



# PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA



## CERTIFICATE PROFICIENCY COMPETENCE EXPLAINED

The purpose of assessment is to view evidence that the performance of a syllabus requirement shows competence.

Assessors of PCA Proficiency certificates are not assessing to compare each rider. There will always be some riders who will show their skill at a high level whilst another candidate might be moderate. In Pony Club assessing, we are using standard-referenced assessment which means we assess candidates through comparison with standards set. Therefore, so long as the evidence (see table below) shown by the candidate really does demonstrate the required standard, then that person is considered competent.

It is important that assessment is always based on clearly defined processes and specific standards (PCA Syllabus of Instruction) rather than on opinions and feelings. Assessors must avoid being too critical.

Candidates may show evidence of competence through the following ways:

- Evidence of real work
- Evidence of written work
- Oral response evidence

This evidence can be:

- Direct – skills/submissions that assessor observes first-hand
- Indirect – skills/submissions that someone else has observed and reported to the assessor
- Supplementary – other ways performance can be shown such as through training records (rider diary), questioning rider, videos, written work, portfolios.

**RULES OF EVIDENCE** – use this universally accepted table as a guide when collecting evidence of candidate competence.

| Rule       | Evidence must...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Valid      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Address the requirements and performance criteria</li><li>- Reflect the skills, knowledge and context described in the competency standard</li><li>- Demonstrate the skills and knowledge are applied in real or simulated equestrian situations</li></ul>    |
| Current    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Demonstrate the candidate's current skills and knowledge</li><li>- Comply with current PCA standards</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| Sufficient | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Demonstrate competence over a period of time</li><li>- Demonstrate competence that is able to be repeated</li><li>- Comply with language, literacy and numeracy levels which match those required by the skill/certificate requirement (not beyond)</li></ul> |
| Authentic  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be the work of the candidate</li><li>- Be able to be verified as genuine</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                            |