

The Blue Cross

Horse and Pony Care Competition

Sample Questions – updated 2016



Junior Questions

Colours, Markings & Breeds

(using a pony)

1. Identify three different facial markings, including that of this horse.
2. Identify six different colours, including that of this horse.
3. Identify two different leg markings

Fittening

(could be done using a pony)

1. What is condition?
2. How is it measured?
3. Describe a pony in poor condition
4. Describe a pony in fat condition
5. Describe a pony in fit condition

Plaiting & Turnout

(could be done using a pony)

1. How would you prepare your horse's mane for plaiting?
2. Give two reasons why you would plait your horse's mane
3. How many plaits should your horse have along their neck?

Poisonous Plants

1. Name three poisonous plants
2. How would you proceed if you suspected your horse had eaten a poisonous plant?
3. What is the correct disposal of ragwort?

Rugs & Rugging

(using a picture of a pony for point three)

1. Give four reasons why we rug our ponies
2. What is the difference between a surcingle and a roller?
3. Show how you would measure a horse to fit a rug
4. Name the advantages and disadvantages of using rugs

Care of the Pony at Grass

1. How often should you go and see your pony when he's living at grass?
2. Is it different at different times of the year?

3. How often should you clean his water trough, summer and winter?
4. How can you tell if his shoes are coming loose?
5. What extra feed is he likely to need in the winter?

Bits & Biting

(using a number of different bits)

1. Look at this bit (snaffle). Which family is it in? What else do you know about it?
2. Look at this bit (pelham). Which family is it in? What else do you know about it?
3. Look at this bit (gag). Which family is it in? What else do you know about it?
4. What is the name of the person who makes bits and all metal work for tack?

Bandages & Boots

(using a pony)

1. Put on a tail bandage. Say when you would use this and why.
2. Put on a stable bandage. Say when you would use this and why.
3. Put on a brushing boot. Say when you would use this and why.
4. Put on a travel boot. Say when you would use this and why.

Senior Questions

Foot & Shoeing

(using a horse)

1. How long do you think it is since this horse was last shod and why?
2. Describe this shoe
3. Where is the hoof/pastern axis? Why is it important?
4. What do you think of this horse's hoof/pastern axis?
5. Why might a horse be shod with this type of shoe?

Health & First Aid

1. Tell me the signs of good health in the horse
2. For what emergencies would you call the vet?
3. What would make you suspect a horse had strangles
4. Explain when and how you would put a poultice on a horse's foot

Conformation

(using a horse)

Look at this horse's conformation and comment briefly on:

1. Height and type
2. Head and front
3. Body and hindquarters
4. Forelegs
5. Hindlegs

Feeding

(using feed samples and a horse)

1. Tell me some of the rules of feeding and watering, and why the rules apply
2. Select a type of feed, tell me when and why you might feed it and in what quantities
3. What feed would you use to put weight on a horse?
4. Is this horse in good condition? What would you check in spite of good condition?

Grooming

- 1. Please identify a rubber currycomb and a body brush; why would you use them?**
- 2. How would you keep clean a field kept horse?**
- 3. How do you clean a clipped and stabled horse after a day's hunting?**
- 4. Demonstrate how to quarter a horse, state when you would carry out this method and how long it would take**
- 5. Identify and demonstrate where you would 'strap' a horse, and why**

Stable Design

- 1. Describe a perfect stable**
- 2. Describe the good points of the stable we are currently in**
- 3. Why is ventilation important?**
- 4. What kind of lights and switches should be used?**
- 5. Why is drainage necessary in a stable?**