

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 3 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Mount from the ground or block		Mounting, adjusting tack and dismounting are to be evaluated at every level and should grow in consolidation and physical skill and ease.
	Dismount and prepare to exit the arena		
	Adjust stirrups and cinch as needed before mounting		Rider should be able to work through a basic warm up routine showing initiation of independence.
	Progressive warm-up		
	Progressive cool-out		
2	On the rail	Walk	Rider is expected to know and demonstrate knowledge of correct diagonals at this level. Riders should identify or discuss lope leads but are not penalized for incorrect leads.
		Jog	
		Lope	
		Reverse at walk	
3	Turns and geometry	Small circle at walk	Candidate should now understand how big a large circle is, and the circle should be round, starting and ending in the same place. The horse, however, might not maintain bend or straightness throughout the whole circle.
		Small half-circle at jog	
		Figure-eight	
		Loop on the long side	
		Large circle at jog	
		Large circle at lope	
		Centre line	
4	Technical skills	Briefly ride without stirrups at the jog	Rider should be showing evidence that they can prepare their horse for a transition by asking for it slightly before the transition point as the transition may take a few steps to complete. If successful, the horse should make the transition on or close to the point in the arena. <i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Basic understanding and ability to demonstrate basic training building blocks	
		Evidence of preparation for transitions	
5	Pattern	Ride the prescribed pattern	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Accuracy and control	
6	Riding knowledge	Identify own horse’s equipment using its proper name (including leg protection)	The candidate will be asked to identify with proper name their own horse’s equipment, including boots. Knowledge about how the equipment functions is not required.
7	General impression and safety	Overall authority, safety, and confidence	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate. Tack should be as is normally used for the horse/rider combination.
		Ability to maintain safe distance	
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 3 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS		EVIDENCE
1	Gate	Horse and rider approach open gate calmly and walk through quietly.
2	Gaits between obstacles	Riders are expected to know and demonstrate knowledge of correct diagonals at this level.
	Walk	
	Jog	
3	Step over pole	Approach, step front legs over the pole, and stop. Movement should be smooth without hesitation.
4	Back between two poles	Back up should be done correctly with the horse remaining between the poles but does not need to be polished.
5	Bridge	Walk over bridge calmly (1-4 inches or 2.5-10cm high)
6	Walk over rails or logs	2-4 rails or logs depending on what is available on-site
7	General impression and safety	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate. Obstacles should be ridden smoothly and accurately. Appropriate warm-up over the obstacles.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 4 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1		Mount from the ground or block	Mounting, adjusting tack and dismounting are to be evaluated at every level and should grow in consolidation and physical skill and ease. Rider will now be able to do an independent warm up and cool out with more than one rider in the ring at a time, showing their knowledge of arena rules and basic understanding of exercises beneficial to a progressive warm up and cool out.
		Dismount and prepare to exit the riding arena	
		Adjust stirrups and cinch as needed	
		Demonstrate and explain a progressive warm-up	
		Demonstrate and explain a progressive cool-out	
2	On the rail	Walk	The rider should sit naturally and quietly in the saddle. Basic position at walk and jog should be strong. Lope position should be improving. They must be able to recognize an incorrect lope lead within a few steps and correct it without delay.
		Jog	
		Lope left lead	
		Lope right lead	
		Reverse at walk	
3	Turns and geometry	Quarter lines	Rider can now demonstrate knowledge of bend while riding circles; maintaining the gait and reaching the tangent points. The serpentine should show correct shape, ½ circles connected by 2 or 3 steps of straightness. Attempting a change of bend is good; however, the horse may lose some rhythm, balance or forwardness through the change of bend.
		Large loop on the long side at jog	
		Small circle at jog	
		Large circle at lope	
		Half circle	
		Figure-eight	
4	Technical skills	Jog serpentine with changes of bend	Rider is still acquiring the ability to produce non-progressive transitions. They may still lack quality, but there is an understanding of the aids to produce them. <i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Ride without stirrups at jog	
		Non-progressive transitions	
5	Pattern	Evidence of independent use of the aids	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Ride the prescribed pattern	
6	General impression and safety	Accuracy and control	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate. Tack should be as per discipline specific guidelines.
		Overall authority, safety, and confidence	
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN *to* RIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 4 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Gate		Either rope or solid gate can be opened either direction. Gate does not need to be closed.
2	Gaits over poles or logs	Walk over 4 poles/logs	Rider is expected to know and demonstrate knowledge of correct diagonals at this level.
		Jog over 2 poles/logs	They should know if they are on the correct or incorrect lead but being on the wrong lead is not to be penalized at this level.
3	Box/pen		Turn in box/pen should be smooth with consistent rhythm. Turn does not need to be a true turn on the forehand or haunches – rider should show effort to keep the horse in the box.
4	Step over pole		Approach pole in the walk, step front feet over, stop, and jog away. Movement should be smooth without hesitation.
5	Back through poles in L-formation		Back up should be correct and calm, remaining between the poles.
6	Natural obstacles outside the arena		Could be brush, small inclines

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 4 RUBRIC

*Rider must demonstrate only **two** of the four speed event categories.*

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Barrel Race	Jog the pattern	Rider should show understanding of the barrel pattern and ride it accurately. Evidence of change of bend and some lateral movement around the barrels. Shape of the pocket around the barrel should be larger on the approach and smaller going away from each barrel. The line to/from the start/finish line should be straight.
		Lope between barrels or to finish pattern	
2	Pole Bending	Jog the pattern	Rider should show understanding of the pole pattern and ride it accurately. Distance between the horse and the poles should be even on both sides. Evidence of change of bend/leg yield around the poles. Line to/from the last pole should be straight.
		Lope straight lines to/from home	
3	Stake Race	Jog the pattern	Rider should show understanding of the stake race pattern and ride it accurately. Evidence of change of bend/leg yield around the barrels. Shape of the pocket around the barrel should be larger on the approach and smaller going away from each barrel. The line to/from the start/finish line should be straight.
		Lope between stakes	
4	Flag Race	Jog the pattern	Rider should show understanding of the flag race pattern and ride it accurately. Evidence of change of bend/leg yield around the barrels. Shape of the pocket around the barrel should be larger on the approach and smaller going away from each barrel. The line to/from the start/finish line should be straight. Position should remain balanced while picking up, carrying, and dropping the flag.
		Lope straight lines	
5	Position control in chosen events		Rider should be gaining confidence in their position, making an effort to maintain lateral and longitudinal balance through all phases.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 5 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Demonstrate and explain the warm-up		Rider should demonstrate and explain the elements of their warm-up and cool-out and are showing more developed evidence of the use of independent aids.
	Demonstrate and explain the cool-out		
2	On the rail	Walk	A rider at Level 5 has a consolidated position at walk, jog and lope. They have an increased awareness of how their position affects the horse and are working to encourage a forward willing horse that can maintain rhythm and relaxation. Riders should be evaluated one at a time dropping and regaining stirrups at the lope.
		Extended walk	
		Jog	
		Extended jog	
		Lope left lead	
		Lope right lead	
		Back up	
		Reverse at jog	
3	Turns and geometry	Half circle and return	Rider should now begin to demonstrate bend and evenness of gait on circles.
		Leg-yield	
		Small circle at the lope	
4	Technical skills	Lope without stirrups	Rider is growing in acquisition and skill in their ability to produce non-progressive transitions. There may still be a lack of sophistication but there is evidence of growing consistency in the ability to perform the task. <i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Non-progressive transitions	
		Evidence of independent use of the aids	
5	Pattern	Riding a prescribed pattern	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Accuracy and control	
6	General impression and safety	Overall authority, safety, and confidence	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate. Tack should be as per discipline specific guidelines
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN *to* RIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 5 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Bridge		Walk over bridge calmly (2.5-10 cm or 1-4 inches high)
2	Natural logs	Walk over 4 logs	Poles or small logs (8-15 cm or 3-6 inches in diameter) may be used depending on equipment available.
		Lope over 2 logs	
3	Cones	Trot serpentine between cones	Evidence of change of bend. Consistent rhythm without losing pace through the serpentine.
4	Sidepass	From halt over a pole/log	Rider should show effort to maintain straightness and consistent rhythm in the sidepass
5	Chute	Lope to a halt in the chute	Lope to halt may be through the walk for a few steps. Back out of the chute should be straight.
		Back out of chute	
6	Gate	Rope or solid gate, depending on equipment available	Effort to have smooth, correct gate. No speed at this stage.
7	Position control		Position at all gaits, showing effort to maintain lateral/longitudinal balance through the obstacles.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 5 RUBRIC

*Rider must demonstrate only **two** of the four speed event categories.*

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Barrel Race	Introducing lope through the pattern with simple changes through jog	The barrel pattern is set up with the first barrel set 18 meters (60 feet) from the start/finish line. Barrels 1 and 2 are placed 27.5 meters (90 feet) apart. Barrel 3 is placed 32 meters (105 feet) from barrel 1 and 2. Focus at this stage is on accuracy of the pattern at the standard distances, correct turns, and clear changes of bend during the simple changes. No speed at this stage.
2	Pole Bending	Introducing lope through the pattern with simple changes through jog	The pole bending pattern is set up with six poles placed 6.5 meters (21 feet) apart in a straight line, starting 6.5 meters (21 feet) away from the start/finish line. Focus at this stage is on accuracy of the pattern at the standard distances, correct turns, and clear changes of bend during the simple changes. No speed at this stage.
3	Stake Race	Introducing lope through the pattern with simple changes through jog	The two stakes are set between 24 and 30 meters (80 and 100 feet) apart with the start/finish line halfway between the two stakes. Focus at this stage is on accuracy of the pattern at the standard distances, correct turns, and clear changes of bend during the simple changes. No speed at this stage.
4	Flag Race	Introducing lope through the pattern	The first barrel 9 meters (30 feet) from the start line and the second barrel 37 meters (120 feet) from the first one. The flag starts in the first barrel and must be carried to the second barrel before the rider races back to the start/finish line. Focus at this stage is on accuracy of the pattern at the standard distances, correct turns, and clear changes of bend during the simple changes. No speed at this stage.
5	Position control in chosen events		Rider should be gaining confidence in their position, making an effort to maintain lateral and longitudinal balance through all phases.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 5 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Circles	Large fast	Effort to change the speed close to the tangent point. Focus is on shape of the circle and consistent rhythm.
		Small slow	
2	Stops and backups	Stop from jog	Should be evidence of the horse dropping and engaging their hind end in the stop. No evidence of sliding at this stage. Backup should be rhythmic and correct with no speed. Rider should attempt to keep the horse light in their forehand, lifting their feet.
		Stop from lope	
		Backup 2-3m (6-10 feet)	
3	Turn arounds/spins	Two 360° turn on the haunches left	Horse and rider should show continuous movement in the spin. Spin should be correct but not fast at this stage.
		Two 360° turn on the haunches right	
4	Lead change	Simple change through jog	Simple changes should be slow and show the change of bend to ask for the new lead.
5	Position control		Evidence of lateral and longitudinal balance through all movements

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 6 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Independent and purposeful warm-up		A rider at Level 6 is showing evidence that their warm-up and cool-out has purpose. The warm-up should help them in producing quality movements in their pattern.
	Independent and purposeful cool-out		
2	On the rail	Walk	Rider shows a consolidated position at all paces. The lope without stirrups may be incorporated into the warm-up or seen on the rail.
		Extended walk	
		Jog	
		Extended jog	
		Lope left lead	
		Lope right lead	
		Back up	
		Reverse at jog	
3	Turns and geometry	Small circle at jog	Rider should now begin to demonstrate bend and evenness of gait on circles.
		Small circle at lope	
4	Technical skills	Back up	A rider at Level 6 will demonstrate the ability to ride the horse with impulsion while maintaining rhythm, regularity, and evenness of pace. The contact demonstrated will not impede the horse’s desire to move forward. The lateral work seen at this level is in the acquisition stage of development and should show an understanding that the rider understands the positioning of the horse as well as the intent to maintain forward movement and co-ordination of their aids. Transitions are becoming more accurate and smoother. <i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Attempt flying change of lead	
		Lope simple change of lead through walk	
		Turn on the forehand	
		Turn on the haunches	
		Large fast and small slow lope circles	
		Small circle at jog	
		Two-track	
		Ride without stirrups at lope	
5	Pattern	Ride a prescribed pattern	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Accuracy and control	
6	General impression and safety	Overall authority, safety, and confidence	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate, as if going to a clinic or riding in a show. Tack should be as per discipline specific guideline.
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 6 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Mount and dismount on the offside		Rider should show confidence mounting from the offside.
2	Raised box or bridge	Raised 8-12 inches or 20-30cm	Rider should demonstrate longitudinal balance during the step up/down. Horse should walk calmly up and over the raised box or bridge.
		Walk calmly over the bridge/box	
3	Pen/ box	Walk counterclockwise around the box	The box should be set up with poles or a low rail. Horse should maintain rhythm throughout all movements. Movements should be smooth without hesitation.
		Change of direction through turn on the haunches	
		Walk clockwise around the box	
4	Zig-zag poles	Walk over zig-zag poles	Horse should walk over zig-zag poles with care, lifting their feet.
5	Gate	Lope to gate, stop, operate gate either direction	Gate should be opened and closed at this level. Movement should be smooth and confident.
		Gate may be rope or solid gate	
6	Position		Longitudinal and lateral balance during changes of gait and navigating obstacles

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 6 RUBRIC

*Rider must demonstrate only **two** of the four speed event categories.*

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Barrel Race	Pattern should be ridden in the lope but not timed.	The barrel pattern is set up with the first barrel set 18 meters (60 feet) from the start/finish line. Barrels 1 and 2 are placed 27.5 meters (90 feet) apart. Barrel 3 is placed 32 meters (105 feet) from barrel 1 and 2. Horse and rider should show consistent forward motion in the lope. Simple or flying changes are permitted. Focus is on achieving a polished, smooth, continuous, and accurate pattern in the lope without adding speed.
2	Pole Bending	Pattern should be ridden in the lope but not timed.	The pole bending pattern is set up with six poles placed 6.5 meters (21 feet) apart in a straight line, starting 6.5 meters (21 feet) away from the start/finish line. Horse and rider should show consistent forward motion in the lope. Simple or flying changes are permitted. Focus is on achieving a polished, smooth, continuous, and accurate pattern in the lope without adding speed.
3	Stake Race	Pattern should be ridden in the lope but not timed.	The two stakes are set between 24 and 30 meters (80 and 100 feet) apart with the start/finish line halfway between the two stakes. Horse and rider should show consistent forward motion in the lope. Simple or flying changes are permitted. Focus is on achieving a polished, smooth, continuous, and accurate pattern in the lope without adding speed.
4	Flag Race	Pattern should be ridden in the lope but not timed.	The first barrel 9 meters (30 feet) from the start line and the second barrel 37 meters (120 feet) from the first one. The flag starts in the first barrel and must be carried to the second barrel before the rider races back to the start/finish line. Horse and rider should show consistent forward motion in the lope. Simple or flying changes are permitted. Focus is on achieving a polished, smooth, continuous, and accurate pattern in the lope without adding speed.
5	Position control in chosen events		Rider should show longitudinal balance by staying with the horse's motion. Rider should show lateral balance by staying centered through the turns.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 6 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Circles	Large circle left and right	Circles should be the same size in both directions.
2	Stops and backups	Lope into the stop	No speed in the lope before the halt at this stage. Horse should show evidence of bringing their heels and hocks under their body without sliding. Backup should be rhythmic, consistent, and correct without speed. Horse should stay light in their forehand in the backup, lifting their feet.
		Back up 3m (10 feet)	
3	Turnarounds/Spins		Some energy should be shown in the spin without speed. Emphasis on correct spin with the horse pivoting around their inside hind leg.
4	Rundowns and Rollbacks	Rundown the centre of the arena	Rundown to a stop should be from a forward lope without speed. Rollback and strike off in jog should be done in one continuous motion.
		Rollback left and right	
5	Lead Changes		Flying changes should be attempted but breaking pace is not penalized in the evaluation.
6	Position		Consolidated position through all movements

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 7 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Independent and purposeful warm-up		A rider at Level 7 is showing evidence that their warm-up and cool-out has purpose. The warm-up should help them in producing quality movements in their pattern.
	Independent and purposeful cool-out		
2	Consolidated evidence of the basic training building blocks		A rider at Level 7 should ride on consistent contact supported by the leg maintaining rhythm, suppleness and straightness.
3	On the Rail	Walk	Consolidation of a correct and balanced position at all paces.
		Extended walk	
		Jog	
		Extended jog	
		Lope left lead	
		Lope right lead	
		Extended lope	
		Back up	
		Reverse at jog	
4	Turns and geometry	Small circle at jog	Evidence of effective independent aids to perform turns and geometry with increasing accuracy
		Large fast and small slow lope circles	
		Small half-circle and reverse at jog	
5	Technical skills	Back up	Rider is now aware of lateral and longitudinal suppleness and appropriate suppling exercises.
		Flying lead changes	The lengthened stride at both jog and lope should show a definite transition to some steps of a lengthened stride.
		Two-track	Shortened stride needs to demonstrate a definite transition into a shorter stride than the horse's working pace.
		Turn on the forehand	Rider will also be able to execute simple lateral movements.
		Extended and collected jog	<i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Extended and collected lope	
6	Pattern	Ride a prescribed pattern	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Accuracy and control	
7	General impression and safety	Overall authority, safety, and confidence	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate, as if going to a clinic or riding in a show. Tack should be as per discipline specific guidelines.
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN *to* RIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 7 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Mount from a fence or natural object		Fence or natural object must be solid. Rider should show confidence mounting from the fence or object.
2	Zig-zag poles		Walk through water crossing or box with 3-4 inches of water in the bottom.
3	Jump over a log or small jump	12-18 inches in height	May be constructed of a solid log or an arena jump 12-18 inches in height. Should be jumped from a trot or lope. Horse should show jumping effort and land in lope. Rider should show forward seat position to stay with the horse's motion and should not get left behind or catch the horse in the mouth.
4	Ground tie		Rider should drop the lead shank and walk away 10 feet to the side and back. Horse may shift balance in place but should not travel.
5	Pick up horse's feet		From the ground tie, rider should be able to pick up all four of the horse's feet without picking up the lead shank. Horse may shift balance in place but not travel.
6	Position		Rider should show consolidated position over all obstacles, maintaining longitudinal and lateral balance.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN - SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 7 RUBRIC

*Rider must demonstrate only **two** of the four speed event categories.*

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Barrel Race	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The barrel pattern is set up with the first barrel set 18 meters (60 feet) from the start/finish line. Barrels 1 and 2 are placed 27.5 meters (90 feet) apart. Barrel 3 is placed 32 meters (105 feet) from barrel 1 and 2. Ride the barrel pattern in 21 seconds or under without knocking any barrels down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
2	Pole Bending	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The pole bending pattern is set up with six poles placed 6.5 meters (21 feet) apart in a straight line, starting 6.5 meters (21 feet) away from the start/finish line. Ride the pole bending pattern in 25 seconds or under without knocking any poles down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
3	Stake Race	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The two stakes are set 24 meters (80 feet) apart with the start/finish line halfway between the two stakes. Ride the stake race pattern in 21 seconds or under without knocking any poles down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
4	Flag Race	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The first barrel 9 meters (30 feet) from the start line and the second barrel 37 meters (120 feet) from the first one. The flag starts in the first barrel and must be carried to the second barrel before the rider races back to the start/finish line. Ride the flag race pattern in 18 seconds or under without knocking any barrels down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern. Rider must not drop the flag and it must stay in the second barrel after it is placed there.
5	Position in all phases		Rider should show consolidated position in both chosen phases

**Two attempts are permitted to get a clean run.*

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 7 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Circles	Large fast	Circles sizes should be the same in both directions with distinct change of speed at the tangent point. Fast circle should show speed with an effort for a precise change at the tangent point to slow.
		Small slow	
2	Spins		At this stage, there should be some speed in the spin. Focus is still on accuracy – the horse should be pivoting around the inside hind foot and not travelling in the spin.
3	Rundowns and Rollbacks		There should be no hesitation from the rollback to the strike off into lope.
4	Flying lead changes		Clean, correct flying lead changes. Rider should show an effort to time the lead change correctly at the tangent point.
5	Stops	No slide at this stage	Stop should slow a distinct sit down. Sliding is not required at this stage. Back up should be rhythmic, consistent, and correct with some increased speed. Horse should stay light in their forehand in the backup, lifting their feet.
		Back up 3m (10 feet)	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoRIDE WESTERN – LEVEL 8 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Independent and purposeful warm-up including self-analysis		They continue to show evidence that their warm-up has purpose and will help them in producing quality movements in their test pattern and can provide a self-analysis of its effectiveness.
	Independent and purposeful cool-out including self-analysis		
2	Consolidated evidence of the basic training building blocks		Rider can ride the horse with impulsion and engagement and can achieve consistent bend and straightness as required.
3	On the rail	Walk	A rider at Level 8 is competent with sound equitation.
		Extended walk	
		Jog	
		Extended jog	
		Lope left lead	
		Lope right lead	
		Extended lope	
		Back up	
		Reverse at jog	
4	Turns and geometry	Small circle at jog	Rider can consistently control the horse’s outside shoulder and maintain straightness in all movements. They can demonstrate correct bend.
		Small circle at lope	
5	Technical skills	Extended walk	Simple change should have 3-5 steps of walk. The candidate is in the acquisition stage of development for the extended gaits. <i>Any movements that are not demonstrated in the pattern can be demonstrated in the warm-up.</i>
		Collected and extended jog	
		Collected and extended lope	
		Flying lead change	
		Back up	
		Turn on the forehand	
		Turn on the haunches	
		Two-track	
		Sidepass	
6	Pattern	Ride a prescribed pattern	The pattern is used to provide the rider with an opportunity to demonstrate the requirements to ride independently. It allows for the development and practice of mental and tactical skills.
		Accuracy and control	
7	General impression and safety	Overall authority, safety, and confidence	Turnout of horse and rider should be appropriate to the weather but immaculate, as if going to a clinic or riding in a show. Tack should be as per discipline specific guidelines.
		Rider and horse turnout	

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – OBSTACLES LEVEL 8 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Chute	Walk in and halt	Halt should be square in the front. Back out and turn should have consistent rhythm without rushing.
		Back out around corner	
2	Gate	Open, back through, and close	Gate should be done smoothly and with confidence.
3	Poles/Small logs	Set 4' apart	Rider should develop the correct length of jog so the poles do not cause the horse to reach or shorten the step significantly as they jog over them. Pace into, over, and away from the poles should be consistent.
		Jog over poles/logs 4-6" in diameter	
4	Large log/jump	Lope large log or arena jump 12-18" in height	Horse should show jumping effort and land in lope on the same lead.
5	Bucket carry	Pick up off first barrel, walk around second barrel, and place back down on first barrel	Pick up, carry, and drop off should be done smoothly and with confidence.
6	Bridge	Walk over	Rider should adjust their position to maintain longitudinal balance on the step up and step down. Horse should walk up and over without hesitation.
		8-12" in height	
7	Pen/box	360° turn in box	Horse should not step outside of the pen/box during the turnaround. Sidepass around box should be straight on each side, smooth with even rhythm throughout.
		Sidepass around box	
8	Slalom	Back through barrel slalom	Back should be smooth and rhythmic without rushing. Haunch should remain controlled and leading around the turns.
9	Position and gaits		Horse should strike off on correct leads. Transitions through the pattern should be precise. All gaits should be rhythmic and steady.

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – SPEED EVENTS LEVEL 8 RUBRIC

*Rider must demonstrate only **two** of the four speed event categories.*

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Barrel race	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The barrel pattern is set up with the first barrel set 18 meters (60 feet) from the start/finish line. Barrels 1 and 2 are placed 27.5 meters (90 feet) apart. Barrel 3 is placed 32 meters (105 feet) from barrel 1 and 2. Ride the barrel pattern in 19 seconds or under without knocking any barrels down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
2	Pole bending	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The pole bending pattern is set up with six poles placed 6.5 meters (21 feet) apart in a straight line, starting 6.5 meters (21 feet) away from the start/finish line. Ride the pole bending pattern in 21 seconds or under without knocking any poles down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
3	Stake race	Pattern should be done in lope with flying changes and speed.	The first barrel 9 meters (30 feet) from the start line and the second barrel 37 meters (120 feet) from the first one. The flag starts in the first barrel and must be carried to the second barrel before the rider races back to the start/finish line. Ride the stake race pattern in 19 seconds or under without knocking any barrels down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern.
4	Flag race	Pattern should be done in lope with speed.	The first barrel 9 meters (30 feet) from the start line and the second barrel 37 meters (120 feet) from the first one. The flag starts in the first barrel and must be carried to the second barrel before the rider races back to the start/finish line. Ride the flag race pattern in 16 seconds or under without knocking any barrels down.* Horse should show flying lead changes on the pattern. Rider must not drop the flag and it must stay in the second barrel after it is placed there.
5	Position in all phases		Rider should show consolidated position in both chosen phases

**Two attempts are permitted to get a clean run.*

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARN to RIDE WESTERN – REINING LEVEL 8 RUBRIC

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Circles	Small slow	Circles sizes should be the same in both directions with distinct change of speed at the tangent point. Fast circle should show speed with a precise change at the tangent point to slow.
		Large fast	
2	Spins	4 spins in each direction	Spins should show speed and accuracy at this stage.
		Increased speed	
3	Rundowns and rollbacks	Small slide at the end of the rundown	Small slide at the end of the rundown if footing permits. Horse should show distinct sit into the halt. There should be no hesitation between the rollback and strike off in lope. Rollback should be correct turn around the outside hind.
		Rollback and strike off in lope	
4	Lead changes	Correct, smooth flying changes in both directions	Flying changes should be smooth and united, with precision asking for them at the tangent points.
5	Stops and back ups	Small slide in the stop	Small slide in the stop if the footing permits. Back up should show introduction of some speed without adding tension or losing balance.
		Back up 3m (10 feet)	