



LEARN TO RIDE – WESTERN

ADDENDUM TO THE WESTERN INTERMEDIATE RIDER COURSE MANUAL

NEW: Basic Training Certificate (update to the General Component section)

The General Component section of the Intermediate Rider Manual is renamed ‘Basic Training’. A passing mark in the Basic Training rider exam is a pre-requisite to the new Western Competition Coach certificate.

The following required material for Basic Training is in addition to and embellishes, what is currently found in the Western Intermediate Rider Course manual, General Component section.

Rider 1 – 4 teaches the rider to execute the basic rider skills. This next stage of development requires the rider to understand, explain and demonstrate training methods to teach a horse these skills. Knowledge of various training exercises will be needed to choose the appropriate one for a horse depending on its age, temperament, training level or breed. In addition to a written exam, the following three elements will be part of an assessment:

1. Freestyle Pattern

During a 15 minute (plus or minus) warm up, a progression through transitions and maneuvers will be ridden to show an effective preparation to present a freestyle pattern of 4 minutes maximum duration. The warm up and pattern will be ridden in two hands.

The compulsory gaits and maneuvers are, as in Rider 4:

1. At least three circles to the right and three circles to the left at the lope
2. Change of size and speed of lope circles in both directions
3. Simple lead changes in both directions – may be on a straight line or between circles
4. Rising trot with changes of diagonal in each direction
5. Turn on the forehand, turn on the haunches, side pass, and two track at the jog, all in both directions
6. Jog, stop, back up
7. At least one transition from lope to stop, and one from walk to lope

The candidate will be asked to analyse the performance, as well as, answer questions from the assessor regarding technical knowledge. Topics may include collection, lateral work, supplying and balancing exercises, the pattern maneuvers, and warm up procedures. Assessment will be based on correctness of components, smoothness and understanding.

2. Riding on the Rail

A rail work assessment will follow the freestyle pattern. This section will show the rider’s ability to prepare a horse to be ridden on the rail with one hand in a horsemanship frame.

A five minute (plus or minus) warm up will be given. The rider will demonstrate upward and downward transitions, circles and any other exercises that may be required to prepare the horse. Two hands may be used if needed, to be more effective while correcting.



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The candidate will be assessed in one hand at the walk, jog and lope in both directions and a stop and back. Emphasis will be placed on effectiveness of aids, collection, smoothness, quality of upward and downward transitions, speed control and rider position.

The candidate will be asked to analyse the ride and give training solutions for improvements.

3. Problem Solving

Plus or minus five minutes will be used to simulate a training session. The rider will be asked to explain and demonstrate how to solve a problem encountered during the pattern or rail work, or improve a movement such as a lateral maneuver, collection or transition. This work will be done in two hands. The assessor will choose the topic. Assessment will be based on the problem solving technique or exercise and effectiveness.