

NCEL QUESTIONS

1. How should the lower leg be positioned?

It should be kept back so that the toe is not in front of the knee and be free to apply close behind the girth, lightly touching the horse's sides and the stirrup leather should be perpendicular to the ground.

2. What does the word "aid" mean?

Two things: (1) Natural aids are what the rider uses to convey his intentions to his horse, and (2) artificial aids are things used for reinforcing the natural aids.

3. Name the natural and artificial aids.

Natural: Voice, body, hands and legs
Artificial: Crops, spurs and martingales

4. Describe jumping position.

Head up; looking in the direction headed; angle of hip closed; arms slightly bent with straight line from bit to elbow following movement and keeping contact without interfering; stirrups short enough to easily maintain position while keeping in balance with horse's movement; heels down; lower leg close to horse's side.

5. Explain why you post on the outside diagonal and canter on the inside lead.

To aid in the horse's balance.

6. What do cavaletties do for the rider? For the horse?

Rider: Helps strengthen the rider's basic position over fences combining suppleness, balance, and strength.

Horse: Develops the strength, rhythm and balance of its stride.

7. What is a simple change of lead?

For hunters, it is changing the lead by executing a downward transition from a canter to trot for no more than three steps and then picking up the opposite lead.

8. Name five rider faults that may occur when jumping.

Complete loss of position
Poor timing-e.g. ahead or behind horse
Dropping head/looking down
Leaning to one side
Leaning forward from waist
Fiddling
Raising hands on take-off
Stiff shoulders and elbows

Toes pointing down
Standing up in stirrups
Pivoting on knees
Rounding back
Fixed hands
Raising elbows
Straight arms

(other correct answers are also acceptable: e.g. ducking)

9. Why should there be a ground line for each fence?

Ground lines assist a horse in sizing up the fence and finding the right take-off spot.

10. What is halting square?

When the horse's weight is distributed evenly over all four feet with the fore and hind in pairs abreast of each other.

11. What are the disadvantages of long stirrups?

It weakens the rider's seat and balance and hampers the effective use of the rider's legs.

12. Why should the stirrup leather be perpendicular to the ground when you ride?

To hold your lower leg in the correct position, assisting balance and correct usage of the calf and heel.

13. If a rider does not keep the lower leg in the correct spot, how is his Upper body position affected?

If the lower leg is too far forward, the seat will slide back in the saddle and may shift the rider behind the horse's motion. If the lower leg is too far back, the seat will be too far forward in the saddle, with the rider being off balance and tending to fall forward.

14. Why is it important not to grip with the knee excessively when you ride?

When the knee is a single/strong point of contact, the lower leg will be insecure on the horse. Incorrect foot and calf position will result and the knee tends to slip up the saddle causing a loose seat position.

15. How should a horse be positioned when it is traveling in a circle?

The horse should be uniformly bent from poll to tail to conform to the curve on which it is traveling. The hind feet are following in the tracks of the front feet.

16. What is the purpose of making a circle before you begin jumping a course?

To create impulsion, establish an even pace and pick up the correct canter lead.

17. What five stages does a horse go through when it is jumping?

Approach, take-off, flight, landing, departure.

18. At what point should the horse take-off when jumping?

Approximately the same distance away from the fence as the height of the fence. For example, for a three-foot fence, the take-off is approximately three feet in front of the jump.

19. List six basic types of fences.

Coop	Oxer	Plank	Wall
Gate	Aiken	Brush	Panel
Post and rail			

(other correct answers are also acceptable, e.g. roll top, liverpool)

20. What is (a) a combination? (b) a line? And (c) a broken line?

- (a) Two or three fences in a line with the distance between each being either one or two strides.
- (b) Two or more fences in a straight line with the distance between requiring at least three strides.
- (c) Two fences not requiring a turn between them but joined by a curved line.

21. List at least two common forms of bedding.

Straw, sawdust and shavings.

22. Describe any of the following vices: (a), (b) cribbing, (c) stall walking. Include possible causes and the ill effects to the horse that may result.

- (a) Weaving. A horse is said to be a weaver when it swings its head and neck from side to side and transfers weight from one leg to the other. This vice causes weight loss, worn hooves, lameness (knee and ankle problems). Causes of weaving include boredom, idleness, nervousness, parasites, and nerve damage.
- (b) Cribbing. Horses that crib will take hold of a projecting object with their teeth and may suck and swallow air. Swallowing air into the stomach can cause colic. Causes of cribbing include boredom, lack of bulk food, irritation of the stomach that may cause a specific craving, and excessive pain.
- (c) Stall Walking. Horses that stall walk will constantly be moving around their stall. Stall walking results in inability to maintain weight, wearing down of hooves, floor of stall needing constant attention. Stall walking can be caused by nervousness, eagerness to obtain food or to join friends in the paddock, neurological problems, etc.

23. Are vice contagious?

Vices are not contagious in the sense that they are not viruses or caused by bacteria. However, other horses in the barn often imitate vices. Try to correct as soon as possible or else isolate any horse with a severe vice. Remember though, isolation can be detrimental since it increases boredom.

24. What bones are in the foot?

The coffin bone, the navicular bone and the short pastern.

25. Do all horses need to be shod?

Many horses go barefoot without harm. If you plan to ride your horse on road surfaces or on hard ground that will wear away the hoof wall at a faster rate than it can be replaced, your horse should use shoes. Some horses with tough walls have their front feet shod but keep their hind feet bare.

26. What can you put on shoes to aid in traction?

Studs, caulks, borium, heels, toe grips.

27. What are the purposes of grooming?

To increase the blood supply to the skin; to remove the dirt and dandruff; to give a good shine to the coat and to lubricate the skin; and to help prevent skin diseases.

28. What factors determine whether a horse should be clipped?

Length of coat, work required, amount the horse sweats, whether the horse will be shown or hunter, and whether you have appropriate blankets.

29. What areas of a horse are usually trimmed?

Back of the legs, coronet band, fetlocks, muzzle area, lower jaw, outline of the ear, and bridle path.

30. What are blankets or coolers used for?

For warmth; to prevent chills when cooling out; and for keeping the horse clean.

31. How is the blanket size determined?

A blanket size is determined by measuring the distance from the center of the chest to the point of the buttock. Add several inches to the final measurement because blankets may shrink.

32. What are the purposes for bandaging a horse's legs?

To provide support and protection; to hold medication in place; to prevent swelling.

33. Give some general safety rules for bandaging.

Don't use bandages unless necessary. Never draw any one part of the bandage tighter than another. Always finish the bandage on the outside of the legs, never on the tendon or cannon bone. Always bandage front to back and to the 8nside (near side: counter clockwise; off side: clockwise). Always use appropriate padding under the bandage and leave the edge of the padding showing at the top and bottom. Keep the bandages as wrinkle free as possible. Never bandage too tightly. Keep the pressure uniform. Tuck in all ends.

34. How do you estimate a horse's age?

By examining his teeth.

35. What is floating and what are the signs that teeth should be floated?

Floating is using a rasp to file any rough edges on the horse's teeth. The signs that a horse's teeth may need to be floated are:

- (a) trouble chewing, dropping feed from the mouth, and unchewed grain in the feces,
- (b) biting problems,
- (c) bleeding cheeks, and
- (d) loss of weight.

36. Define the word "conformation".

Conformation deals with the structural make-up of the horse.

37. To evaluate a horse fairly, what are the most important things to consider?

(a) breed type; (b) conformation, (c) age, (d) vice, (e) way it moves, and (f) the job it is being considered for.

38. Name at least four movement problems a horse can have.

(a) forging, (b) brushing, (c) paddling, (d) winging, (e) over-reaching.

39. What is a cold-backed horse?

A horse that seems to sink down when first mounted but after a few minutes is fine.

40. Name and define three hunter conformation faults.

- (a) Pigeon-toed: The toes are pointed in. usually associated with horses having wide chests.
- (b) Buck-kneed: The knee falls behind a perpendicular line when viewed from the side.
- (c) Cow-hocked: The hocks are too close together; toes turned out.
- (d) Ewe-necked: the neck is concave. It looks as if it was put on upside down.
- (e) Goose-rumped: The hindquarters slope sharply from the croup to the dock.
- (f) Roman-nosed: A convex-shaped nose.

(other correct answers are also acceptable, e.g. herring-gutted, roach-backed)

41. In what sequence do the horse's legs move at a walk?

The walk is a four beat gait with each leg moving separately: e.g. near hind, near fore, off hind, off fore.

42. In what sequence do the horse's legs move at a trot?

The trot is a two-beat gait with the legs moving in diagonal pairs: right diagonal: near hind and off fore; left diagonal: off hind and near fore.

43. In what sequence do the horse's legs move at a canter?

The canter is a three beat gait. Right lead: near hind, the diagonal pair of the off hind and near fore, and finally the off fore. Left lead: off hind, the diagonal pair of the near hind and off fore, and finally the near fore.

44. What is a disunited or cross-canter?

A disunited or cross-canter occurs when it appears the horse is cantering on one lead on the forehand and on the other lead on the hindquarters.

45. What is a counter-canter?

A counter-canter occurs when the horse is on the left lead when tracking to the right or vice versa.

46. What is the difference between the sitting trot and the ordinary posting trot?

A horse shortens his stride for a sitting trot.

47. What is the difference between a blemish and an unsoundness?

Blemishes include marks and scars such as rope burns, wire cuts, etc. which do not affect the serviceability of the horse. Unsoundnesses include more serious problems such as chronic or permanent lameness that affect the usability and serviceability of the horse.

48. What is the normal temperature range for a horse?

99° to 101° degrees.

49. Name four general signs that a horse is sick.

(a) a temperature over 101° degrees or under 99° degrees,

- (b) cold and patchy sweating,
- (c) a pulse rate greater than 60 that is weak and irregular;
- (d) heavy nasal discharge,
- (e) little or no intestinal sounds,
- (f) lower limbs puffy or full of swelling,
- (g) weak or irregular respiration.

(other correct answers are also acceptable)

50. What are some of the signs of colic?

Persistent pawing and rolling, profuse sweating, looking a sides, kicking belly.

51. What is the cause and treatment for a stone bruise?

Causes: riding in stony areas or on hard and uneven surfaces.
 Treatments: (depends on severity) rest, lance, soak in Epsom salts, package with a poultice.

52. How does a horse get worms?

Worms enter the horse's body in the form of eggs or larvae that are attached to grasses and hair (e.g. bot eggs).

53. Name four plants/trees that are poisonous to horses.

Cherry	nightshade	red maple
Black walnut	black locust	mustards
Yews	oak leaves	St. John's wort
Jimson weed	hemlock	

54. How do the following affect the amount of stress your horse experience when conditioning: (a) weather? (b) grade of the ground (uphill, downhill, level)? (c) wind? (d) group situation?

- (a) the hotter the day the greater the stress on the horse.
- (b) uphill is stressful, level ground is easiest, downhill is not difficult but it puts more stress on the front legs.
- (c) a moving breeze will cool your horse during hot weather and chill it during cool weather.
- (d) in a group situation, a nervous horse may get excitable, putting added stress on its system.

55. What are the signs of a dangerously exhausted horse?

Very high temperature, pulse and respiration rates with little recovery within 30 to 60 minutes; irregular or weak pulse; violent, heaving respiration with marked contraction of abdominal muscles; pulse much lower than respiration; increased stiffness in hindquarters; no appetite, thirst, or interest in surroundings.

56. How long does it take the average horse to cover a mile (a) at the walk? (b) at the trot? (c) at the canter? (d) at the gallop?

- (a) 15 minutes
- (b) 6-1/2 minutes
- (c) 5 minutes
- (d) less than 4 minutes

57. After feeding your horse, how long should you wait before riding?

It is best to wait at least an hour after feeding before riding your horse hard.

58. How can you recognize good hay?

It is greenish in color, free of dust, not visible mold or mold smell, few weeds and no prickles, smells sweet.

59. Why is good hay considered to be the most important horse feed?

It contains good quality protein and amounts of necessary vitamins and minerals; it has ample amounts of carbohydrates for a horse on a maintenance or a light work diet; it is a very natural feed that is quite palatable and it provides natural roughage needed for digestion.

60. What is the result of using a saddle with a tree that is too wide?

The saddle will sit on the horse's spine or withers and the gullet may press down on them causing a sore back.

61. How would you test for a broken saddletree?

Check to see if the cantle is absolutely rigid. If you can bend it forwards and backwards, then the tree is broken. If the tree is broken at the waist (seat), the saddle will have more give on one side.

62. Name three different types of bits.

Snaffle, pelham, gag, curb

(other correct answers are also acceptable, e.g. kimberwicke, elevator, mylar)

63. What is the proper position of the bit in the horse's mouth?

The bit is in the proper position when there are 1-1/2 to 2 wrinkles at the corners of his mouth. This prevents the bit from resting against the horse's teeth and allows it to be used properly.

64. Which parts of the mouth does a bit act on?

The bit works on the corners of the mouth, the bars of the mouth, the tongue and can also put pressure on the poll.

65. How many inches to a hand? What is the maximum height for a small pony? A medium pony? a large pony? and what is the difference between a pony and a horse?

A hand equals four inches. Small ponies cannot exceed 12.2 hands; medium ponies: not exceeding 13.2 hands; large ponies: not exceeding 13.2 hands; and horses are those animals over 14.2 hands.

66. Describe at least four horse colors.

Bay: light to dark brown body, black, mane, tail and legs

Chestnut: reddish, bronze color

Palomino: cream to golden with flaxen mane and tail

Pinto: white with either black or brown (or both) patches

Grey: white to dark grey in color, may have dark (almost black) legs.

(other correct answers are also acceptable, e.g. roan, buckskin)

67. Name at least four breeds of horses.

Thoroughbred

Standardbred

Morgan

Quarterhorse

Welsh

Shetland

Arab

Paso fino

Connemara

(other correct answers are also acceptable, e.g. Fresian, Belgian, Clydesdale)

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