



These Tests are progressive, and are designed to help you increase your knowledge and skills as you work towards each level, beginning with 'E' which is very simple, and finishing with 'A' which involves a greater practical and theoretical knowledge. Many of the requirements will be repeated throughout the levels, but each time the standard will be higher, and a greater depth of knowledge will be needed. Safe riding on the road is very important and so Road Rider badges must be completed before the 'D' and 'C' Tests and the Road Rider Test must be completed before the 'C+' Test.



## E Test

Recommended minimum age 4+

'E' Test riders should be able to walk and trot on the lead rein. They should also know basic points of the pony and tack. This is a voluntary test.



## D Test

Recommended minimum age 8

'D' Test riders are expected to be able to ride a pony off the lead rein in walk and trot in an enclosed area. They should also know the basic needs of a pony in summer and winter and be able to handle a pony with confidence. Jumping is not required.



## D+ Test

Recommended minimum age 10

D+' Test riders should be able to walk, trot and canter. They will need to walk their pony up and down a hill, walk without stirrups, and ride over a very small fence in an enclosed field. They should be able to tack up, clean tack, groom a pony and recognise rugs.



## C Test

Recommended minimum age 11

'C' Test riders should be able to ride confidently and in balance in trot and canter on the flat, and up and down hills. They should be capable of jumping small cross country fences, and be able to prepare the pony beforehand and deal with it afterwards. They will also be required to trot without stirrups. Most of the riding in the C Test will be in an open field.

They will know aids for canter, sequence of legs in both trot and canter and talk about rhythm. They are also required to display basic knowledge of fitting tack, shoeing, minor wounds, lameness, loading a pony, feeding and watering.



## C+ Test

Minimum age 13

'C+' riders will demonstrate C Test level riding as well as show a turn on the forehand, leg yielding, and be capable of jumping a variety of show jumps and cross country fences in an open field.

They will be asked to name the scales of training, explain rhythm, tempo, and suppleness. In addition they will show a greater knowledge of pony care including putting on a stable bandage and being able to poultice.



## B Test

Minimum age 14, Recommended minimum age 15

This may be taken as a whole or in two parts, B Test Riding and B Test Care. They may be taken on different occasions and in any order. 'B' Test riders should have a correct position in the saddle. They will be required to ride their own horse and another. They must ride effectively and be able to relate the theory of riding to both horses. They will be able to show rein back, demi pirouettes, and may be asked to ride with two pairs of reins. They should be capable of riding a well mannered horse out hunting, eventing, long distance riding, and be able to care for it before, during and after the occasion.



## Lungeing Test

Minimum age 16

To be able to tack up a horse for lungeing and work the horse for exercise on the lunge. This is a pre-requisite for B+ level and above.



## B+ Test

Minimum age 16

### (Riding only)

This a voluntary test. At this level the rider's position should be more secure to produce balance and harmony. They will be required to ride and jump both their own horse and another. The obstacles will be both show jumps and cross country fences. They should be able to assess the horse's way of going in all three phases and discuss their findings in depth. They will also be required to ride in a double bridle.



## AH Test

Minimum age 16, Recommended minimum age 17

### (Care only)

Candidates must be practical, and require a high level of knowledge of horse management and day to day running of yards. They will be experienced in caring for a wide variety of horses and understand their specific needs. They will also be required to demonstrate ride and lead and lungeing for exercise.



## A Test

Minimum age 18

### (Riding only)

Candidates must hold both the Lungeing Test and AH Test. 'A' Test riders should have a balanced, independent and secure position. They will be capable of improving the horses they ride, and be able to support the practical work shown with relevant logical theory.

This test is the highest award of the Pony Club, and provides a comprehensive assessment of Horsemanship and Training of Young Horses. It is accepted by the BHS as an exemption from Stages 3 and 4 in Riding and Care.