

EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR DRESSAGE TESTS FOR JUDGES AND RIDERS TESTS EFFECTIVE FROM 1/2/19

PRELIMINARY/NOVICE/ELEMENTARY

Movement: Free Walk on a long rein

Execution: Refer to page 42 & 249 in the FEI Handbook
Refer to 2.3.4 in the 2019 EA Rule book

- The free walk is a pace of relaxation in which the horse is permitted enough freedom to lower and stretch out his head and neck while the rider maintains alight contact through the rein
- The horse's strides and its frame are lengthened and a clear overstep is required
- The free walk is executed on a long rein – rider maintaining a light contact through the rein with the poll still under control
- Stretching over the back and forward/downward with the head and neck is most important in this movement
- The mouth should reach more or less to the horizontal line corresponding with the point of the shoulder
- The gullet should clearly open as the nose line should be taken forward

Therefore, the horse should be very relaxed, loosening his back muscles and going forwards. He should reach out with his nose, lowering his head and as he does so, he should be invited "to chew the reins out of the rider's hands". At the free walk the reins should not be totally abandoned and held at the buckle.

NOVICE LEVEL - All trot work is sitting or rising including LEG YIELD

Movement: LEG YIELD

2B

Movement 4: Working trot – L-M Leg yield right

Movement 7: Working trot - L-H Leg yield left

2C

Movement 3: Working trot – V-I Leg yield right

Movement 5: Working trot – S-L Leg yield left

Execution: Refer to 2.11 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

- The horse is almost straight except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which it is moving
- The rider should just be able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside.
- The inside legs pass forwards and cross in front of the outside legs

ELEMENTARY LEVEL- INTRODUCES SHOULDER-IN, TRAVERS, SIMPLE CHANGE AND TURN ON HINDQUARTERS AND MEDIUM TROT AND CANTER (Note Medium trot may be executed sitting or rising)

Movement: SHOULDER-IN

3A

Movement 4: Collected trot sitting – K-E Shoulder-in right

Movement 5: Collected trot sitting – B-M Shoulder-in left

3B

Movement 2: Collected trot sitting - M-B Shoulder-in right
Movement 5: Collected trot sitting - F-B Shoulder-in left

3C

Movement 4: Collected trot sitting – KE Shoulder-In right
Movement 9: Collected trot sitting – FB Shoulder-in left

Execution:

Refer to 2.12.1 in the 2019 EA Rulebook

- Slight but uniform bend around inside leg of rider
- Approximately 30 degrees angle
- Inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of outside foreleg
- Inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following same track as of outside fore leg
- Horse is bent away from direction in which it is travelling

Movement:

TRAVERS

3B

Movement 4: Collected trot sitting - E-K Travers left
Movement 7: Collected trot sitting – E-H Travers right

3C

Movement 6: Collected trot sitting – E-H Travers right
Movement 11: Collected trot sitting - B-M Travers left

Execution:

Refer 2.12.2 in the 2019 EA Rulebook

- Slightly bent around the inside leg of rider but with a greater degree of bend than the shoulder-in
- A constant angle of approx. 35 degrees (from the front and behind see 4 tracks)
- Forehand remains on the track and the quarters are moved inward
- The horses outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs
- Horse is bent in the direction in which he is moving
- To start the quarters must leave the track and to finish the quarters are brought back on the track

MOVEMENT:

HALF TURN ON HINDQUARTERS out of MEDIUM WALK

3B

Movement 12: **Between G and M** Medium walk - Shorten stride, half turn on hindquarters right
Movement 13: **Between G and H** Medium walk - Shorten stride, half turn on hindquarters left

3C

Movement 13:

Between G and M

Medium walk - Shorten stride, half turn on hindquarters left

Movement 14:

Between G and H

Medium walk - Shorten stride, half turn on hindquarters right

Execution:

Refer to 2.13.3 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

- At this level the turn can be executed on a radius of approximately 0.5m
- The horse does not halt before or after the turn
- The horse is slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning remaining 'on the bit' and turning on the inside hind leg
- The horse maintains an active correct walk sequence with hind leg joints well bent

MOVEMENT

SIMPLE CHANGE of CANTER LEAD – Through 3-5 steps of walk

Execution:

Refer to 2.5.7 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

MEDIUM LEVEL

INTRODUCES WALK HALF PIROUETTE, RENVERS, HALF PASS IN TROT and CANTER, SINGLE FLYING CHANGE

MOVEMENT:

WALK HALF PIROUETTE

4A

Movement 9:

Between G and H Shorten the stride and half pirouette left

Movement 10:

Between G and M Shorten the stride and half pirouette right

4B

Movement 10:

Shorten the stride and half pirouette right

Movement 11:

Shorten the stride and half pirouette left

4C

Movement 12:

Shorten the stride and half pirouette left

Movement 13:

Shorten the stride and half pirouette right

Execution:

Refer to 2.13.2 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

- The horse does not halt before or after the turn
- The horse is slightly bent in the direction in which it is turning around the inside hind leg remaining 'on the bit'
- The horse maintains the exact sequence and timing of the footfalls of the walk
- As the horse exits the half pirouette it returns to the initial track without crossing the hind legs

MOVEMENT:

RENVERS

4B

Movement 4:

Renvers right

Movement 8:

Renvers left

Execution:

Refer to 2.12.3 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

- The hindquarters remain on the track while forehand is moved inward
- Greater degree of bend than shoulder-in
- The horse is lightly bent around the leg of the rider
- Horse's outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs
- the horse is bent in the direction in which it is moving

ADVANCED

Introduces COUNTER CHANGE OF HAND IN TROT and CANTER, QUARTER AND HALF WORKING CANTER PIROUETTES, TEMPI CHANGES EVERY FOURTH AND THIRD STRIDE, HALF CIRCLE IN COUNTER CANTER

MOVEMENT:

THREE SINGLE FLYING CHANGES OF LEAD, NEAR FIRST QUARTER LINE, AT X, AND NEAR LAST QUARTER LINE

5A

Movement 24:

HXF Change Rein – Three single flying changes of lead, near first quarter line, at x, and near last quarter line

Directive for Execution

The directive is that judges do not need to count strides, but just follow the directive of the **placement of the changes** (near quarter line, near X, near quarter line. There is no reward for 4x changes, etc., but also no punishment. The main concerns of the judges are:

- The quality, balance, collection and control of the changes and that they are **placed** as per the movement- near the quarter line, near centre line, near quarter line. If the rider does not meet the directive of the placement then there are reasons for a negative effect on the mark

MOVEMENT:

QUARTER WORKING CANTER PIROUETTE

5B

Movement 20:

MX- On diagonal develop very collected canter, Approaching X Working pirouette right toward the letter H

Execution:

Refer to 2.13.1 in the 2019 EA Rule Book

- This is less than a half pirouette in size, (a quarter pirouette) as the rider comes in on one diagonal and goes out on another
- Rider should accentuate the collection and control whilst executing this pirouette
- Horse should clearly take weight over the quarters and stay in a clear canter rhythm and balance with slight bend to the right
- Diagonals should be precisely ridden lines