



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 1 (WR-1)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Approach a horse safely and put on halter.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Lead and turn horse safely in hand.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate proper grooming techniques, including picking out hooves (with assistance if needed).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be neatly brushed, feet picked out (with assistance if needed), and showing regular farrier care.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss how to safely approach another horse and rider while mounted.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
Tack safe, neat, and properly adjusted, with assistance if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate how to check fit of cinch.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates control, while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and jog in both directions.

Mount and dismount, with assistance and mounting block if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Hold the reins correctly at the halt, walk, and jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Shorten and lengthen the reins correctly at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Drop and regain stirrups at the halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate a simple change of direction at the walk and jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform gradual transitions from a walk to jog and walk to halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Walk over appropriately spaced ground poles in a straight line.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete Western Riding Pattern 1 (Appendix P) demonstrating a safe, balanced position and use of natural aids, as well as proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:

A candidate may be retested as follows:

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test. Retest must take place within 3 months but no sooner than 1 month.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____

Signature _____



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 2 (WR-2)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Lead horse in and out of a stall safely.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Tie horse in a safe place with a quick release knot.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform walk/jog transitions in hand, with assistance if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be clean and well brushed, with feet picked out and showing regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips and dock wiped off. Mane and tail combed and free of debris.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss general precautions (safety measures) that should be taken when riding in a group.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
Tack to be safe and clean, (properly adjusted with assistance, if necessary) with attention to stitching, girth, and stirrups. No obvious dirt, grease, or heavy dust.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate how to check proper fit for a cinch.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates control while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and jog in both directions.

Demonstrate how to check proper length of stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount and dismount independently with mounting block if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Shorten and lengthen reins at the halt and walk.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform simple circles and figure 8's at the walk and jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk and regain stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Safely back three to four steps.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate a stop from the walk and jog on a straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete Western Riding Pattern 2 (Appendix Q) demonstrating a safe, balanced position and use of natural aids, as well as proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

Overall comments/suggestions:

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:

A candidate may be retested as follows:

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test. Retest must take place within 3 months but no sooner than 1 month.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
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ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Signature _____



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 3 (WR-3)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Discuss at least two precautions (safety measures) that should be taken when properly securing a hay net/hay bag.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply protective boots (simple galloping or brushing boots – one front, one hind on diagonal pairs – and front bell boots), with assistance if needed, and describe their purpose.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate putting a blanket on a horse, recognizing proper fit. (Horse handler may be used)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider in safe and neat attire with an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), with feet picked out, and showing regular farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips, and dock wiped off. Appropriate areas of hair trimmed as suitable to discipline.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate (if possible) rules of courtesy and safety that should be followed when riding with others in a ring and on a trail.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
Tack to be safe – especially stitching on stirrup leathers/girth – and clean – no grease, sweat, or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean. All tack must be properly adjusted.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss how to recognize properly fitted tack.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate demonstrates a safe, basic balanced position with control at the walk, jog, and lope in both directions.

Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed at the walk and jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk and jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Perform large circles at the walk, jog, and lope with correct lead in both directions.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate a halt from the walk, jog, and lope on a straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate aids for pivoting the horse's front end 45 degrees left and 45 degrees right.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Walk over appropriately spaced ground poles in a straight line.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete Western Riding Pattern 3 (Appendix R) demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position with control, and proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Signature _____



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 4 (WR-4)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Apply a stable bandage (one front or one hind). Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and differences between front and hind application. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss reasons for lunging, necessary equipment, and safety procedures for horse and rider.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate appropriate longe line attachment to the horse.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be well groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
Tack to be safe, properly adjusted, supple, and reflecting regular care. No grease, sweat, or dust. All stress points clean. No cracked leather. Metal clean and polished and stirrup pads clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Describe three artificial aids and their use.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, jog, and lope, demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position and use of natural aids. Candidate is freely moving the horse's body in both directions and is beginning to establish balance and rhythm.

Perform basic suppling exercises for the rider. Discuss benefits to riders.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride at the walk, jog, and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing large circles and figure 8's with a correct bend at each gait, showing simple changes of lead.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the walk to the left and right.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate aids pivoting the horse's front end 90 degrees left and 90 degrees right from a halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk and jog while performing large circles in both directions and performing changes of direction.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate the difference between lengthening stride and increasing speed at each gait.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss correct distances between jog and lope poles for both horses and ponies, as used in a trail class.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete Western Riding Pattern 4 (Appendix S) demonstrating a safe, basic balanced position and use of natural aids, as well as proper execution. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

4-Her has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) _____



Sections Requiring Retesting:

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ES_____ **MS**_____ **DNMS**_____

Signature_____



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Western Riding Level 5 (WR-5)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Demonstrate the ability to prepare a horse for safe travel in a trailer. Items to include a properly fitted break away halter and lead rope, shipping boots or bandages on all four legs, sheet/blanket/fly sheet if the weather requires it, and a head protector (if necessary).	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate the ability to safely load a cooperative horse or pony with assistance if needed.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply a shipping bandage (one front or one hind), with assistance if needed. Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and differences between front and hind application. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss at least 3 exercises and their benefits when lunging a horse.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Longe a horse, to its appropriate level, for the purpose of exercise in an enclosed area, demonstrating safe lunging techniques, with assistance if necessary. Evaluate horse's performance with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss selected farrier care for presented horse and why it has been chosen.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

TACK	
Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No grease, sweat, or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Explain purpose of equipment used on own horse (i.e. bit, girth, pads, breast plate, etc.)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
RIDING	
RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate rides with confidence and control at the walk, jog, and lope, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate is beginning to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm.	
Ride at the walk, jog, and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles (12-15 meters), serpentines, and figure 8's with a correct bend while maintaining an even rhythm with smooth transitions. Evaluate figures with Examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss two appropriate horse and rider warm up routines.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Ride without stirrups at the walk, jog, and lope, maintaining balance and control on the straightaway.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate the aids for moving a horse away from the rider's leg at the jog.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate aids for pivoting the horse's front end 180 degrees left and 180 degrees right from a halt.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Halt squarely and stand for five seconds.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Demonstrate aids for backing a horse around an object.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____

Lope over a ground pole.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Complete Western Riding Level 5 Pattern (Appendix T). Lead changes may be flying or simple, with flying changes meriting a higher score. Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

4-Her has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) _____

Sections Requiring Retesting:

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ES _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____

Signature _____



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

Western Riding Level 6 (WR-6)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____

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

HORSE MANAGEMENT	
Demonstrate how to take a horse's temperature, pulse, and respiration. Candidate should then discuss with examiner whether the vitals found are in the normal range.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Apply a stable bandage (one front or one hind), shipping bandage (one front or one hind), and tail wrap, all without assistance. Evaluate bandage with Examiner. Be prepared to discuss materials, techniques, and likes and dislikes of presented bandages. Horse handler may be used.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Longe in an enclosed area to a horse's level of ability, demonstrating free forward relaxed movement, rhythm, correct bend, and smooth transitions. Evaluate requirements with Examiner and decide if they were met,	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Discuss and demonstrate properly fitted equipment as appropriate for lunging. (Side reins optional, if used, must be properly fitted)	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
HORSE AND RIDER TURNOUT	
Rider's attire to be neat in discipline of choice, schooling show attire minimum, and should be safe and neat. Rider must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, and dock clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	
TACK	
Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No grease, sweat, or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
Comments:	

RIDING

RIDING EXPECTATIONS: Throughout the entire testing, candidate maintains a basic balanced position with a secure base of support. Candidate demonstrates the development of an independent seat and coordinated use of aids at the walk, jog, and lope. Candidate initiates and maintains free forward movement with smooth transitions. The candidate shows confidence and control at all gaits on the flat.

Demonstrate an appropriate warm-up for your horse and discuss and evaluate the horse and rider performance during the warm-up with the examiner.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Ride at the walk, jog, and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles, serpentines, and figure 8's with correct bend, while maintaining even rhythm <u>with</u> stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Ride at the walk, jog, and lope, showing smooth transitions and performing large and small circles, serpentines, and figure 8's with correct bend, while maintaining even rhythm <u>without</u> stirrups.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Demonstrate a jog, to an extended jog, back to a jog in both directions. Discuss performance.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Demonstrate a 360 degree pivot on the haunches to the left and right.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Demonstrate moving the hindquarters to the left and right approximately 90 degrees.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Demonstrate maneuvering the horse through an L-back thru.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Complete Western Riding Pattern 6 (Appendix U). Discuss and evaluate pattern with Examiner and re-do if necessary.	ES _____ MS _____ DNMS _____
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Comments:	
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ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Overall comments/suggestions:

Examiner Name

Examiner Signature

Date

4-Has paid required participation fee (examiner's initials) _____

Sections Requiring Retesting:

A candidate may be retested as follows:

- Retest to cover not more than 1 or 2 sections of the test. Retest must take place within 3 months but no sooner than 1 month.
- Not meeting standards of any section on that day will require retaking entire test.
- Retest must be conducted by original Examiner.

ES _____ **MS** _____ **DNMS** _____

Signature _____