

# D\* Proficiency Certificate

## PCV Assessor Marking Sheet

The D\* Certificate can be assessed by an assessor/coach within the Club.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate all the D Certificate requirements, plus the following, in order to qualify for the D\* Certificate.

<b>RIDER</b>		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	
<b>CLUB/CENTRE</b>		<b>VENUE</b>	
<b>EXAMINER</b>		<b>DATE</b>	

OVERALL RESULT		
	COMPETENT (Y/N)	COMMENT
<i>RIDER'S TOOL KIT</i>		
<i>ON THE GROUND</i>		
<i>IN THE SADDLE</i>		
<i>HORSE MANAGEMENT</i>		
<i>RESULT OVERALL</i>		

PRESENTATION		
	(YES/NO)	COMMENT
Rider in clean, tidy, formal Pony Club uniform; <i>boots must be clean, uniform clean and tidy.</i>		
Horse to be tidy; <i>no mud or sweat, saddlery clean and well fitting.</i>		
Punctuality, courtesy, overall impression		

RIDER'S TOOL KIT		
REQUIREMENTS (per page 7 of Syllabus)	(YES/NO)	COMMENT
Rider understands and recognises the flight response <i>candidate can give examples of flight response; bolting, bucking, shying, rushing at fences and understands why these might occur.</i>		
Rider can understand and explain pressure-release, reward training and punishment and habituation <i>candidate to understand how/where their own horse likes to be</i>		



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<i>rewarded, why it's best to avoid punishment and the amount of pressure used to give an aid. Understand habituation 'getting used to' and provide examples in the horse's environment.</i>		
OVERALL IMPRESSION		

ON THE GROUND (GROUND WORK)		
REQUIREMENTS (per page 7 of Syllabus)	(YES/NO)	COMMENT
Rider knows the following foundation responses: stop, slow, go forward, turn the shoulders left and right  <i>Stop; apply pressure on lead towards the horse's chest. Slow; apply lighter version of the stop aid. Go; apply pressure on the lead in a forward direction. Step back; candidate to stand in front of horse's left shoulder, facing him. Apply pressure on lead or rein toward the horse's chest. Always release pressure as soon as horse gives correct response.</i>		
Complete a basic groundwork dressage test ( <i>see final pages of assessment sheet</i> )		
OVERALL IMPRESSION		

IN THE SADDLE (RIDDEN COMPONENT)		
REQUIREMENTS (per page 7 of Syllabus)	(YES/NO)	COMMENT
Understand the correct fitting of a noseband <i>two fingers can go between the noseband and the horse's nose or know how to use a taper gauge.</i>		
Saddle and bridle a horse <i>candidate to saddle and bridle with assistance if required. Understand how to check girth firmness. Understand to check for wear and tear.</i>		
Be developing a correct riding position <i>arms hanging down relaxed, elbows slightly bent, feet pointing forward, relaxed legs, stirrup under ball of foot, heels level or slightly lower than toes.</i>		
Stop with accuracy <i>apply light (mildly annoying) pressure to both reins, release immediately as the horse stops.</i>		
Demonstrate clear downward and upward transitions <i>between halt, walk, trot and canter.</i>		
Demonstrate correct turns and riding in straight lines (between two points)		
Show developing/established correct diagonals <i>candidate to change diagonal on command.</i>		



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Demonstrate canter in an enclosed arena		
Ride a simple dressage test <i>(see final pages of assessment sheet)</i>		
Know and discuss some mounted games <i>mug shuffle, sack race, bending or stepping-stones for example.</i>		
Be able to explain the concept of self-carriage <i>Rider to make loops in the reins, horse to keep same speed (tempo).</i>		
Know how to ride on the road <i>riding on left side, trot speed or slower, never at night, high visibility/reflective clothing, hand signals, experienced horse closest to traffic, stay together.</i>		
Demonstrate crest release <i>Rider to show they can move hands smoothly 1/3 up horses' neck when horse is in the air.</i>		
Walk and trot over poles in balanced seat <i>candidate to demonstrate independence at all times.</i>		
Negotiate small jumps (height and width 45cm) <i>candidate to maintain rhythm, tempo and line (may hold neck strap or mane if necessary).</i>		
OVERALL IMPRESSION		

HORSE MANAGEMENT		
REQUIREMENTS (per page 8 of Syllabus)	(YES/NO)	COMMENT
Understand the Five Freedoms of horse welfare <i>freedom from: hunger and thirst; discomfort; pain injury and disease; to express natural behaviour; fear and distress.</i>		
Know the 30 parts of the horse <i>Forelock, forehead, eye, muzzle, nostril, shoulder, neck, knee, fetlock, hoof, hock, flank, tail, rump, loins, back, wither, mane, crest, ears, ribs, dock, hip, stifle, coronet, pastern, cheek, elbow, throat, muzzle.</i>		
Demonstrate the correct way to brush a tail <i>explain care taken to avoid the tail thinning.</i>		
Know four parts of the hoof <i>explain where the wall, frog, sole and heels are located.</i>		
Discuss correct hoof management practices <i>daily care and maintenance of the horse's hooves.</i>		
Know feeding and living conditions and the daily horse checklist <i>Candidate to describe daily water, fencing, pasture, gates, rug, and horse requirements.</i>		
Know the signs of a healthy horse <i>alert, clear/bright eyes, good weight/body condition, cool legs, shiny coat, temperature, appetite, hooves, clear nostrils.</i>		

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Describe four common illnesses and minor injuries <i>girth gall, cold, colic, laminitis.</i>		
Discuss correct management of saddlery <i>stitching, wet gear.</i>		
Identify 9 parts of the saddle and 6 parts of the bridle <i>Stirrups, pommel, leathers, seat, cantle, waist, gullet, sweat flaps, bit, reins, cheek strap, brow band, nose band, throat lash.</i>		
<b>OVERALL IMPRESSION</b> Candidate's safety, knowledge and proficiency.		

ASSESSMENT DETAILS	
EXAMINER (PRINT NAME)	
EXAMINER (SIGNATURE)	

This sheet is to be handed in to the Club Secretary and will be given to the candidate in due course.

- The results are to be filled in on the separate PCA Summary Assessment Report (download from <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/certificate-assessments/>) and emailed to State Office [membership@ponyclubvic.org.au](mailto:membership@ponyclubvic.org.au) and Pony Club Australia [info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au) (Put 'Certificate Assessments' in the Subject)
- Pony Club Australia certificates and disks are available from the Pony Club Victoria Shop <https://pony-club-victoria.myshopify.com/>

Here is a simple ground work dressage test for more practice.

**A** Enter in a steady walk

At **D**, halt for three seconds. Step the horse back (two front steps). Continue in walk

At **L**, walk a 10m circle to the left and then a 10m circle to the right, returning to **L**

At **X** track left, at **E** turn left

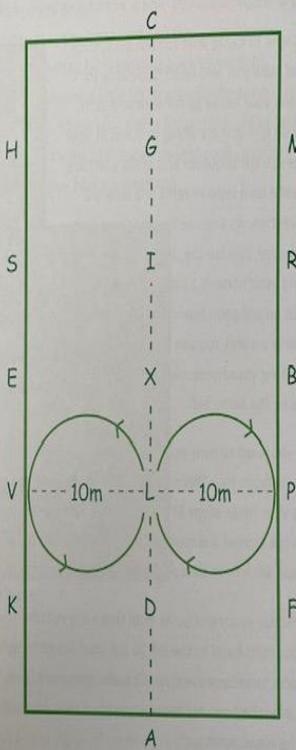
At **K**, turn left and lengthen the strides at a walk. Before **F** return to a normal, steady walk and at **F** turn right

At **A**, turn up the centreline. Between **D** and **L** show slow strides. Return to normal walk and halt at **X**

Turn right and leave the arena at a steady walk.

Give yourself good marks if you were able to keep the horse straight on the centre line and were able to halt and step back from light signals. If you struggled to stop or turn the horse, go back and practise the exercises in the stop and turn section of this manual.

If you forgot your dressage test – don't worry, even the best riders forget their tests sometimes!

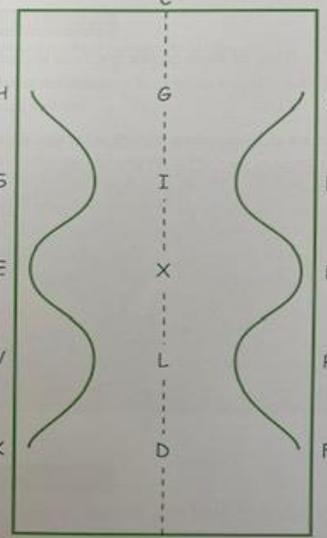


Dressage arena.

<b>A</b>	Enter in walk
<b>X</b>	Trot
<b>C</b>	Turn left
<b>H</b>	Faster trot
<b>E</b>	Slower trot
<b>KA</b>	Slowest trot
<b>A</b>	Normal trot
<b>A</b>	Canter a 20m circle, left rein. Start to canter in the first half of the 20m circle
<b>A</b>	Trot
<b>FXH</b>	Change the rein across the diagonal with a small loop in the rein as you pass <b>X</b> , checking that your horse does not change tempo or lose line
<b>C</b>	Canter a 20m circle right rein. Start the canter in the first half of the 20m circle
<b>C</b>	Trot
<b>MF</b>	Ride two small loops (approximately 5m from outside track)
<b>KXM</b>	Change the rein across the diagonal with a small loop in the rein as you pass <b>X</b> , checking that your horse does not change tempo or lose line
<b>HK</b>	Ride two small loops (approximately 5m from outside track)
<b>K</b>	Walk
<b>A</b>	Turn up centre line in free walk. Before <b>X</b> gather your reins
<b>X</b>	Halt and immobility for 4 seconds

Smile and reward your horse with a neck scratch.

Walk forwards into a wide turn (either rein) and leave the arena in a free walk on a long rein.



Dressage arena.