

Verbal Assessment: IR Assessment Slip 1 – Competency Rubric with Descriptions

Assessment Area	Competent	Developing	Limited	Not Yet Competent
Correct Fitting Tack	Explains that correct fitting tack prevents injury to horse and rider; mentions professional saddle fitting.	Explains some benefits of correct fitting tack but misses key points (e.g., professional fitting).	Gives vague or incomplete explanation of correct tack use.	Fails to explain purpose or risks of improper fit
Use of Boots/Bandages	States boots protect legs from injury; includes examples like brushing or hitting obstacles.	Mentions protection but does not include clear examples.	Gives incomplete or vague description of purpose.	Misses protective purpose or does not provide examples.
Bit, Noseband, and Saddle Cloth	Identifies purpose of bit and noseband (mouth/jaw control). Identifies saddle cloth matching discipline.	Explains some items but misses detail or discipline relevance.	Gives minimal or vague explanation of items.	Missing explanation or relevance of each item to horse or discipline.
Signs of Tack Wear	Lists multiple areas to check (straps, girth points, reins, etc.); explains risk of injury from worn tack.	Lists some areas but misses key details or risks.	Mentions wear but vague, incomplete explanation.	Incomplete list or no risk explanation.
Rhythm and Relaxation	Defines both terms; links relaxation to balance and rhythm.	Defines one term but not the other, or misses link.	Provides vague or incomplete definitions.	Definitions missing or unclear; no link to horse behavior or training.
Contact	Defines contact as connection between rider and horse; includes balance as key to good contact.	Mentions contact but misses balance or detail.	Provides vague or incomplete definition.	Lacks definition or does not mention balance/impulsion.
Impulsion	Defines as controlled energy from hindquarters; includes mental and physical readiness.	Mentions impulsion but misses hindquarters or readiness.	Provides vague or incomplete definition.	Fails to mention energy/activity, or hindquarters.
Rhythm vs. Tempo	Defines rhythm (sequence of footfalls) and tempo (speed); explains relationship between them.	Defines rhythm or tempo but not both.	Mentions both but gives vague/incomplete explanation.	One or both terms undefined or confused.
Footfalls of Gaits	Correctly lists footfall patterns for walk (4-beat), trot (2-beat with suspension), and canter (3-beat with suspension).	Mentions footfalls but misses one gait or suspension.	Provides incomplete or vague descriptions.	Incorrect or incomplete descriptions of gait patterns.
Flexion and Bend	Defines flexion (poll joint) and bend (whole body); discusses importance for suppleness, balance, and connection.	Explains flexion and bend but misses importance.	Provides vague or incomplete definitions.	Incomplete or inaccurate definitions; lacks training importance.
Rules of the Arena	Identifies key rules (e.g., gate closed, passing rules, mounting off track); shows awareness of safety and etiquette.	Mentions some arena rules but misses key safety aspects.	Provides vague or incomplete list of rules.	Few rules listed or demonstrates misunderstanding of arena behaviour.
Warm Up and Cool Down	Explains warm up prepares horse mentally/physically, assesses soundness; cool down aids recovery, reduces stiffness, eliminates waste.	Explains warm up or cool down but not both.	Mentions warm up and cool down but vague or incomplete.	Fails to mention importance/purpose of both warm up and/or cool down