

Syllabus and Guidelines



For candidates preparing for

THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

RIDING and ROAD SAFETY

Registered Charity Nos. 210504 and SC038516

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**SYLLABUS AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR
The BHS Riding and Road Safety Exam**

**EQL LEVEL 2
Award in BHS Riding Horses Safely on the Public
Highway**

This is a qualification where candidates will have the skills and knowledge to ride horses independently on the public highway. They will know the legislative requirements for riding on the road and be able to put this knowledge into practice. This qualification will enhance safety on the public highway for riders, horses and other road users.

The Qualification is assessed through external, independent assessment and will exam candidates' practical skills and knowledge. EQL requests that candidates treat the Assessors, Exam Centre staff and fellow candidates with courtesy and respect. Candidates should have a neat turnout and common sense approach throughout the exam.

Entry Requirements

This qualification is suitable for candidates in all age ranges, however there is a minimum age of 12 years. It is envisaged that candidates under the age of 14 years may not have accrued the required the required skills/knowledge for this qualification.

Training and Learning

Training should be via a number of methods including formal learning, practice and revision. The number of credits and guided learning hours will help candidates and their trainers to gauge how much training and preparation they will need. Each credit equals 10 hours of learning time.

The Exam Day

Candidates should arrive in good time to familiarise themselves with the surroundings, so they are seated and prepared for the briefing. The purpose of the briefing is to explain how the day is run, to meet other candidates, Assessors and to answer any questions the candidates might have about the day. Candidates should present themselves un-mounted but bring their hats. The Chief Assessor will enquire if any of the candidates are sharing horses and with this in mind, distribute the numbered tabards to the candidates. At the end of the Exam the numbered tabards should be returned to the Chief Assessor, together with the Quality Control forms.

Level 2 EQL Award in BHS Riding Safely on the Public Highway is split into two units. Each unit can be taken individually or all on the same day. Candidates must have achieved Unit 1 before sitting Unit 2.

UNIT 1 – Principles of Riding Horses on the Highway

UNIT 2 – Ride a Horse in an Enclosed Area and on the Highway

UNIT 1 – THEORY

Principles of Riding Horses on the Highway

2 credits/15 guided learning hours

Unit Purpose and Aims

The aim of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge to ride horses on the road. This unit involves knowing how to ride safely on the road according to laid down procedures and the Highway Code

Learner Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know the Highway Code, other legislation and recommended practices relevant to horse riders	1.1 Identify the general rules from the Highway Code relevant to all highway users
	1.2 Identify the rules in the Highway Code specific to horse riders
	1.3 Recognise road signs, signals and markings
	1.4 Outline other legislation for riding horses on the highway
	1.5 Outline recommended practices for riding horses on the highway
2. Know about tack and equipment for riding and leading a horse on the highway	2.1 Describe why it is important to check tack and equipment for fitting and safety
	2.2 Identify recommended hat standards
	2.3 Describe the importance of wearing reflective/fluorescent equipment
3. Know how to ride on the highway	3.1 Identify procedures to be undertaken before riding on the highway
	3.2 Describe procedures for riding a horse on the highway
	3.3 Describe how to be courteous to other road users
	3.4 Describe how to lead a horse on the highway
	3.5 Describe how to ride in a group on the highway
	3.6 Outline hazards likely to be encountered when riding on the highway
4. Know procedures for dealing with an accident when riding on the highway	4.1 Describe the actions to be taken in the event of an accident when riding on the highway

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

At the start of this section the Chief Assessor will provide each candidate with a question paper. The candidate must answer the questions individually. Candidates are expected to answer at least 75% (15 out of 20) of questions correctly.

Theory papers will be marked and the candidates will be advised if they have been successful or not. Areas for review will be identified at this time. This unit will take approximately one hour.

CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – Skills and Knowledge

Candidates should read and be familiar with the Highway Code and BHS Riding and Roadcraft Manual.

UNIT 2 – PRACTICAL

Ride a Horse in an Enclosed Area and on the Highway

6 credits/45 guided learning hours

Unit Purpose and Aims

The aim of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge and skills to ride horses on the road. This unit involves riding safely on the road according to laid down procedures and the Highway Code.

Learner Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to ride a horse in an enclosed area over a simulated road route	1.1 Control the horse whilst maintaining a secure riding position
	1.2 Position and control the horse through turns and manoeuvres, using appropriate observation and signalling procedures
	1.3 Perform an emergency dismount, lead the horse in hand and remount
	1.4 React appropriately to the horse's behaviour
	1.5 Apply the rules of the Highway Code
2. Be able to ride a horse on the highway	2.1 Maintain control of the horse whilst showing a secure riding position
	2.2 Position and control the horse through turns and manoeuvres, using appropriate observation and signalling procedures
	2.3 Show courtesy to other road users
	2.4 Respond appropriately to the horse's behaviour
	2.5 Apply the rules of the Highway Code

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Candidates will be asked to collect their horses and present themselves at the waiting area for the **Simulated Road Route**. Each candidate and horse should be presented suitably equipped to hack out on the road.

The Assessors will then carry out the tack check. If any candidate or their horse is not suitably equipped, they will be given an opportunity to correct this and re-present themselves.

Candidates will be given an opportunity to walk the route and will then be given the **SIMULATED ROUTE BRIEFING**.

Each candidate will take this section in turn – depending on conditions on the day, two candidates may be on the simulated course at the same time.

Once all of the candidates have completed the course, the Assessors will mark the results sheets and advise each candidate in turn if they have been successful or not. Any areas for review will also be identified at this time. This unit will take approximately 90 minutes but could take longer depending upon the number of candidates on the day.

Successful candidates will present themselves at the waiting area for the **Road Route Section**.

The Chief Assessor will give the candidates an opportunity to walk the route and will give the ROAD ROUTE briefing.

Each candidate will take this section of the exam in turn – depending on conditions on the day, there may be two candidates on the road route at the same time.

Once all of the candidates have completed the Road Route the Assessors will mark the results sheets and advise each candidate in turn if they have been successful or not. Any areas for review will be identified at this time.

CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – Skills and Knowledge

Candidates should read and be familiar with the Highway Code and BHS Riding and Roadcraft Manual.

GENERAL INFORMATION

It is essential that anyone hacking from the Riding and Road Safety exam venue to the actual start point of the Road Route has insurance cover. Hacking to the Road Route is not part of the exam, and therefore is not covered by The BHS Insurance. This is usually covered by the venue but candidates should check with the Centre.

In some circumstances, such as the exam being held at Livery Yards, where the candidates are riding their own horses, these candidates must have their own appropriate insurance cover.

If the candidate is a BHS Junior Gold member or a BHS Adult Gold member they are covered for BHS Public Liability Insurance.

REQUIRED READING

'The Highway Code' – current edition is available from The BHS Merchandising Department, The Stationery Office and other stationers.

The British Horse Society's 'Riding and Roadcraft Manual' – current edition is available from The BHS Merchandising Department on 02476 840516 or at www.britishhorse.com.

GUIDELINES FOR DRESS – ALL EXAMS

Comfort for the wearer, tidiness, cleanliness and safety are the main considerations in regard to dress for the Riding and Road Safety Exam. A well turned out candidate presents a good impression to the Assessor. A wax or waterproof jacket should be available for wet weather; a waistcoat and/or jacket for cold weather.

Anyone not wearing a hat to the correct standard, correctly fitted and securely fastened, will not be permitted to take the exam.

HAT STANDARDS – COMPULSORY

The policy of The British Horse Society is that the best appropriate headgear shall be worn, correctly fitted, and with the harness fastened at all times when mounted. The following hat standards are applicable for this exam:

- PAS 015
- BSEN 1384
- ASTM F1163
- SNELL E2001

All should carry a BSI Kitemark and/or SEI Mark – or AS/NZ3838 with SAI Global Mark. Further information can be found under tack and turnout Inspection.

FOOTWEAR

Jodhpur boots or long riding boots are recommended. Under no circumstances may trainers or other insubstantial footwear be worn.

GLOVES

Light coloured gloves are recommended - dark coloured gloves are NOT allowed.

RIDING ABILITY

All potential candidates for The BHS Riding and Road Safety exam must be capable of riding independently at walk, trot and canter.

TACK AND TURNOUT INSPECTION

Before the exam, a tack and turnout inspection is held as a safety measure to make sure the horse's tack and rider's clothing are in a safe and satisfactory condition for riding. It is neither a exam nor a show inspection.

NOTE:

- Fluorescent and reflective leg bands must be worn on each leg by all horses and ponies undertaking the exam.
- Tabards are supplied by the Assessors' on the day of the exam.