

Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	1 of 9
	Leading, Mounting,		
	Dismounting,		
Subject	Adjusting Tack.	Location	Yard and Arena
	Entering and Leaving		
	the Arena		
Resources &	Tacked up horse in the	stable/stall	
	Rider with PPE		
Requirements	Mounting block		

Time	Activity
	INTRODUCTION
	1) Note for coaches: Leading, mounting, dismounting requires considerable time
15	and repeated training of good practice during initial lessons. As riders become
mins	more familiar, skilled and proficient, the time allocated is included into the warm
	up in following lesson plans.
	2) Discuss leading in relation to the herd - leader and follower. Confidence of
	handler, positive body language when leading.
	3) Awareness of environment, influence of weather, the horse's body language.
	4) Discuss the importance of mounting and dismounting safely and with regards
	for the comfort of the horse
	ΑCΤΙVITY
	1) In the stable – preparing the horse to be lead. Removal of rug, check girth and
60	stirrups are secure, removal of head collar (safely hung up). Reins - untwist from
mins	throat lash and how to hold with and without running martingale.
	2) Leading - open the stable door wide, position of leader (near side, level with
	middle of horse's neck). Awareness of horse's focus - ears. Turning the horse -
	preferably away from the leader to protect toes and help horse balance.
	3) Entering the arena - awareness of horses already in the arena - atmosphere
	(calm and focused, excited and tense), ask permission to enter. Time the entry so
	that other riders are not near the door. Open the door wide, enter and close the
	door. Stand the horse in a safe area, out of the way, usually on the centre line.
	4) Preparation to mount - reins over the horse's head, control of the horse. Discuss
	the purpose of buckle guards, and checking which girth straps are in use (1 and 2,
	or 1 and 3). Tighten the girth slowly with awareness of the horse's reaction.
	Discuss elasticated girths and over-girthing. Pull down stirrups without pulling the
	saddle, method to adjust to approximate length. How to move from one side of
	the horse to the other, maintaining control.

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	5) Mounting - leading the horse to the block (this may be easier from the offside),
	contact on the reins in left hand to maintain halt, position of left foot facing
	forwards in the stirrup, right hand on the front of the saddle (why), spring up and
	gently lower into the saddle, right foot into stirrup, reins into two hands. (Helpful
	for coach to demo prep, mounting and dismounting.)
	6) Adjusting the girth - how to assess the tightness, adjust with foot in the stirrup
	and leg in front of the saddle, the use of one hand to adjust whilst the other holds
	the reins for control. Recheck tightness.
	7) Adjusting the stirrups - adjusted with the foot in the stirrup using one hand,
	whilst the other holds the reins; foot is held away from the horse's side. How to
	check the level of stirrups. Is the horse standing squarely.
	8) Adjusting the reins - how to shorten and lengthen without removing the hand
	from the reins. Horse's head and neck straight, and reins of equal length.
	9) Preparation to dismount - where to halt, remove feet from stirrups, reins into
	left hand.
	10) Dismounting - both hands on the neck or front of the saddle, swing right leg
	over with clearance of the saddle and hindquarters, landing softly, bend knees and
	keep hold of the horse. Run up stirrups and loosen girth. Prepare to lead
	11) Leaving the arena - announce intention to leave. Time departure so that it does
	not interfere with others. If leaving as a group, ensure all ready before leaving.
	SUMMARY
15	Preparations in the stable and Leading the horse in relation to herd dynamics.
mins	Horse body language.
	Safety, courtesy and common sense when entering and leaving the arena.
	Recap the importance of mounting, dismounting and adjusting tack correctly.
	PROGRESSION
Repeate	d practice until fluent and safe



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	2 of 9
Subject	Working in Ride Order - Initial Lessons	Location	Arena
Resources & Requirements	Cones/blocks placed in corners		

Time	Activity
	INTRODUCTION
	Recap - leading, mounting, dismounting.
15	Introduce the terms: Ride order, going large, distance, inside/outside, changing the
mins	rein, 'prepare to'
	Warm up - Walk/trot lead file in succession or as a ride, depending on level. Focus
	on position, preparation and application of the aids.
	ΑCΤΙVITY
	1) Psychology of the horse within a ride - leader/follower
60	2) Maintaining distance - reasons - safety, one horse's length (see the bottom of
mins	the tail in front). Use of corners to menage distance (turn across, go deeper).
	3) Listening and preparing to follow the coach's instructions individually and as
	part of a ride. The meaning of preparation to the rider and horse.
	4) The responsibilities of the leader – set the pace, ride, listen to and follow
	instructions from coach.
	5) Riders within the ride: Keeping the horse's attention, and not simply 'following'.
	Influence the horse within the ride exercise.
	6) What to do in the event of a mistake - usually follow the leader, so that the ride
	does not divide. Exceptions. Action in the event of a fall (ride halt).
	7) Basic starting, stopping, turning aids. Basic position.
	8) Exercise ideas:
	 Simple going large exercises as a ride in walk, working to maintain distances, developing awareness for others
	Basic transitions - halt, walk.
	 Introduce trot. Aids, use of neck strap for balance, two beat. Practice 'rising' in halt and walk, awareness of balance over lower leg.
	• Simple going large exercises lead file in succession and when confident introduce as a ride in walk and trot, working to maintain distances, developing awareness for others
	• Riding corners (cones/blocks useful, and can be removed as riders become more



	proficient)	
	 Focus on position and balance, communication with the horse 	
	Introduce rear file transitions when appropriate	
	9) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions	
	SUMMARY	
15	Recap the terms - ride order, going large, distance, inside/outside, change the rein	
mins	The psychology of the horse in a ride	
	Methods to maintain distance	
	The importance of preparation	
	PROGRESSION	
Develop	the aids for halt, walk and trot transitions.	
Position	al improvements.	



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	3 of 9
	The Aids for Halt,	Location	Arena
Subject	Walk and Trot.		
Subject	Carrying a Short		
	Whip.		
Resources &	Cones/blocks/poles on standby.		
Requirements	Riders to carry short w	hips where appropriate	

Time	Activity
	INTRODUCTION
	Help riders to mount – remind them of safety – spacing, hold reins, tighten girth,
15	pull down stirrups and check length
mins	Once mounted - help to alter stirrups (encourage more able riders to have a go at
	altering on their own) and check girth.
	Organise into ride and remind of distances, using corners
	Warm up – as riders walk round make position checks, ride walk/halt/walk
	transitions, focus on position, activity within the walk. Trot riders individually.
	Make sure there is activity in the walk and trot, check leg position of rider. Trot as
	a ride.
	ACTIVITY
	1) Halt ride and check girth and stirrups. While doing this ask the riders what they
60	think an aid is? Can they name some?
mins	2) Talk about how you use the aids together to get a response from the horse.
	3) Preparation – important part of every transition. What to expect from the horse
	during preparation for upwards and downwards transitions. E.g. put your leg on
	should have a response of forwardness.
	5) Explanation of aids for progressive transitions, halt - walk, walk - trot, trot-
	walk, walk - halt.
	How the riders position influences the horse e.g. leaning forward/backward,
	balancing down the reins
	6) Talk about - How to carry a short whip - inside hand, carried over inside thigh.
	Correct method to change the whip into the opposite hand.
	7) Use of short whip - reinforcement of the leg aid, therefore to be used behind
	the leg. Circumstances acceptable for use on the shoulder (negative reaction to
	the whip behind the leg, horse falling out and not listening to outside leg). Method
	to use the whip - reins in one hand first, care not to lose balance and pull on the
	reins as the horse goes forwards.
	8) Exercise ideas:



	• Start with simple Lead and rear file transitions going large. E.g. rear file halt at E and B, lead file trot rear of ride		
	• Ask the lead file individually to ride a transition between two letters or markers		
	so they have to prepare for a certain point. Repeat down the line and on both		
	reins. Talk about how much preparation each horse requires e.g. more forward		
	going one might need less		
	 Once riders riding transitions between letters – repeat and focus on maintaining position during transitions 		
	• Whole ride transitions are more difficult to control as riders can let their horses		
	follow, remind riders to make sure they ask once the horse in front has moved off		
	for an upward transition. Start the downward transitions from the rear of the ride to prevent crashing!		
	• One at a time riders trot part way round the arena ask for a walk transition for 5- 10 strides and then trot on again		
	 Progress to riders asking for transitions at specific letters or between a pair of cones. This helps riders to improve the accuracy of their aids. 		
	SUMMARY		
15	As riders and horses walk round to cool down: Ask riders how they felt the horse		
mins	responded to their aids and suggest something they can do to improve how the		
_	horse responded (e.g. stronger leg position, shorter reins, don't lean forward)		
	Give each rider feedback on their position		
	Progression		
Develop	Develop effective aids during transitions.		
•	ing the confidence to ride the horse forward into transitions.		
•	rider balance and position		
Develop			



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	4of 9
Subject	Changes of Rein	Location	Yard
Resources &	Cones/blocks to assist riding corners and shapes. Poles to help		
Requirements	riders stay straight on centre line		

Activity		
INTRODUCTION		
Recap the terms: Going large, changing the rein, inside/outside		
Reasons for working the horse on both reins.		
Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride. Focus on maintaining distances, using corners,		
rider position.		
ΑCTIVITY		
1) Introduce simple changes of rein - long and short diagonal, E-B, A-C, two 1/2		
20m circles.		
2) Preparation and communication - where to look, use of corners, timing of aids.		
3) Riding changes of rein - use of letters, aids to turn, aids for straightness		
4) Highlight that school horses learn to follow the track naturally. Riding a line		
without the support of the wall/fence requires greater commitment from the		
rider's aids.		
5) Exercise ideas:		
a) Ride changes of rein as a ride (lead file can be changed; lead file can select the change of rein).		
b) Blocks/cones in the corners are useful, and can be removed as the riders become more proficient.		
c) Common mistakes - the rider focuses on the turn, and does not think about the straight line afterwards. Horses cut the corners - ride their horse to the outside hip of the horse in front (changing lead file also creates opportunity to ride own line without influence of the horse in front).		
d) Riders to notice if horse speeds up or slows down during the turns, and to ride to correct.		
 e) Placing poles either side of X helps to channel horses and riders on a straight line E/B, A/C, and when riding two 1/2 20m circles. These also can be removed as the riders become more proficient at riding the horse straight. 6) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions. 		



	SUMMARY
15	Ask riders individually which change of rein they found the easiest to ride
mins	Give each rider feedback on their position – use and position of the
	reins/hands/arms when turning, position of legs when turning, ability to keep the
	activity around the turn.
	PROGRESSION
Progres	s to more challenging changes of rein on a variety of horses



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	5 of 9
	The Sequence of	Location	Arena
Subject	Footfalls in Walk and		
Subject	Trot and riding on		
	the Correct Diagonal		
Resources &	Bandages/boots on horses legs to highlight the diagonal pairs.		
Requirements	Cones/blocks on standby.		

Time	Activity		
	Introduction		
15	Introduce the terms: Rhythm, riding on the correct diagonal,		
15	Recap 'inside' and 'outside'.		
mins	Discuss the horse's four paces, and the use of the first three in equestrian riding.		
	Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride. Focus on maintaining distances, using corners,		
	rider position.		
	Activity		
	1) Walk - 4 beat rhythm, demonstrate the sequence of footfalls in the walk (easily		
60	illustrated by the coach in slow motion). Watch other horses within the group (it		
mins	helps to have hind boots/bandages on the horse). Encourage the riders to feel the		
	movement of the hind legs through their hips, and see the front shoulders of the		
	horse moving.		
	2) Trot - 2 beat rhythm with moment of suspension. Again, the coach can		
	demonstrate, followed by watching a horse trot (bandages/boots on one diagonal		
	pair highlights the movement). Riders to feel the 1-2 rhythm of the trot.		
	3) Discuss Trot Diagonals - explain the terms 'correct/incorrect diagonal', the need		
	to recognise diagonals (balance of the horse and even strengthening of the		
	muscles), how to recognise the correct diagonal, method to change.		
	4) Exercise ideas:		
	a) Riders to practice trot diagonals - observe the outside shoulder in the walk.		
	(Useful to practice 'rising and sitting' in walk in time with the outside shoulder.)		
	Practice in trot (make sure riders get trot going first before looking for diagonal)		
	b) On both reins, repeat transitions between walk and trot in order to practice		
	recognising the trot diagonals and feeling the hind legs in walk.		
	c) Discuss and practice when to change the diagonal during a change of rein		
	(before turning onto the new rein)		
	5) Cool down, summary, feedback and questions.		
1			



	Extra resource - YouTube videos of horse in slow motion walk and trot.	
	Summary	
15	As ride walking round ask each rider to call out when inside hind moving forward	
mins	(help them to get started if required)	
	Give feedback to each rider on the position in trot and suggest one thing to focus	
	on in the next lesson. E.g. keeping hands low, keeping heel down by not gripping	
	up with knee, rising lower	
PROGRESSION		
Feel wa	lk rhythm on a variety of horses.	

Practice proficiency at recognising the diagonal and changing when required



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	6 of 9
Subject	Developing rider position	Location	Arena
Resources & Requirements	Cones/blocks/poles in corners		

Time	Activity
15 mins	Introduction Continuous aim to improve position in order to improve our influence on the horse.
	Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride. Focus on maintaining distances, using corners, rider position. Rider to start to recognise their own positional strengths and weaknesses.
60 mins	 Activity Lines in the body - ear, shoulder, hip, heel / elbow, arm, wrist, hand, rein, horse's mouth / symmetrical if line draw down the rider's spine. Independent position - the rider does not rely on the reins, knees or thighs to maintain position. The rider is able to influence the horse via the aids without compromising their position. Balanced position - the rider's muscles and joints are sufficiently supple and stable to remain in balance with the movement of horse at all times. Reasons to aim for a balanced and independent position - allow the horse's freedom of movement, lightness of the aids, horse's response to the aids, harmony between horse and rider. Exercise ideas: Work without stirrups in halt and walk (using exercises (such as legs away, back and down, knees up to front of saddle etc) to deepen the seat and lengthen the leg. Improve rider confidence and security in saddle Transition exercises with focus on the rider's balance, position and application of the aids. Changes of rein exercises with the same focus. Standing in stirrups to develop understanding of balance over the lower leg in halt and walk
	If mirrors are available encourage rider to use them to check own position.
	6) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions.



	Suggestions to improve suppleness and strength whilst not riding - pilates, yoga, CrossFit (all help develop core and balance.
	Summary
15	Ask riders how they feel they are progressing and if there is anything they are
mins	struggling with (some riders might prefer to answer out of earshot of others, walk next to each rider so you can talk quietly if needed). Give feedback highlighting the positives of the riders position and achievements so far (this can be as simple as managing to trot around the school on a lazy horse or trotting on the correct diagonal) Remind all riders that learning to ride - It's a long journey - the Spanish Riding School of Vienna dedicate 7 years to positional development of their riders!
	PROGRESSION
	Developing a balanced and independent position during school figures



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	7 of 9
Subject	School Figures Riding 20m Circles at A/C	Location	Arena
Resources & Requirements	Cones/blocks/poles to outline the 20m circle		

Time	Activity		
	INTRODUCTION		
	Introduce the terms: School figures, bending aids.		
15	Reasons for riding school figures.		
mins			
	Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride. Focus on maintaining distances, using corners, rider position.		
	ACTIVITY		
	1) Dimensions of the arena (20x40m or 20x60m)		
60	2) The four 'points' of a 20m circle ridden from A/C. Explanation of location of X.		
mins	The difference in the line of a circle in the corner areas and the line of a corner.		
	3) Preparation - where to look, timing of aids, continuous communication with the		
	horse around the circle.		
	4) Basic aids for bend		
	5) Exercise ideas:		
	a) As a ride, walk and trot 20m circles at A/C. (Cones/blocks placed on an		
	inner track at the circle's four points are useful. Remove A/C first, two at the		
	track, then X.) Alternate leading file as appropriate.		
	b) Common mistakes - the riders turn from cone to cone, creating a diamond.		
	Explain the continuous curve. The following horses in the ride reduce the size of		
	the circle - independent influence/ride to the outside hip of the horse in front.		
	Using too much inside rein to turn the horses head and neck and not bending th		
	horse		
	c) Lead file in succession ride 20m circle in trot at A/C.		
	d) Transitions on circles (lead/rear file)		
	e) Divide the ride onto two 20m circles A/C. Transitions on circles.		
	6) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions		
	6) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions.		
	Suggestions to improve suppleness and strength whilst not riding - pilates, yoga,		
	CrossFit (all help develop core and balance.		



	SUMMARY
15	Ask each rider to list one point of riding a 20m circle (position of rider, horse, aids,
mins	common difficulties)
	Give riders feedback on their position
	PROGRESSION
	Ride 20m circle at E/B (RSVP if in 20x60m arena



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	8 of 9
Subject	School Figures - 20m Circles at E/B	Location	Arena
Resources & Requirements	Cones/blocks		

Time	Activity
	INTRODUCTION
	Ask the group which school figures they can describe and the aids for riding them.
15	Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride. Focus on maintaining distances, using corners,
mins	rider position. Include 20m circles at A/C.
	ΑCΤΙVITY
	1) Dimensions of the arena (20x40m or 20x60m)
60	2) The four 'points' of a 20m circle ridden from E/B. Crossing the centre line 10m
mins	from A/C (in a 20mX40m arena).
	3) Recap preparation - where to look, timing of aids, continuous communication
	with the horse around the circle.
	4) Recap basic aids for bend.
	5) Exercise ideas:
	a) As a ride, walk and trot 20m circles at E/B. (Cones/blocks placed on an
	inner track at the circle's four points are useful. Remove E/B first, then the others
	is usually most successful.) Alternate leading file as appropriate.
	b) Common mistakes - as the previous plan, 20m circles at A/C. The additional
	challenge is that there is support from the wall/fence for the horse to follow,
	therefore riders must be consistent and accurate with their aids. Using too much
	inside rein = head and neck too far to inside
	c) Lead file in succession ride 20m circle in trot at A/C.
	d) Transitions on circles (lead/rear file)
	e) Ride on the circle at E/B. Lead file go large, joining the ride on the circle at
	the rear of the ride. (Challenges - horses want to follow the lead file - influence of
	rider's position and aids. Determination.)
	f)Ride on the circle at E/B. Rear file go large, joining the ride on the circle at the
	front of the ride. (Challenges - rear file horse wants to follow others - influence of
	rider's position and aids. Determination) The last two exercises are a good
	challenge at the appropriate moment of learning. If used too early, before the



	rider has sufficient influence, the ride can become disorganised. 6) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions.		
	SUMMARY		
15	Discuss any difficulties that came up such as horses being difficult to turn away		
mins	from the ride, riders not being able to stay in trot around the circle and how to		
	deal with them		
PROGRESSION			
Continued practice of riding 20m circles on a variety of horses. Develop Feel, balance, and			
effective	effectiveness of the aids		



Name		Level	Bronze
Торіс	Flatwork	Lesson	9 of 9
Subject	Developing rider balance	Location	Arena
Resources & Requirements	Possibly a cone at X. Cone/blocks on standby.		

Time	Activity				
	INTRODUCTION				
	Riders should be able to organize their stirrups and girth before mounting. They				
15	should know how to check and alter them once mounted but still might need some				
mins	assistance.				
	Organise riders into suitable order.				
	As riders are walking around - Ask each rider to explain a term learned: Ride order,				
	going large, distance, changing the rein, inside/outside, school figures, bend, 20m				
	circles, transitions, aids, preparation, sequence of footfalls, correct diagonal.				
	Riders advised that the lesson is a summary of all learned, and to ride their horses				
	with good position, efficient aids, consideration of the horse.				
	Warm up - Walk and trot as a ride with the above in mind. Riders should be aware				
	of distances and how to maintain them. Ask riders to think about their position as				
	they walk round and areas they need to work on. Ask them to pick one area to				
	focus on during the warm up.				
	ACTIVITY				
60	 Throughout the session focus on – rider position and balance; the effectiveness of the rider aids – do they get the desired response from the 				
mins	horse? Are the riders looking and planning ahead. Are the riders able to				
111113	maintain their balance?				
	2. Exercise ideas: (with focus on all listed above; changing lead files regularly				
	so each rider has a chance to lead the ride)				
	a) Ride simple changes of rein – lead file to choose a change of rein and then				
	circles to the back				
	b) Ride 20m circles at A/C–rear file circles at A or C and then takes up lead file,				
	lead file trot and circles at the free end of the school, count the number of steps				
	the horses takes from A-x. Does it take the same number from X-A what does				
	that tell you?				
	c) Transitions – whole ride transitions, single rider e.g. rear file halt wait for				
	the ride to catch up and then take up lead file, lead file trot, ride 20m circle, walk				
	over X then trot on to rear of ride, transitions at letters to improve rider				
	preparation of aids,				



	This type of session can be repeated as often as required to continue to build rider confidence and co-ordination and improve their ability the ride in balance with their horse. Exercises should be varied to keep riders and horses interested.		
	3) Cool down, summary, feedback, questions		
	SUMMARY		
15	Discuss with each rider their progression from the start of the course – what are		
mins	they able to do now that they couldn't X amount of weeks ago. Ask rider what		
	areas of their positon they feel confident with and what areas they find difficult.		
	Create a plan of what to work on in future sessions.		
	PROGRESSION		
Continued practice of riding 20m circles on a variety of horses. Develop Feel, balance, and effectiveness of the aids.			