

Syllabus and Guidelines

The
British
Horse
Society

For candidates preparing for

THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

FELLOWSHIP

Dressage

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THE BHS FELLOWSHIP

SYLLABUS FOR THE DRESSAGE FELLOWSHIP ASSESSMENT

'A Fellow of the Society is someone to whom one can turn for advice, knowledge and expertise in all equestrian matters and is committed to the training and education of the horse and rider in all spheres of equestrianism.'

The BHS Fellowship is open to holders of The BHSI certificate aged 25 or over.

For the DRESSAGE FELLOWSHIP Assessment

Candidates must coach confidently to Grand Prix with a clear idea of the pathway to develop towards Championships and team selection.

A BHS Fellow should possess the following qualities:

- Is a trainer of horses and riders who can bridge the gap between training at the grass roots level (new/novice riders, young/green horses, learner teachers) and the highest level (top competitors – horses and riders and those that coach them).
- Has an impeccable record of integrity and sets the highest standard at all times.
- Has commitment to continued development of health and safety within the equine industry.
- Makes a good ambassador for The BHS at home and overseas.
- Is loyal to The BHS, its aims, its instructors, its systems and its values.
- Is a good communicator who is able to impart knowledge with clarity and impact.
- Shows natural aptitude and empathy in their riding and coaching.
- Has a wealth of researched and trained knowledge.
- Is keen and enthusiastic to share and impart their knowledge.
- Will make valuable contributions to the work of the present Fellows and for the good of the Society as a whole.

Above all, a Fellow of The British Horse Society will work tirelessly for the good of the Horse

The BHS Dressage Fellowship is made up of two parts.

PART 1 – CURRICULUM VITAE

Fellowship candidates must present a C.V. which will be assessed as a pre-requisite to applying for the examination. This must be submitted to the Examinations Department at least 6 months before the examination date, and will be reviewed by a panel of Fellowship Assessors.

It is strongly recommended that all candidates choose a Fellow of The BHS as a mentor in order to receive advice and guidance towards preparing for this examination. Any Fellow of The BHS is able to do this, although some may decline due to other commitments/retirement. A full list of the participating Fellows is available from the Examinations Department.

The C.V. must be submitted together with the appropriate fee. It will be assessed for strengths and weaknesses. If, in the opinion of the Assessors, the C.V. shows a lack of all-round equestrian experience, the candidate will be required to undertake further work before re-submitting a revised C.V. in a future year. The fee is non-refundable. Once the C.V. has been approved, it will not be need to be submitted for re-approval as long as the Fellowship syllabus remains current, or if the syllabus is amended within this time, a minimum of 3 years from the date of submission.

Candidates will receive a written report on their submitted C.V. Qualifications and references will be checked for validity.

The C.V. should be presented under the following headings:

Personal Details:

Name:

BHS Register of Instructors membership number:

Date of birth (optional):

Address:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Business address:

Telephone:

Email:

Previous and present occupations

To include names, addresses and dates of employment.

Candidates applying for the Fellowship examination will be expected to have worked continually (excluding mitigating circumstances such as illness, disability, personal or family problems) in the equine industry for the large proportion of their working life. The equine industry is so diverse; it would be impossible to specify occupations as being acceptable or unacceptable. The Fellowship is primarily a coaching qualification so it is critical that a candidate has spent a vast majority of their working life teaching and working with horses and riders. When assessing the C.V. account will be taken of the candidates' occupations within the horse industry.

Academic qualifications

Commencing with the earliest, candidates should list in chronological order their academic qualifications. Candidates must also specify the dates and the names of the academic institutions (if at all possible) where they achieved their qualifications, this is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should also supply information regarding any qualifications they may currently be undertaking or have recently completed.

Equestrian qualifications

Commencing with the earliest, candidates should list in chronological order their equestrian qualifications, such as Pony Club, British Horse Society, British Riding Clubs, and so on. Candidates must also specify the dates they achieved their qualifications.

Other equestrian work

Examples include Pony Club, Riding Club, freelance, team training, publications, committees, and so on. Candidates must list any relevant present or past equestrian work that will strengthen their overall C.V. for example, if they teach or train Pony Club or Riding Club teams. Candidates should also give evidence of membership of any equine committees or evidence of articles written for the equestrian press or books, videos, and so on.

Competition experience

This important section must be completed as comprehensively as possible. Candidates must show evidence that they have successfully produced horses and competed in dressage competitions up to and including Grand Prix.

Candidates should list their competition experience, and give where possible details of dates, venues and placings. When assessing the C.V. account will be taken of the candidate's riding and competition experience both in the above and other varied spheres.

Teaching/coaching experience

The Fellowship is above all a coaching qualification. Candidates should give details (including names and addresses where possible) of the range of clients they have taught.

The coaching experience should not only include the training of riders but also the presentation of lectures, clinics, and stable management days. The list of clients should be of those that the candidate has coached on a regular basis and not simply casual lessons. It is critical that candidates demonstrate by their list of clients that they are experienced in coaching riders up to Grand Prix level.

Names and addresses of regular trainers used and study undertaken

Candidates should give details of trainers or coaches they visit for tuition on a regular basis and whether the training is on their own horse/s or on the trainer's horse/s. These trainers may be contacted to verify the above claims.

PART 2 – ASSESSMENT

THE ASSESSMENT PART OF THE FELLOWSHIP IS TAKEN OVER A MAXIMUM OF TWO DAYS.

Whilst it is desirable that candidates can fulfil all of the criteria within the individual sections, it is recognised that at this level people will have strengths and weaknesses and therefore may not perform at top level throughout the assessment.

Throughout the assessment there will be a panel of Assessors responsible for the individual sections, and also a Chief Assessor and Float Assessor who aim to see the candidates in part of each of the sections, in order to form an overview. The general performance criteria for the whole qualification are strongly taken into consideration by all of the Assessors when finalising the results, and it is therefore vital that these criteria are clearly fulfilled.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR THE BHS DRESSAGE FELLOWSHIP:

- Show developed interpersonal skills within a peer group.
- Show ability to work in a pressurised situation with good time management.
- Show ability to interact with people of all ages and levels of ability.
- Show familiarity with current coaching ethos.
- Show clear ability to read and empathise with all equines.
- Show practical competence when handling horses and equipment.
- Show ability to maintain composure, focus and self control at all times.
- Show ability to recognise their own limitations and remain receptive and perceptive.
- Show commitment to the welfare of the horse.
- Show clear understanding of the role of The BHS within the equestrian community.
- Show clear understanding of the links between coaching and competition.
- Show ability to self reflect and evaluate performance.

In the individual sections it is vital that candidates are prepared to work with the situation presented to them on the day, and that they do not arrive with preconceived 'model situation' expectations. In all sections the timings given are an approximate guide only. A final programme for the assessment will be issued to candidates at least two weeks prior to the assessment date.

The programme will show clear timings for all sections and will show specific requirements for individual candidates from within the range in the theory section.

Candidates will be assessed and be provided with feedback in the following areas for each section. Please note not all aspects are applicable across the whole syllabus:

- Communication.
- Interpersonal Skills.
- Level of technical knowledge and delivery.
- Under pinning knowledge.
- Self Reflection on own performance.
- Empathy with horses and riders.

All of the sections will be assessed but not necessarily in the order shown.

DELIVER A PRACTICAL PRESENTATION TO AN AUDIENCE**OVERVIEW:**

In this section, the candidate will deliver a practical presentation of approximately 30 minutes duration, followed by a discussion with the Assessor.

The candidate can choose their own presentation topic. Assessors will want to see the candidate delivering a practical presentation to an audience. Assessors will be assessing the candidates' ability to impart knowledge, communicate, respond to questions, be tactful under stress and manage time competently.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show developed presentation skills including managed audience participation.
- Show developed knowledge within the chosen topic.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show practical competence within the chosen topic.
- Show ability to read an audience and steer the session accordingly.
- Show competence with the use of props, equipment and demonstration riders.
- Show ability to field questions appropriately.
- Show ability to manage time effectively.

Candidates are expected to supply their own equipment, demonstration riders and other props. They must notify The BHS at least four weeks prior to the exam date of the facilities they will require.

COACH A CLASS DRESSAGE LESSON

OVERVIEW:

The candidate will demonstrate an ability to coach a group of riders/horses which could be working between Novice and Medium Level to show an improvement in the way of going reflected by the Scales of Training.

The coaching time will be a minimum 50 minutes in duration, followed by a one to one discussion with the Assessor.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to plan group dressage lessons.
- Show ability to adapt plans to meet the needs of the riders.
- Show ability to assess horses and riders and negotiate development.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to develop skill levels in horses and riders.
- Show clear understanding of the requirements of riding dressage.
- Show clear understanding of requirements for competition.
- Show ability to negotiate development and future planning.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Horses and riders of mixed or similar ability.
- Riders' ability may range from novice to advanced medium.
- Horses/ponies may range from novice to advanced medium.
- Competing riders or trainee/leisure riders.
- Amateur or professional riders.
- Competing horses/ponies or school horses/ponies.
- Horses could be in competition or schooling tack.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

COACH A PRIVATE ADVANCED DRESSAGE LESSON**OVERVIEW:**

The coaching time will be approximately 40 minutes in duration. After the lesson, the Assessors will discuss its content and future progression with candidates.

N.B. the partnership to be coached is supplied by the candidate.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to assess horses and riders way of going “on the day” and negotiate development.
- Show ability to plan sessions.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to develop skill levels in horses and riders.
- Show clear understanding of the requirements of coaching dressage up to Grand Prix.
- Show clear understanding of dressage requirements for competition.
- Show clear communication skills and recognition of learning styles.
- Show clear understanding of systematic training of dressage horses.
- Show ability to recognise strengths and weaknesses in performance of horse and rider.
- Be able to use the scales of training and the scale of marks as objective measurement criteria.
- Show ability to negotiate development and future planning.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE:

- The horse/rider partnership is to be supplied by the candidate.
- Partnerships established at Intermediare II to Grand Prix.
- Horse and rider should have some competition experience.
- Horse/rider may be capable of any quality of work from limited to excellent.
- Amateur or professional riders.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

COACH A PRIVATE NOVICE DRESSAGE LESSON

OVERVIEW:

The coaching time will be approximately 40 minutes in duration. After the lesson, the Assessors will discuss its content and future progression with candidates.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to assess horses and riders and negotiate development.
- Show ability to plan sessions.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to develop skill levels in horses and riders from novice to Advanced medium.
- Show clear understanding of the requirements of dressage riding.
- Show clear understanding of dressage requirements for competition.
- Show clear communication skills and recognition of learning styles.
- Show clear understanding of systematic training of dressage horses.
- Show clear understanding of different techniques and philosophies used by dressage riders.
- Show ability to negotiate development and future planning.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Partnerships with ability from Novice to advanced medium. (Supplied by the assessment centre).
- Established partnerships or trainees on school horses.
- Horse/pony with any level of ability up to advanced medium.
- Rider with any level of competence up to advanced medium.
- Rider wishing to develop to a higher level up advanced medium, or to improve at an existing level.
- Rider wishing to work on way of going, or on test riding techniques.
- Horse/pony/rider may have limited or significant competition experience.
- Horse/pony/rider may be capable of any quality of work from limited to excellent.
- Amateur or professional riders.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

VERBALLY EVALUATE THE ABILITY OF A HORSE AND RIDER COMBINATION ON THE FLAT**OVERVIEW:**

In this section the candidate will verbally evaluate the ability of a horse/rider combination from the private coached sessions.

The session time will be approximately 10 minutes in duration, followed by a one to one discussion with the Assessor.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to assess horses and riders.
- Show ability to explain findings to a third party.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to check understanding in others of information given.
- Show clear communication skills.
- Show clear understanding of strengths and weaknesses in performing horses.
- Show clear understanding of different techniques and philosophies used by riders.
- Show clear understanding of requirements of competition and examination.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Any of the partnerships shown in the sections above may be used for the evaluations.
- Evaluation of a combination that they have just taught, one that they are about to teach, or one that they have not previously seen.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

LUNGE OR WORK IN HAND AN UNKNOWN HORSE ON THE FLAT

OVERVIEW:

In this section the candidate will ground school an unknown horse to show improvement and to assess its ability, scope technique and movement. The session time will be approximately 30 minutes in duration, followed by a one to one discussion.

Assessors will be observing the candidate's ability to prepare the horse for ground schooling, the safety, the handling of the equipment and their technique. Candidates will discuss with the Assessors the athletic ability of the horse and how future work might improve the way of going.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to lunge/work in hand a horse or pony on the flat.
- Show ability to assess and evaluate horses on the lunge/in hand.
- Show ability to use exercises to aid improvement of horses on the lunge/in hand.
- Recognise strengths and limitations in horse's performance.
- Show clear understanding of systematic training of horses.
- Show ability to plan development and future planning.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Horse/pony of any size or type.
- Horse/pony of any age from 3 years upwards.
- Horse/pony of any level of ability and experience.
- Equipment of any variety.
- Horse/pony with limited or significant experience on the lunge.
- Horse/pony capable of various qualities of work from limited to excellent.
- Sole use of an enclosed area.

DEMONSTRATE TRAINING PHILOSOPHIES WITH OWN DRESSAGE HORSE**OVERVIEW:**

In this section, the candidate will demonstrate their training philosophies with a ridden demonstration on their own horse. This is the opportunity for the candidate to show excellence in their training. The horse presented should be able to perform at the highest level of its training.

The session will be approximately 40 minutes in duration, followed by a one to one discussion.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show clear ownership of training philosophies.
- Be able to explain philosophies and check understanding of listeners.
- Show ability to use the scales of training and the scale of marks as an objective measurement.
- Show ability to develop and improve horses.
- Show ability to maintain safety and horse confidence if using poles.
- Horse/pony of any age from 4 years upwards but must be sufficiently established to allow the candidate to clearly show their dressage training philosophies.
- Recognise strengths and limitations in horses' performance.
- Show clear understanding of systematic training of horses.
- Show ability to plan future development and a way forward.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Horse/pony of any size or type.
- Horse/pony of any age from 4 years upwards.
- Horse/pony with any level of ability and experience.
- Candidates riding the horse, or developing the work from the ground using another rider.
- Horse/pony limited or significant experience for their age.
- Horse/pony capable of various qualities of work from limited to excellent.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

RIDE AND ASSESS AN UNKNOWN DRESSAGE HORSE

OVERVIEW:

The session will be approximately 30 minutes in duration, followed by a one to one discussion.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to assess an unknown horse.
- Show ability to plan ridden training sessions.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to use exercises that may develop skill levels in horses.
- Show clear communication skills when discussing the horse with Assessors.
- Show clear understanding of systematic training of dressage horses.
- Be able to use the scales of training and the scale of marks as objective measurement criteria.
- Show ability to discuss development and future planning.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- Horse of any ability from Novice to Grand Prix.
- Competition horse or school horse.
- Horse of any age and type.
- Horse capable of various qualities of work from limited to excellent.
- Horse in 'dressage legal' tack or schooling tack.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

LEAD A DRESSAGE STUDY GROUP**OVERVIEW:**

The session will be approximately 40 minutes in duration including a one to one discussion.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show ability to lead or facilitate a study group.
- Show ability to explain dressage movements and way of going to a study group.
- Be able to use the scales of training and the scale of marks as objective measurement criteria.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Ability to recognise and explain different rider qualities.
- Ability to recognise and explain differing qualities of work.
- Ability to assess and develop understanding of study group members.

THE RANGE AND SCOPE OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE:

- A horse or horses working for approximately 30 minutes.
- Horses and riders may be of any level.
- Study group members may be any level.
- Sole or shared use of an enclosed area.

DEMONSTRATE SOUND KNOWLEDGE (THEORY SECTIONS)

OVERVIEW:

There are several sessions during the assessment devoted to this area. This sessions times will be confirmed in the exam programme.

They may be organised in any of the following forums:

- A structured discussion, led by Assessors, involving various numbers of candidates and Assessors.
- A one to one discussion with an Assessor.
- Candidates being asked to 'chair' a meeting or discussion on a given subject. Subject will be given by Assessors.
- Video analysis of dressage tests.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSESSED IN THIS SECTION:

- Show developed Interpersonal skills in a meeting/discussion.
- Show developed knowledge across the range of subject matter.
- Show ability to explain and aid understanding in others.
- Show ability to negotiate, and achieve outcomes.
- Show awareness of personal limitations and ability to develop.
- Show developed presentation skills.
- Show developed knowledge within a given topic.
- Show ability to read an audience and steer the session accordingly.

THE RANGE OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION MAY INCLUDE:

- The theory and practice of teaching, psychology of the rider, how people learn, lesson planning, and goal setting, The role of the trainer/coach, the role of the horse in the learning process.
- Education - Examinations structures, history of equitation, management and marketing of equestrian business, people skills and team building, current affairs in the industry.
- The biomechanics of the competition horse, recent developments in veterinary science and alternative treatments, forbidden substances, new concepts and mechanical aids to fittening.
- Travelling horses, including internationally.
- A broad knowledge of the rules and requirements pertaining to all the equestrian disciplines.
- The influence of the riders position and effect on dressage test riding.
- Candidates are not expected to be 'experts' in every field of equestrianism and science but must hold views which are delivered with clarity.