



The Alaska State 4-H Horse Advancement Levels Program

Information Guide for Members, Leaders and Parents

This guide is intended to assist 4-H members, leaders and parents in knowing what is expected of 4-H members when they want to progress through the Advancement Level Program. The tests in the program are designed to encourage members to strive for excellence at the riding level in which they are proficient. Questions not answered in this guide should be directed to each district's 4-H Horse Council or to the Alaska State 4-H Horse Development Committee.

Introduction and Purpose of the Advancement Level Program

The purpose of the 4-H equine program, including the Advancement Level Program, is the personal development of young people, using the horse as a tool to that end. The proper care and use of the animal is emphasized, with the goal being to develop self-discipline, patience, self-reliance, respect, responsibility and pride of accomplishment. Youth who master the skills and knowledge of the Advancement Level Program will be recognized as competent horsemen and horsewomen who will have developed qualities of character that will continue throughout their lives.

Each level of the program provides a measurement of a member's progress in horsemanship skills.

Level I emphasizes correct and safe principles of horse handling and riding. The rider's balance, correct seat and correct use of hands is stressed. The rider is developing independent aids and rides with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at all gaits, and demonstrates a knowledge of diagonals (in the English test) and leads.

Level II asks the rider to show confidence and control of the horse and demonstrate more advanced



horsemanship skills. The rider shows greater development of independent aids and a more secure seat and balance. He/she demonstrates knowledge and mastery of more complicated riding skills.

Level III asks the rider to show skills and abilities that reflect confidence and competence in handling horses. The rider demonstrates that he/she has experience in all phases of horsemanship. The rider shows good independence of aids, control of the horse in more complicated maneuvers and a basic understanding of riding theory.

Level IV riders must show knowledge, proficiency, skill, control and confidence in handling horses, and the horse and rider must show the ability to work as a team. The maneuvers asked for at this level require that the horse be well-schooled and that the rider demonstrate complete independence of aids and a deeper knowledge of riding theory.

Progressing Through the Levels

Progress through the levels of the program will depend on each individual's maturity, interest and capabilities. The capabilities of the horse the member rides should also be considered. Patience is paramount, and progress is made only when the skills required for each level are mastered. There is no specific time period for progression through the levels. However, suggested maximum progression is one level per year (could take longer). To help youth develop further, parents, club leaders and instructors should be supportive and encourage those members who have mastered one level to move up to the next.

Caution should be exercised in advancing youth through the first two levels. Although the requirements appear simple, they constitute the basis for good habits of riding and working around horses with safety and confidence. The degree to which the skills of the lower levels have been mastered will be reflected in the more advanced levels.

Leaders, agents and parents should recognize that not every youth will desire to master all levels. By completing the first two levels, however, youth gain skills to ride and handle horses safely for general pleasure and lower-level show ring performance. For these reasons, all members enrolled in the horse program are strongly encouraged to complete the first two levels.

In Levels III and IV, training and using horses for skills that are beyond their capabilities of physical growth and maturity is discouraged. Therefore, 4-H requires a minimum age of four years for animals used in Advancement Levels III and IV.

Project Horses Used in the Advancement Level Program

In keeping with the requirements of the rest of the 4-H horse program, a member who wishes to advance through the levels must do so on his/her project horse. If the member wishes to ride different horses for the different disciplines (e.g., one horse for Western or dressage and a different horse for over fences work), all horses must be signed up as project horses for that member, with an Annual 4-H Horse Certification (AKH-00004) on file with the 4-H office.

Project horses must be either owned by or leased by the member or the member's family. (See *The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book*, AKH-00002.) A member who signs up multiple horses as project horses must keep a record book for each horse. If the horse is leased, a properly signed copy of the lease must be kept with the member's *Alaska State 4-H Horse Record Book*, AKH-00008.

Discipline Divisions of the Advancement Level Program

When progressing through the levels, a 4-H member may choose to pursue English, Western or both. Members may not skip levels or start the program with any level other than Level I. The Western levels consist of tests for Levels I through IV.

The English levels are slightly different. At Levels I, II and III, there are both "flat" tests (not requiring jumping) and over fences tests. If a member wishes to complete the over fences tests, he/she must pass the flat test for each level before attempting the over fences test for that level.

At Level III, the English tests branch out into three different areas: hunt seat flat/over fences, dressage and saddle seat. The member may choose to pursue one or all three disciplines.

Members completing a level in one division (English or Western), may decide to gain skills in a different division. However, members may not move laterally from one division to another or skip any tests. For example, if a member completes Level III Western, and then decides to train in dressage, he/she must begin with Level I English and proceed through the English levels to the dressage subsection.

Each riding test (except the over fences tests) has two sections: "Ground Handling" and "Under Saddle." In the last half of this guide, the elements of each section of each test are listed and guidelines are provided to help in understanding the expectations and requirements of the tests.

Advancement Level Program Divisions and Subsections

Western Levels

- I Beginner Stock Seat Equitation
- II Intermediate Stock Seat Equitation
- III Advanced Stock Seat Equitation
- IV Horsemaster Stock Seat Equitation

English Levels

- I Beginner Hunt Seat Equitation — Flat
- I Beginner Hunt Seat Equitation — Over Fences
- II Intermediate Hunt Seat Equitation — Flat
- II Intermediate Hunt Seat Equitation — Over Fences

Dressage

- III Advanced
- IV Horsemaster

Hunt Seat Equitation Flat/Over Fences

- III Advanced Hunt Seat Equitation — Flat
- III Advanced Hunt Seat Equitation — Over Fences
- IV Horsemaster Hunt Seat Equitation

Saddle Seat Equitation

- III Advanced
- IV Horsemaster



Administering the Advancement Level Tests

Written Tests

Each level requires the member to pass both a written and a riding test. If at all possible, the written test should be administered prior to the riding test. Written tests for Levels I and II may be administered by club leaders. Levels III and IV are to be administered by the 4-H office (winter is a good time to do this). The entire written test should be passed at one time. A score of 80 percent is required to pass the written tests. Only one written level test may be taken at any one time.

If a member fails to pass the test, he/she may retake it no sooner than two weeks. Members may review their scored tests to see how they did. However, the completed and scored tests are not to be retained by the members. They are to be returned to the 4-H office, where they will be retained in a file.

Reference materials for the written tests include the following 4-H manuals:

- *The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book for Shows and Activities* (AKH-00002)
- *Horse Industry Handbook* (American Youth Horse Council)
- *The 4-H Horse Project* (PNW 587)
- *4-H Horse Judging Manual* (PNW 575)
- *Hunt Seat & Jumper Manual* (PNW 488)
- *4-H Dressage Manual* (PNW 608)
- *Trail Riding* (Ohio State 4-H Bulletin 188)
- *4-H Colt and Horse Training Manual* (Oregon State University Extension Service)
- *Training Horses: Yearlings to Five-Year-Olds* (Washington State University Extension)

Additional references for Levels III and IV include veterinary manuals and United States Pony Club Manuals C, B, HA/A.

Riding Tests

The sections of the riding tests may be checked off as the member attains the skills. A member is not considered to have passed a level until the written and all elements of the riding tests are successfully completed. A member should be able to perform all of the skills of one level of the riding tests before moving on to the next level.

If a member cannot complete all the sections of a riding test at one testing opportunity, the test may be left "open," to be completed at a later date. However, the uncompleted elements may not be left open for more than three months, or from one riding season to the next. If no progress is made on the open elements in three months' time, the entire test has to be taken again.

The riding tests for Levels I and II may be administered by the club leader, if he/she feels qualified, or by a qualified instructor working with the members. Levels III and IV and the over fences tests for all levels are to be administered only by selected, qualified local examiners and/or by visiting 4-H judges from other states who are approved by each district's 4-H Horse Council. Examiners' qualifications are determined by each district's 4-H Horse Council. Arrangements for Level III, IV and the over fences tests to be administered must be made through each district's 4-H Horse Council. A member attempting the over fences test must have already completed all elements of the flat test for his/her respective skill level. The tests for Levels III, IV and the over fences tests may be administered by one examiner, but each district has the option to require more than one. If only one examiner is used, the district also has the option to require the presence of a steward, who acts as a rules interpreter and mediator between the examiner and others involved with administering the test.

Completed Tests

Completed tests, both written and riding, are to be turned in to the 4-H office. Each district horse council should keep records of them, either manually or in a computer database. The tests should then be archived in a file for future reference, e.g., for when the member enters the District Horse Show, changes clubs or moves to another city or state.

Standards of Proficiency

To assist members, leaders and parents in understanding the standards necessary to pass the advancement level riding tests, the following scoring system is to be used as a guide for marks given on the riding tests by the examiners. A passing mark for each element of the riding tests is at least an 8.

10–8 = maintaining skills consistently (Rider understands the concepts and consistently and skillfully accomplishes requirements.)

10 = excellent; extremely consistent position; brilliant performance of requirements

9 = very good; very correct, consistent position; very precise performance of requirements

8 = good; correct, consistent position; accurate performance of requirements

7–5 = developing skills, but not consistent (Rider understands the concepts, does not consistently accomplish requirements.)

4–1 = insufficient skills (Rider does not yet understand the concepts and/or possess the skills needed for the requirements.)

0 = element or skill not attempted or not performed

Note to examiners: Scores of 1–7 are provided as a gradient reference for the element being evaluated. However, any element scoring below 8 would be considered "open" (even though the examiner may score it) for the member to complete later, if it is determined that the member will not succeed on the initial attempt.

Members should practice the various skills required on the tests and be able to consistently perform the maneuvers before attempting the tests. However, examiners will keep in mind the unpredictable (and sometimes unwilling) nature of horses and will allow the member two or three attempts at a particular element before deciding that the member cannot accomplish the skill. The goal is success, but not at the expense of safety, correct riding skills or correct execution of a given maneuver.

Test examiners should note on the tests their reasons for giving the various marks. Their comments should be constructive and helpful, with a view to assisting the member to progress in his/her riding skills.

Tack, Attire and Attitude

Whether the member is riding Western or English, the correct tack and attire is expected. All tack used should be clean, in good, safe condition, and fit the horse properly. The horse should be properly groomed. The member should dress appropriately for the discipline, in clean, neat attire, as if going into a class at a horse show.

Tack and Attire: Please see the *Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book*, AKH-00002. All rules regarding tack and attire as outlined in the rule book apply to the advancement level tests. Questions should be directed to your 4-H club leader or the test examiner before beginning the test.

Attitude: The 4-H member should display good sportsmanship and be courteous and respectful to the test examiner according to the highest ideals of the 4-H program. The member should be careful of his/her speech and actions and never be abusive to the animal. The member or the member's family, leader or instructor may not argue with the test examiner or in any other way demonstrate a lack of respect. If participants and/or parents or leaders confront the examiner without following accepted procedures, the participant will be removed from any future testing. Subsequent behavior may result in removal from the 4-H program.

Requirements for the Various Levels of the Program

Written Tests

A member needs to pass only one written test per level, even if pursuing more than one discipline. However, at Level I, if a member wishes to do both English and Western, he/she needs to complete the pages on the test for both types of equipment. If he/she takes the test at one point in time and only completes one of the pages, e.g., the parts of the English saddle and bridle, then at a later date decides to



pursue Western, he/she must retake the entire test. So, if a member thinks he/she might want to do both disciplines, it is advantageous to learn both types of equipment and only take the test once, completing both pages.

At the other three levels, once a member has passed the written test, he/she does not have to retake the test when pursuing multiple disciplines.

Level I

The member must know the following points to pass the Level I written test:

1. Equipment

- Parts of a Western and/or English saddle and bridle
- Proper care and storage of equipment
- Proper use of grooming equipment

2. Feeding

- Common horse feeds
- Basic feeding management

3. Parts of the horse

4. Basic safety principles of working with horses

5. Basic health care

- Necessary vaccinations
- Normal pulse, respiration and temperature
- Basic hoof care

Level II

The member must know the following points to pass the Level II written test:

1. Equipment

- a. Types and uses of bits
- b. Uses of different pieces of equipment (both English and Western)

2. Judging

- a. Major horse and pony breeds
- b. Basic color and marking descriptions
- c. Commonly used conformation terms
- d. Unsoundnesses and blemishes
- e. Gaits

3. Feeding

- a. Common feeds found in the local area
- b. Common hays, grains and supplements
- c. Basic feeding guidelines

4. Other

- a. Alaska 4-H Horse Show rules
- b. Definitions of common horse-related terms

Level III

The member must know the following points to pass the Level III written test:

1. Feeding

- a. Protein content of common horse concentrates and roughages
- b. Energy, protein, calcium and phosphorus sources and amounts required by the horse
- c. Vitamin and mineral requirements of the horse

2. Equine teeth

- a. Number of teeth in a horse's mouth and at which ages they appear
- b. How to tell the age of a horse by its teeth

3. Diseases and parasites

- a. Common parasites by their scientific and common names
- b. Common diseases by their scientific and common names
- c. Answers to questions regarding parasite and disease prevention and control



4. Other

- a. Typical characteristics of several different breeds of horses
- b. Showmanship and equitation terms and rules
- c. Definitions of many commonly used terms
- d. Common conformation faults

Level IV

The member must know the following points to pass the Level IV written test:

1. Feeding

- a. Nutrient requirements for all types and ages of horses
- b. Other considerations when balancing rations for horses

2. Diseases and parasites

- a. Causes and clinical signs of various diseases
- b. Life cycles and stages of parasite infestation

3. First Aid

- a. How to evaluate emergency situations and select appropriate action plans
- b. Basic first aid for cuts, punctures, colic and hemorrhage

4. Conformation and hooves

- a. Less-common conformation faults
- b. Internal structures of the horse's leg
- c. General horse anatomy

5. Other

- a. Be able to answer questions about breeding
- b. Be familiar with training theory and application
- c. Know definitions of some less common equine terms

Western Beginner Level I

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Properly halter, lead and tie horse using approved knot; safety around the horse	Safety at all times around the horse; ability to control and guide horse; ability to tie quick-release knot at proper height and length
2. Simple grooming; correct use of tools; pick up feet and clean properly and safely	Knowledge of and proper use of grooming tools; safe position when grooming and handling feet
3. Bridling, saddling, proper adjustment of equipment	Ability to safely bridle and saddle horse; knowledge of how equipment should be adjusted for safety and comfort of horse
4. Basic showmanship skills: walk, jog, stop, turn, back, set up horse; knowledge of quartering system and correct position in relation to horse	Ability to safely guide and control horse through maneuvers; knowledge of quartering system as described Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book; proper, safe position in relation to horse both when standing still and when moving
Under Saddle	
1. Mount, dismount, mount	Safety when mounting and dismounting, correct use of reins; ability to mount with ease without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side). If size of member or animal requires it, member may use mounting block, doing so safely.
2. Correct seat, body position and balance at walk, jog and lope	Correct alignment of ear, shoulder, hip, heel; upper body vertical, arms at sides; correct stirrup length; balance, ability to maintain seat at each gait
3. Proper use of reins, hand position and action at walk, jog and lope	Correct hold on reins, hands in correct position; ability to adjust reins without disturbing horse; ability to guide horse without jerking or excessive pulling on reins
4. Demonstrate the walk, both directions; perform a balanced halt from a walk on a straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at walk; correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
5. Demonstrate the jog, both directions; perform a balanced halt from a jog through a walk (two or three walk strides allowed) on a straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at jog; ability to sit the jog; correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
6. Demonstrate the lope, both directions, showing correct leads; perform a balanced halt from a lope through a jog and walk (two or three jog/walk strides allowed) on a straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at lope; knowledge of how to ask for correct leads; correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
7. Back three steps in a straight line; do not close.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling; correct use of aids to keep horse straight; ability to feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after back and not step forward.
8. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for stock seat equitation. See also page 5 of this book.

Western Intermediate Level II

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Properly halter, lead and tie horse using approved knot; safety around the horse	Safety at all times around the horse; ability to control and guide horse; ability to tie quick-release knot at proper height and length
2. Fitting and grooming; clipping, correct use of tools on mane, tail, body, legs and feet	Demonstrate safe position while grooming and handling feet. Grooming of horse should reflect knowledge of proper clipping techniques and show grooming
3. Bridling and saddling; proper adjustment of equipment	Ability to safely bridle and saddle horse; knowledge of how equipment should be adjusted for safety and comfort of horse
4. Intermediate showmanship skills: walk, jog, stop, turn (keeping horse on haunches), back and set up horse with minimum movement and effort	Ability to safely guide and control horse through maneuvers with minimum effort; knowledge of quartering system as described in the Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book; proper, safe position in relation to horse both when standing still and when moving.
Under Saddles	
1. Mount, dismount, mount.	Safety when mounting and dismounting; correct use of reins; ability to mount with ease, without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side, or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side)
2. Demonstrate proper aids for the following transitions: 1) walk to jog, 2) jog to lope (on correct lead), 3) lope to jog, 4) walk to lope (on correct lead, two to three jog strides allowed between walk and lope).	Ability to perform transitions with minimal effort and/or movement of rider (no loss of position); ability to get correct leads and maintain correct hand position
3. Ride a large figure 8 at the jog, demonstrating control and correct seat.	Ability to guide horse through accurate figures, maintaining correct seat (sitting) and hand positions
4. Ride a large figure 8 at the lope, with a simple change of lead at center of figure (three to five jog strides allowed). Show two lead changes, one right, one left. Begin maneuver from a halt (two to three walk/jog strides allowed between halt and lope).	Ability to guide horse through accurate figures, maintaining correct seat and hand positions. Lead changes should be executed at the correct spot in the figure.
5. Demonstrate a simple change of lead on a straight-away, away from rail. Show a minimum of two changes, one right, one left (three to five jog strides allowed). Begin from a halt (two to three walk/jog strides allowed between halt and lope).	Ability to change horse's lead, showing correct change of aids. Lead changes should be executed promptly, with minimal movement of rider and/or loss of body or hand position
6. Demonstrate a turn on the forehand, 180 degrees, both directions (to be performed away from rail).	Ability to execute turn on forehand (hindquarters move around forehand, front feet stay in small area), using correct aids with minimal movement of rider and/or loss of position
7. Show a balanced halt from all gaits on a straightaway, away from the rail.	Ability to stop horse in balance, without excessive pulling on reins, demonstrating correct use of seat; ability to keep horse straight
8. Back four steps in a straight line. Do not close.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling, demonstrating correct use of aids to keep horse straight and demonstrating feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after the back and not step forward.
9. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications outlined in <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for stock seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

Western Advanced Level III

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge, and skill
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality, including grooming and equipment.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Perform showmanship maneuvers with skill, grace and smoothness.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddles	
1. From a normal walk, demonstrate an extended walk, back to a normal walk.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
2. Demonstrate a jog, to an extended jog and back to a jog.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
3. Demonstrate a slow lope to a lope with speed, back to a slow lope.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
4. Demonstrate a prompt, balanced halt from all gaits on a straightaway, away from the rail.	Ability to halt horse in balance from all gaits without excessive pulling on reins; demonstrate proper use of seat and back in halt and ability to keep horse straight
5. Two-track to the right and left at the walk and jog, maintaining 45-degree angle of travel to wall, keeping horse's body straight (to be performed from the rail to the centerline). Rider may change direction before performing maneuver in opposite direction.	Ability to move horse away from legs, maintaining consistent 45-degree angle of travel, keeping horse positioned correctly and maintaining impulsion, with horse crossing legs correctly (outside in front of inside). Horse's head and neck should be inclined slightly in the direction of travel, with shoulders slightly leading haunches.
6. Perform a 360-degree turn on the forehand, both directions (must be performed away from the rail).	Ability to turn hindquarters around forehand, with forefeet lifting up and setting down in small area, keeping horse's neck and body straight. Outside hind leg must cross in front of inside hind leg.
7. Perform a 360-degree turn on the haunches in both directions (must be performed away from the rail).	Ability to turn forehand around hindquarters, with hind feet lifting up and setting down in small area, keeping horse's neck and body straight. Outside foreleg must cross in front of inside foreleg.
8. Side pass both directions, showing a minimum of four cross-over steps (forefoot must cross in front of stationary foot). To be performed in the open, away from rail.	Ability to move horse's body to the side, keeping horse straight, and crossing horse's outside legs over inside legs, thereby showing forward movement
9. Ride a large figure 8 at the lope, performing two flying lead changes (one right, one left) at center of figure. Begin maneuver from a halt (1–2 walk/jog strides allowed between halt and lope).	Ability to ask horse for new lead at correct moment, with horse's body in correct position (straight), to execute flying change of leads; ability to execute accurate figure
10. Ride a large figure 8 at the lope. Beginning at center of 8 with true lope, show counter lead around half of figure, returning to true lope. Ride the movement both directions.	Ability to influence horse to maintain counter lead around half of figure; ability to execute accurate figure, maintaining impulsion
11. Back six steps in a straight line. Do not close.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling, demonstrating correct use of aids to keep horse straight and demonstrating feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after back and not step forward
12. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for stock seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

Western Horsemaster Level IV

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge, and skill
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Horse and handler must demonstrate excellent show manners and a polished showmanship performance.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddles	
1. From a halt, strike the lope (lead is at rider's discretion) and lope a large figure 8, performing two flying lead changes at center of figure (one for each lead). Halt at center of 8 after second change.	Proper collection of horse and effective use of rider's aids; proper positioning of horse (horse's body straight for changes); correct execution of lead changes (front and rear to change at the same time). Halt must be balanced with no resistance from horse or gaping of horse's mouth.
2. At the lope, perform a two-track from the rail to the centerline, both directions. Rider may change direction before performing maneuver in opposite direction.	Ability to keep horse bent correctly while tracking at 45-degree angle. Line of travel to be consistent. Allowing horse to lead with shoulders, then quarters, is not acceptable. Horse's head and neck should be bent slightly in the direction of travel, with shoulders slightly leading haunches.
3. Perform flying lead changes on a straightaway, away from rail. Show a minimum of one change for each lead.	Ability to correctly execute changes, keeping horse straight through changes; proper use of aids to avoid incomplete changes. Horse must not be angled one way or the other to get the changes. No resistance from horse or choppy, unplanned changes allowed.
4. Ride a small circle at a slow lope, ride a large circle at a gallop, then another small circle at a slow lope.	Proper rider body position. Show definite changes in speed without losing frame of horse.
5. Perform two left and two right rollbacks from a lope (must be performed at least 20 feet from the rail).	Maintain proper rider body position, without "throwing" horse through rollbacks. Demonstrate proper use of aids to ensure horse comes out of rollbacks in lope and on correct lead for new direction.
6. Execute four consecutive 360-degree turns on the haunches with moderate speed (spins), each direction.	Maintain correct rider body position in turns. Horse to maintain inside hind foot as pivot foot, without excessive movement out of pivot spot. Pivot foot should lift up and set down in same small area. Demonstrate correct use of aids to maintain forward motion, with outside foreleg crossing in front of inside foreleg.
7. Demonstrate a correct collected halt from a hand gallop (need not be a sliding stop).	Correct rider body position through halt, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, propped front legs)
8. Back 10 to 15 feet in a straight line.	Proper use of aids to ask horse to back straight, with impulsion and without resistance. No gaping of horse's mouth allowed.
9. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for stock seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Beginner Hunt Seat Equitation Level I

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Properly halter, lead and tie horse, using approved knot; safety around the horse	Safety at all times around the horse; ability to control and guide horse; ability to tie quick-release knot at proper height and length
2. Simple grooming; correct use of tools. Pick up feet and clean properly and safely.	Knowledge of and proper use of grooming tools; safe position when grooming and handling feet
3. Bridling, saddling, proper adjustment of equipment	Ability to safely bridle and saddle horse; knowledge of how equipment should be adjusted for safety and comfort of horse
4. Basic showmanship skills: walk, trot, stop, turn, back, set up horse, knowledge of quartering system and correct position in relation to the horse	Ability to safely guide and control horse through maneuvers; knowledge of quartering system as described in the Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book; proper, safe position in relation to horse both when standing still and when moving
Under Saddle	
1. Mount, dismount, mount	Safety when mounting and dismounting, correct use of reins; ability to mount with ease, without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side, or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side). If size of member or animal requires it, member may use mounting block, doing so safely.
2. Correct seat, body position and balance at walk, trot and canter	Correct alignment of ear, shoulder, hip, heel; upper body held correctly, arms at sides; correct stirrup length; balance; ability to maintain seat at each gait
3. Proper use of reins, hand position and action at walk, trot and canter	Correct hold on reins, hands in correct position; ability to adjust reins without disturbing horse; ability to guide horse without jerking or excessive pulling on reins
4. Demonstrate the walk, both directions; perform a balanced halt from a walk on a straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at walk; correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
5. Demonstrate the posting trot, both directions, demonstrating correct diagonals. Demonstrate the sitting trot, both directions. Perform a balanced halt from a sitting trot through a walk (two or three walk strides allowed). Halt to be performed on a straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at trot; ability to post the trot on the correct diagonal, changing diagonals when necessary; correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
6. Demonstrate the canter both directions, showing correct leads. Perform a balanced halt from a canter through a trot and walk (two or three trot/walk strides allowed). Halt to be performed on straightaway, away from rail.	Ability to control and guide horse at canter, demonstrating knowledge of how to ask for correct leads and correct use of aids to halt horse and stay straight
7. Back three steps in a straight line. Do not close.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling, demonstrating correct use of aids to keep horse straight and demonstrating feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after back and not step forward.
8. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Beginner Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences Level I

Riding Test Guidelines

Test Requirements	Test Guidelines
1. Shorten and lengthen reins at walk and posting trot while riding three-loop serpentines across width and length of arena, changing diagonals when appropriate.	Ability to handle reins without unduly disturbing horse, maintaining balance and seat and changing diagonals as necessary; ability to ride accurate figures. Serpentines should be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
2. Ride large figure 8s without stirrups at walk, posting trot and sitting trot, changing diagonals when appropriate.	Ability to maintain balanced position and maintain seat while riding without stirrups, ability to guide horse through accurate figures, changing diagonals when appropriate
3. Maintain jump position (two-point) at trot while riding three-loop serpentines across width and length of arena.	Ability to maintain balanced two-point, without using reins for balance, knees and ankles flexible, eyes up, while guiding horse through accurate figures. Serpentines should be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
4. At the trot, change from sitting to posting to two-point, seven to 10 (counted) strides of each. Repeat sequence.	Demonstrate feel by counting strides; ability to maintain balance while changing seat/body position without using reins for balance; ability to keep horse moving with steady rhythm while changing seat/body positions
5. Ride a series of three or more ground poles followed by a cross bar 12 to 18 inches high, maintaining jump position (two-point) and demonstrating knowledge of basic crest release. Halt on a straight line after cross bar.	Ability to maintain balanced seat through poles, neither "jumping ahead" or falling back. Demonstrate release (placing hands on horse's neck 8 to 12 inches in front of saddle, holding mane or neck strap) over crossbar and ability to halt horse in straight line after cross bar.
6. Ride a simple course of five to seven fences, up to and including 18 inches, with one change of direction. Course may be ridden at trot and/or canter.	Ability to guide horse through course, maintaining balance and position, approaching jumps correctly (in the center, without excessive speed), using crest release properly, not hitting horse in the mouth, maintaining rhythm and impulsion and changing direction smoothly
7. Demonstrate control with safe, balanced position throughout test.	Throughout test, demonstrate overall control of horse, maintaining position and balance, with emphasis on safety and a secure seat.
8. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Intermediate Hunt Seat Equitation Level II

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Properly halter, lead and tie horse, using approved knot; safety around the horse	Safety at all times around the horse; ability to control and guide horse; ability to tie quick-release knot at proper height and length
2. Fitting and grooming, clipping, correct use of tools on mane, tail, body, legs and feet	Demonstrate safe position while grooming and handling feet. Grooming of horse should reflect knowledge of proper clipping techniques and show grooming.
3. Bridling, saddling, proper adjustment of equipment	Ability to safely bridle and saddle horse; knowledge of how equipment should be adjusted for safety and comfort of horse
4. Intermediate showmanship skills: walk, trot, stop, turn (keeping horse on haunches), back and set up horse with minimum movement and effort	Ability to safely guide and control horse through maneuvers with minimum effort; knowledge of quartering system as described in the Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book; proper, safe position in relation to horse both when standing still and when moving
Under Saddle	
1. Mount, dismount, mount	Safety when mounting and dismounting; correct use of reins; ability to mount with ease, without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side, or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side)
2. Demonstrate correct aids for the following transitions: 1) walk to trot (posting and sitting); 2) trot to canter (on correct lead; posting and sitting); 3) canter to trot (posting and sitting); 4) walk to canter (on correct lead, two to three trot strides allowed between walk and canter).	Ability to perform transitions with minimal effort and/or movement of rider (no loss of position); ability to get correct leads and maintain correct hand position
3. Ride a large figure 8 at posting trot, showing control and a correct change of diagonal.	Ability to guide horse through accurate figures, maintaining correct seat and hand positions
4. Ride a large figure 8 at the canter, with a simple change of lead at center of figure (three to five trot strides allowed). Show two lead changes, one right, one left. Begin from a halt (two to three walk/trot strides allowed between halt and canter).	Ability to guide horse through accurate figures, maintaining correct seat and hand positions. Lead changes should be prompt and executed at the correct spot in the figure.
5. Demonstrate a simple change of lead on a straightaway, away from the rail. Show a minimum of two changes (one right, one left; three to five trot strides allowed). Begin from a halt (two to three walk/trot strides allowed between halt and canter).	Ability to change horse's lead, showing correct change of aids. Lead changes should be executed promptly, with minimal movement of rider and/or loss of body or hand position.
6. Demonstrate a turn on the forehand, 180 degrees, both directions; to be performed away from the rail.	Ability to execute turn on forehand (hindquarters move around forehand, front feet stay in small area), using correct aids, with minimal movement of rider and/or loss of position
7. Show a balanced halt from all gaits on a straightaway, away from the rail.	Ability to stop horse without excessive pulling on reins, demonstrating correct use of seat, ability to keep horse straight
8. Rein back four steps in a straight line. Do not close.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling, demonstrating correct use of aids to keep horse straight and demonstrating feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after back and not step forward.
9. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Intermediate Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences Level II

Riding Test Guidelines

Test Requirements	Test Guidelines
1. Shorten and lengthen reins at posting trot and canter while riding three-loop serpentines across width and length of arena, changing diagonals and leads correctly when appropriate (simple change).	Ability to handle reins without unduly disturbing horse, maintaining balance and seat, changing diagonals and leads as necessary; ability to ride accurate figures (three to five trot strides allowed when changing leads). Serpentines should be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
2. Ride large figure 8s without stirrups at posting trot and canter, changing diagonals and leads correctly when appropriate (simple change).	Ability to maintain balanced position and maintain seat while riding without stirrups; ability to guide horse through accurate figures (three to five trot strides allowed when changing leads)
3. Maintain jump position (two-point) at trot and canter while riding three-loop serpentines across width and length of arena, changing leads correctly when appropriate (simple change).	Ability to maintain balanced two point without using reins for balance, knees and ankles flexible, eyes up, while guiding horse through accurate figures (three to five trot strides allowed when changing leads)
4. Demonstrate increase and decrease of speed at posting trot and canter.	Ability to regulate horse's speed (rate horse) without losing rider position or control
5. Demonstrate lengthening of stride at posting trot and canter.	Ability to show a definite change in length of horse's stride, not only an increase in speed
6. Ride a series of three or more ground rails followed by two cross rails 18 to 20 inches high (one stride apart), maintaining jump position and demonstrating use of long and short crest release. Halt on a straight line after last cross rail.	Ability to maintain balanced seat through poles and cross rails, neither "jumping ahead" nor falling back. Demonstrate long release (hands on horse's crest on each side of mane midway up neck, may hold mane) and short release (hands on horse's crest on each side of mane just in front of saddle, may hold mane) over cross rails and ability to halt horse in straight line after last cross rail.
7. Ride a simple course of six to eight fences up to and including two feet with one two-stride combination and at least one change of direction. Course must be ridden at the canter.	Ability to guide horse through course, maintaining balance and position, approaching jumps correctly (in the center, without excessive speed), demonstrating correct releases, maintaining rhythm and impulsion and changing direction smoothly
8. Demonstrate control with safe, balanced position throughout test.	Throughout test, demonstrate overall control of horse, maintaining position and balance, with emphasis on safety and a secure seat
9. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Advanced Hunt Seat Equitation Level III

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Be safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge and skill.
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality, including grooming and equipment.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Perform showmanship maneuvers with skill, grace and smoothness.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddles	
1. From a working walk, demonstrate lengthening of the walk and back to working walk.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
2. From a working trot (posting), demonstrate lengthening of the trot and back to working trot.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
3. Demonstrate a canter to a hand gallop in two-point position, back to canter.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
4. Demonstrate a prompt, balanced halt from all gaits on a straightaway, away from the rail.	Ability to halt horse in balance from all gaits without excessive pulling on reins. Demonstrate proper use of seat and back in halt, ability to keep horse straight.
5. Leg yield to the right and left at walk and sitting trot, to be performed from the centerline to the rail. Rider may change direction before performing maneuver in opposite direction.	Ability to move horse away from legs, maintaining consistent 35-45 degree angle of travel, keeping horse positioned correctly, maintaining consistent speed and rhythm, with horse crossing legs correctly (inside in front of outside). Horse's head should be looking slightly away from direction of travel, but with neck and body straight.
6. Perform a 360-degree turn on the forehand both directions (must be performed away from the rail).	Ability to turn hindquarters around forehand, with forefeet lifting up and setting down in small area, keeping horse's neck and body straight. Outside hind leg must cross in front of inside hind leg.
7. Perform a 360-degree turn on the haunches, both directions (must be performed away from the rail).	Ability to turn forehand around hindquarters, with hind feet lifting up and setting down in small area, keeping horse's neck and body straight. Outside foreleg must cross in front of inside foreleg.
8. Ride a 20-meter circle at all gaits, both directions.	Ability to execute accurate figure, changing gaits and directions smoothly.
9. Demonstrate a large figure 8 at the canter, performing two simple changes of lead through the walk (one right, one left) at center of figure 8 (two to three flat-footed walk strides allowed). Begin maneuver from a halt (one to two trot strides allowed between halt and canter).	Ability to ask horse for gait changes and new lead at correct spot in figure, correctly changing horse's body position to strike off on new lead. Demonstrate ability to execute accurate figure.
10. Ride a large figure 8 at the canter. Beginning at center of 8 with true canter, show counter lead around half of figure, returning to true canter. Ride the movement both directions.	Ability to influence horse to maintain counter lead and ability to execute accurate figure, maintaining impulsion.
11. Rein back six steps in a straight line. Do not close	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling, correct use of aids to keep horse straight. Demonstrate feel by counting steps. "Do not back" means to remain in place after back and not step forward.
12. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Advanced Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences Level III

Riding Test Guidelines

Test Requirements	Test Guidelines
1. Demonstrate lengthening of stride at posting trot, maintaining correct position of seat, legs and hands.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
2. From working canter, demonstrate hand gallop in two-point position and return to working canter, maintaining correct position of seat, legs and hands.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
3. Ride a large circle and then jump two fences (minimum 18 inches, maximum 20 inches, two strides apart) without stirrups.	Ability to maintain balance and correct position (two-point) on circle and over jumps without stirrups, showing proper release and not using reins for balance.
4. Ride a grid consisting of three or more ground rails followed by three cross rails 18 to 20 inches high with no strides between (bounces), maintaining jump position and demonstrating crest release. Halt on a straight line after last cross rail.	Maintain position throughout grid. Demonstrate ability to influence horse to maintain impulsion through grid. Demonstrate correct release and ability to halt straight after last jump. Length of release used is left up to the rider, but must be declared to test examiner and remain consistent throughout grid.
5. Explain the use and execution of an automatic release.	Know what, when, where and why to use an automatic release. If member's skill level allows, he/she may demonstrate a correct automatic release.
6. Ride a stadium course of six to eight fences, up to and including two feet six inches; include at least one change of direction, one two-stride combination and one one-stride combination. Course must be ridden at the canter.	Ability to guide horse through course with steadiness, demonstrating ability to achieve correct striding between fences, maintain balance and correct position, and approach jumps correctly. Demonstrate correct releases, maintaining rhythm and impulsion and changing direction smoothly.
7. Show firm, balanced position with control and confidence throughout test.	Throughout test, demonstrate overall confident control of horse, maintaining position and balance, with emphasis on safety.
8. Proper tack, attire, and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Horsemaster Hunt Seat Equitation Level IV

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Be safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge and skill.
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Horse and handler must demonstrate excellent show manners and a polished showmanship performance.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddle	
1. On the quarterline of the arena, demonstrate shoulder-in right and left, at walk and sitting trot.	Correct use of rider's aids in performing maneuver. Maintain impulsion, rhythm, balance and correct bend.
2. Perform a 15-meter circle at all gaits, both directions.	Correct use of rider's aids in performing maneuver. Maintain impulsion, rhythm and correct bend.
3. Demonstrate a correct, balanced halt from a canter and hand gallop).	Correct rider body position through halt, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, hollow back); horse to be kept straight through halt
4. Perform Number 3 above without irons.	Correct rider body position and balance through halt, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, hollow back); horse to be kept straight through halt
5. Ride a large figure 8 at the canter, performing two flying lead changes at center of figure (one right and one left). Begin from a halt at the center of the figure 8. Halt at center of 8 after second change.	Ability to correctly position horse for changes (horse to be straight through changes); proper use of aids to avoid incomplete changes (front and rear to change at the same time). Horse must not be angled one way or the other to get the changes. Halt must be straight and balanced with no gaping of horse's mouth.
6. Demonstrate two simple changes of lead through the walk on a straightaway, away from the rail. Begin from a halt.	Ability to ask horse for gait changes and new leads, correctly changing horse's body position to strike off on new lead. Horse must perform one to two flat-footed walk strides and must not be overly angled one way or the other when asking for new lead. Horse should show no resistance (e.g., gaping mouth, tossing head).
7. Perform a three-loop serpentine at the canter, width and length of arena, with no change of lead, both directions.	Maintain quality of canter, with correct bend, balance, impulsion and accurately ridden figure. Serpentine should be ridden as half-circles connected by straight lines.
8. At the sitting trot, perform five strides on a straight line, then five strides of leg yield right, followed by five strides straight, then five strides of leg yield left, then five strides straight.	Ability to properly use aids to change horse's body position while maintaining forward impulsion and consistent forward and/or sideways movement
9. Jump a course of at least six fences (two feet to two feet six inches) that will include at least one change of direction and at least two of the following: one combination, one in and out, one over, and one triple combination.	Ability to guide horse through course with steadiness, demonstrating ability to achieve correct striding between fences, maintaining balance and position, approaching jumps correctly, demonstrating correct releases, maintaining rhythm and impulsion, changing direction smoothly
10. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for hunt seat equitation. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Advanced Dressage Level III

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Safety-conscious at all times, handle horse with confidence, knowledge, and skill
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality, including grooming and equipment.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type
3. Perform showmanship maneuvers with skill, grace and smoothness.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues
Under Saddle	
1. From working walk, demonstrate lengthening of the walk, back to working walk, both directions.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions
2. From working trot, demonstrate lengthening of trot, back to working trot, both directions.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions
3. From working canter, demonstrate lengthening of canter, back to working canter, both directions.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions
4. From sitting trot, halt five seconds, proceed medium walk.	Demonstrate balanced, forward halt, using seat, legs and hands correctly, maintain even contact when picking up walk
5. Leg yield to the right and left at the walk and sitting trot (to be performed from the centerline to the rail). Rider may change direction before performing maneuver in opposite direction.	Ability to move horse away from legs, maintaining consistent 35-45 degree angle of travel, keeping horse positioned correctly, maintaining consistent speed and rhythm, with horse crossing legs correctly (inside in front of outside). Horse's head should be looking slightly away from the direction of travel, but with neck and body straight
6. Perform a 10-meter circle at sitting trot, both directions.	Maintain impulsion and horse's balance, keeping aids even and horse correctly bent, maintain seat and hand positions
7. Perform a 15-meter circle at working canter, both directions.	Maintain impulsion and horse's balance, keeping aids even and horse correctly bent, maintain seat and hand positions
8. At working canter, demonstrate a change of lead through the trot, across the diagonal, both directions (one to two trot strides allowed; lead change to be performed at center of arena).	Ability to change horse's lead at correct moment with minimal aids, maintaining impulsion, balance, straightness through changes, correct change of bend for new direction, and rider position
9. At working canter, demonstrate a single loop from rail to center of arena and back to rail, with no change of lead. Use entire length of arena to demonstrate loop.	Maintain quality of canter, with correct bend, balance, impulsion, ability to ride figure accurately
10. Demonstrate a 20-meter circle, working trot rising, allowing the horse to stretch forward and downward. Perform movement in both directions.	Demonstrate ability to allow horse to stretch correctly, not losing balance, contact, rhythm or impulsion
11. From medium walk, halt, rein back four steps in a straight line. Do not close.	Ability to back horse with minimal aids, correct use of aids to keep horse straight, demonstrate feel by counting steps. "Do not close" means to remain in place after back and not step forward
12. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for dressage. See also Page 5 of this booklet.

English Horsemaster Dressage Level IV

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Be safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge and skill.
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Horse and handler must demonstrate excellent show manners and a polished showmanship performance.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddle	
1. Demonstrate a collected trot, halt, salute; proceed collected trot, on centerline.	Maintain collection and impulsion through halt. Keep horse straight without losing contact during salute; move immediately (no walk steps) into trot, stay straight on centerline.
2. Demonstrate collected trot, medium trot; lengthen stride in trot, sitting.	Ability to change horse's stride length without losing balance, rhythm and cadence. Maintain contact and rider position.
3. Demonstrate collected canter, medium canter; lengthen stride in canter.	Ability to change horse's stride length without losing balance, rhythm and cadence. Maintain contact and rider position.
4. Perform a 10-meter circle in collected trot and collected canter, both directions.	Maintain impulsion and horse's balance, keeping aids even and horse correctly bent. Maintain seat and hand positions.
5. At the medium walk, shorten stride and demonstrate a half turn (180 degrees) on the haunches right; proceed medium walk. Perform the same movement to the left.	Maintain impulsion and regularity of walk through turn, with horse's hind feet stepping through and no loss of rider position or loss of bend of horse. Turns should be performed with fluidity.
6. On a 20-meter circle, at working trot, rider gives the reins while maintaining light contact, encouraging the horse to stretch over the back in a forward, round carriage while maintaining an uphill balance. Perform movement in both directions.	Demonstrate horse's ability to maintain balance and quality of canter with a supple topline. Correct use of rider's aids, with no loss of rider position or loss of horse's frame
7. At the collected canter, perform a serpentine of three equal loops, width and length of arena, no change of lead, both directions.	Maintain quality of canter, with correct bend, balance, impulsion and accurately ridden figure. Serpentine should be ridden as half-circles connected by straight lines.
8. Perform travers (haunches in), left and right, at collected sitting trot.	Correct use of rider's aids in performing maneuver, maintaining regularity of trot, impulsion, balance and collection, and correct angle and bend
9. Perform renvers (haunches out), left and right, at collected sitting trot.	Correct use of rider's aids in performing maneuver, maintaining regularity of trot, impulsion, balance and collection, and correct angle and bend
10. Perform shoulder-in, left and right, at collected sitting trot.	Correct use of rider's aids in performing maneuver, maintaining impulsion, rhythm and correct bend
11. From a collected sitting trot, halt five seconds, rein back four steps, proceed medium walk.	Ability to halt horse correctly, back horse with minimal aids, keep horse straight, maintain collection and impulsion, demonstrate feel by counting steps, move into walk without losing balance or rhythm
12. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for dressage. See also page 5 of this booklet.

English Advanced Saddle Seat Level III

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Be safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge and skill.
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality, including grooming and equipment.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Demonstrate showmanship skills befitting an animated breed with grace and smoothness, showing the breed of horse to its best advantage.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddle	
1. Mount and address the reins.	Ability to mount with ease, without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side, or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side); ability to pick up all reins at once, smoothly, without fumbling or tangling reins
2. At the halt, disengage feet from irons. Ride a large circle at the sitting trot. At starting point, halt, engage irons, ride another large circle at the posting trot on correct diagonal.	Ability to disengage and engage irons without losing position, balance, or impulsion; ability to sit the trot without excessive bouncing, without using hands for balance; ability to pick up posting trot on correct diagonal
3. Demonstrate a prompt, balanced halt from all gaits on a straightaway.	Ability to halt horse in balance from all gaits without excessive pulling on reins; demonstrate proper use of seat and back in halt; ability to keep horse straight
4. Perform a reverse on the rail at a walk (may be performed either toward or away from the rail). Rider must declare the direction of the turn beforehand.	When performed toward rail, ability to turn hindquarters around forehand, with forefeet lifting up and setting down in small area, keeping horse's neck and body straight (outside hind leg must cross in front of inside hind leg); when performed away from rail, ability to execute small half-circle with diagonal line back to rail with no alteration in horse's gait or forward movement
5. At a trot, perform a three-loop serpentine, width and length of arena, showing a change of diagonals at each change of direction.	Ability to execute accurate figure, maintaining correct seat and hand positions; ability to change directions and diagonals smoothly and in the appropriate spots in the figure. Serpentine to be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
6. From a working trot (posting), demonstrate an extended trot (lengthening of stride) down the straightaway and back to working trot. Come down to walk and cross the arena on the diagonal with horse on a loose rein.	Ability to demonstrate actual lengthening of stride, not just an increase in speed; ability to show clear transitions between working and extended gaits; ability to bring horse to a loose-rein walk without excessive pulling, using seat and back effectively
7. Demonstrate a large figure 8 at the canter, performing two simple lead changes through the walk (one right, one left) at center of figure. Begin maneuver from a halt (one to two trot strides allowed between halt and canter).	Ability to guide horse through accurate figures, maintaining correct seat and hand positions. Lead changes should be prompt and executed at the correct spot in the figure. Lead changes should be performed by bringing the horse to a walk and restarting horse on opposite lead.
8. From a working canter, demonstrate a hand gallop (lengthening of stride) and back to working canter.	Ability to demonstrate actual lengthening of stride, not just an increase in speed; ability to show clear transitions between working and extended gaits
9. Back no more than six steps in a straight line.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling; correct use of aids to keep horse straight. Demonstrate feel by counting steps.
10. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for saddle seat equitation. See also page 5 of this booklet.

English Horsemaster Saddle Seat Level IV

Riding Test Guidelines

Ground Handling	Test Guidelines
1. Display confidence, safety and knowledge while working around horse.	Be safety-conscious at all times; handle horse with confidence, knowledge and skill.
2. Fitting and turnout of horse must be show ring quality.	Horse, tack and 4-H member should be immaculate. Grooming of horse should demonstrate knowledge of show grooming techniques for specific breed or type.
3. Horse and handler must demonstrate excellent show manners and a polished showmanship performance, with horse being shown appropriately for its breed.	Perform showmanship maneuvers effortlessly, with crispness, balance and grace. Horse should respond to handler's subtle cues.
Under Saddle	
1. Mount, dismount, mount and address the reins.	Ability to mount and dismount with ease, without unbalancing horse, pulling saddle off to side, or disturbing horse (toe in animal's side); ability to pick up all reins at once, smoothly, without fumbling or tangling reins
2. From a working walk, demonstrate lengthening of the walk and back to working walk.	Ability to influence length of horse's stride without excessive effort or movement on the part of the rider. Show actual change in length of stride, not only increase in speed. Maintain seat and hand positions.
3. Ride a three-loop serpentine, width and length of arena at the posting trot without stirrups, demonstrating changes of diagonals where appropriate.	Ability to execute accurate figure, maintaining correct seat and hand positions; ability to change directions and diagonals smoothly, without losing balance, position, or impulsion. Serpentines to be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
4. Ride a three-loop serpentine at the canter, performing simple lead changes through the halt at the appropriate spots in the figure. Begin from a halt.	Correct rider body position and balance through halts, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, hollow back); horse to be kept straight through halt; ability to pick up canter on correct lead from halt; ability to execute accurate figure. Serpentines to be ridden as half circles connected by straight lines.
5. Demonstrate simple changes of lead through the halt down the center of the arena. Perform one change to the right and one change to the left. Rider must specify the beginning lead. Begin maneuver from a halt.	Correct rider body position and balance through halts, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, hollow back); horse to be kept straight through halt; ability to pick up canter on correct lead from halt
6. Ride a large figure 8 at the canter, without irons, performing two simple changes of lead through the halt at the center of figure (one right and one left). Begin from a halt at the center of the figure. Halt at the center of the figure after the second change.	Ability to ride accurate figure without losing balance or position; correct rider body position and balance through halts, with no resistance from horse (gaping mouth, hollow back); horse to be kept straight through halts; ability to pick up canter on correct lead from halt
7. Back no more than eight steps in a straight line.	Ability to back horse without excessive pulling; correct use of aids to keep horse straight. Demonstrate feel by counting steps.
8. Perform a demonstration ride of not less than one or more than two minutes, with arrangement of maneuvers showing horse and rider's best abilities. Choose maneuvers from saddle seat skills Levels III and IV. Rider must advise examiner beforehand what maneuvers he/she plans to demonstrate and must have a written work-out plan to hand to the examiner.	Ability to show horse and rider to best advantage, with maneuvers flowing smoothly from one to the next; Ability to maintain seat, leg and hand positions through all maneuvers, demonstrating balance, lightness and harmony; ability to explain work-out plan to examiner in an understandable manner
9. Proper tack, attire and attitude	Tack and attire must meet the specifications of <i>The Alaska 4-H Horse Rules Book</i> for saddle seat equitation. See also page 5 of this booklet.



When I Compete

I have a performance goal...never a “to only beat some one else” goal.

I respect and learn from other competitors more skilled than myself.

I don't criticize other competitors, officials, or judges.

I do my best today.

I have fun.

I stay home if I can't follow the above rules.

Adapted from a presentation by Doug Householder, PhD, Extension Horse Specialist at Texas A&M University, at the 1997 National Youth Horse Council Meeting.

4-H Pledge

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service,

And my health to better living,

For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H Motto

To Make the Best Better

4-H Slogan

Learn by Doing

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