



INSTRUCTORS' SYLLABUS (January 2008)

LEVEL 1

A Level 1 instructor is assumed to be an Assistant Instructor, working under the direct or indirect supervision of a more highly qualified instructor/trainer. A Level 1 instructor is expected to be able to teach basic western riding skills to novice riders on trained horses on a one-to-one basis e.g. In a riding school situation

Requirements

At Level 1, an instructor must be able to demonstrate the ability to teach the following:

- How to tack up safely and ensure a correct fit of tack, including saddle, cinches and breast-plates, bridle, bits and chin straps, protective boots when appropriate
- Mounting properly from the ground and from a mounting block
- Assuming a correct position in the saddle, adjusting stirrups to the correct length, holding reins correctly whether 2-handed or 1-handed
- How to warm up in preparation for lesson work
- Effective directional control while mounted
- Walk, jog and lope on the correct lead
- Bringing the horse to a controlled stop and backing up
- Footfalls of the horse in each gait and in back-up
- How to warm down the horse at the end of the lesson
- Dismounting properly
- Safe leading of the horse
- How to untack safely

A Level 1 instructor must also demonstrate awareness of the following:

- The need to make sure that the lesson environment is safe for both riders and horses
- The need to ensure that tack is properly fitted and secured, with riders' safety and the horses' comfort in mind, before the lesson begins and throughout the lesson
- The need to ensure that riders are properly attired with heeled boots, hats or hard hats, where legally required, and properly fitted spurs when appropriate
- The need to be aware of any medical conditions which may affect riders' or horses' safety/performance and to ask students to fill in the appropriate notification forms

Assessment

Assessment will be on an individual basis. The candidate will be assessed while teaching a lesson to 1 rider (at a time).

With an emphasis on safety, assessors will examine the candidate's ability to teach, their clarity of explanation and reasoning and their ability to correct mistakes quickly and offer praise where appropriate.

LEVEL 2

A Level 2 instructor will be expected to have good theoretical and practical knowledge of all disciplines covered by WES and to be able to prepare students and horses for competition in all WES show classes at local / novice rider level. An instructor should be capable of teaching independently in one-to-one or group sessions. He/she should be a competent horseperson, capable of working with both trained and novice horses.

Requirements

At Level 2, an instructor must be able to demonstrate the ability to teach the required from Level 1 as well as the following:

- How to perform all the mandatory obstacles and manoeuvres for Showmanship, Pleasure, Trail and Horsemanship show classes
- How to work towards correct circling, smooth transitions and stopping from lope
- Body control, hip control, use of appropriate suppling techniques (for example, direct and indirect bend, travers or two-tracking, etc)
- How to work towards lead changes
- How to correctly fit and use ancillary equipment and training aids when appropriate
- How to lunge and/or work in the round pen safely and effectively (if appropriate)

Assessment

The candidate will be assessed while teaching a group lesson of 2 or more riders for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour and an individual lesson with 1 rider for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. He/she will also be expected to ride a horse for approximately 15 minutes, demonstrating walk, jog, lope, transitions, stop and lateral movements. In addition, the candidate will be given a brief open-book WES Rule test.

LEVEL 3

An experienced instructor, who has demonstrated a high degree of practical ability and depth of theoretical knowledge in at least 2 specialist modules*. A level 3 instructor will be of a satisfactory standard in order to prepare horses and riders at National Championship level.

Requirements

At Level 3, an instructor must have been successfully assessed at Levels 1 and 2 **plus** they will be required to pass at least **2 specialist modules***.

It is unlikely that a candidate who has been professionally teaching / training for less than 3 years will have the necessary depth of experience required for level 3. Level 3 instructors will also be expected to satisfactorily complete a WES Judges' open Rule Book test every year.

*** Specialist Modules:**

Training the Horse and Rider for Western Pleasure

Training the Horse and Rider for Western Trail

Training the Horse and Rider for Western Showmanship & Horsemanship

Training the Horse and Rider for Western Riding

Training the Horse and Rider for Western Reining

Starting and Training the Young Horse

Assessment

Candidates for each of the specialist modules will be assessed while teaching a **discipline specific** group lesson / lecture / clinic for experienced riders (approx. 1 hour). He/she will also be asked to work with one or more of the students' horses (for 15 - 20 minutes) and offer a diagnostic appraisal of the animal's or animals' performance and correct or make suggestions for correcting anything unsatisfactory in that performance. In addition, he/she may be asked to demonstrate (for 20 minutes) using one or more of the students' horses, the performance (or work towards the performance) of the mandatory obstacles and manoeuvres relevant to the specialist discipline.

Exemptions

Instructors who have passed Level 1 & 2 Assessments and who wish to apply for Level 3 on the basis of extensive experience, may submit a "portfolio of evidence" which may be accepted in lieu of taking 1 or more module assessments. Examples of acceptable evidence may be:

- Proof of the candidate's own successful competitive performance over a period of time at national or international level. The candidate would be expected to supply the show record of at least 4 horses that they have trained or shown in order to demonstrate the depth of experience required for the specialist modules.
- Proof of the candidate's students' successful competitive performances over a period of time at national or international level. The candidate would be expected to supply the show record of at least 4 students in order to demonstrate the depth of experience required for the specialist modules.

LEVEL 4

An autonomous and highly experienced instructor, who has demonstrated a high degree of practical ability and a depth of theoretical knowledge in at least 5 specialist modules*.

Requirements

At Level 4, an instructor must have been successfully assessed at Levels 1 and 2 **plus** they will be required to pass at least **5 specialist modules***.

It is unlikely that a candidate who has been professionally teaching / training for less than 5 years will have the necessary depth of experience required for level 4.

Assessment and Exemptions will be as for Level 3,

LEVEL 5

Level 5 is an enhanced level, which may be awarded to those Level 4 instructors who have demonstrated a commitment to continuous professional development and equestrian excellence. Examples may include:

- Holding a recognised judge's card in more than one discipline
- With extensive international coaching experience
- With equivalent recognised qualifications (for example, UKCC level 5 qualification)
- International competition success