

# STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT STUDY GUIDE

## LEVEL 1

*March 2010*

Use this study guide with the  
CERTIFIED HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION  
**Composite Horsemanship Manual**

# HORSE PROJECT STUDY GUIDE

## LEVEL 1

### HORSE SENSE:

Horse sense is being able to understand \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_. The better you understand horses and their behavior, the more you can enjoy them.

Understanding them can even make you a better \_\_\_\_\_.

According to the CHA Manual, the horse sense rules are:

1. Praise often and \_\_\_\_\_ seldom. If you are firm and \_\_\_\_\_ with your horse you will gain \_\_\_\_\_. Being mean will make your horse \_\_\_\_\_ you.
2. Stop, \_\_\_\_\_ and listen. Be careful when you are working around horses. Horses can be \_\_\_\_\_ by loud noises and sudden movements. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Never stand directly in \_\_\_\_\_ of or in \_\_\_\_\_ of a horse. Horses can't see straight in front of them or behind them and you might be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ over.
4. Horses should not be hand \_\_\_\_\_. You might be \_\_\_\_\_ and it can make some horses \_\_\_\_\_ and hard to handle.
5. Stay at least \_\_\_\_\_ horse length behind the horse in front of you. Getting too close might cause the horse in front of you to \_\_\_\_\_ or bite. \*\*\*\*\* If you see a horse with a red ribbon on its tail, STAY BACK. This means the horse is very likely to kick if someone gets too close.\*\*\*\*\*
6. Check your \_\_\_\_\_ for proper fit before you mount.
7. Always tie your horse with the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rope. If you tie with the \_\_\_\_\_, they can break or the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ might be \_\_\_\_\_ if tied by the bridle and bit.
8. Treat \_\_\_\_\_ with care and \_\_\_\_\_ it away. Taking good care of your \_\_\_\_\_ makes it easier to use, it will last longer and it will be more comfortable for the \_\_\_\_\_ and rider.
9. Never wrap or \_\_\_\_\_ anything that is attached to your \_\_\_\_\_ around your body. If your horse spooks and runs, you could be \_\_\_\_\_ by your horse.
10. Listen and \_\_\_\_\_. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ at all times when you are around horses.
11. If you need to adjust \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, dismount. Unusual movement on your horse's back may cause him to \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Dress appropriately. You should wear \_\_\_\_\_ pants and wear shoes with a \_\_\_\_\_ and smooth soles. Always wear a safety \_\_\_\_\_ when riding.

### HORSE CARE AND HANDLING:

You should approach your horse at the \_\_\_\_\_ or as close to the \_\_\_\_\_ as you can so that he can see you. Speak \_\_\_\_\_ and call the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ as you approach in case he is \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ him on the \_\_\_\_\_ or neck.

Have the \_\_\_\_\_ and lead \_\_\_\_\_ ready when you go to catch a horse. To put the \_\_\_\_\_ on the horse, stand on the \_\_\_\_\_ side. It is a good idea to \_\_\_\_\_ to the horse while you stroke or pat him to let him know you are a \_\_\_\_\_. Slide the halter over his \_\_\_\_\_. The long strap should come across the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ and behind the \_\_\_\_\_. The halter should not fit too \_\_\_\_\_ because it will put pressure on his face. It also should not fit too \_\_\_\_\_, because it

could catch on something or he might get his \_\_\_\_\_ caught in it. Sometimes horses scratch their heads with their \_\_\_\_\_!

When you lead your horse you should be on the \_\_\_\_\_ in between the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the reins or the rope around your hand. This could be very dangerous if the horse spooks and decides to \_\_\_\_\_ away from you.

To turn your horse, you should turn his head \_\_\_\_\_ from you. Move your right hand under his chin to the \_\_\_\_\_. This will help keep the horse from stepping on your \_\_\_\_\_. If you must turn the horse toward you, switch the lead rope to your \_\_\_\_\_ hand and put your \_\_\_\_\_ hand on his shoulder to keep him an arm's length away from you and your \_\_\_\_\_.

When it is time to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ your horse, you need to \_\_\_\_\_ your horse. To do this, you should \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ rope to a solid object like a fence post or a hitching rail. When you tie, you should always use a \_\_\_\_\_ knot. Tie your horse at a level that is as high as his \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. It is important not to tie the lead rope too \_\_\_\_\_ because he could put his head down and get his \_\_\_\_\_ over the rope!

A horse can also be \_\_\_\_\_. This is usually \_\_\_\_\_ ropes tied high on each \_\_\_\_\_.

Horses should \_\_\_\_\_ be tied with a halter and lead rope and \_\_\_\_\_ by the bridle and reins. Tying with the bridle and reins could \_\_\_\_\_ your bridle or injure the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ with the bit if he pulls back too hard.

**As part of your Level 1 assessment, you will be asked to demonstrate the proper way to catch and halter a horse. The above section on Horse Care and Handling will help you prepare. A copy of the judges' checklist is included in your study guide.**

## **GROOMING:**

Grooming is important to your horse's \_\_\_\_\_. It helps remove \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that can cause saddle sores and gives your horse's \_\_\_\_\_ a shine.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is used on the horse's \_\_\_\_\_ in a circular motion to bring dirt to the surface. A hard \_\_\_\_\_ should not be used on the \_\_\_\_\_, legs or any \_\_\_\_\_ areas of the horse.

The \_\_\_\_\_, or hard brush, is used to remove the dirt brought up by the \_\_\_\_\_. You should brush in firm \_\_\_\_\_ strokes in the direction of the hair to remove the dirt.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is used on the body and the \_\_\_\_\_ to remove dirt from the surface and to leave a \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ comb is used to remove \_\_\_\_\_. You should start at the \_\_\_\_\_ and work towards the \_\_\_\_\_ to gently remove the tangles.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is used to clean dirt, rocks and manure from the horse's \_\_\_\_\_. Clean the \_\_\_\_\_ working \_\_\_\_\_ from yourself.

When grooming you should start at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the horse and work your way \_\_\_\_\_.

It is a good idea to keep \_\_\_\_\_ on your horse so that you can feel him move. As you go around the back of your horse, you need to move around safely. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ on his \_\_\_\_\_ and speak to him so he is aware of where you are.

**As part of your Level 1 assessment, you will be asked to identify grooming tools, clean your horse's hooves and demonstrate the proper way to groom a horse. The above section on grooming will help you prepare. A copy of the judge's checklist is included in your study guide.**

**After you have demonstrated grooming, you will also demonstrate for the judge the proper way to saddle and bridle your horse. Please refer to the CHA manual for directions on saddling and bridling. A copy of the judge's checklist is included to help you prepare. A parent or a leader may assist you with placing your saddle if your saddle is too heavy or you can not safely reach up to put it on your horse. They may NOT help you with the rest of the demonstration unless there is a safety issue and the judge is notified ahead of time.**

**The parts of the horse and parts of the tack will be included on the written portion of your Level 1 assessment. Fill in the parts on the pictures included in your study guide using the CHA manual. For the tack, CHOOSE either Western or English. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO BOTH.**

#### **HORSEMANSHIP:**

**The first section of Horsemanship in the CHA Manual covers mounting, dismounting, seat and hand position and how to properly hold your reins. You should have a parent or leader review this section with you. It will help you with your riding.**

Aids are the means (or way) to \_\_\_\_\_ a horse and help him know what the rider wants. The two kinds of aids are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

A \_\_\_\_\_ aid is part of your \_\_\_\_\_. The four \_\_\_\_\_ aids are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Some examples of an \_\_\_\_\_ aid are \_\_\_\_\_, bats, whips and \_\_\_\_\_.

Your weight is a very important \_\_\_\_\_. By shifting your weight, you can tell the horse to stop, \_\_\_\_\_ or turn.

Your weight also keeps you and your horse in \_\_\_\_\_. By shifting your weight back you can signal the horse to \_\_\_\_\_. Shifting your weight forward means \_\_\_\_\_ and twisting your body to look in the direction you are turning tells your horse to \_\_\_\_\_.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ tell the horse to \_\_\_\_\_. Squeezing gently with both legs should signal your horse to \_\_\_\_\_.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ should be quiet and gentle. Hold them steady in \_\_\_\_\_ of the pommel and above the horse's \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ can be used to \_\_\_\_\_ your horse, warn him about a signal you are going to give him or to let him know you are displeased with him.

**As part of your Level 1 assessment, you will be asked to ride a basic pattern in the arena. The sections in the CHA manual on horse control, turns, basic figures and the trot will help you understand the instructions for the pattern and how it will be scored by the judge. You may also find some questions about these sections on the written portion of your Level 1 assessment.**

## LEVEL I DEMONSTRATION

### CATCH AND HALTER

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Turned horse to face gate before releasing halter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Approached horse at safe angle to shoulders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Made contact with neck or shoulder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Approached quietly and communicated with horse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Halter was unbuckled and rope was not coiled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Placed rope around neck quietly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Put arm over neck to position halter and slipped halter over nose.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Buckled and fit halter correctly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Led horse on near side with right hand near halter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Left hand held folds of excess rope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Led horse keeping his/her own body slightly in front of horse's shoulder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Kept horse under control and did not get tangled in rope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Moved safely through the gate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Turned horse away from self when turning around.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Moved horse's hindquarters over from the ground.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Backed the horse from the ground.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Moved horse's front end to the side.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Tied horse safely with a proper knot on hitching post.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Did NOT tie on the cross fence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Completed above items without instruction or coaching.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of items checked (20 possible)

## LEVEL I DEMONSTRATION

### GROOMING, SADDLING & BRIDLING, UNSADDLING

#### IDENTIFYING GROOMING TOOLS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Hoof Pick – Cleans dirt from the hoof.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Curry Comb – Rubber or metal. Roughs up the hair to get the deep dirt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Dandy Brush (or Hard Brush) – Use in the direction of hair to remove the dirt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Soft Brush (or Body Brush) – Use to remove surface dirt & shine the coat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Mane & Tail Comb – Use to remove tangles from the mane and tail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Grooming Cloths – Use to polish the body. Also for cleaning ears, eyes & nostrils.

#### CLEANING THE FEET:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Hoof cleaned from heel to toe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Attention given to frog and cleft.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Cleaned feet in order: left fore, left hind, right fore, right hind OR left fore, left hind, right hind, right fore.

#### GROOMING:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Curry comb used in circular motions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Curried in sequence starting at the neck, breast, shoulder, fore leg, back, side, belly, croup and hind legs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Curry comb cleaned as needed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Dandy brush used in direction of hair with short firm strokes to remove dirt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Soft brush used to remove surface dirt and add shine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Brushed head and face carefully after finishing body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Remembered to clean fetlock area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Bent over, DID NOT KNEEL, to clean fetlocks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Mane & tail comb used properly beginning at ends and working towards roots.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Tough tangles were gently removed with fingers, no harsh tugging or pulling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Polishing cloth used over body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Cloth or sponges used to clean eyes, ears, nostrils and lips.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Cloth or sponges used to clean sheath or teat area and dock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Moved safely from side to side around the back of the horse.

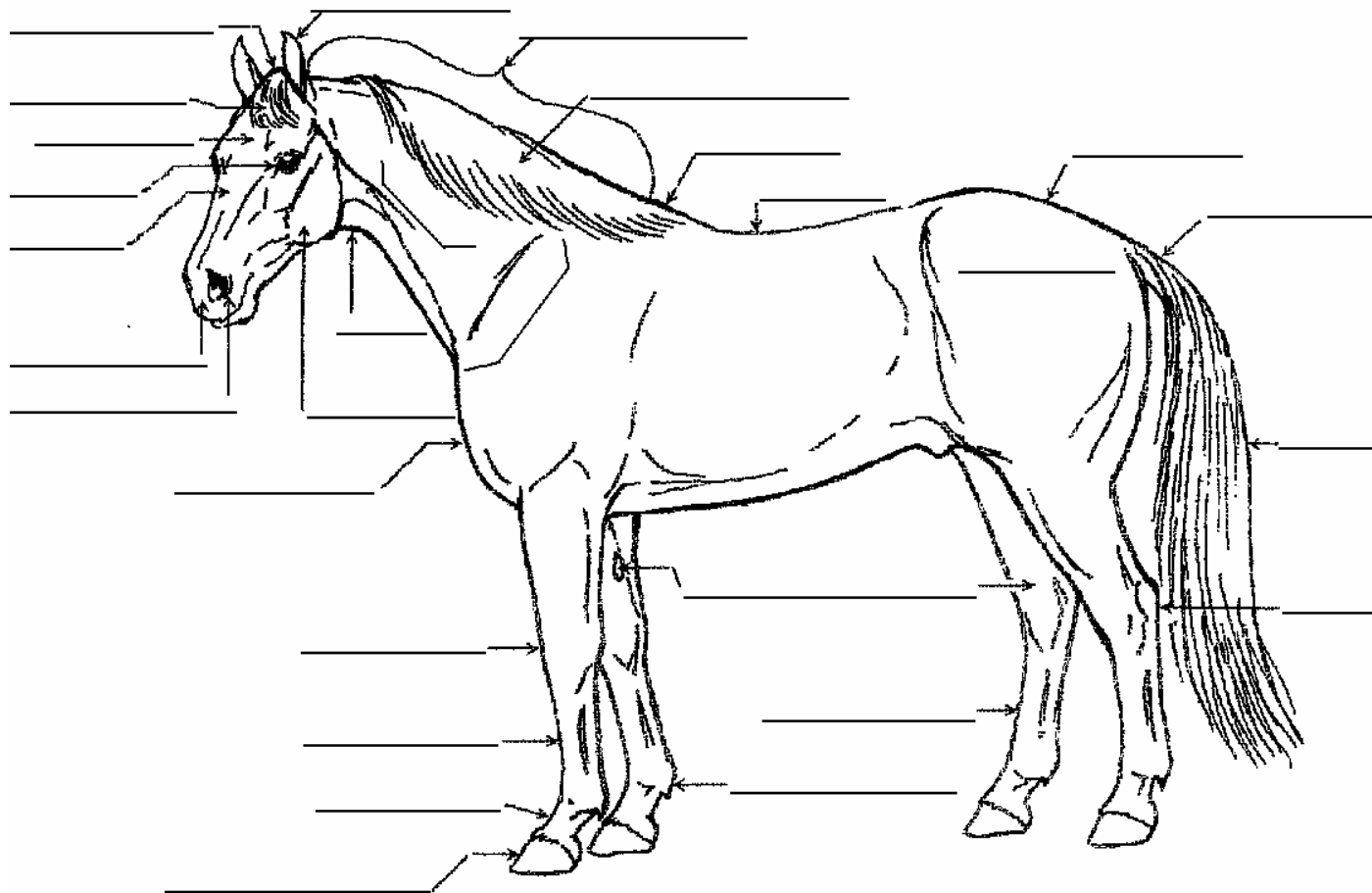
**SADDLING AND BRIDLING:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Blanket checked for dirt and foreign material.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Blanket placed properly, high on withers and slid back into place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Saddle cinches were not allowed to drag on the ground.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Cinches were not allowed to swing down and hit horse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Moved to off side to check straps and saddle position before cinching.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Cinches fastened properly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Untied, removed halter and placed it around neck.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Bridled properly using thumb to open mouth, if necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. Did not allow reins to drag on ground.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. Throat latch was secured and brow band or ear piece checked for proper fit.

**UNSADDLING:**

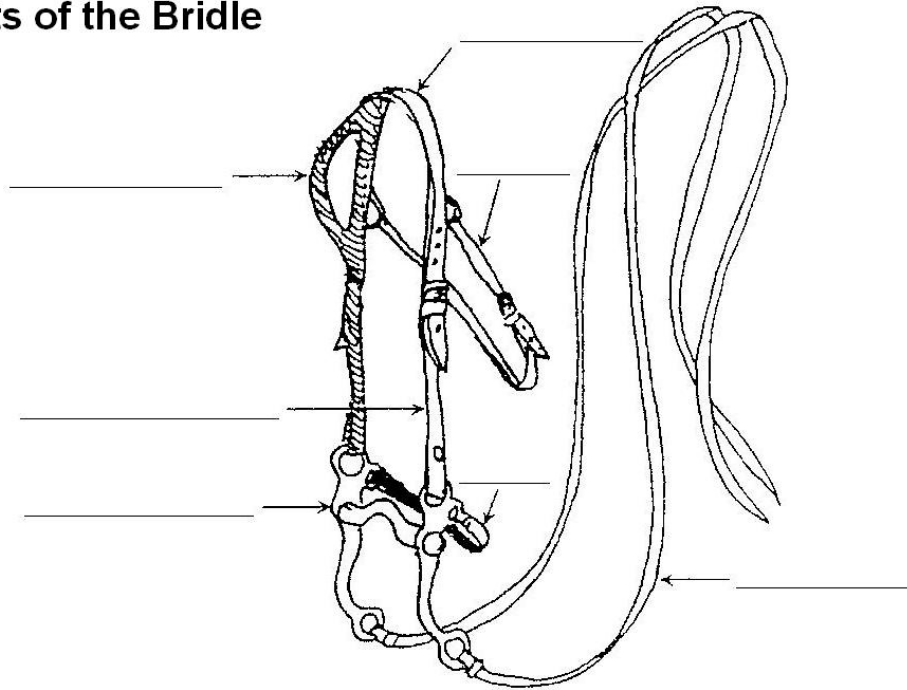
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. Halter placed around the neck.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. Bridle removed carefully. (Paid attention to ears and teeth.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. Halter replaced and horse re-tied properly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. Saddle and blanket removed. Cinches were not allowed to drag the ground.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. Brushed areas where hair was disturbed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. Was in control of horse at all times. Remained calm, firm and gentle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. Verbal explanations of the procedure were given.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of items checked (40 possible)

## Parts of the Horse

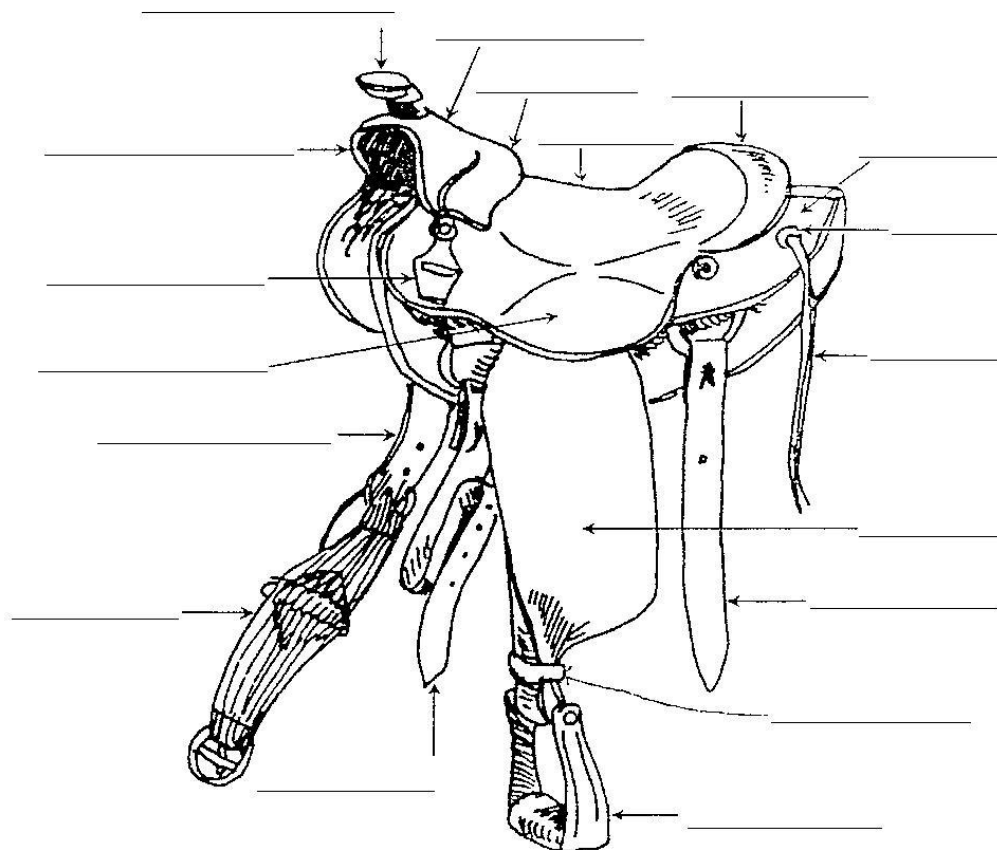


# Western Tack

## Parts of the Bridle

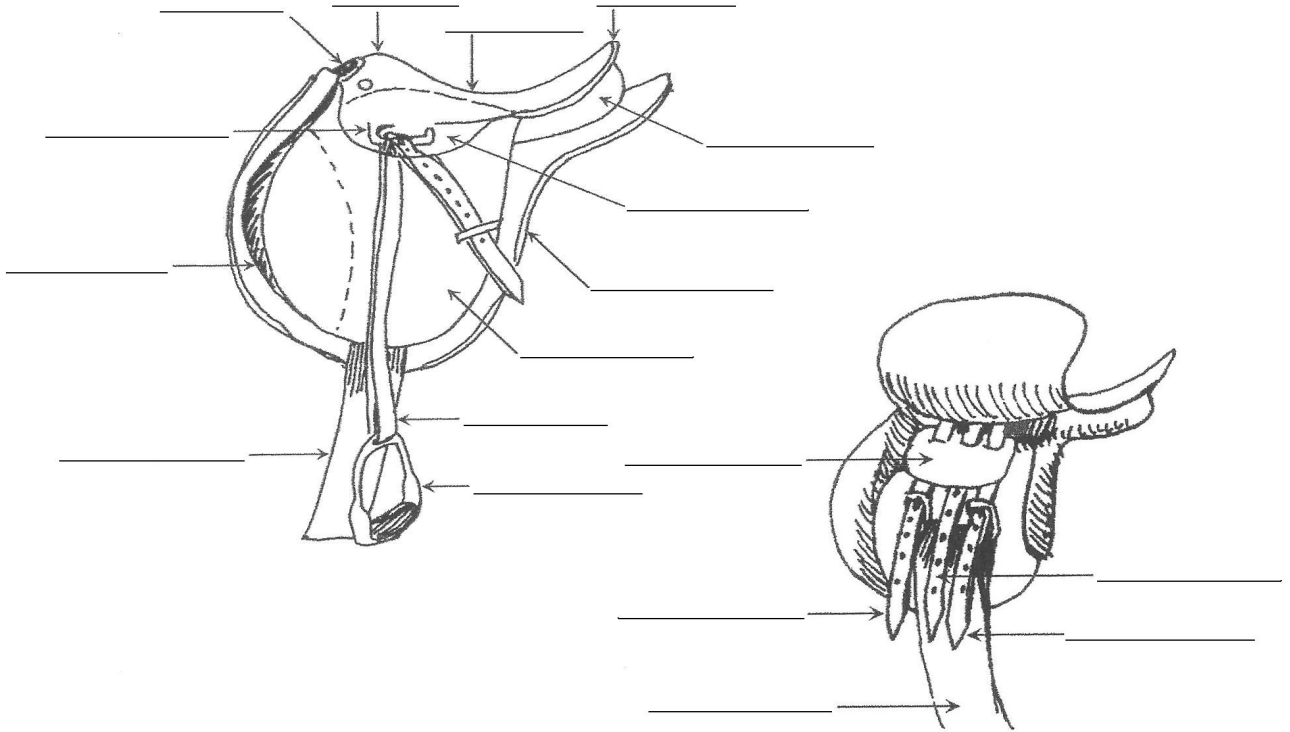


## Parts of the Saddle

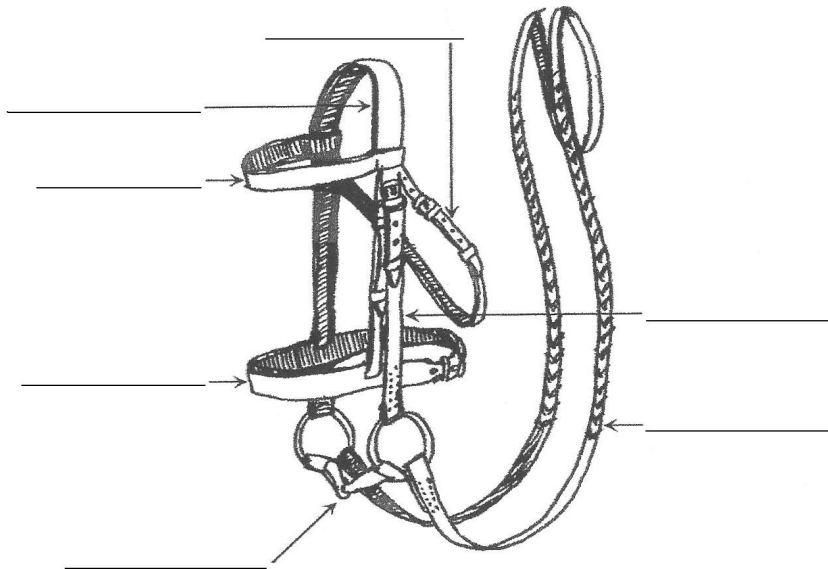


# English Tack

## Parts of the Saddle



## Parts of the Bridle



## LEVEL 1 PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Letter	Directions	You are scored on
1. To O	Lead horse (saddled)	Leading the horse safely and correctly.
2. O	Check tack and mount (You may use a mounting block and have an assistant hold the horse)	Remembering to safety check and mounting properly Controlling the horse and not disturbing him while you are mounting
3. A	Enter the ring at a walk Turn to the right along the rail Continue to C	Your position, seat, and control at a walk DO NOT cut the corners
4. C	Jog or trot (posting is optional) Continue jog or trot to B without breaking gait	Your position, seat, and control at jog or trot DO NOT cut the corners
5. B	Walk, halt, walk	Control while stopping Ease and gentleness at stopping the horse
6. B	Continue trot to M	Ability to get horse to trot from B to M
7. M	Reverse without breaking gait in a half circle and return to rail at B	Turning and control while reversing at the jog or trot
8. B	Continue jog or trot to E without breaking gait	Your position, seat, and control at jog or trot DO NOT cut the corners
9. E X	Turn and walk to center (X) Stop in front of judge	Position and control while turning and stopping
10. X	Dismount, prepare horse to lead Acknowledge judge and leave the arena leading the horse at a walk	Dismounting safely and preparing to lead Being in control of the horse and leading correctly and safely

# Level I -- Riding Pattern

