

Judge Testing 2017

In 2016 the Judges Committee reviewed and updated the system for testing Judges knowledge, competence and readiness for upgrade. The new system has since been refined by the Judges Committee and approved by the BD Board of Directors.

The new system streamlines the previous requirements and provides a more transparent and robust assessment. The system was rolled out nationwide from 1st January 2017.

Testing for Trainees to 3a involves three parts: -

Part 1

A short written paper focussing on basic knowledge and rules.

Part 2

A DVD paper, where candidates watch a video of a series of movements relevant to their level, and they mark each movement and write a short comment – the same as the comments they would make when judging a test.

Parts 1 and 2 are delivered on the same day, in each BD region, in a class room setting and will be co-ordinated by the Regional Development Officers.

Part 3

A practical assessment. This is a live judging assessment where candidates will judge 6 – 7 horses at their level. The class is judged alongside one of the examiners and a senior judge. Part 3 is co-ordinated by BD Head Office.

The First Step to Judging - Trainees

All Judges including Trainees must be current members of British Dressage.

To become a Trainee, you need to apply to be registered with a fee of £10 – this can be done online at <https://bookwhen.com/britishdressage>. You also need to take part in an Induction day before you will be listed as a Trainee. The Induction days will be organised by the regions, for more information visit your regions pages on the BD website or contact your RDO.

When a Trainee registers with BD they are sent details of Induction days and the following documents:

Trainee Guidelines

Scales of Marks

Scales of Training

Judges log book

Practice Judging forms H, H1

Form M – Discount order form to buy sheets for practice judging

Writer's guidelines

You can apply for testing at Novice level without becoming a Trainee first, but we won't have your details on record so you won't receive the Trainee package or be sent any judges updates.

After 2 years on the Trainee list, you need to re-register with the fee of £10 and attend another Induction day.

All current trainees will need to attend an Induction day, at the cost of £15, during 2017 in order to remain on the Trainee list in 2018.

Fast Track candidates will also be sent the package above and are encouraged to do the Induction day.

Becoming listed or upgrading

Level Judge is before being tested		Level of tests used in the exams
Trainees & current List 6	-	Novice
Current List 5	-	Elementary
Current List 4 & fast track A	-	Medium test
Current List 3 (compulsory)	-	Advanced Medium
Current List 3A & fast track B	-	PSG
Current List 2 (not compulsory)	-	Inter 1
Current List 2A & 2	-	Grand Prix

Novice exams give the possibility of being awarded list 5 or 6.

List 3a is compulsory for any judge wishing to upgrade from List 3.

List 2a is not compulsory, Judges can progress directly from List 2 to List 1 if they wish.

Fast Track

Fast track candidates can apply for any level of exam, up to the level they are eligible for, as below.

They can come forward for another exam or a re sit at any level within their fast track eligibility. For example they could choose to be tested for List 5 or 4, before applying for testing at List 3 if they wished.

Fast track A

You can be examined for List 3 if you have 4 or more scores of 63 % or above at affiliated Prix St Georges level (or above). Foreign riders must give proof of the same results. You are also eligible for Fast track A if you hold your BHSI (or above), or UKCC Level 3 (dressage specific).

Fast track B

You can be examined for List 2 if you have 4 or more scores of 65% or above at affiliated Grand Prix level. Foreign riders must give proof of the same results. You are also eligible for Fast track B if you hold your BHS Fellowship (dressage specific).

Fast Track for Foreign FEI Judges

FEI 5* (O) Judge would be listed straight to National List 1 status (without exam) once they are a BD member

FEI 4* (I) Judge may apply to be tested at List 1

FEI 3* (C) Judge may apply to be tested at List 2

Exam Pre-requisites

You need to have attended a seminar (relevant to your current level) within the 12 months prior to applying for part 3 of your testing.

You will need evidence of experience of training or competing at the level, by fulfilling **one** of the criteria below: -

- Four scores of 62% in BD competitions at, **or above*** the level you are being tested for. These need to have been achieved in the last 10 years
- Dressage scores at a BE event relevant to the level you are being tested for
- Having coached a combination who has achieved 4 scores of 65% in affiliated dressage at the level you are being tested for (within the last 5 years)

Further detail about these criteria is provided in a separate document, which is available on the BD website, or from the BD Office.

If you don't fulfil these criteria, but would like to be tested from Novice to Advanced Medium, you may apply as normal, but **before you book your practical assessment (part 3) you will need to take part and pass an oral evaluation*** with a Judge Assessor at a BD show. This discussion will give you the opportunity to show your experience and understanding of training horses and the demands of competing on the rider. A list of Assessors will be available from the BD office and you will need to organise your evaluation directly with the Judge Assessor, paying them the set fee of £20.

You can come forward for an exam, whether it is for an upgrade or a resit, as soon as you feel ready, as there are no time restrictions.

There is no set amount of judging/ number of tests needed to be judged before being allowed to come forward for testing for the next list. However, we strongly advise that you do get enough relevant experience before proceeding.

Although **Practice sheets** are no longer part of the exam, we feel they can be a huge benefit to judges, particularly those starting out. There is a list of experienced Judges who have agreed to review practise judging sheets, and who we recommend. This list will be available from the office and on the website. Candidates should contact someone

from the list directly and a fee of £15, (set by BD), should be paid directly to the training judge. The training judge can either go through your sheets with you, or return your sheets with written comments and notes that will help you in your judging. Practice Judging would be best done at BD shows or a BE events, at the relevant level with permission from the organisers. You will not need to take a copy of the other judge's results, but it would be courteous to contact them so they are aware of your presence.

Sitting in with judges at the relevant levels is highly recommended.

To book a place at parts 1, 2 or 3 of a Judges exam please book online at <https://bookwhen.com/britishdressage>. If you are not able to book online please contact the BD office regarding an application by post. No place will be reserved without full payment.

The Testing System

We are aiming to publish the dates for all parts of the testing system around 6 months in advance to give candidates the opportunity to plan their preparation. Parts 1 & 2 will be held in January, then again in June. Only in January for FEI levels

Novice to Advanced Medium Levels

Part 1 Written Paper

This will be a written paper which takes about 30 minutes to complete. It will focus on basic knowledge of judging and rules, and you can use the BD Handbook to help you answer questions if you wish.

Part 2 DVD Paper

In this part of the testing you'll watch a DVD which shows movements at the relevant level and you will be asked to give a mark and make a comment, the same as you would in a real test. There is a pause between each movement to give you time to write your comments.

Both papers (Parts 1 & 2) will be held on the same day, in a classroom type environment and will be delivered twice a year in each BD region. Papers will be held in January and June each year.

The papers for each exam will be the same for the whole country and the dates for each region will be within a few days of each other.

For the DVD paper the acceptable marks for each movement and issues that candidates should recognise have been agreed by a panel of three International / Senior judges.

The results and marked papers from these sections will be sent back to candidates as soon as is possible.

You will need to pass both papers before you can take part 3, (the practical assessment). If you don't pass one or both papers, you can retake them at the next available date, and as many times as required. Both these papers should be used to help develop your judging by identifying any areas for further training.

When you apply you will choose which exam dates you would like to attend. A waiting list will be kept for all part 3 dates, and places confirmed as soon as results are available from the written and DVD papers. This will be kept strictly in order of application.

Part 3 Practical Assessment

Dates/venues of practical assessments will be published 5 / 6 months in advance on the BD website so you can plan your diary and work towards your assessment. These will be around March and September in 2017.

You need to bring your own writer with you (they can be a listed judge as long as they are not listed higher than you) and will judge 6 – 7 horses just as you would in a real competition. The class will be judged alongside one of the examiners and a 2nd judge will also judge the class as an overview and in case of any discrepancies.

In most cases judges will be positioned along the short side, but on occasions it may be on the long side. If this is the case then you will be notified. (Judges must be able to judge from the long side as well, now that more are having to do so at Area Festivals and Team Quest).

Your results and a report will be sent to you as soon as is possible – we appreciate how nerve wracking it is to wait for your results. The scoresheets from your assessment will be returned to you, which we hope may give you a little further guidance.

If you aren't successful in the assessment you can reapply, with the resit fee, for the next available date that you feel you will be ready for.

In cases where a candidate can be awarded a lower list result after sitting the part 3 exam, the part 1 and 2 at that level does not need to be taken again before the candidate resits the part 3 for the level at which they were initially aiming. For example; if you were awarded List 6 upon taking your Novice exam you do not need to resit the Novice level part 1 and 2 before resiting the part 3 to upgrade to List 5.*

After 3 unsuccessful attempts at part 3, candidates would need to retake parts 1 and 2 again before a further resit of part 3.

Dates for Exams

For a full list of all confirmed dates / venues please visit <https://bookwhen.com/britishdressage>

Once you have been awarded List 2 there is no requirement for further riding or training evidence before you are tested for list 2a or 1, but if you were awarded list 2 without the relevant riding experience (i.e. through the old alternative route) you will need to undertake the oral evaluations, as set out above, for each level.

Part 1 Written Paper

This will follow the same format as the written papers for lower lists. The written paper takes about 30 minutes to complete and **will only run in January** in each BD region.

Part 2 Professional discussion & Part 3 Practical Assessments

In 2017 these 2 parts would be taken at Wellington Riding Premier League, Hampshire, 8 – 11 June

In 2018, part 2 will need to be taken and passed before part 3 can be booked. For the professional discussion, you will need to book and pay online through bookwhen before you contact a relevant judge from the list to arrange a suitable time and date. The list is available from BD.

You will judge a section of the class alongside one of the Examiners. Sheets will also be taken from one of the senior judges of the class for an overview and in case of any discrepancies. You will also take part in a discussion session with an Examiner.

Your results and a report will be sent to you as soon as is possible – we appreciate how nerve wracking it is to wait for your results. The score sheets from your assessment will be returned to you, which we hope may give you a little further guidance.

Cost of FEI exams

Part 1	£20
Part 2	£40
Part 3	£50

Terms and Conditions

The Judges Committee retain the right to uphold sanctions issued by the Judges Complaints Panel which relate to a judges eligibility to upgrade.

The Examiners' decision on whether the candidate has reached the standard required on the testing day is final. However the candidate may appeal if they feel that correct procedures were not adhered to. The Appeals Procedure will be available to all candidates.

**Alterations made 07/07/2017*