



## Introductory Riding Competency Standards

### IR Assessment Slip 2, Verbal Assessment – Competency Rubric

Assessment Area	Competent	Not Yet Competent
<b>Correct Fitting of Tack</b>	Explains that tack must be professionally fitted to prevent injury to horse and rider; includes reasons related to open areas and pole work.	Omits professional fitting or does not explain safety risks linked to poor tack fit.
<b>Use of Boots/Bandages</b>	Describes their purpose for protecting against self-inflicted or external injury, with example (e.g., brushing, knocking poles).	Provides a vague or incorrect purpose; lacks relevant examples.
<b>Bit, Noseband, Breastplate, Rings</b>	Identifies function of each item clearly and links to horse control, safety, or anatomy.	Misses explanations or confuses the function of equipment.
<b>Difference Between Dressage &amp; Jump Saddles</b>	States correct differences in flap cut and rider position (e.g., stirrup bar location, forward cut for jumping).	Misstates saddle differences or confuses functions.
<b>2 vs 3 Point Forward Seat</b>	Accurately explains rider's body position in both seats and when each is used.	Incorrect body positions or does not distinguish between 2 and 3 point seats.
<b>Use of Forward Seat on Terrain &amp; Poles</b>	Explains how forward seat supports horse balance on uneven terrain and during jumping.	No link between forward seat and terrain or incorrect reasoning.
<b>Reasons for Trot Poles</b>	Clearly outlines how trot poles develop coordination, rhythm, and prepare for jumping.	Only partial explanation or misses connection to training benefits.



## Introductory Riding Competency Standards

Assessment Area	Competent	Not Yet Competent
<b>Distances Between Poles</b>	Provides correct distances: Walk (0.8–1.0m), Trot (1.2–1.5m), Canter (2.7–3.3m).	Incorrect distances
<b>Safety Factors when riding in the open</b>	<p>Talks about open spaces and how it affects horses differently.</p> <p>Talks about environment and stimulus that may affect the horse</p> <p>Talk about education of horse and how it manages in a group</p> <p>Mention other riders' abilities</p>	<p>No understanding of how open spaces could make a difference</p> <p>Doesn't mention environment</p> <p>No understanding of horses behave in a group situation</p> <p>Doesn't mention riders ability in regard to riding in the open</p>
<b>Discuss rules for riding/leading on the road.</b>	<p>Can talk about the rules for riding/leading on the roads.</p> <p>Knows that experienced riders should be with inexperienced horses</p>	<p>Doesn't know the rules</p> <p>Doesn't know about horses and riders experience relating to riding on roads</p>
<b>Discuss safety and injury prevention when riding/leading on roads</b>	<p>Knows about protective and reflective gear</p> <p>Having a safety plan including telling others where you are</p> <p>Apply defensive riding techniques</p>	<p>Doesn't mention protective or reflective gear</p> <p>Doesn't mention about telling whereabouts</p> <p>Doesn't mention about safety techniques when riding</p>