

# Placer County 4-H Horse Mastership

## LEVEL III SKILLS TEST

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

	Possible Points	Your Points
Section I: Showmanship	52	
Section II: Grooming Equipment	14	
Cleaning Hooves	10	
Knots (2)	4	
Grooming	32	
Section III: Saddling	18	
Section IV: Bridling	12	
Section V: Mounting	18	
Section VI: Dismounting	14	
Section VII: Riding	110	
Section VIII: Unsaddling and Unbridling	22	
<b>TOTAL POINTS SKILLS TEST</b>	306	

## SECTION I: SHOWMANSHIP

		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
1.	<b>APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL</b>		
	<b>Grooming</b>		
	a) Hair should be properly groomed and the hide soft and pliable.	2	_____
	b) Hooves should be trimmed and shaped to enable the animal to walk and stand naturally, or properly shod and polished.	2	_____
	c) Whiskers around muzzle and eyes, bridlepath, hair inside ears, long hair under jaw, and long hair on the back side of the legs should be freshly clipped.	2	_____
	<b>Cleanliness</b>		
	a) Hair, tail and mane should be clean and free of stains.	2	_____
	b) Hide, ears, nostrils, and dock should be free of dirt and legs and feet should be clean.	2	_____
	c) Halter and lead strap should be clean, neat, and workman-like (chain is optional).	2	_____
2.	<b>APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR -- Exhibitor must be dressed in a clean, neat, 4-H uniform.</b>		
	a) Hat	2	_____
	b) White (long sleeved) shirt	2	_____
	c) Scarf (girls) or Tie (both)	2	_____
	d) Belt	2	_____
	e) White, beige, or green pants (beige or gray breeches for English riders), and	2	_____
	f) Riding boots	2	_____
3.	<b>SHOWING THE ANIMAL IN THE RING</b>		
	<b>Moving or Leading</b>		
	a) Enter leading the horse at a normal walk, walking slightly behind the head on the left side holding the lead strap with the right hand about 18 inches from the halter with the strap neatly gathered in the left hand.	2	_____
	b) The horse should lead readily and respond quickly.	2	_____
	c) The halter should be properly fitted and correctly adjusted to fit the horse. A leather halter and lead strap is desirable, but not necessary.	2	_____
	d) Lead briskly. Horse should be alert, stylish, and demonstrate attractive carriage and graceful walk.	2	_____
	e) When the judge asks to see the horse's action at the walk and trot, lead the horse at a walk momentarily, "set-up," turn in a clockwise direction, and trot in a straight line back to the judge.	2	_____

3. **SHOWING THE ANIMAL IN THE RING (continued)**

**Posing (do NOT use the Showmanship Instructions in the Green Book)**

- |  |   |       |
|--|---|-------|
| a) The exhibitor should not stand in a position that obstructs the judge's view of the horse when posing and showing the horse.                    | 2 | _____ |
| b) Pose your horse with his feet placed as squarely under him as possible.   | 2 | _____ |
| c) Show the horse using the halter lead strap only. Do not step on the horse's feet to move them. Do not use a crop or stick for moving the horse. | 2 | _____ |
| d) Move your horse forward and backward by a slight pull on the lead strap. Don't wrestle with your horse.   | 2 | _____ |
| e) When the judge is observing your horse, let the horse stand if he is posed reasonably well.   | 2 | _____ |

**Poise, Alertness, and Attitude**

- |  |   |       |
|--|---|-------|
| a) Keep an eye on the horse and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by people and activity outside the arena. | 2 | _____ |
| b) Show the horse at all times: not yourself.  | 2 | _____ |
| c) Follow directions from the judge and respond rapidly to any requests from the judge.  | 2 | _____ |
| d) Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.  | 2 | _____ |

Total Page 2 \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION II: GROOMING

Equipment	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
Check all equipment. It must be clean.		
a) Rubber or plastic curry comb	2	_____
b) Dandy brush	2	_____
c) Finishing or body brush	2	_____
d) Inexpensive hair (type used by humans) brush (Optional)	2	_____
e) Two (2) sponges or rags	2	_____
f) Hoof pick	2	_____
g) Bucket or tote to hold equipment	2	_____

JUDGES COMMENTS:

Total Level III, Section II (Grooming Equipment), *14 points possible* \_\_\_\_\_

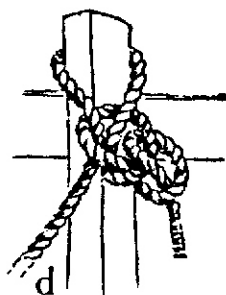
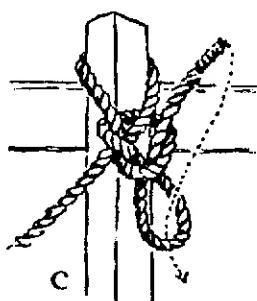
### Cleaning Hooves

a) Start with the left side of the horse	2	_____
b) Place left hand on horse	2	_____
c) Place body near horse turning, turning toes away from horse. Body or hand may be pressed against horse to assist in shifting his weight	2	_____
d) Slide left hand down the leg and lift in a safe manner, without turning the toe under the horse	2	_____
e) Clean hoof heel to toe	2	_____

JUDGES COMMENTS:

**SECTION II: GROOMING (continued)**

**KNOTS**



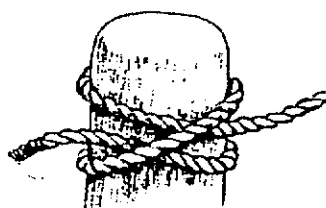
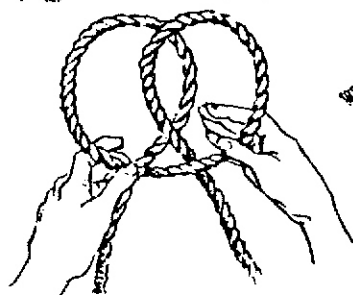
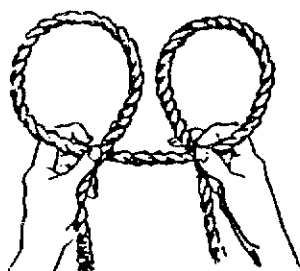
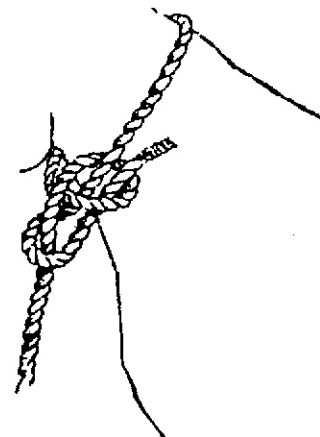
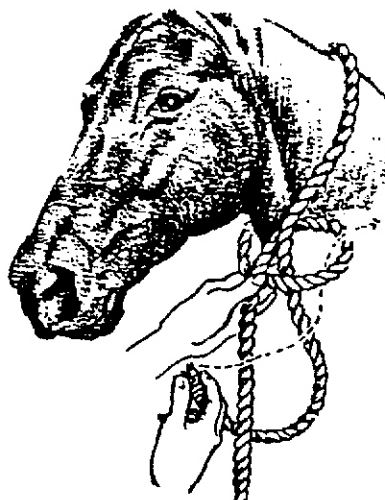
**Knot with Release Loop**

Level I	( )
Level II	( )
Level III	( )
Level IV	( )
Level V	( )
Level VI	( )

***Knot With Release Loop***

**Bowline**

Level III	( )
Level IV	( )
Level V	( )



***Bowline***

***Clove Hitch***

**Clove Hitch**

Level IV	( )
Level V	( )

## SECTION II: GROOMING (continued)

Grooming		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
1.	Start on the left (near) side.	2	_____
2.	Take curry comb in the right hand and the dandy brush in left hand.	2	_____
3.	Proper procedure. Check off as completed. Groom starting from the neck and finishing up near the tail.	2	_____
a.	_____ Neck		
b.	_____ Chest		
c.	_____ Withers		
d.	_____ Shoulders		
e.	_____ Foreleg		
f.	_____ Knee		
g.	_____ Back		
h.	_____ Side		
i.	_____ Belly		
j.	_____ Rump		
k.	_____ Hind Leg		
l.	_____ Hock	2	_____
4.	Curry comb should be used in irregular circular motion, followed up by dandy brush.	2	_____
5.	Curry comb and dandy brush are not used about the head or on the legs from knees and hocks down.	2	_____
6.	Clean out curry comb by tapping it against back heel or brush dirt out with dandy brush.	2	_____
7.	Move to right side of horse. Walked around rear end of horse instead of walking under the lead rope.	2	_____
8.	Change brush to right hand and curry comb to left. Explain the procedure again. <i>(May receive full credit for explaining the procedure if horse is already clean.)</i>	2	_____
9.	Clean sheath or teats and dock with sponge.	2	_____
10.	Untie horse. If eyes are weeping or crusty, use sponge to clean them before brushing.	2	_____
11.	Brush the head and face using the body or finishing brush. Move the halter as you brush to clean under the halter.	2	_____
12.	Use sponge or rags to clean and polish eyes first, then ears, face, lips and nostrils.	2	_____
13.	Tie horse up. Use body brush to polish body, straighten hair on legs, and brush lower legs. <i>(May receive credit for explaining procedure if animal is clean.)</i>	2	_____
14.	Untangle mane and tail with fingers.	2	_____
15.	Use hair (or dandy) brush to brush mane and tail. Brush tail from ends upward to roots.	2	_____

### SECTION III: SADDLING

		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
Bring your own saddle pad.			
1.	Check saddle pad carefully for cleanliness and burrs. Place saddle pad up on the horse's back, several inches forward, then pull it towards the rear. <i>(English riders can place both saddle and pad on the horse at the same time if the pad is the type that attaches to the saddle.)</i>	2	_____
2.	Check saddle for signs of wear or disrepair. Check fleece for burrs.	2	_____
3.	Place the right stirrup, etc. over the seat of the saddle. If the stirrups are short, it is better to loop the right stirrup over the saddle horn so it won't swing free and hit the horse. Place saddle evenly and gently on pad. Recheck positions of pad. <i>(English riders should remember to leave the irons tied up during saddling.)</i>	2	_____
4.	Walk around the off side of the horse, pull the stirrup down <i>(English riders leave irons tied up)</i> , and the cinches, and see that nothing is twisted. Be careful not to allow cinch ring to strike the horse's knee.	2	_____
5.	The saddle should be just slightly forward of where you want it, so grasp the horn and pommel and shake it back into position. Next make an "air pocket" between the pad and the withers.	2	_____
6.	Adjusted front and back cinches to fit individual horse.	2	_____
7.	Put the left stirrup up, over the horn or the saddle seat <i>(English riders lift left flap)</i> and reach under the belly with the left hand for the cinch using whatever method you normally use.	2	_____
8.	Remember to cinch up in two or three stages. Tighten the cinch just enough so the saddle won't slip, walk the horse about a dozen steps; then tighten the cinch again.	2	_____
9.	Fastened the rear cinch last and checked to make sure it was neither too loose nor too tight. <i>(Since English riders do not have a back cinch, they should check to make sure that the irons are still tied securely.)</i>	2	_____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

## SECTION IV: BRIDLING

		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
1.	Check headstall, chinstrap, and rein leather for damage.	2	_____
2.	Untie horse, place rope over fence or hold free end, remove halter and place around horse's neck for restraint.	2	_____
3.	Stand beside horse and keep head and body clear of horse.	2	_____
4.	Do not allow reins to touch the ground by either holding them in your hand, or placing the reins over your right shoulder or over the left side of the horse's neck near its head.	2	_____
5.	Bridle horse gently respecting the horse's mouth.	2	_____
6.	Buckle throat latch and place end in keeper. ( <i>English riders buckle throat latch and cavesson placing ends in keepers.</i> ) Check for correct fit.	2	_____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:



SECTION V: MOUNTING/Western(English)

		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
1.	Check throat latch, and chin ( <i>cavesson/noseband</i> ) strap for adjustment.	2	_____
2.	Cinch ( <i>girth</i> ) properly checked and tightened.	2	_____
3.	( <i>Lower both stirrup irons.</i> ) Reins placed over the horse's head and adjusted evenly in left hand to hold horse with romal or end of the reins on the right side of the horse.	2	_____
4.	Place left hand on withers. Riders may grasp a handful of mane if necessary. Turn to face horse's hindquarters.	2	_____
5.	Grasp stirrup ( <i>stirrup iron</i> ) with right hand and twist it toward you.	2	_____
6.	Place left foot in stirrup ( <i>stirrup iron</i> ) on ball of foot, pivot on right foot to face horse.	2	_____
7.	Grasp the saddle horn ( <i>pommel</i> ) with the right hand and mount smoothly, passing right leg over horse. ( <i>If cantle is used to mount subtract one point.</i> )	2	_____
8.	Slip right foot into right stirrup ( <i>stirrup iron</i> ). ( <i>Feet should rest in irons so that the ball of the foot rests on the stirrup pad with the little toe resting against outside of iron.</i> )	2	_____
9.	If a romal is used, it should be moved to the right side of the horse after mounting. Ends of split reins should remain on the same side as the hand holding the reins when rider uses finger between reins. ( <i>Excess rein should be moved to the right side of the horse after mounting. Reins should be adjusted for light contact on the horse's mouth.</i> )	2	_____


**SECTION VI:        DISMOUNTING/Western(English)**

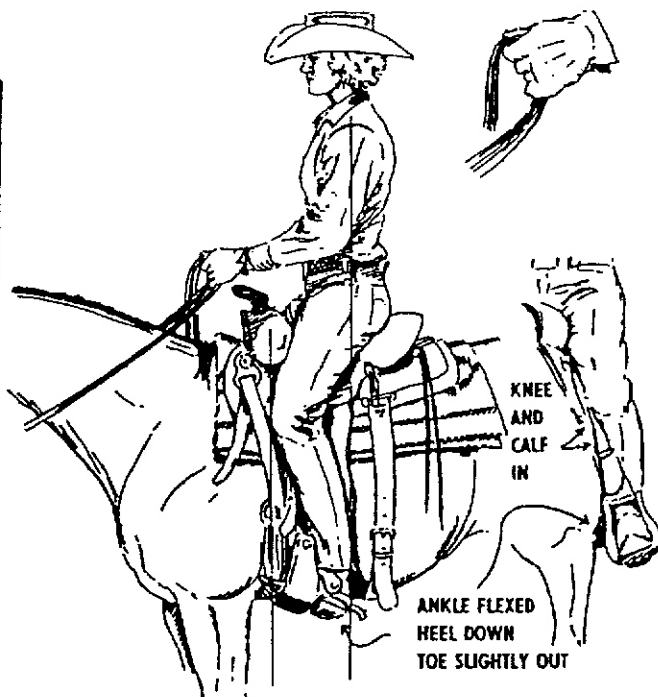
		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
1.	Gather up reins. Reins should be moved to left side of horse before dismounting. <i>(Hold reins so there is enough contact to keep the horse still. Reins placed in left hand.)</i>	2	_____
2.	Loosen right foot in stirrup <i>(loosen both feet from stirrup irons).</i>	2	_____
3.	Grasp horn <i>(pommel)</i> with right hand. Left hand holds reins and rests on withers.	2	_____
4.	Brace left knee, stand straight up, and swing right leg over horse gently, close to horse without hitting the horse <i>(swing right leg over horse, supporting with hands).</i>	2	_____
5.	Loosen left foot in stirrup and step down facing the horse's head <i>(lower with hands, pushing away from horse).</i>	2	_____
6.	Remove left foot smoothly from stirrup <i>(remove reins over the horse's head).</i>	2	_____
7.	Remove reins over the horse's head. Move to the front of the horse holding the reins <i>(tie stirrup irons up and move to the front of the horse holding reins).</i>	2	_____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

## SECTION VII: RIDING

Possible 10 points for each section.

		Basic Position
10	10	Walk
10	10	Jog or Trot
10	10	Lope or Canter
10	10	Stop
10		Back
10	10	Reverse



JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

## SECTION VIII:      UNSADDLING AND UNBRIDLING

		POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS SCORED
	<b>Unbridle</b>		
1.	Buckle halter around horse's neck.	2	_____
2.	Do not allow reins to touch ground. Hold lead rope and reins in right hand, or place over your right shoulder or over the left side of the horse's neck near its head.	2	_____
3.	Keep your head clear from the horse.	2	_____
4.	Unbuckle the throat latch ( <i>English riders unbuckle the cavesson too</i> ), remove the bridle gently with respect to the horse's mouth.	2	_____
5.	Place the halter on the horse's head and tie the horse up using a slip knot.	2	_____
	<b>Unsaddle</b>		
1.	Unbuckled the back cinch first. ( <i>English riders checked to make sure irons are securely tied.</i> )	2	_____
2.	Uncinch the front cinch. Let the cinches down carefully, not hitting the horse.	2	_____
3.	Put the right stirrup and cinches up, over the horn or the saddle seat.	2	_____
4.	When taking the saddle off, lift it above the horse's withers, and then off his back. Do not drag it over the withers which can irritate the horse.	2	_____
5.	Remove the saddle pad separately. ( <i>English riders who have a pad that attaches to the saddle can remove saddle and pad together.</i> )	2	_____
6.	Blanket placed inside out on top of the saddle to dry and air out. ( <i>English riders flip attached pads over the saddle seat.</i> )	2	_____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: