



British   
Dressage

**BD Horse Care**  
Riders guide to assessments

# Welcome An introduction to BD Horse Care

## Taking your Horse Care assessments

There are five tiers to British Dressage Horse Care, starting at the 'Introductory Care Certificate' and progressing up to the 'Advanced Care Certificate'.

To complete each tier of BD Horse Care you will need to complete all of the practical assessment criteria as well as the online modules.

To start the online modules you will need to register through the BD website for the small fee of £5 per certificate. Practical assessments are arranged through your region.

When you have completed all of the online modules and the practical assessment form has been completed by a Horse Care assessor and submitted to Head Office you will be issued with an online certificate.



Advanced Certificate

Intermediate Certificate

Novice Certificate

Preliminary Certificate

Introductory Certificate

## HOW IT WORKS



### How to register

To enrol for a certificate, head to the BD website and follow the link to book onto the relevant level certificate. Registration will cost £5 and you will be issued with a link to the online platform to start working towards the certificate.

Considering the practical assessment? Register interest with your **DO to find out when there is an assessment day near you!**

## Using the criteria sheet

In this booklet there is a criteria sheet for each Horse Care tier, this should help you to work out what you need to do to pass each certificate.

If you think you need any training to achieve a certificate, contact your region to find a coach or find out what training is organised in your area.

When you go to an assessment day in your region the assessor will complete a similar criteria sheet and may write comments to help you improve. They will also mark whether you have met each objective with 'Competent' or if you need further training with an 'Not Yet Competent'.



Each of the lists in the following sections contain the full criteria for practical assessment. You will need to meet all of the criteria for practical assessment, as well as the online modules.

Online modules include identifying colours and markings, items of the grooming kit and parts of the saddle/bridle. You may want to revise these before taking the online quizzes!

**For more resources visit [www.britishdressage.co.uk](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk)**

# Resources

## Equipment for BD Horse Care

### Required resources

If attending an assessment with your own horse/pony you will need to provide the below equipment otherwise this will be provided for you at the assessment venue.

All candidates will be expected to bring their helmet and gloves and wear suitable footwear. Long hair should be tied back and no jewellery should be worn.

### Introductory Certificate

- Headcollar and lead rope (of appropriate size and fit for the horse)
- Hoof pick and brush
- Snaffle bridle (already fitted to the horse)
- Saddle (of appropriate size and fit for the horse)
- Saddle cloth/numnah (as appropriate)

### Preliminary Certificate

- Headcollar and lead rope (of appropriate size and fit for the horse)
- Well-equipped grooming kit, suitable for competition preparation
- Tack cleaning equipment (sponges, soap, warm water, leather conditioner)
- Tail bandage
- Rug of appropriate size for the horse (preferably suitable for travel)

### Novice Certificate

- Headcollar and lead rope (of appropriate size and fit for the horse)
- Equipment suitable for a trot up
- Well-equipped grooming kit, suitable for competition preparation
- Washing equipment suitable to wash a horse's tail
- Plaiting equipment (including both bands and thread)



## Introductory Care Certificate

### Revision guidance and things to consider

There are suggested questions and things to consider below for each practical module. You might be questioned on these during a practical assessment.

#### Module 1B – Safe handling of horses

Things to consider:

- How would you approach a horse in the stable, and would this be different if the horse was tied on the yard or to a trailer?
- What would you need to consider when approaching a horse that is out in the field?
- When might you give a horse a treat and what could you give?
- Safe and unsafe areas to tie your horse, think about the safety of your own horse/pony, as well as the safety of other people, horses and objects.
- How would you secure your horse/pony's leadrope?
- How would you safely release a horse into a field?



There are online sections of this module which have to be completed, as well as practical demonstration.

#### Module 1C – Grooming kit

Things to consider:

- Items of the grooming kit—how many can you name?
- How often should you be picking out your horses feet and why?
- Consider the reasons for grooming your horse/pony, think of as many reasons as you can.



#### Module 1D – Saddlery

Complete the online sections of this module, as well as practical demonstration, in order to meet the complete Introductory criteria.

Things to consider:

- Can you tack up your horse safely and correctly?
- How you would check the basic fit of your horse/pony's tack (i.e. How would you check the saddle is placed correctly, can you fasten the numnah/saddle cloth appropriately, how do you know if the bit is the correct size?)
- How would you check the tightness of the noseband and throatlash?

Introductory Certificate Practical Assessment					DATE:
LEARNER NAME:		MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:			
ASSESSOR:		VENUE:			
Unit	Module	Competence objective	Performance criteria (The learner can...)	Comments	C/NYC
1B	1.1	Safely approach a horse, when in the stable	Explain and demonstrate how to approach a horse in the stable, showing an understanding of the safety of themselves and the horse ( <i>helmet/gloves are advised but not compulsory</i> )		
1B	1.2	Safely approach a horse, when in an open space	Explain and demonstrate (where possible) how to approach a horse in an open space, showing an understanding of the safety of themselves and the horse ( <i>helmet/gloves must be worn in preparation to lead the horse failure to do so should be marked NYC</i> )		
1B	2.1	Safely give a treat to a horse by hand	Show how to give a horse a treat by hand. Be able to explain the reasons for giving a horse a treat		
1B	3.1	Put on a headcollar and ensure it fits correctly <i>The horse should be of correct height, but assistance may be provided to ensure safety if a learner cannot reach</i>	Demonstrate how to put a headcollar on a horse and secure it safely. Describe how and why a headcollar should fit correctly		
1B	4.1	Safely lead a horse in hand and turn the horse around	Lead a horse safely in hand and correctly turn the horse around. Demonstrate leading a horse from the near-side and turning the horse away from them safely ( <i>helmet/gloves must be worn to lead the horse, failure to do so will be marked NYC</i> )		
1B	5.1	Tying horses up correctly and safely	Describe, suitable places to tie up the horse		
1B	5.2	Tying horses up correctly and safely	Demonstrate securing a horse with a quick-release knot. Explain why this is necessary		
1B	6.1	Release a horse into an enclosed turn out pen, ensuring the safety of all people and horses	Discuss and demonstrate releasing a horse into an open space, showing knowledge of the safety of all involved ( <i>helmet/gloves must be worn to lead the horse, failure to do so will be marked NYC</i> )		
1C	2.1	Pick out a horse's feet safely	Demonstrate how to pick-out all four feet of the horse (with assistance where appropriate), showing an understanding of the safety of all involved		
1D	3.1	Put on a snaffle bridle <i>The horse should be of correct height, but assistance may be provided to ensure safety if a learner cannot reach the ears</i>	Put on a snaffle bridle correctly (with assistance where necessary) and secure appropriately and safely		
1D	4.1	Put on a saddle with a numnah or saddle cloth and prepare for mounting <i>The horse should be of correct height, but assistance may be provided to ensure safety if a learner cannot lift the saddle sufficiently</i>	Put on a saddle correctly (with assistance where appropriate) ensuring that the saddle pad is pulled up into the gullet of the saddle and secured		
1D	4.2	Put on a saddle with a numnah or saddle cloth and prepare for mounting	Demonstrate how to adjust girth and stirrup leathers appropriately		
			The learner demonstrates the ability to work safely and efficiently throughout all of the tasks, and uses the correct terms for equipment where appropriate		
			- Recognises equine behaviour and awareness of reactions to certain tasks		
			- Demonstrates respect for the horse and their surroundings		
			- Safe positioning of self and horse for various tasks		
			- Uses correct basic terminology for points of the horse and parts of tack/equipment		
ASSESSOR SIGNATURE:				DATE:	

# Preliminary

## What you need to know

### Preliminary Care Certificate

#### Revision guidance and things to consider

There are suggested questions and things to consider below for each practical module. You might be questioned on these during a practical assessment.

#### Module 2C — Grooming

- Can you recognise and name various items of the grooming kit?
- Can you show how to use the items of the grooming kit effectively?



#### Module 2D — Fitting and care of saddlery

- Do you know how to fit a snaffle bridle and make sure it is safe?
- Can you recognise and name different nosebands and understand how they fit?
- Do you know the difference between general purpose and dressage saddles? Can you recognise when they are a good or poor fit?
- Can you show how to clean and care for tack? Do you know how you might care for the different materials?
- Do you know how to take a bridle apart and can you reassemble it correctly?

#### Stay at home practise tip!

Spend an afternoon revising with your grooming kit or bridle to hand. Take out all the pieces and add a sticky post-it note to each one with your answer. It's revision so don't worry about checking to find the answer, it'll help you remember in the long term! Get a parent, guardian or sibling to check your answers afterwards.



#### Module 2E — Stable Routines

- Can you fill and weight a haynet correctly and then tie it up safely for a horse to eat?
- How would you safely lift heavy items such as bales of hay and buckets of water?
- Can you show how to muck out a stable, selecting the correct tools depending on the type of bedding?
- Do you know the positives and negatives of different types of bedding?

#### Module 2F — Horse Clothing

- Can you bandage your horse's tail correctly and safely?
- How would you put on or take off a rug safely and correctly?
- Do you know what equipment you should use to travel your horse? Can you select the appropriate items and explain their use?

#### Don't forget!

- Ask for help if you need it, try a friend or stable manager
- Safety first, make sure you're not putting yourself or others at risk
- Practise makes perfect, and it pays to be patient
- Get creative! Practise lots at home if you can't get out to see your horse, old rocking horses can be great mannequins!
- Take a look at the BD Horse Care learning zone for great tips, tricks and videos from industry professionals!



There are online sections of this module which have to be completed, as well as practical demonstration.



Preliminary Certificate Practical Assessment				DATE:	
LEARNER NAME:		MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:			
ASSESSOR:		VENUE:			
Unit	Module	Competence objective	Performance criteria (The learner can...)	Comments	C/NYC
2C	3.1	Use each item of the grooming kit effectively	Demonstrate the correct use of at least five different items of the grooming kit		
2C	3.2	Use each item of the grooming kit effectively	Demonstrate using the items of the grooming kit in the correct order		
2C	3.3	Use each item of the grooming kit effectively	Select the correct items of the grooming kit to use on a field-kept horse, and explain why these are correct		
2C	3.4	Use each item of the grooming kit effectively	Select the correct items for use on the stable kept or clipped horse and explain why these are correct		
2C	3.5	Use each item of the grooming kit effectively	Demonstrate effective and correct grooming techniques, whilst handling the horse safely		
2D	1.1	Fit a snaffle bridle correctly <i>The horse should be of appropriate height, but assistance may be provided to ensure safety if the learner cannot reach the ears sufficiently</i>	Demonstrate how to put on a snaffle bridle correctly		
2D	1.2	Fit a snaffle bridle correctly	Explain and demonstrate how to check correct size of the bit and its height in the horse's mouth		
2D	1.3	Fit a snaffle bridle correctly	Demonstrate the correct fastening and length-adjustment of the cheek-pieces and throatlash		
2D	1.4	Fit a snaffle bridle correctly	Demonstrate an understanding of the correct size and fit of the browband		
2D	2.1	Understand the correct and incorrect fitting of a cavesson noseband	Explain how to assess the position and fit of a cavesson noseband		
2D	2.2	Understand the correct and incorrect fitting of a drop noseband	Explain how to assess the position and fit of a drop noseband		
2D	2.3	Understand the correct and incorrect fitting of a flash noseband	Explain how to assess the position and fit of both straps on a flash noseband		
2D	2.4	Understand the correct and incorrect fitting of a grackle noseband	Explain how to assess the fit of a grackle noseband, which has been previously fitted to the horse		
2D	3.1	Understand the correct/incorrect fit of saddles	Explain how to assess the correct fit of a dressage or GP saddle, pointing out the key aspects of saddle width/length		
2D	3.2	Understand the correct/incorrect fit of saddles	Demonstrate and explain how to assess a dressage/GP saddle that is an incorrect fit for the horse		

2D	3.3	Understand the correct/incorrect fit of saddles	Identify and explain how an incorrectly fitting saddle can be harmful to the horse		
2D	4.1	Clean and care for tack	Select the correct items to use and demonstrate how to clean a saddle, stirrup leathers, irons and treads		
2D	4.2	Clean and care for tack	Recognise the material of the girth and demonstrate or explain how it should be cleaned		
2D	4.3	Clean and care for tack	Demonstrate how to take a snaffle bridle apart, cleaning the leather and the bit separately		
2D	4.4	Clean and care for tack	Demonstrate how to re-assemble the bridle correctly		
2E	2.1	Demonstrate how to fill, weigh and tie up a haynet	Demonstrate how to fill a haynet with an amount dictated by the assessor and weigh the filled haynet		
2E	2.2	Demonstrate how to fill, weigh and tie up a haynet	Demonstrate how to tie a haynet in a safe way, at an appropriate height		
2E	3.1	Demonstrate the safe lifting of items such as a bucket of water or bale of hay	Demonstrate filling a water bucket with a suitable amount that they can safely lift it and show how to do so in a safe manner		
2E	3.2	Demonstrate the safe lifting of items such as a bucket of water or bale of hay	Demonstrate the safe lifting of heavier items such as a bale of hay, asking others to assist if necessary and appropriate		
2E	4.1	Select appropriate tools and prepare to muck out the stable ensuring safety of the horse and themselves	Select appropriate tools to muck out a stable and make the area safe for themselves and any horses ( <i>if the horse is present, they must be removed and restrained somewhere appropriate. Where possible water buckets should be removed beforehand</i> )		
2E	4.2	Demonstrate removal of droppings and soiled bedding. Bed the clean stable down for the horse.	Demonstrate how to remove droppings and soiled bedding and consequently bed the cleaned stable down for the horse		
2E	4.3	Ensure surroundings are left clean and all equipment is out away safely	Clean the surrounding yard area and return equipment, leaving the area in a clean, safe manner		
2E	4.4	Understand how to muck out stables with various bedding types	Explain how to muck out stables with various types of bedding and demonstrate understanding of the positive/negatives of different bedding types		
2F	1.1	Put on a tail bandage	Demonstrate how to put on a tail bandage correctly and safely, ensuring it will stay in place and be comfortable for the horse ( <i>The horse must be correctly restrained, failure to do so will be marked NYC</i> )		
2F	1.2	Remove a tail bandage	Demonstrate how to safely remove the tail bandage and roll-up correctly		

2F	2.1	Safely put on and take off a rug correctly	Demonstrate putting a rug onto a horse safely, ensuring the horse is secured in a safe place <i>(the learner must pay attention to the horse's behaviour, ensuring fastenings are all secured before rug is placed on the horse in a safe manner)</i>		
2F	2.2	Safely put on and take off a rug correctly	Demonstrate how to secure the rug appropriately, according to its type and fastenings		
2F	2.3	Safely put on and take off a rug correctly	Showing an understanding of safety, unfasten and remove the rug <i>(fastenings must be secured before the rug is removed safely)</i>		
2F	2.4	Select and apply appropriate clothing and equipment for travel	Select appropriate equipment for travelling a horse, including a suitable rug, leg protection (boots or bandages), tail protection (bandage and/or tail guard) and headcollar. Explain the selection of various items and materials		
2F	2.5	Select and apply appropriate clothing and equipment for travel	Demonstrate how to dress a horse safely in preparation for travel, explaining the application of the selected equipment		
2F	2.6	Select and apply appropriate clothing and equipment for travel	Explain the choice of selected clothing/equipment and what alternatives they would have chosen should some items not be available (for example travel boots or tail guard)		
<b>The learner works safely and efficiently at all times, completing tasks to competition standard where appropriate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognises equine behaviour and awareness of reactions to certain tasks</li> <li>- Demonstrates respect for the horse and their surroundings</li> <li>- Safe positioning of self and horse for various tasks</li> <li>- Safe positioning of tack and equipment in/around stable</li> <li>- Demonstrates ability to prioritise tasks and work efficiently</li> </ul>					
<b>The learner uses the correct terms for equipment and anatomy of the horse/pony where appropriate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uses correct terminology for points and regions of the horse and parts of tack/equipment</li> </ul>					
<b>ASSESSOR SIGNATURE:</b>			<b>DATE:</b>		

# Novice

## What you need to know

### Novice Care Certificate Revision guidance and things to consider

There are suggested questions and things to consider below for each practical module. You might be questioned on these during a practical assessment.

#### Module 3B Trot up

- Do you know how to prepare your horse for a pre-competition inspection?
- How would you present yourself for a pre-competition inspection?
- What protective clothing would you need?
- Can you demonstrate walk, trot and turning your horse correctly in hand for an inspection?



Why not try practising at home with your horse!

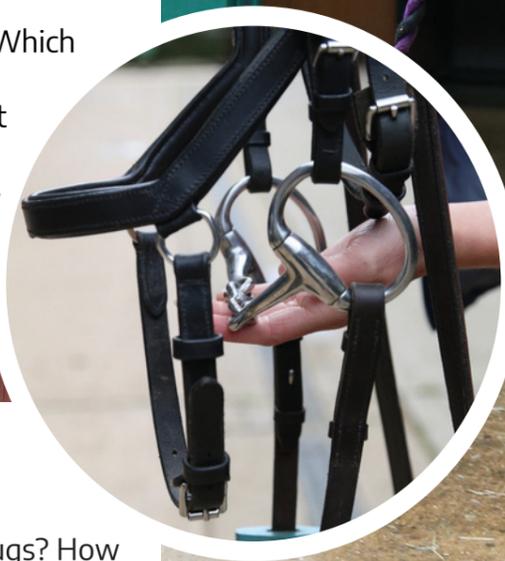
#### Module 3C Washing Horses

- Can you demonstrate how to wash a horse's tail safely and effectively?
- How would you prepare your horse's mane and forelock for plaiting?
- Can you plait your horse's mane, securing the plaits with rubber bands? Can you do the same using needle and thread?
- Do you know of any other ways to secure your horse's plaits? Which method do you prefer and why?
- Can you demonstrate how to remove your plaits safely without damaging the mane?



#### Module 3F Rugs, Bandages and Boots

- Can you recognise various types of rugs and their uses?
- What are the differences between stable, turnout and cooler rugs? How would you recognise each?
- When might you use a cooler rug?
- When might you need to use a liner?
- Can you apply stable bandages to front and hind legs safely and securely? Why might stable bandages be used?
- Can you apply exercise bandages to front and hind legs safely and securely? Why might exercise bandages be used?
- Do you know the pros and cons for the use of exercise bandages?
- Are you able to apply brushing boots to both front and hind legs? Can you recognise whether they fit the horse?
- Can you apply over reach boots? How might you know whether they fit the horse?
- When are bandages and boots not permitted? Do you know why?



Novice Certificate Practical Assessment				DATE:	
LEARNER NAME:				MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:	
ASSESSOR:				VENUE:	
Unit	Module	Competence objective	Performance criteria (The learner can...)	Comments	C/NYC
3B	1.1	Prepare a horse for a pre-competition inspection	Select the equipment required to lead the horse safely (suitable bridle to comply with dressage rules)		
3B	1.2	Prepare a horse for a pre-competition inspection	Put on and adjust the equipment selected to trot-up the horse, demonstrating an understanding of permitted tack for inspections		
3B	1.3	Prepare a horse for a pre-competition inspection	Demonstrate how to ensure that the horse is clean, tidy and feet are picked out ready to present (learner should present the horse in a suitable condition for inspection, if not possible they should identify why the horse should not be presented and what they would do differently)		
3B	2.1	Present a rider for a pre-competition inspection	Explain and discuss what clothing and protective gear should be worn for inspections, and how the learner should present themselves appropriately to handle the horse (learner should be wearing appropriate safety helmet/gloves and footwear and identify suitable clothing for inspection if they would change anything about present attire)		
3B	3.1	Walk, <u>trot</u> and turn the horse in hand	Demonstrate how to hold the horse correctly when walking in a straight line (helmet and gloves must be worn, failure to do so will be marked as NYC)		
3B	3.2	Walk, <u>trot</u> and turn the horse in hand	Demonstrate how to turn the horse safely away from them and trot the horse for inspection (helmet and gloves must be worn, failure to do so will be marked as NYC)		
3B	3.3	Walk, <u>trot</u> and turn the horse in hand	The learner can demonstrate how to stand the horse for inspection (helmet and gloves must be worn, failure to do so will be marked as NYC)		
3C	1.1	Wash a horse's tail	Collect together all the required equipment to wash the horse's tail and secure the horse in a suitable place in preparation for washing		
3C	1.2	Wash a horse's tail	Demonstrate how to wash the horse's tail, showing how to remove excess water and detangle the tail after washing		
3C	5.1	Plaiting the mane and forelock	Select the appropriate plaiting equipment and identify a safe place to secure the horse for plaiting		

3C	5.2	Plaiting the mane and forelock	Prepare the mane and forelock for plaiting, including sectioning the mane into appropriate sections		
3C	5.3	Plaiting the mane and forelock	Demonstrate how to plait at least two sections of mane with plaiting bands, in addition to a forelock plait, ensuring the <u>plaits</u> are both neat and secure enough to stay in place. Identify positive and negatives of using bands		
3C	5.4	Plaiting the mane and forelock	Demonstrate how to plait at least two sections of mane with thread, ensuring the plaits are both neat and secure enough to stay in place. Identify positives and negatives of using thread (learner should ensure horse is restrained somewhere appropriate and needle is unlikely to get lost in bedding or similar)		
3C	5.5	Plaiting the mane and forelock	Demonstrate how to remove plaits without damaging the mane		
3F	1.1	Recognise rugs of different types and explain their uses	Describe and explain a minimum of two different rugs that would be suitable to use on a horse in the stable at different times of year and at a range of temperatures		
3F	1.2	Recognise rugs of different types and explain their uses	Describe and explain a minimum of three different rugs that would be suitable for a horse that is turned out in the summer, winter and to protect against flies		
3F	1.3	Recognise rugs of different types and explain their uses	Explain and describe rugs that would be suitable for a horse after work, after washing and when travelling		
3F	2.1	Apply stable bandages to front and hind legs and explain their purpose	Explain and describe suitable equipment and demonstrate how to apply stable bandages to both a front and hind leg (A learner who kneels to apply bandages is not yet competent. The learner must be able to identify that the opposite leg would also always be bandaged)		
3F	2.2	Apply stable bandages to front and hind legs and explain their purpose	Correctly remove both stable bandages and roll correctly for future use		
3F	3.1	Apply exercise bandages to front and hind legs and explain their purpose	Select suitable equipment and demonstrate how to apply exercise bandages to both a front and hind leg (A learner who kneels to apply bandages is not yet competent.)		
3F	3.2	Apply exercise bandages to front and hind legs and explain their purpose	Correctly remove both exercise bandages and roll correctly for future use		

3F	4.1	Apply brushing boots and ensure that they are a correct fit	Select and fit appropriate brushing boots for the front and hind legs (selecting the correct size for the horse and fastening correctly) <i>(A learner who kneels to apply boots is not yet competent.)</i>		
3F	4.2	Apply brushing boots and ensure that they are a correct fit	Explain how to recognise the correct fit of brushing boots		
3F	5.1	Apply over-reach boots and ensure that they are a correct fit	Select the correct size over-reach boots for the horse and correctly fit them, explaining why they might be used and the various types and materials of over-reach boots <i>(A learner who kneels to apply boots is not yet competent.)</i>		
3F	5.1	Knowledge of the rules for dressage competition	Discuss when boots may/may not be worn, as well as the appropriate tack for competition at various levels from Intro to Medium (i.e. when a snaffle or double bridle is permitted)		
<b>The learner can work safely and efficiently, completing tasks to competition standard</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognises equine behaviour and demonstrates an awareness of potential reactions to certain tasks</li> <li>- Demonstrates respect for the horse and their surroundings</li> <li>- Safe positioning of self and horse for various tasks</li> <li>- Safe positioning of tack and equipment in/around stable</li> <li>- Demonstrates ability to prioritise tasks and work efficiently, to a commercial standard</li> <li>- Demonstrates ability to meet requirements for competition (tack and dress, turnout)</li> </ul>					
<b>The learner can use technical terms and correct names for equipment and anatomy where appropriate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uses correct terminology for points and regions of the horse, demonstrating an awareness of the difference between skeletal and muscular anatomy</li> <li>- Uses correct terminology for tack/equipment and its component parts</li> </ul>					
<b>ASSESSOR SIGNATURE:</b>				<b>DATE:</b>	



For further information please contact:

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