

AH Test Teaching Programme 2024-25

Start Date Wednesday 6th November



Come and join your fellow PC friends in the comfort of your home to prepare for your AH test. If you are planning on taking your AH test next year or in the future, we can help you establish a clear understanding of the requirements of each section and provide you the motivation to study. These online sessions are designed to support your practical learning and enhance your understanding in a friendly environment with full coverage of the **2023 AH Syllabus** – focusing on the theory behind the practical with use of handouts, videos and demonstrations as well as specialist speakers, 2024 AH candidates and AH assessors.

Cost: £65 for each block of 6 lessons - Payment required on booking. (there will be 4 blocks in total and each 6 week block will cover 2 sections of the assessment and can be booked separately. There is no commitment to complete all 4 blocks of lessons).

These online lessons will take place weekly on a **Wednesday at 7pm** for 1-1 ½ hours. The course will start on 6th November and finish mid-May. There will also be a minimum of 4 full day practical training days that will be planned in for half terms/holidays.

The AH exam will be arranged for September 2025 giving members plenty of time to top up their practical work experience over the holidays / weekends and summer.

The sessions will be recorded, so if you cannot make it 'live' I can email you the recording to watch in your own time meaning you won't miss out on any of the content.

The course has been set up for Area 14 members, but we welcome all members from across the country – in the past couple of years this included Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

To allow maximum engagement of learners group size will be restricted so don't delay in booking!

If you are interested in taking part or would like more information please message me via WhatsApp; 07771920396 or my Facebook page.

[Sue Stevenson Equine Coach | Facebook](#)
Bookings to be made via horse events

AH Block 1

Week	Topic	Detail	
1	<p>Introduction</p> <p>SECTION A Social Licence, Ethology, Learning Theory including Handling, Employment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to the course and changes to the syllabus</p> <p>Discuss the meaning of the term 'Social License' when connected to horses, and how it corresponds with the horse's natural ethology.</p> <p>A2. Explain how a horse learns, including natural instinct (cognitive abilities), memory, social behaviour, and intelligence.</p> <p>A3. Show an understanding of why punishment is ineffective and should be avoided.</p>	
2	<p>SECTION A Social Licence, Ethology, Learning Theory including Handling, Employment</p>	<p>A4. <i>Observe the horse provided and assess for stereotypical behaviours.</i> Discuss possible causes and how to minimise them.</p> <p>A5. <i>Demonstrate the steps that might be taken when handling young or fit horses who may have challenging behaviour, both in and out of the stable.</i></p> <p>A6. Discuss best practise when managing in horses on long-term box rest.</p> <p>A7. Outline some modern methods of rehabilitation following a period of box rest.</p>	
3	<p>SECTION A Social Licence, Ethology, Learning Theory including Handling, Employment</p>	<p>A8. Discuss clipping a nervous or frightened horse, considering the safety of the person clipping, the preparation of the horse, the environment and the care of the clippers. Outline possible means of retraining or desensitisation, and sedation.</p> <p>A9. Appreciate the need for a contract when employed and know how the Lone Worker Policy may be included.</p> <p>A10. Discuss some of the legal requirements for self-employment</p>	
4	<p>SECTION B Lungeing, Insurance, Contracts and The Older Horse</p>	<p>Principles of lungeing</p> <p>B1. <i>Check the horse's equipment, and adjust, if necessary, put on and fit side reins.</i></p> <p>B2. <i>Work the fit/fresh horse for exercise on the lunge in a safe, efficient, effective and practical way, using all three gaits if appropriate.</i></p> <p>B3. <i>Lunge off the bit if more control is required, demonstrating suitable methods.</i></p> <p>Recognise the quality of work shown.</p> <p>B5. <i>Demonstrate care to maintain the safety and welfare of the horse and handler.</i></p>	
5	<p>SECTION B Lungeing, Insurance, Contracts and The Older Horse</p>	<p>B6. Discuss what forms of insurance may be advisable when keeping horses at home or in a commercial yard.</p> <p>B7. Know what should be contained in a livery contract and understand the advantages of possessing one.</p> <p>Guest Speaker – Vet to discuss Ageing horses</p>	
6	<p>SECTION B Lungeing, Insurance, Contracts and The Older Horse</p>	<p>B8. Outline some of the physical changes seen in the older horse.</p> <p>B9. What may indicate that a horse may need their workload reduced/ changed?</p> <p>B10. Describe some of the advantages and disadvantages of retiring horses.</p> <p>B11. Explain some of the signs that indicate a need for euthanasia.</p> <p>B12. Consider the different options of euthanasia, and body disposal</p>	

AH Block 2

Week	Topic	Detail	
7	SECTION C Conformation, Foot, Shoeing and Lameness, Vetting	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to Section C</p> <p>C1. Consider the conformation of the horse shown, how this relates to its age/breeding/type and the effect that it might have on its way of going and the type of work it may be suited to. Guest Speaker Cindy</p> <p>C2. Demonstrate your ability to trot a horse up, discuss the value of trotting up a horse and make an evaluation of its action. Assess both the stance and swing phase of the stride pattern. Include discussion on faulty action and if it would predispose the horse to lameness.</p> <p>C3. Show methods that could be used to help discover the source of possible lameness.</p> <p>C4. Know what is included in a 2 and 5 stage pre-purchase examination. Explain why you might request blood tests, x-rays and scoping during a vetting.</p>	
8	SECTION C Conformation, Foot, Shoeing and Lameness, Vetting	<p>C5. Observe and discuss the balance of the feet from all angles, relating it to the type or breed of horse</p> <p>C6. Notice and discuss current remedial or corrective shoeing, the use of pads, wear of shoes and relate this to movement previously assessed.</p> <p>C7. Discuss importance and locations of common ailments and injuries.</p> <p>C8. Discuss the prognosis for diseases and ailments related specifically to the foot.</p>	
9	SECTION C Conformation, Foot, Shoeing and Lameness, Vetting	Guest speaker – Jim Ravenscroft Farrier	
10	SECTION D Tacking up for Dressage and Healthcare	<p>D1. Understand how to tack up a horse to ensure comfort, taking into consideration the structure of the mouth and head. Evaluate the conformation and muscle development of the withers, the back and rib cage.</p> <p>D2. Select and fit a suitable double bridle. Discuss the suitability of the chosen bridle and bits.</p> <p>D3. Select and fit a suitable dressage saddle and girth.</p> <p>D4. Put on current, suitable, leg protection for dressage and training.</p> <p>D5. Explain the care of horses' teeth and discuss how to examine for sharp or wolf teeth. Know how to recognise discomfort in the mouth. Relate this to fitting the double bridle.</p>	
11	SECTION D Tacking up for Dressage and Healthcare	<p>D6. Demonstrate applying knee or hock bandages, and / or other current veterinary bandages suitable for overnight application. Discuss up to date bandaging methods.</p> <p>D7. Discuss bio security. How can people on the yard minimise bio security risks. Summarise precautions that can be taken against contagion and infection. What could you do if you suspected an outbreak?</p> <p>D8. Have a practical current understanding of influenza and tetanus inoculations and be able to evaluate the records in a passport.</p>	
12	SECTION D Tacking up for Dressage and Healthcare	<p>D9. Discuss possible upper/ lower respiratory tract complications, their symptoms and management</p> <p>D10. Explain how to deal with severe bleeding.</p> <p>D11. Summarise common forms of soft tissue injury to tendons and ligaments. Discuss possible treatments of soft tissue injuries.</p> <p>D12. Describe the symptoms and possible treatments of a variety of skin conditions.</p> <p>D13. Explain safe practice for treating equine eye problems to prevent deterioration and promote recovery.</p>	

AH Block 3

Week	Topic	Detail
13	SECTION E Tacking up for Cross Country and Paddock Management	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to section E</p> <p>E1. Select and put on suitable equipment to ride <i>this</i> horse around a cross country course, include boots. Consider the requirement for type of bit / noseband / breastplate relating to conformation and muscle structure.</p> <p>E2. Discuss the use of studs for the competition horse and compare their advantages and disadvantages. Choose the studs that would be suitable for the current weather or going.</p> <p>E3. Why should yards have a risk assessment and what might one contain?</p> <p>E4. Outline action to be taken in the event of an accident to a person in a stable yard.</p> <p>E5. How might COSHH, RIDDOR and Health and Safety legislations affect the running of a yard?</p> <p>E6. Know the legislation concerning muck heap effluent.</p>
14	SECTION E Tacking up for Cross Country and Paddock Management	<p>E7. Evaluate the paddock provided and explain various pasture routines, including how the grassland quality can be improved. Guest speaker Jane</p> <p>E8. Know the precautions necessary during and after the use of sprays, fertilizers, lime etc. Include H&S and COSHH.</p> <p>E9. Discuss the identification of and how to deal with poisonous plants. Explain possible consequences should a horse ingest unsuitable flora.</p>
15	SECTION E Tacking up for Cross Country and Paddock Management	<p>E10. Show an understanding of the principles and methods of controlling worm infestation. Discuss the advantages of modern worm burden tests for all types of worms</p> <p>E11. Show an awareness of health and safety implications when worming, including the disposal of worming syringes.</p>
16	SECTION F Nutrition	<p>F1. Assess the stabled horse and discuss the required nutrients in its diet.</p> <p>F2. Estimate the weight of the horse shown, consider the use of weigh tapes and weigh bridges.</p> <p>F3. Observe and condition score the horse, explaining the indications for your conclusion. Have some knowledge of the suitable weight of rider this horse could carry comfortably.</p> <p>F4. Consider the dangers of equine obesity.</p> <p>F5. Discuss how you would feed this horse if stabled the majority of the time.</p> <p>F6. Review bio security in feed rooms. Include rodent control.</p> <p>F7. Explain how to purchase, store and ensure the quality of feed, both economically and safely, using efficient practice for feeding regimes</p>
17	SECTION F Nutrition	<p>F8. Discuss various forage alternatives. Talk about the value of fibre-based diets. Discuss how this relates to horses' natural ethology, when and how to add concentrates to the diet.</p> <p>F9. Debate the value of balancers and other feed additives on the market.</p> <p>F10. Discuss how the digestive tract affects the way horses are fed, and the problems that could arise.</p> <p>Guest speaker - Nutritionalist</p>
18	SECTION F Nutrition	<p>F11. Know how to tempt a difficult feeder.</p> <p>F12. Discuss the work and feed requirements for different sports.</p> <p>F13. Discuss health problems caused by feeding</p> <p>F14. Consider how to make a yard eco-friendly. When may a change of planning permission be required?</p>

AH Block 4

Week	Topic	Detail	
19	SECTION G Health and Condition, Care of the Competition Horse, Grooming	G1. Discuss grooming versus bathing G2. Assess the horse for current health, demonstrate taking a temperature, pulse and respiration rate. Discuss what variations in these parameters can indicate. G3. Discuss how to estimate the observed horse's fitness. G4. When working horses identify how respiration relates to the amount of work the horse is doing and their speed of recovery. G5. Discuss problems of the respiratory system which affect fittening.	
20	SECTION G Health and Condition, Care of the Competition Horse, Grooming	G6. Assess the muscle development of the horse presented, highlight possible strengths and weaknesses. Explain potential remedial exercises to make improvement to the muscular system to support ridden work G7. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of using horse walkers and alternative methods of fittening G8. Discuss getting differing types of horse fit for various sports. Seasonal plans, interval training – distance and speed.	
21	SECTION G Health and Condition, Care of the Competition Horse, Grooming	G9. Describe azoturia (Exertional Rhabdomyolysis, ERM), outline its possible causes and treatment. G10. Understand how the colour of urine can be related to practical problems. G11. Discuss current methods of warming down horses and ponies after hard work. G12. Discuss current thinking on the effect of heat on tendons. Talk about cooling methods for legs after hard work. G13. Describe the points to consider when travelling horses' long distances. G14. Discuss considerations to be made in the care of a horse to ensure a fit relaxed horse at a competition. G15. Describe how to recognise and deal with the causes and symptoms of stress, dehydration and exhaustion. Outline how these conditions can be recognised and prevented	
22	SECTION H Care and Handling Mares, Foals and Young Stock	H1. Understand the current legislation for your country concerning passports and micro chipping. Discuss the purpose of the Central Equine Data Base. H2. Observe a mare and discuss what factors you would consider when deciding whether to breed from her. H3. Briefly discuss the differences between natural covering, artificial insemination and embryo transfer, and the advantages and disadvantages of each. H4. Explain the veterinary procedures required before a mare can go to stud. H5. Discuss how you might recognise when a mare is in season. H6. Know the factors behind the choice of service date – and describe the basic outline of a covering programme. H7. Describe how you would determine that a mare was in-foal, care of an in-foal mare, including feeding, vaccinations and worming . H8. Discuss different foaling environments and what facilities and equipment you would require. H9. Be able to recognise the signs of a mare about to foal. H10. Compare a normal birth to a situation requiring veterinary attention H11. Describe the use of a foal slip. H12. Discuss problems and solutions that may arise when handling foals and young stock. H13. Discuss the deciding factors in whether to return a mare to stud or not. H14. Explain how to travel mares and foals safely. H15. Discuss the timing and procedure for weaning foals and the impact it might have on their behaviour. H16. Compare the advantages and disadvantages and timing of gelding colts.	
23	SECTION H Care and Handling Mares, Foals and Young Stock	Guest speaker – Ollie	
24	SECTION H Care and Handling Mares, Foals and Young Stock	H17. Outline the care and feeding of young stock up to the age of three years. H18. Discuss the implications of Developmental Orthopaedic Disease (osteochondrosis) in youngstock H19. Discuss possible genetic and congenital problems when breeding. H20. Discuss the implications of incorrect feeding on youngstock development.	

Test notes:

- All content covered in lower tests may be reassessed in this test
- The B Test Care and Lunge Test must be held before entering the AH Test.

Recommended Minimum Age: 16 years

Felt Colour – Orange

Honours: Salmon Pink