

Pony Club Tests help you increase your knowledge and skills as you work your way through each level from E to A. Some of the requirements are repeated throughout the levels, but each time the standard required to pass will be higher.

To progress to some Tests you will need to pass others first, or take a Badge. For example the D Test requires you to hold your Road Rider Badge. When you pass a Test you will be presented with a certificate and a coloured felt to wear behind your Pony Club Member's Badge.



E Test

Recommended minimum age 4+

The E Test is a great place to start! You don't have to take it before you do your D Test, but we think it's a great way to practise preparing for and taking Tests. You will need to walk on the lead rein, holding the reins yourself, and steer your pony around a cone. The assessor will also ask you to point to parts of the pony such as the mane and tail, know the colour of the pony you're riding and be able to feed it a carrot correctly.



D Test

Recommended minimum age 8

To pass the D Test you'll need to show the correct position in the saddle then walk and trot, without being led. You will need to approach and handle a pony and talk about the differences in caring for it throughout the seasons. You'll need to brush up on the different parts of your pony's saddle and bridle, be able to recognise grooming equipment and point out some basic parts of the pony.



D+ Test

Recommended minimum age 10

To pass your D+ Test you will need to show the assessor you can adjust your stirrups and check your girth whilst mounted before demonstrating how to walk, trot and canter. You will also need to ride up and down hills, jump a small fence and do a little bit of walking without stirrups. You will need to count the pony's rhythm in trot and be able to talk about it. You will also need to ride a quiet pony with others on the road.



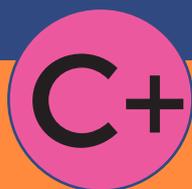
C Test

Recommended minimum age 11

To gain your C Test you will need to get your pony ready for a ride before checking your saddle and bridle for fit and safety. Once on board you will need to show you can remain balanced in walk, trot and canter, without using the reins to steady yourself, and understand the basics of establishing a pony's rhythm. You'll need to show how well you can jump a course of small fences and ride in the countryside, where you will need to open and close gates.

For the care part you will need to talk about keeping a pony at grass, apply a tail bandage and know a little about health and veterinary care.

The C Test also introduces travelling horses, rugging up and knowing how to safely lift heavy equipment.



C+ Test

Minimum age 13

As a C+ Test candidate you will need to demonstrate some simple lateral movements and jump a variety of show jumps and cross country fences, showing you're working towards a correct, supple and balanced position. You will be asked to talk about the suppleness, responsiveness and the balance of your pony or horse, explaining the sequence of the horse's legs in all paces and name the scales of training.

You will need to answer questions about the care, feed and work of ponies and horses and prepare one to be loaded onto a trailer or lorry. Shoeing is introduced at this level, so you will need to know all about the foot and the different shoes and tools a farrier uses, as well as recognising a variety of bits and understanding their action and uses. Your health and first aid knowledge will be tested further and you will need to apply a poultice to a horse's leg.

**B**

B Test Minimum age 14, Recommended minimum age 15

The riding and care elements of the B Test can be taken separately if you prefer. For the riding section you will need to effectively ride your own horse plus one other; relating the theory of riding to both, and show you would be capable of handling a well mannered pony or horse out hunting, eventing or on a long distance ride. You will also need to be able to care for it before and after the event, and use your practical experience to show you can manage, work and care for a horse or pony.

You will need to demonstrate rein back and demi pirouettes, and may be asked to ride with two pairs of reins.

**L**

Lungeing Test

Minimum age 16

In order to progress to B+ level and above you will need to pass your Lungeing Test. This requires you to check the area and equipment is safe before tacking up and lungeing a horse for exercise in a safe manner for a suitable length of time. You will need to discuss the work shown, recognise the correct and incorrect way of going and discuss the horse or pony's rhythm and suppleness.

**B+**

B+ Test **(Riding only)**

Minimum age 16

This Test is not compulsory to move up to the next stage, but if you wish to take it you will need to show a more secure position to produce balance and harmony when riding on the flat and over a variety of cross country and show jumps on your own horse plus another. You will need to assess the horse's way of going and ride in a double bridle.

**AH**

AH Test Minimum age 16, Recommended minimum age 17 **(Care only)**

The AH Test is the Stable Management phase of the A Test; the highest Test on The Pony Club structure which is much sought after and recognised throughout the equine world. The Test is made up of four sections covering a variety of subjects such as clipping, trimming and plaiting, care and handling of mares, foals and young stock and conformation of a pony or horse. Each section can be taken individually, as a combination of two or three or all four sections can be taken together.

**A**

A Test **(Riding only)**

Minimum age 18

The A Test is the pinnacle of The Pony Club training structure, and provides a comprehensive assessment of horsemanship and training. To be nominated for the A Test you must have a balanced, independent seat and a secure position; being able to improve the horses you ride (including young, awkward or refusing horses) and support the practical work shown with relevant logical theory.

There are four sections; outside riding, inside riding, lungeing and training the young horse.

As a holder of The Pony Club A Test you will join the ranks of some of the best known riders in the UK, and you will be able to gain exemption from BHS Stages 3 and 4 in Riding and Care.