

The sole duty of the Writer shall be to record the Judges' marks and comments on the Horse and Rider's individual Dressage Test Sheet

The following is a 'Quick Reference Sheet' for dressage writers it includes suggested abbreviations. The list is not exhaustive. Writers, where possible should abbreviate words on test sheets

| Term | Abbreviation | The Job of the Writer |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Above bit/bridle | ↑ - e.g. H↑ bit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read through the test before the event to familiarise yourself with the movements ▪ Arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes before competition is due to start ▪ Report to organisers on arrival ▪ Familiarise yourself with the venue; arenas, office, toilets etc ▪ Make sure there is a start list (draw) in your folder ▪ Check with organisers for withdrawals/scratchings ▪ Check there are sufficient number of test sheets in the folder plus some spares ▪ Check which arena you will be in and the position your judge will sit ▪ Set your watch to event time ▪ Introduce yourself to the judge & ask how they operate; mark first or comment first ▪ Have 2 pens on hand ▪ Write neatly & accurately ▪ Marks will range from 0 - 10 ▪ Make sure there is a mark in each box ▪ Use the abbreviations listed to save time ▪ Be sure to note any errors with E/C or EOC or * and circle the error on the back of the sheet ▪ Ask the judge to initial any changes to marks ▪ Notify the judge if they miss a mark ▪ Ensure that your judge signs every test sheet ▪ Do not make comments to the judge about any horse or any rider ▪ Do not chat as this can be disturbing ▪ Make sure all tests are returned to the scorers ▪ Note if a rider does not appear; advise office ▪ Dress in neat comfortable smart sportswear ▪ Take everything you need with you e.g. water ▪ Be aware you may be sitting for up to 2 hrs ▪ Turn off your mobile phone or put it on silent ▪ Whatever is said in the car stays in the car – confidentiality is of utmost importance between judge and writer |
| Balance | Bal - e.g. Not bal | |
| Behind bit/bridle | ← - e.g. Horse ← bit | |
| Centre Line | CL – e.g. Good CL to X | |
| Circle | O – e.g. O not round | |
| Collected | Coll – e.g. Not really coll | |
| Corner | L – e.g. Fell through L C-H | |
| Diagonal | Diag – e.g. Not st on diag | |
| Disobedient | Disob – e.g. Disob at E | |
| Downward Transition | ↓ trans | |
| Engaged/Engagement | Eng – e.g. more eng | |
| Expression | Exp – e.g. More exp in FC | |
| Extended | Ext – e.g. More for ext | |
| Flying Change | FC – e.g. More exp in FC | |
| Forward | → - e.g. Could be more → | |
| Half Circle | ½ O – e.g. Not flexed on ½ O | |
| Half Pass | HP – e.g. ¼ s trail in HP | |
| Hind | H – e.g. Resting H/leg in halt | |
| Impulsion | Imp – e.g. More imp | |
| Irregular | Irreg – e.g. some irreg strides | |
| Lengthening | Leng – e.g. Some leng shown | |
| Medium | Med – e.g. Need more for Med | |
| Quarters | ¼ s – e.g. ¼ s in M-F | |
| Regular | Reg – e.g. Reg strides | |
| Rein Back | RB – e.g. RB not st | |
| Resisting | Res – e.g. Res into halt | |
| Shoulder In | SI – e.g. SI not maintained | |
| Simple Change | SC – e.g. No SC shown | |
| Square | □ – e.g. Halt □ but not st | |
| Straight | St – e.g. Halt st but not □ | |
| Trailing | Trail – e.g. ¼ s trail | |
| Transition | Trans – e.g. Good trans to walk at C | |
| Upward Transition | ↑ trans | |
| Vertical | Vert – e.g. Horse → vert | |