

D QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. You should check your bit regularly for worn or rough places because
- a) They may cut your finger
 - b) They may snag your coat
 - c) They can hurt your horse's mouth
2. You are riding in an arena and your horse is faster than the one in front of you. What should you do?
3. The left side of your horse is called the near side. What is the right side called?
4. What is the "bight"?
5. When mounting, the bight should always be on which side?
6. Is it correct to leave your left foot in the stirrup until the right foot hits the ground when dismounting?
7. When you start to mount, which way do you face?
8. When mounting from the near side, always put your right foot in the stirrup first. True or False
9. Salt is a necessary part of your horse's diet. True or False
10. What part of your body grows like a horse's hoof?
11. Horses and ponies are measured in "hands". How many inches are in a hand?
12. In general, horses and ponies are divided by their height. What height is it?
13. What is a foal, a filly, a colt, a mare, a stallion, and a gelding?
- c) They can hurt your horse's mouth
- Pass the horse in front on the inside, leaving plenty of room, make a small circle, or cut across to the opposite side of the arena
- The "off" side
- The extra loop in your reins
- The opposite side from which you are mounting
- No. Drop the right stirrup, swing your leg over the horse while balancing on the saddle, drop the left stirrup, vault lightly to the ground
- Towards the horse's tail. That way, if the horse moves off on you, you will be able to keep your balance
- False, unless you want to see where you've been instead of where you're going
- True. Providing a salt block at all times is usually a good way to provide salt
- Fingernail or toenail
- 4 inches
- 14:2 read as 14 hands, 2 inches
- Foal – baby horse, either sex
Filly – baby female horse
Colt – baby male horse
Mare – mature female horse
Stallion – mature male horse
Gelding – mature castrated male horse

14. When you are leading a bridled horse, how far below the bit should your right hand be? About 6 inches
15. When you are leading a bridled horse, what do you do with the end of the reins? Fold them up, not coiled, and hold them in your left hand. Be sure your hand isn't inside the loop.
16. Name 4 items in your grooming kit
curry comb, mane/tail brush, shedding blade
hoof pick, dandy brush, water brush, body brush, face sponge, dock sponge, towel,
17. Give 3 reasons for grooming your horse.
Clean him; help shed him out; make him feel comfortable; make him look nice; check him for injuries or skin problems; prevent sores from dirt under tack; condition his skin; promote circulation of the blood; to spend some enjoyable time with him.
18. Your horse is kept at pasture and not being ridden this week. What part of him still requires daily grooming care?
His hooves
19. The reins are an important piece of tack. What are they useful for?
a) to help you keep your balance in the saddle
b) to help you guide your horse
c) to yank on
d) to use the ends as a whip
b) To help you guide your horse. Any of the other uses will hurt his mouth and are inappropriate.
20. As long as the bit stays in the horses mouth, it doesn't matter how high or low it is. True or False
False - The cheeks of the bridle should be adjusted so that the bit create between ½ and 1½ wrinkles in the horse's lips
21. It is important to check your tack every time you ride? True or False
True
22. Name 3 things you should check your tack for.
Loose stitching; cracked leather; fit and adjustment.
23. Give 2 reasons why you should clean your tack?
To make it last; prevent damage to the leather from sweat dirt, water; condition it; prevent cracking; to keep the stitching from rotting; disease prevention; to keep it soft, supple, and comfortable for the horse
24. Is it a good idea to leave your saddle pad under your saddle when you put it on a rack?
No, the pad needs to hang to dry, and can cause the under side of the saddle to become moldy.

25. You tell your kids to use lots of soap and water when washing their hands. Should you take the same advice when cleaning your tack? No, you need to use as little water as possible.
26. When leading your horse, is it safer to turn him toward you or away from you? Turn away from you, so that you are on the outside of the curve to keep him from stepping on you
27. What are “gaits”? The way in which your horse moves
28. Name 2 gaits walk; trot; canter; gallop; jog; lope; rack; pace; run
29. The horse in front of you has a beautiful red ribbon tied into his tail. What does this mean? The horse kicks, so stay a minimum of 2 lengths behind him.
30. What can you do to ensure your horse’s comfort in hot weather? Make sure he has access to shade, and fresh water. You can use a fly mask, fly sheet, and leg wraps. Fly spray is useful as are fly predators. You can stable your horse.
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31. You provide your horse with water in a standard 18 to 20 qt. Bucket. How many times per day should you refill it? 4 to 6 times depending on weather conditions, how much your horse is being worked, type of feed, etc.
32. Blondie just fed Nipper his grain. Should Nipper be ridden right after being fed? No. He needs an hour to digest his food or he could colic.
33. What is a “bulk feed”? Grass or hay, forage
34. What is a “concentrate feed”? Grain, oats, corn, barley, wheat, COB
35. Which food is more important in a horse’s diet, bulk or concentrates? Bulk
36. You are saddling your horse and he “blows up”. Should you
 a) call the fire department
 b) call your veterinarian
 c) call local horse-whisperer
 d) take up the girth a little, walk him, take up the girth some more and repeat
 e) hit or kick him in the belly to make him let out his breath
 d) take the girth up in gradual steps, walking in a circle between them.
37. Name three breeds of horse AND their characteristics. There are too many to list here. Choose 3.

38. Why is it necessary to clean stalls daily?
Ammonia is dangerous to breathe. Dirty stalls attract flies. It's unhealthy for the feet.
39. Why might it be necessary to stable your horse?
An injury, bad weather, anything for his comfort.
40. What is the name of the straps on the saddle to which the girth is attached?
The billets.
41. What is the underneath part of your saddle upon which it is built?
Your saddle is built upon a wooden or Synthetic tree.
42. After a hard days work, how should you care for your horse?
Make sure he is cooled out and he won't break out in a sweat again. Give him water, perhaps some grain or hay, a good grooming and then leave him alone to see his friends.
43. What part of the horse's anatomy lies between the fetlock and the coronet band?
The pastern
44. Your horse turns and looks at his stomach, paws the ground or breaks into a sweat. What would you suspect and what would you do?
You would suspect colic – a very serious condition. Call your vet immediately, give Banamine if told, walk the horse and don't let him lie down!
45. What type of hay is highest in protein?
Alfalfa
46. Why should you learn to change diagonals when posting at the trot?
It's easier for your horse to balance around Corners, also for proper muscle development.
47. When your horse is in cross ties, how should they be attached to the wall for easy breakage in case he pulls away?
It is best to attach a small piece of baling twine (NOT the plastic kind) between the ring in the wall and the cross tie itself. If your horse panics, he won't "hang" himself.
48. Why should you pick out your horses hooves daily?
Daily foot care prevents rocks from lodging in the foot and prevents the spread of thrush.
49. What is the part of the bridle to which the bit and reins are attached?
The headstall.
50. Name five parts of your type of saddle.
Pommel, cantle, skirt, knee roll, seat, billets, billet guards, gullet, leathers, D ring, stirrup bars, panels.
51. Name three common stable vices
Weaving, cribbing, wind sucking, biting, pawing, pacing, kicking.

52. Name four rules of feeding.

Feed often and little; plenty of roughage; feed according to your horse's activity schedule; fresh water available 24/7; make gradual changes to feed schedule.

53. Give two reasons for bandaging a horse's legs.

To protect them during shipping, in case of injury, and for support or warmth.

54. Name two reasons you would call the farrier

Loose shoes, feet breaking up, stumbling, toes long, hoof growing over the shoe.

55. Name good and bad signs of hay.

Good hay smells sweet and fresh; not "stemmy" or tough, but leafy.
Bad hay is dusty, moldy, tough and full of weeds, insect or rodent damage.

56. Why is it important NOT to put your horse in his stall when he is hot and sweaty?

He may develop chills, muscle cramp or colic.

57. How should you proceed to cool him out properly?

You should always walk your horse for the last mile coming home. After a competition, he should be hand walked until his breathing is normal, he is cool to the touch, and there are no prominent veins standing out. He can be offered small sips of water along the way.

58. Why should your horse's feed schedule, vet's and farrier's names be posted in your barn?

If you are incapacitated for any reason and someone else must take over your barn duties.

59. When a group is riding on a public road and wants to cross, how do they do it?

When crossing a road as a group, everyone turns and crosses at once.

60. Name two things that will help your horse travel safely in a trailer.

Shipping boots to protect his legs, a pre-trailer safety inspection, a full hay net, a head bumper, bedding on the floor, a wasp nest check!

61. Describe a good pre trailering safety inspection.

The trailer hitch and chains should be inspected for wear and tear and connection should be checked. Tire pressure and inspection stickers should also be included. Don't forget the truck!

62. Name some common confirmation faults of the head and neck, shoulder, back, and pasterns.

Narrow jaw; thick throatlatch; small eyes; small nostrils; short thick neck; ewe neck; straight shoulder, long loin; short, upright pasterns; pasterns too long or great an angle.

63. What is meant by ASTM/SEI?

American Society of Testing and Materials. Safety Equipment Institute.

64. When conditioning or competing a horse, it is important to be aware of his TPR. What are these and what are the basic values?

Temp. should be about 100; Pulse should be 35-45 beats per minute; Respiration should be between 6-20 per minute. Pinch the skin to see if the horse is dehydrated. The skin should flatten immediately.

65. Demonstrate how to tie a quick release knot.

Physical demonstration required.

66. You need to tie your horse to the fence but he is wearing his bridle. How should you proceed? Include 4 safety rules of tying.

Drop the bit from his mouth keeping the reins over his neck. Put on the safety halter with lead rope attached and remove the reins. Using a quick release knot and a piece of baling twine (not plastic twine) tie the horse at shoulder height, with about 18 inches from knot to halter, to a fence post or other non-moveable object –no lawn chairs!!. Remove the saddle.

67. You are leading your horse in a halter and leather shank with a chain over his nose. Would you tie him to the fence as is?

Not on your life! The chain would really hurt him and the leather will break or tighten so much that it could not be unfastened.

68. Describe how to warm up your horse who has been in a stall for the last hour or so.

Walk your horse for at least 15 minutes at which point you can do bending exercises. Make him walk out and stretch. You may later trot and canter. Now you are ready to go to work having stretched and warmed your horse. Older horses may take longer. Younger ones might need a slightly different approach!!

69. Why is it necessary to have a good warm-up program? Is that program always the same? Discuss.

To avoid tearing cold muscles and tendons. No, the warm-up program must fit the activity, the weather and the circumstances.

70. After a ride and after caring for your horse, what other things need doing in the stable?

Clean your tack, hang your pad to dry, pick up stalls or trailer, rake aisle, or unload trailer.

71. Name two types of stall bedding used in your area.

Sawdust, shavings, straw, pine needles, pellets.

72. Should lime ever be used in your horse's stall? Why
- Yes, it dries wet spots and takes away the odors.
73. Describe manure management and methods of disposal,
- Pile manure away from the stable to reduce the fly population. Never pile manure near a wooden structure as it gets very hot. Spread manure on the fields or compost it.
74. Why and when do we use a hay net. How should it be hung?
- A haynet may be used in the trailer or the stall. It should be hung high enough so the horse will not get his foot caught in it when it is empty, about wither height. Wrap draw cord around what you are hanging it from, then bring it down and tie up the bottom of the net.
75. When cooling out your horse, when is a cooler or anti sweat sheet used?
- Never cover the horse in warm weather. Cover him only in cool temperatures and windy conditions. Never cover him with a stable rug.
76. Describe "breaking out" after a strenuous ride. What do you do if this occurs?
- Breaking out means your horse is sweating again. His temperature is not normal so walk him some more, checking his temperature and respiration often. Look also for signs of distress.
77. Electrolytes are considered by many to be necessary for a horse in hard work. Should you put electrolytes in all of the water you provide your horse?
- No. A horse must always have a choice between fresh water and the electrolytes.
78. A horse's hooves grow continuously. On the average, how much do they grow in one month?
- Average hoof growth is 1/4th inch/month, although it varies with season and feed.
79. Where are white lines found on a horse?
- On the bottom of the hoof between the sole and the wall.
80. What is the difference between corn and corns?
- Corn is a common grain. Corns are bruises on the hoof sole in the space between the bars and the wall caused by poorly fitting horseshoes.
81. True or False: The dock is right behind the poll. of the head, the dock is the base of the tail.
- False. It is way far behind! The poll is at the top
82. Name some items expected to be in your equine first aid kit.
- Veterinary thermometer, 4" gauze squares, alcohol, antibiotic, vet wrap,

83. Name the anatomical part that is located:
- a) below the elbow & above the knee
 - b) top of the hoof, below the pastern
 - c) below the knee & above the pastern
 - d) top of the neck between the head and withers
 - e) just behind the back before the but croup
 - f) joint analogous to your knee
 - g) joint analogous to your ankle
 - h) joint analogous to your wrist

- a) forearm
- b) coronary band
- c) cannon bone
- d) crest
- e) loin
- f) stifle
- g) hock
- h) knee

84. Why is good conformation important?

As a general rule, function follows form, so good conformation results in better movement, smoother gaits, greater ability to perform tasks asked, and is less likely to break down

85. How many regular gaits are there in a non-gaited breed? Name them.

Four – walk, trot, canter, and gallop

86. Approximately how fast is each gait?

Walk – 4 mph; trot – 6 mph; canter – 8 mph; gallop – 15 mph or faster

87. What is suspension?

A moment when all four hooves are in the air.

88. How many beats are there in a walk?
What is the sequence of footfalls?

Four.
Right hind, right fore, left hind, left fore

89. How many beats are there in a trot?
What is the sequence of footfalls?

Two.
Left fore and right hind together, suspension, right fore and left hind together

90. How many beats are there in a canter?
What is the sequence of footfalls in a left lead canter?

Three.
Right hind, left hind and right fore together, left fore, suspension

91. How many beats are there in a gallop?
What is the sequence of footfalls left lead gallop?

Four.
Right hind, left hind, right fore, left fore, suspension

92. If asked to describe a horse, what characteristics would you use?

Breed &/or type, color, size, sex, age, conformation, markings, blemishes, brands.

93. Name and describe 4 face markings

star – white area on forehead
Snip – white between nostrils
Strip – white from forehead to between nostrils
Blaze – wider, white from forehead to upper lip
Bald – front of face white, extending down over nostrils, lips, and sometimes chin

94. Name and describe 4 leg markings
- Coronet – white around coronet, below pastern
 Half-pastern – white ½ to ¾ up pastern
 Sock – white to top of fetlock joint
 Half-cannon – white up to ¾ of cannon
 Stocking – white from hoof to knee or hock
 Ermine spots –colored spots in the white
95. Give four rules for turning a horse loose in a pasture.
- 1) Lead him through gate then turn to face it.
 - 2) Close gate before releasing your horse
 - 3) Make him stand still for a moment, quietly unbuckle his halter, and slip it off.
 - 4) Never chase or encourage horse to run off.
96. A horse has two “blind spots” or areas he cannot see well, and may be startled into running or kicking himself if you approach in these areas. Where are they, and how should you approach?
- A horse cannot see directly in front or behind
 If possible, approach at the shoulder.
97. What critical areas are protected by shipping bandages or boots? Why do we use them?
- Horses can slip or scramble in a trailer, so we protect their legs with shipping boots or shipping bandages that cover the heels, coronet, pastern & fetlock joints, canon bones, and tendons to the bottom of the knee or hock.
98. Name three types of bit
- snaffle, pelham, kimberwicke, curb,
99. List in order of severity and how they work
 a) Kimberwicke b) Pelham c) snaffle
- 1.) Snaffle – direct pressure on lips, bars, and tongue
 - 2.) Kimberwicke – mild leverage
 - 3.) Pelham – stronger leverage due to length of shanks
100. Describe a Pelham bit
- A double rein bit, with two rings, one at the mouthpiece which acts as a snaffle, and the other at the end of a shank which acts as a curb, always used with a curb chain.Used with either two reins, or a converter and one rein.
101. What is a converter, and how is it used?
- A pair of round leather straps that attach to the snaffle and curb (top and bottom) rings of a pelham, connecting them. The reins are attached to the converter straps, allowing one set of reins to be used
102. Where should a curb chain lie, and how should it fit?
- It should lie in the chin groove, be half twisted so that it lies flat, and be hooked up so that there is space for 2 fingers between chain and chin groove.

103. How should the noseband portion of the cavesson be adjusted? One finger below the cheekbones, snug but not uncomfortably tight.
104. How can you tell if the brow band is properly fitted? Long enough so it doesn't rub or pinch the base of the ears.
105. At a formal inspection, as at your rating test, explain how you hold your horse. When first presenting, you stand at horse's head on near side, with reins in right hand about 6" below the bit, with bight folded in the left hand. When examiner changes sides, you change sides with her, switch hand on reins. It is your responsibility for keeping the examiner safe.
106. At your rating test, what is expected of your tack? Safe with all stitching in good repair with no cracked leather, missing parts, rusty buckles, etc.; appropriate for your discipline and your horse; properly adjusted; fits both you and your horse; stress points clean, stirrup pads clean; no jockeys or dust; bit clean.
107. At your rating test, what is **required** of your turnout? Not wearing anything unsafe, such as dangling jewelry, dangling hair, loose clothing, etc.; an ASTM/SEI certified helmet with the chinstrap fastened before mounting and unfastened after dismounting; heeled boots designed for equestrian activities; medical armband in a visible location
108. At your rating test, what is **expected** of your turnout? Everything clean, neat, and appropriate for your discipline; turtle neck or plain collared white or light solid colored shirt with sleeve (no t-shirts or tanks); breeches or jodhpurs if riding English, or well-fitting Western cut pants or jeans with straight leg; if pants have belt loops, a belt; paddock boots with jodhpurs; high boots, or paddock boots and half chaps with breeches.