it relates to interfering, overreaching, forging, brushing, paddling and winging.

- interfering:

- overreaching:

- forging:

- paddling:

- winging:

Know what *conformation points might contribute* to the blemishes or unsoundnesses listed. Also, discuss the following *common causes of listed lameness, giving location and inner structure involved*: bog and bone spavins, bowed tendon, bucked shins, corns, cracks, curb, navicular, osselets, ringbone, sidebone, splints, suspensory problems, thoroughpins.

- **bog spavin:**

- **bone spavin:**

- **bowed tendon:**

- **bucked shins:**

- **corns:**

- **cracks:**

- **curb:**

- **navicular:**

- **sidebone:**

- **ringbone:**

- **splints:**

- **osselets:**

- **suspensory problems:**

- **thoroughpins:**

Discuss teeth to include: concept that teeth grow continuously, and baby teeth replaced by permanent; location of incisors and molars; number of teeth (male and female).

Number of teeth:

Male:

Female:

Molars:

Premolars:

Canines:

Wolf Teeth:

Incisors:

How teeth grow:

When are baby teeth replaced by permanent teeth?

Location of incisors & molars. Draw diagram here:

Discuss in depth your annual immunization and parasite prevention schedules for your horse in your record book.

- List your annual **parasite prevention schedule:**

Discuss the simple life cycle and damage caused by the following internal parasites: bots, ascarids, small and large strongyles, pinworms and tapeworms.

- Bots:

- Ascarids:

- Small strongyles:

- Large strongyles:

- Pinworms:

- Tapeworms:

Discuss signs of mount in distress (including vital signs) and care needed.

What are signs of a mount in distress?

Care needed?

Discuss how diseases are spread and what preventive measures can be taken to lessen the spread of a disease for stabled and pastured mounts.

Stabled Mounts:

Pastured Mounts:

Discuss causes, signs and symptoms and preventive measures for colic, laminitis/founder, azoturia/tying up, flu, strangles, tetanus, encephalomyelitis, rhinopneumonitis, heaves, choking, skin and tooth problems, West Nile virus, and rabies, and care needed.

- Colic:

- Laminitis/founder:

- Azoturia/tying up:

- Influenza:

- Strangles:

- Tetanus:

- Encephalomyelitis:

- Rhinopneumonitis:

- Heaves:

- Choking:

- Skin and tooth problems:

- West Nile Virus:

- Rabies:

Teaching

- **Teach unmounted lesson of choice at D-2 – C-1 Standard, to D-1 – D-3 Pony Club members (limit 10 minutes).**
- **Present two 20-minute written lesson plans, one for flat work and one for jumping, up to C-1 Standard.**
- **Discuss how to do a safety check and other safety aspects of teaching.**
- **Candidate must bring a letter from DC stating that he/she is assisting in simple mounted lessons at the D and up to C-1 level with supervision.**
- **A minimum of six hours teaching prior to the test is suggested.**

Foot & Shoeing

Identify the principal outer and inner structures of the foot and their function.

Describe the principal structures of the foot and their functions:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 8. |
| 2. | 9. |
| 3. | 10. |
| 4. | 11. |
| 5. | 12. |
| 6. | 13. |
| 7. | |

Identify basic farrier tools.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

With tools, imitate how to remove a shoe.

Describe how to remove a shoe:

Identify common types of shoes, two materials they are made of, widths, and common features such as fullered grooves, heels, clips, concave surface, bar features and studs.

Types of shoes:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

Materials:

- 1.
- 2.

Common features:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |