

IR Assessment Slip 2 – Verbal Assessment: Competency Rubric

Assessment Area	Competent	Developing	Limited	Not Yet Competent
Correct Fitting of Tack	Explains that tack must be professionally fitted to prevent injury to horse and rider; includes reasons related to open areas and pole work.	Mentions correct tack fitting but omits professional fitting or limited detail.	Gives vague explanation of tack fitting with minimal safety context.	Omits professional fitting or does not explain safety risks linked to poor tack fit.
Use of Boots/Bandages	Describes their purpose for protecting against self-inflicted or external injury, with example (e.g., brushing, knocking poles).	Mentions protection but without clear examples.	Provides incomplete or vague explanation.	Provides a vague or incorrect purpose; lacks relevant examples.
Bit, Noseband, Breastplate, Rings	Identifies function of each item clearly and links to horse control, safety, or anatomy.	Mentions some functions but not all; lacks detail.	Provides vague or incomplete functions of tack.	Misses explanations or confuses the function of equipment.
Difference Between Dressage & Jump Saddles	States correct differences in flap cut and rider position (e.g., stirrup bar location, forward cut for jumping).	Mentions some differences but lacks accuracy or detail.	Provides vague or incomplete description of saddle differences.	Misstates saddle differences or confuses functions.
2 vs 3 Point Forward Seat	Accurately explains rider's body position in both seats and when each is used.	Mentions seats but misses clarity on positions or usage.	Provides vague or incomplete description of forward seats.	Incorrect body positions or does not distinguish between 2 and 3 point seats.
Use of Forward Seat on Terrain & Poles	Explains how forward seat supports horse balance on uneven terrain and during jumping.	Mentions forward seat but with limited explanation of balance.	Provides vague or incomplete description of forward seat use.	No link between forward seat and terrain or incorrect reasoning.
Reasons for Trot Poles	Clearly outlines how trot poles develop coordination, rhythm, and prepare for jumping.	Mentions trot poles but omits training benefits.	Provides vague or incomplete explanation.	Only partial explanation or misses connection to training benefits.
Distances Between Poles	Provides correct distances: Walk (0.8–1.0m), Trot (1.2–1.5m), Canter (2.7–3.3m).	Provides distances but with small errors or missing one gait.	Provides vague or incomplete distances.	Incorrect distances
Safety Factors when riding in the open	Talks about open spaces and how it affects horses differently. Talks about environment and stimulus that may affect the horse. Talks about education of horse and how it manages in a group. Mentions other riders' abilities.	Mentions some safety factors but misses key points (e.g., group behaviour or environment).	Provides vague or incomplete explanation of safety in open riding.	No understanding of how open spaces could make a difference. Doesn't mention environment. No understanding of horses in a group situation. Doesn't mention riders' ability in regard to riding in the open.
Rules for riding/leading on the road	Can talk about the rules for riding/leading on the roads. Knows that experienced riders should be with inexperienced horses.	Mentions some rules but omits key points about experience of horses/riders.	Provides vague or incomplete explanation of road rules.	Doesn't know the rules. Doesn't know about horses and riders experience relating to riding on roads.
Safety & injury prevention on roads	Knows about protective and reflective gear. Has a safety plan including telling others where you are. Applies defensive riding techniques.	Mentions some safety aspects but omits key protective measures.	Provides vague or incomplete explanation of road safety.	Doesn't mention protective or reflective gear. Doesn't mention telling whereabouts. Doesn't mention safety techniques when riding.