

10 Excellent
9 Very Good
8 Good
7 Fairly Good

6 Satisfactory
5 Sufficient
4 Insufficient

3 Fairly Bad
2 Bad
1 Very Bad
0 Not Executed

VK Equestrian – Functional Flatwork

Performance Level - Test A Arena size 20m x 60m (March 2026)

Section:

Class:

What Judges Are Looking For

The purpose of Performance Level tests is to confirm that horse and rider have consolidated the work established at Progressive Level and are now demonstrating greater self-carriage, engagement, and adjustability within and between the paces. There should be development of collection and medium paces, with improved balance, straightness, and expression.

The horse should show more uphill tendency, consistent contact, and increased carrying power from behind. Transitions should be more precise and balanced, with clear preparation and maintenance of rhythm and tempo. Lateral movements should demonstrate improved suppleness, alignment, and control of bend, showing greater fluency and coordination.

The rider should demonstrate an independent, balanced seat with refined and effective aids, encouraging greater engagement, straightness, and harmony while maintaining lightness and clarity of communication.

*** In the Free walk on a long rein** the horse should show a clear four-beat rhythm, purposeful ground cover with overtrack, relaxation through the back, and a confident stretch forward and down whilst maintaining a soft, elastic contact and straightness.

**** Working Trot – Stretching Trot** - Clear, regular trot rhythm maintained; willing stretch forward and downward without loss of balance or activity; elastic, consistent contact; accurate circle shape and size; smooth and balanced retaking of the reins before the marker indicated.

*****Introducing - Medium Paces (Trot & Canter)** Regularity and quality of the pace; clear and distinct increase in ground cover and impulsion from the working pace; frame lengthening appropriately while remaining uphill and balanced; straightness on the line of travel; rhythm and tempo maintained; smooth, balanced transitions to and from the working pace.

******Introducing - Lateral Work** (e.g. Shoulder-In, Travers, Leg Yield as applicable) Regularity and quality of the pace; clear bend and correct positioning; consistent tempo and impulsion; balanced, fluent steps with appropriate crossing; straightness before and after the movement; accuracy of line and geometry.

#Introducing - Halt, Rein Back (3–4 Steps), proceed in Medium Walk: The horse should stand square, attentive, and relaxed in the halt. The rein back should be willing, straight, and balanced, taking 3–4 clear steps with even rhythm. Transition smoothly forward into medium walk, maintaining a regular four-beat rhythm, relaxed activity, and purpose.

Judges will also assess:

- Greater engagement and carrying power, with the horse beginning to show moments of true self-carriage
 - Clear distinction between collected, working, and medium paces
 - Balance and straightness in more demanding lateral work
 - Smooth, prepared transitions demonstrating responsiveness to the aids
 - A rider who sits quietly and effectively, applying refined aids that promote harmony, lightness, and overall fluency
- To be ridden in an ordinary snaffle **with all trot work ridden sitting (unless otherwise stated)**

Disclaimer

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These tests are intended for use in privately organised online and virtual competitions and other events hosted by VK Equestrian only. Participation is voluntary and undertaken at the participant's own risk.

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Horse & Rider:

Event:

Movements of Test			Mark	x 2	Total	Feedback
1.	A X	Enter in Collected Trot Halt, Salute Proceed in Collected Trot				
2.	C HP PFAKV	Track left ***Change rein, medium trot (sitting/rising) Collected Trot		x 2		
3.		(Transitions at H & P)		x 2		
4.	V	Circle right 10m diameter collected trot				
5.	VS SHC	****Shoulder-in right Collected trot		x 2		
6.	C MV VKAFP	Collected trot ***Change rein, medium trot (sitting/rising) Collected Trot		x 2		
7.		(Transitions at M & V)		x 2		
8.	P	Circle left 10m diameter collected trot				
9.	PR RMC	****Shoulder-in left collected trot		x 2		
10.	C	#Halt, rein back 3 to 4 steps Proceed Medium Walk		x 2		
11.	CH HP PF	Medium Walk *Change rein in Free Walk on a long rein Medium Walk		x 2		
12.	Before F FA	Shorten the stride in walk Collected Canter right lead				
13.	A AK	Circle right 10m diameter collected canter Collected Canter				
14.	KS	***Medium Canter right lead		x 2		
15.		(Transitions at K & S)		x 2		
16.	SHC	Collected Canter				
17.	C MV	Collected Trot Change rein in collected trot				
18.	VK	Medium Walk				
19.	Before K KA	Shorten the stride in walk Collected Canter left lead				

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20.	A AF	Circle left 10m diameter Collected Canter Collected Canter				
21.	FR	***Medium Canter left lead		x 2		
22.		(Transitions at F & R)		x 2		
23.	RMC	Collected Canter left lead				
24.	CHE	Collected Trot				
25.	E X G	Turn left Turn left down centreline Halt, Immobility, Salute				
		Leave the arena in walk on long rein at A	No Mark		No Mark	
		Subtotal	380			

Errors of Course (EC)	First-1	Second-3	Third-5	Fourth - Elimination	Total
Technical Faults (TF)	First-1	Second-1	Third-1	Fourth - Elimination	Total

Subtotal		
370		
Paces	x 2	
Impulsion	x 2	
Submission	x 2	
Rider	x 2	
(EC)		
(TF)		
Total		
450		

Overall Feedback:

Judge: _____ **Date:** _____

Total for Test

Percentage: _____

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