



# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 1 (ER -1)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Rider in safe and neat attire Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing regular farrier care Discuss how to safely approach another horse and rider while mounted	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Tack</b> Tack safe, neat and properly adjusted, with assistance if necessary Demonstrate how to check the fit of girth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Hold the reins correctly at the halt Shorten and lengthen the reins correctly at the halt Drop and regain stirrups without using hands	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride at the walk and trot with control, keeping the horse on the rail.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a simple change of direction at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

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Comments:	
Perform gradual transitions from a walk to trot and walk to halt	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate basic balanced position at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Walk over ground poles in two-point position	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 2 (ER-2)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Rider in safe and neat attire Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing regular farrier care Mane and tail combed and free of debris Appropriate areas of hair trimmed as suitable to discipline Discuss general precautions that should be taken when riding in a group	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Tack</b> Tack safe, neat and clean, with attention to stitching, girth and stirrups Demonstrate how to check proper length of stirrups Describe tack on horse and reasons for use	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Mount and dismount independently Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt and walk Adjust stirrups and girth while mounted at the halt	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate control while maintaining a safe, balanced position at the walk and trot in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Perform simple circles and figure 8's at the walk and trot, demonstrating posting on the correct diagonal Ride without stirrups at the walk	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

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Back three to four steps in a straight line without resistance by the horse	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a balanced stop from the walk and trot on a straightaway	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a correct seat at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 3 (ER-3)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Riding Courtesy and Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Rider in safe and neat attire Horse groomed with feet picked out, showing farrier care Tack safe, neat and clean Discuss and demonstrate (if possible) rules of courtesy that should be followed when riding with others in a ring and on a trail	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate control at the walk, trot and canter in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Perform 20 meter circles at the walk, sitting trot and rising trot and canter with correct lead in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

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Demonstrate a balanced stop from the walk, trot and canter on a straightaway	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate a balanced, secure position throughout all work	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Complete USDF Training Level Test I with a score of 60% or higher (See Appendix A)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 4 (ER-4)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Tack safe, clean and well adjusted, metal polished Describe how to recognize properly fitted tack Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Perform basic suppling exercises for the rider	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride at the walk, trot and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing circles and figure 8's with a correct bend at each gait, showing simple changes of lead.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate aids for moving a horse away from the leg at a halt and walk	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Describe three artificial aids and their use	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk and trot	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

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Comments:	
Demonstrate working trot, to an extended trot, back to a working trot in both directions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Rider should show firm basic balanced position throughout flatwork, developing a light, steady feel of the horse's mouth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Explain appropriate distances between ground trotting poles	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Complete USDF Training Level Test 4 with a score of 60% or higher (See Appendix B)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Longing</b> Discuss reasons for longing, necessary equipment and safety procedures	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 5 (ER-5)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Tack safe, clean and well-adjusted, metal polished and reflecting regular care. Explain the purpose of equipment used on own horse Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet, reflecting regular care	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Ride at the walk, trot and canter, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles, serpentines and figure 8's with a correct bend while maintaining an even rhythm with smooth transitions	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Discuss appropriate horse and rider warm up routines for three different activities	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Ride without stirrups at the walk, trot, and canter, maintaining balance and control	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return smoothly to the canter	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate the aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the trot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	



Halt squarely and stand for five seconds	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Rider should show confidence and control throughout flatwork, demonstrating a basic balanced position and developing a light, steady feel of the horse's mouth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Complete USDF First Level Test 1 with a score of 60% or higher (See Appendix C)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Longing:</b> Discuss at least 3 exercises used when longing a horse. Longe a horse for the purpose of exercise in an enclosed area	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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# Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards English Riding Level 6 (ER-6)

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

<b>Horse and Rider Turnout</b> Tack safe, clean and well-adjusted, metal polished and reflecting regular care. Explain the purpose of equipment used on own horse Horse thoroughly groomed with attention to mane, tail and feet, reflecting regular care	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Riding</b> Demonstrate an appropriate warm-up for flat work, discuss and evaluate performance with examiner	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate the ability to perform circles, half-circles and straight lines with and without stirrups at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Discuss and demonstrate the difference between lengthening stride and increasing speed at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate moving the horse away from the rider's leg at the trot and canter	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Demonstrate turns on the forehand and hindquarters in each direction	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

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Comments:	
Rider should show confidence and control throughout flatwork, demonstrating a basic balanced position and developing a light, steady feel of the horse's mouth	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
Complete USDF First Level Test III with a score of 60% or higher (See Appendix D)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
<b>Longing:</b> Longe in an enclosed area to a horse's level of ability demonstrating free forward relaxed movement, rhythm, correct bend, and smooth transitions Discuss and demonstrate properly fitted equipment as appropriate	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____
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Comments/Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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