

| Level | Dressage | Show-Jumping | Cross-Country | Horsemanship |
|-------|---|---|--|--|
| 1.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posting motion is irregular Unable to control canter speed Unaware of diagonal or lead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No jumping experience Introduced to standing 2-point while at the halt. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should not ride outside of an enclosed area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 10 hours of riding instruction |
| 2.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can walk, trot and canter on a trained horse Not yet able to regulate speed Consistently loses balance and position at trot and canter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a familiar horse at the trot, can usually change between posting and a standing 2-point without losing rhythm Jumps small gymnastic and single fences with a neck-strap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can safely walk and trot over mild terrain changes Occasionally loses position going up and down hills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can determine sex of horse and is aware of breed types Knows basic safety of leading, tying, loading and turning out Understands basic rules and knows how to keep score at competitions |
| 3.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can easily walk, trot and canter simple dressage figures Understands basic leg and hand aids Position deteriorates without stirrups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can maintain standing 2-point at trot and canter without reins. Introduced to jumps in sequence at the canter Still resorts to hands to maintain balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can trot and canter over 2'6" x-c obstacles while maintaining control Not comfortable at 350 mpm Occasionally dislodged by effect of terrain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 hours of riding instruction Able to groom, tack horse correctly and mount and dismount safely Understands post-exercise care |
| 4.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced to bending and flexion Can effectively apply aids for simple transitions Knows basic geometry of lower-level dressage figures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps safely without stirrups over low fences Cantering 8-10 fences at an even rhythm is still a challenge Does not yet recognize distances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced to simple x-c combinations Beginning to influence the approach on a familiar horse Comfortable at 350 mpm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet able to self-analyze basic mistakes Able to visually discriminate between good and bad riding Still suffers from performance anxiety |
| 5.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executes leg-yielding and shoulder-in on schooled horse under supervision Capable of teaching turn on the forehand to new horse Still uses hands to create flexion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can occasionally maintain an even rhythm over 3'3" course under supervision Occasionally recognizes 3 long strides in the final approach Usually ahead of the motion at takeoff Surprised by close distances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becoming comfortable up and down banks and drops Understands how to adapt position to suit terrain changes Still has difficulty maintaining steady rhythm at 450 mpm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 hours of riding instruction Able to load and unload horse in trailer unassisted Can drive loaded trailer safely, including backing up truck and trailer Recognizes good shoeing Can detect hind-end lameness Can perform minor first-aid procedures |
| 6.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rides all three working paces well Able to self-critique competitive performance Bounces at medium sitting trot Rides difficult horse adequately Understands the relationship of inside leg to outside rein | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently lengthens last three strides in the approach Still ahead of the motion at point of takeoff 3'6" looks BIG at competitions Lower-leg position deteriorates under competitive pressure Can ride well under supervision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basically accurate in approach to 45-degree corners, angles and narrows Often "chases" horse to a long stride over individual fences Occasionally can ride several fences in rhythm at 520 mpm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drops back one skill level on an unfamiliar horse Able to develop own feeding chart and conditioning schedule Knows requirements for worming and teeth floating Safely administers IM and IV injections |
| 7.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experimenting with collection and extension under supervision Consistently produces accurate and balanced transitions Position not yet consistently independent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually jumps in good style from a balanced canter Still sees an occasional "Long One" Comfortable over 4' individual fences Rhythm deteriorates under pressure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When jumping drops, slips and regains reins automatically Occasionally chases horse to a flat takeoff Not yet consistently effective in complex combinations Can ride well at 550 mpm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 hours of riding instruction Rides unfamiliar horses well Reasonably expects top 10 placing at one- and two-star CIC and CCI competitions Sophisticated understanding of required veterinary maintenance for competition horses |
| 8.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always produces horse on the bit Rides well in both collection and extension Usually receives an "8" for position from FEI Judges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently presents horse in rhythm and balance at base of the fence Rarely sees "flat" strides at competitions Doesn't often cause knockdowns Comfortable over 4'3" fences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always well placed jumping up or down Rarely chases to a flat stride Usually makes the time at upper FEI levels Comfortable at 600 mpm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,500 hours of riding instruction Can self-train to upper level placings Can successfully compete with unfamiliar horses Unaffected by competitive pressure |
| 9.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has completely independent position Capable of producing a "10" in FEI competition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes length of stride in approach without changing speed or balance Produces clean rounds over 4'3" course in good style Consistently accurate in approach despite show pressure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually makes the optimum time at four-star level Can school steeplechasers and timber horses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonably expects top 10 placing at four-star level |
| 10.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to secure 60% or better at Prix St. Georges level on suitable horses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always recognizes quiet strides to the base of the fence Has successfully jumped clean rounds in Grand Prix. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comfortable, balanced, and rhythmical at any speed over any terrain, under any conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 5,000 hours of riding instruction, reasonably expects to win medals at World and Olympic competitions 🏆 |