

BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY



**ASSESSMENT OF ADVANCED COMPETENCE
WITH THE DRIVEN HORSE**

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Version 1.1

The British Driving Society Ltd

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Note to Candidates, Assessors and Training Establishments

This is a unit-based competence. In order to achieve a full certificate for the Advanced Competence, a candidate must achieve all the compulsory Units 1, 2, 3 plus any of the Optional Units.

Candidates may take individual Units - both compulsory and optional. They will receive accreditation for the successful Units completed. This will not constitute a full Advanced certificate until all required Units are in place.

Prerequisites to Advanced Competence

Prior to registering for this Award all prerequisites must be in place.

- BDS Elementary Competence
- Road Driving Certificate
- BDS Intermediate Competence

Log Book Candidates are required to complete a Log Book showing that they have provided evidence of at least 6 month's driving experience between taking Intermediate Competence and Advanced Competence. This experience may be gained in BC competitions, BDS affiliated shows, BDS Pleasure Driving and instruction with an LHHI. The candidates must produce evidence of a minimum of 20 hours witnessed performance in at least 2 of the above. This experience must be entered in the Log Book, witnessed and signed by appropriate persons. (Log Book available from BDS Office. Details of the requirements are shown in full in the Log Book.) The Log Book should be completed and submitted to the BDS Office with registration.

Advanced Competence

Compulsory Units

- 1 Carry out the Training of the Driven Horse
- 2 Practical Driving - Single Horse
- 3 Vehicles and Harness

Optional Units Any one of the 3 Advanced competence Optional Units is required for the full certificate.

4 Pair Driving – Advanced Level

5 Driving with 4 Reins - Tandem

6 Driving with 4 Reins - Team

Accredited Prior Learning/Accredited Prior Achievement

All practical driving, etc must be demonstrated. No accreditation will be given for this. However, if candidates feel that they have qualifications or sufficient experience in the equine industry **at an advanced level** they may apply to the Training Committee for accreditation for other parts of the requirements of the Elements.

Unit 1 – Carry out the Training of the Driven Horse

NB Before entering this competence all prerequisites must be in place and logbooks should be completed and submitted with entry.

Objective

Successful candidates will be capable of carrying out the basic training of the young driving horse and schooling the older horse.

Element 1.1 Basic Training of the Novice Driving Horse (Build a Portfolio of Evidence)

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates should provide evidence, using video, portfolio and witness statements of having successfully completed the basic training of at least 2 young driving horses that have previously not been driven in harness. They should produce project work explaining the structure and psychology of their methods. This should be sent to the BDS Office with entry.

Candidates will be assessed for this Unit partly by accreditation of prior achievement and partly by questioning the underpinning knowledge at the Examination Centre. Candidates who submit evidence which is inconclusive or suspect will be asked to submit further evidence and may be subject to a full practical assessment of their performance at their own expense.

Element 1.2 Carry out Schooling and Further Training of the More Experienced Horse

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates should be capable of choosing appropriate equipment from the range and be able to harness up at least 2 driving horses of different ability and temperament. They should demonstrate how to improve the outline of the animals as well as forward movement and changes of pace. They should be able to improve the animals ability to bend whilst remaining in balance. The candidate should be aware of the performance and concentration levels of the animals with which they are working, and of showing flexibility within their own programme in order to maintain the value of the training session.

Candidate should complete one performance criteria B or C or D

Range and Equipment

Horses	Provided by the Examination Centre, minimum 6 years of age.
Equipment*	Lunging cavesson, driving bridle, open bridle, lunge whip. Numerous items of driving/exercise harness, lunge lines, long-reins, side reins, riding saddle and bridle, protective equipment for the animals provided, brushing boots, etc.
Specialised Training Aids	At least three from the following: De-Gogue, Chambon, Abbott Davis, Pessoa, Carlburg. A variety of bits with a wide range of mouth pieces. <i>(Only required for Knowledge item 3, see below. Identify and discuss only.)</i>
Location	An enclosed area with a suitable surface, indoor or outdoor.
Time	Approximately 40 minutes (excluding time taken to harness up, warm up and assess the animal.)

Performance Criteria

- a) Select the appropriate equipment from the range* and fit on the animal.
NB This should be completed by the candidate prior to the performance. The animals should then be brought to the training area ready to start.
- b) Lunge the horse to assess and improve performance.
- c) Long rein the horse to improve performance.
- d) Ride the horse to improve performance. (Candidates unable to ride for any reason or who feel unable to demonstrate training under saddle to this level may use a rider under instruction. The rider will be provided by the candidate.) The assessment will concentrate on the quality and effectiveness of the training and not on the style of riding.

e) Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the performance
2. Discuss methods used to improve the performance of each animal.
3. Identify the range of training equipment and discuss their uses in the context of training or improvement of performance.

Unit 2 - Practical Driving

Objective

The successful candidates will be capable of driving a single turnout to a very high standard of competence and safety. They will be able to handle the reins skilfully using a variety of recognised techniques. They will show style and elegance during the performance.

Candidates will be capable of producing turnouts to a very high standard and they will be expected to drive horses completely unknown to them. The Unit will be assessed by direct observation of the candidate's performance together with oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge.

Element 2.1 Preparing the Horse for Driving - Presentation

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will be capable of producing a turnout to a **standard** suitable for County Shows (*see below, Range – Carriage*). The full turnout will be provided by the candidate but need not be the property of the candidate. The candidate must provide a suitable assistant/groom who will assist only in the putting to. The assistant must be suitably dressed and appropriate for the turnout and will be considered in the assessment of the presentation of the turnout.

The horse/pony may be brought to the Examination Centre bathed, trimmed, with mane and tail pulled if appropriate. All final preparation will be carried out by the candidate at the Examination Centre. The harness and vehicle should be prepared prior to the Assessment. The candidate will present the horse/pony in harness, put to, ready for assessment.

Range and Equipment

Horse **Provided by the candidate - see above. (If the Candidate is using a horse/pony in native style ie unplaited, the Examination Centre will provide another horse for the candidate to plait up.)**

Carriage **Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate. The carriage must be of traditional type – 2 or 4 wheels. The carriage must allow for the assistant to be seated throughout Element 2.2.**

Harness **Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate - see above.**

Equipment *Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate.*

Assistant **A competent groom/assistant who is dressed appropriately for the turnout provided by the candidate.**

Time **Approximately 40 minutes.**

Performance Criteria

- a) The horse/pony is prepared for Presentation in a suitable style for the turnout
- b) The style of preparation is suitable for the type of horse/pony
- c) The turnout is presented for Presentation.
- d) The Candidate gives a self-assessment of their performance and a full explanation of the turnout.
- e) Health and safety of the horse/pony, self and others is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Different styles of turnout/presentation are discussed.
2. Different methods/styles of plaiting and preparation of the horse/pony discussed, including hackney, trade, native and world breeds.

Element 2.2 Practical Driving – Drive The BDS Advanced Dressage Test using the British Coaching style of rein-handling (reins in left hand supported by the right hand).

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will drive the BDS Advanced Dressage Test from memory, using the British Coaching style of driving (reins in the left hand supported by the right hand.) Candidates will be expected to complete all the movements of the test with a high degree of competence. The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of the required paces and the requirements of a dressage test. It is accepted that not all animals can consistently perform or maintain totally correct paces but a performance that shows a certain level of correct pace that would be expected at this level is required. The candidate is expected to perform to a level that one would see in a reasonably successful competitor in National HDT Open competitions. (This is seen as at a standard where the competitor would achieve less than 60 penalties in an Open Class dressage test).

During this assessment no marks will be allocated to individual elements. The assessment is made on overall performance.

The candidate must present the animal put to and ready to start. Safety checks will be carried out by the Assessor if the turnout differs from Unit 2.1. Candidates will drive accompanied by a suitable groom or assistant provided by the candidate.

The Advanced Dressage Test is shown in the appendix to the syllabus.

Range and Equipment

Horse/Pony Provided by the candidate (minimum 6 years of age).

Vehicle Any sound suitable vehicle to fit the animal. The groom/assistant must be seated.

Harness Any appropriate harness which must be sound, fit the horse/pony, be appropriate for the turnout and be presented to a high standard.

Assistant A competent groom/assistant, appropriate to the turnout and suitably dressed.

Location Driving arena 80m x 40m minimum. Manege or level enclosed field with suitable boards and markers.

Time Approximately 12 minutes.

Performance Criteria

- a) Drive the BDS Advanced Dressage test from memory using the British Coaching style of rein-handling.
- b) Control of animal is maintained at all times.
- c) A high level of style and accuracy is maintained throughout.
- d) The required paces are demonstrated and maintained.
- e) Transitions are acceptably executed.
- f) Salutes are performed with style appropriate to gender.
- g) Competent use of the reins and whip is maintained throughout.
- h) Health and safety of horse/pony, self and other is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a) Identify strengths and weaknesses of the performance in respect of:
 - i. The animal
 - ii. The Whip

- b) The British coaching hand is discussed and understood.

- c) Different methods of salute are discussed.

Element 2.3 Drive the Unknown Horses Provided - using any recognised safe style of rein-handling**Assessor/Candidate Guidance**

The candidate will be expected to drive at least 2 horses unknown to them. The test will consist of a course of cones, set out as per the plan (see appendix). Using one of the animals provided they will be expected to carry out a show designed to demonstrate the best aspect of the animal as for a BDS Private Driving Class.

Range and Equipment

Horses Horses/ponies minimum 6 year old with minimum 2 years driving experience provided by the Examination Centre.

Equipment Carriage and harness suitable for the horses/ponies, provided by the Examination Centre.

Location Suitable enclosed driving area of an appropriate size with sufficient cones and other requirements for the course. (See plan)

Assistant The candidate must provide a groom/assistant who should be suitably dressed. They will accompany the candidate throughout. The Examination Centre will provide suitable assistants to hold other horses/ponies.

Time 10 - 15 minutes each section. Approximately 45 minutes in total.

Performance Criteria

1. Assess the horses.
2. Plan a route through the course (ie walk the course). Discuss the course and any foreseen problems with the Assessor.
3. Drive the course using both horses.
4. Select animal and give a show relevant to a BDS Private Driving Class.
5. Control of animals is maintained throughout.
6. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved.
7. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated.
8. The reins and whip are used skillfully.
9. The course is completed using any safe and appropriate style of driving.

10. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout.
11. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a) Identify strengths and weaknesses of performance. Discuss potential and possible training procedures for horses driven.
- b) Reasons for walking a course are understood and discussed.
- c) Some knowledge of rules for building cones course is shown eg widths between cones and angles of approach, speeds, penalties.
- d) Planning and carrying out a show discussed.
- e) Procedures when competing in a Private Driving class and the criteria for judging Private Driving classes are discussed. Suitability of animals (including the animals driven in the Performance Criteria by the candidate) for Private Driving is discussed.
- f) Suitability of the horses/ponies (including the animals driven in the Performance Criteria by the candidate) for other driving work at an advanced level is discussed.

Unit 3 - Vehicles and Harness

Objective

The successful candidate will be capable of identifying and understanding the functions of a wide variety of horse drawn vehicles, both traditional and modern and recognise the appropriate harness. They will have an in depth knowledge and understanding of the appropriate dress codes and the traditions behind them. This Unit will be assessed by oral questioning.

Element 3.1 Vehicles for Carriage Driving

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates will be capable of identifying a wide variety of vehicles from the range. They will display a sound knowledge of the method of construction, they will be able to recognise the various parts that go to make up the vehicle. They will understand the method and the importance of general maintenance but will not be expected to demonstrate the degree of knowledge of a coach/carriage builder. They will be capable of identifying the appropriate harness and will understand correct and incorrect turnout with reference to traditions as well as safety.

Range and Equipment

Vehicles World wide vehicles for singles and multiples to include, Phaetons and their relations - the family of Gigs - Dog Carts and their off shoots - Brakes, Wagonettes and Omnibuses - Coaches, wagons, coachman driven vehicles and modern/competition vehicles. (Some vehicles will be identified from photographs and line drawings.)

Harness World-wide origin for singles and multiples. (Some harness will be identified from photographs and line drawings)

Location Carriage house/Harness room

Time 1 hour 30 minutes approximately.

Performance Criteria/Knowledge and Understanding

a) Identify a wide variety of vehicles from the range and discuss their uses.

- b) Identify parts of the vehicles to include axle types, wheel types, springs, and undercarriages including perches, futchells, etc., and discuss their function, construction and maintenance.
- c) Identify and explain the workings of the fifth wheel.
- d) Identify and discuss the different systems of obtaining draught.
- e) Discuss the maintenance/servicing of both traditional and modern vehicles. (See Code of Practice).
- f) Modern carriages, exercise and competition vehicles are discussed and different methods of construction are identified with reference to the requirements for different phases of modern competition.
- g) Identify and discuss measures taken to ensure the security and condition of a carriage.
 - i. In the coach house.
 - ii. During use.
 - iii. During transportation.
- h) World wide harness appropriate to the different vehicles is discussed and understood.
- i) British dress code, livery and their traditions are discussed.
- j) The availability and use of protective clothing and British Health and Safety standards are discussed.

OPTIONAL UNITS

UNIT 4 DRIVE A PAIR OF HORSES/PONIES**Notes to Candidates, Assessors and Training Establishments**

This unit is an optional unit at Advanced Level. Candidates should provide their own turnout or one borrowed or hired for the occasion. A pair of horses or ponies may be used but should be trained and capable of working at the level required.

Objective

The successful candidate will be capable of driving and producing a pair of horses/ponies to a high standard of competence and safety. They will be able to handle the reins skillfully using recognised techniques. They will show style and elegance throughout their performance. They will also be required to show a degree of knowledge to back up the level of the performance. To be successful the candidate will need experience as well as competence. The Unit will be assessed partly by Accreditation of Prior Achievement as well as by direct observation of the performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge.

Element 4.1 – Carry out Training a Pair of Driving Horses/Ponies

N.B. This unit will be assessed by Accreditation of Prior Achievement.

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates should provide evidence of their ability to train and produce a pair of horses/ponies capable of competing at County Shows, National BC competitions or any other appropriate driving discipline at the same level. They should produce project work which will include detailed explanations of the structure and psychology of their training methods, fitness programme and the pros and cons of using training aids as well as methods and techniques used for correcting faults and improving performance. Methods of providing evidence may include videos and tapes but must include portfolio, witness statements and project work. The portfolio should provide sound evidence of proven track record.

This work, together with any videos, tapes, etc. should be sent to the BDS Office with entry.

N.B. Candidates who submit suspect or incomplete evidence will be asked to rectify and re-submit and an extra charge will be made.

Element 4.2 – Prepare to Drive a Pair of Horses/Ponies - Presentation**Assessor/Candidate Guidance**

The successful candidate will be capable of producing a turnout to a **standard** suitable for County Shows. The full turnout will be provided by the candidate but need not be the property of the candidate. The candidate must provide a suitable assistant/groom who will assist in the putting to and at other times when considered necessary in the interests of health and safety. The Assistant must be suitably dressed and appropriate for the turnout and will be considered in the assessment of the presentation of the turnout.

The horses/ponies may be brought to the Examination Centre bathed, trimmed, with manes plaited and tails pulled if appropriate. All final preparations will be carried out by the candidate at the Examination Centre. The harness and vehicle should be prepared prior to the Assessment. The candidate will present the horses/ponies in harness, put to, and ready for assessment.

Range and Equipment

Horses	Provided by the candidate – 6 years of age minimum, well shod, and working as a pair.
Vehicle	Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate. The carriage must be of traditional type – with 4 wheels. The carriage must allow for the assistant to be seated.
Harness	A set of pair harness suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate
Equipment	All additional equipment required for the turnout is provided by the candidate.
Assistant	A competent groom/assistant who is dressed appropriately for the turnout provided by the candidate.
Location	Enclosed safe environment, e.g. stable yard.
Time	Approximately 40 minutes.

Performance Criteria

1. The horses/ponies are prepared for Presentation in a suitable style for the turnout.
2. The style of preparation is suitable for the type of horses/ponies.
3. The turnout is presented for Presentation.
4. Health and safety of the horses/ponies, self and others is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Candidates give a self-assessment of their performance and suggest ways for improvement.
2. Candidates identify and discuss any weakness in their performance.

Element 4.3 – Drive the Advanced Dressage Test Using the British Coaching Style of rein-handling (Reins in the Left Hand Supported by the Right)

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will drive the BDS Advanced Dressage Test from memory, using the British Coaching style of driving (reins in the left hand supported by the right hand.) Candidates will be expected to complete all the movements of the test with a high degree of competence. The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of the required paces and the requirements of a dressage test. It is accepted that not all animals can consistently perform or maintain totally correct paces. The candidate is expected to perform to a level that one would see in a reasonably successful competitor in National BC Open competitions. (This is seen as a standard where the competitor would achieve less than 60 penalties in an Open Class dressage test).

During assessment no marks will be allocated to individual elements of the test. The assessment will be made on overall performance.

The candidate must present the animals put to and ready to start. Safety checks will be carried out by the Assessor if the turnout differs from Element 4.2. Candidates will drive accompanied by a suitable groom or assistant who will be provided by the candidate.

The Advanced Dressage Test is shown in the appendix to the syllabus.

Range and Equipment

Horses/Ponies As in Element 4.2

Vehicle Any sound suitable four-wheeled vehicle to fit the animals. The groom/assistant must be seated.

Harness Any appropriate harness which must be sound, fit the horses/ponies, be appropriate for the turnout and be presented to a high standard. To be provided by the candidate

Assistant A competent groom/assistant, appropriate to the turnout and suitably dressed, provided by the candidate.

Location Driving arena 80m x 40m minimum. Manege or level enclosed field with suitable boards and markers.

Time Approximately 12 minutes.

Performance Criteria

1. Drive the BDS Advanced Dressage test from memory using the British Coaching style of rein-handling.
2. Control of animals is maintained at all times.
3. A high level of style and accuracy is maintained throughout.
4. The required paces are demonstrated and maintained.
5. Transitions are acceptably executed.
6. Salutes are performed with style and appropriate to gender.
7. Competent use of the reins and whip is maintained throughout.
8. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the performance in respect of:
 - a) The animals
 - b) The Whip

2. The British coaching hand is discussed and understood.

Element 4.4 – Drive a Pair of Horses/Ponies Using any Recognised Style of Driving. The Prepared Test.

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The horses will be presented, put to and ready to begin. The Candidate will be expected to drive the pair to a very high standard and complete the course with accuracy as well as style. The test will consist of a cone course set out as per the plan. A planned cones course is shown in the appendix.

Range and Equipment

Turnout - provided by the candidate (as in previous elements).

Location - enclosed driving arena of an appropriate size, laid out with cones as per plan.

N.B. The Assistant must be seated in the carriage throughout this element.

Time - 15 minutes approximately.

Performance Criteria

1. Plan a route through the course as suitable for a pair, i.e. walk the course.
2. Discuss the course and any foreseen problems with the Assessor.
3. Drive the pair within the enclosed area as requested by the Assessor. This may include slopes and corners, etc but not obstacles.
4. Control of animals is maintained throughout.
5. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved.
6. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated.
7. The reins and whip are used skilfully.
8. The course is completed using any safe and appropriate style of driving.
9. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout.
10. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the performance in the cone course and identify strengths and weaknesses.

2. Discuss training procedure for the horses driven.

Element 4.5 The Show

Assessor Guidance

The horses/ponies will be presented put to and ready to begin. The candidate will be required to produce a show designed to demonstrate the best aspects of their pair to a standard that would be expected in a private driving class. It is understood that the animals driven will not necessarily be show animals. The assessment will be made on the ability of the Whip to get the best out of the animals driven.

Range and Equipment

Turnout - As for 4.4, put to and ready to begin (need not be turned out to show standard).

Location - A suitable flat driving area of appropriate size.

Time - Approximately 15 minutes.

Performance Criteria

1. Give a show to demonstrate the capabilities of the pair as relevant to a BDS Private Driving Class.
2. Control of animals is maintained throughout.
3. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved.
4. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated.
5. The reins and whip are used skilfully.
6. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout.
7. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the planning needed in order to carry out a show.
2. Procedures when competing in a Private Driving class with a pair and the criteria for judging pairs in Private Driving are discussed.
3. Discuss the performance for the private driving show with the Assessor.
4. Identify strengths and weakness of performance. Discuss potential and possible training procedures for the horses driven.

UNIT 5 – DRIVE THE UNKNOWN PAIR

ELEMENT 5.1- PREPARE TO DRIVE THE UNKNOWN PAIR

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The candidate will be expected to select harness and put to a pair of horses completely unknown to them. They will be required to drive a test in an enclosed environment as directed by the assessor. They will be capable of choosing the correct harness for animals and vehicle provided, which will enable the animals to work comfortably as a pair. Before starting the assessment the candidate will be required to assess the animals individually.

Equipment

Harness	Provided by the centre (not assembled).
Vehicle	Provided by the centre (with a choice of pole lengths).
Horses	Provided by the centre – 6 years of age minimum, experienced working as a pair and well shod.

Competent Assistant Provided by the candidate.

Location Safe enclosed area (e.g. stable yard).

Performance Criteria

1. Assess the horses individually
2. Prepare vehicle for use.
3. Secure horses using safe procedure.
4. Select and assemble harness.
5. Fit harness on to horses.
6. Make appropriate adjustments.

7. Using assistant, put horses to the vehicle.
8. Turnout is checked and any further adjustments made.
9. Health and safety of animals, self and others is maintained.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the turnout with reference to the horses' ability to run in a straight line and to make tight turns.
2. Discuss pole lengths and heights.

ELEMENT – 5.2 DRIVE THE UNKNOWN HORSES USING ANY SAFE STYLE OF REIN-HANDLING RECOGNISED BY THE DISCIPLINES

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The assessor will accompany the candidate on the drive, which will take place in an enclosed environment. The successful candidate will have harnessed up and put to in such a way as to allow the pair to work together as a unit through tight turns as well as through flowing movements. The candidate will be capable of driving the pair with confidence, style and accuracy. They will also be capable of making adjustments to pace and direction and employing both animals appropriately throughout the test.

Location An enclosed environment (field or tracks) which may contain undulating terrain but must also have a flat area.

Performance Criteria

1. Drive to the designated area.
2. Control of horses is maintained throughout.
3. Skilful use of the reins and whip is demonstrated.
4. The appropriate pace is maintained throughout.
5. The test is completed with safety and style.

6. The turnout is returned to the designated area.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Strengths and weakness of the performance are identified and discussed at length.
2. Possible suggestions for correction and improvement are given.
3. Explain in depth the different types of harness, e.g. Curricule, Cape, and American Yoke harness and describe Belly Bugle harness
4. Discuss driving a pair to a two wheeled vehicle.
5. Discuss reasons for varying pole lengths for different phases of the B.H.D.T.A. competition.
6. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of quarter, half and full lock on a four wheeler.
7. Discuss possible design features on a four wheeler with reference to safe mounting for whips, passengers, etc.

UNIT 6 DRIVE A TANDEM OF HORSES/PONIES

Notes to Candidates, Assessors and Training Establishments

This unit is an optional unit at Advanced Level. Candidates should provide their own turnout or one borrowed or hired for the occasion. A tandem of horses or ponies may be used but should be trained and capable of working at the level required.

Objective

The successful candidate will be capable of driving and producing a tandem of horses/ponies to a high standard of competence and safety. They will be able to handle the reins skilfully using recognised techniques. They will show style and elegance throughout their performance. They will also be required to show a degree of knowledge to back up the level of the performance. To be successful the candidate will need experience as well as competence. The Unit will be assessed partly by Accreditation of Prior Achievement as well as by direct observation of the performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge.

ELEMENT 6.1 – CARRY OUT TRAINING A TANDEM OF DRIVING HORSES/PONIES

N.B. This unit will be assessed by Accreditation of Prior Achievement.

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates should provide evidence of their ability to train and produce a tandem of horses/ponies capable of competing at County Shows, National BC competitions or any other appropriate driving discipline at the same level. They should produce project work which will include detailed explanations of the structure and psychology of their training methods, fitness programme and the pros and cons of using training aids as well as methods and techniques used for correcting faults and improving performance. Methods of providing evidence may include videos and tapes but must include portfolio, witness statements and project work. The portfolio should provide sound evidence of a proven track record.

This work, together with any videos, tapes, etc. should be sent to the BDS Office with entry.

N.B. Candidates who submit suspect or incomplete evidence will be asked to rectify and re-submit and an extra charge will be made.

ELEMENT 6.2 – PREPARE TO DRIVE A TANDEM OF HORSES/PONIES – PRESENTATION**Assessor/Candidate Guidance**

The successful candidate will be capable of producing a turnout to a **standard** suitable for County Shows. The full turnout will be provided by the candidate but need not be the property of the candidate. The candidate must provide a suitable assistant/groom who will assist in the putting to and at other times when considered necessary in the interests of health and safety. The Assistant must be suitably dressed and appropriate for the turnout and will be considered in the assessment of the presentation of the turnout.

The horses/ponies may be brought to the Examination Centre bathed, trimmed, with manes plaited and tails pulled if appropriate. All final preparations will be carried out by the candidate at the Examination Centre. The harness and vehicle should be prepared prior to the assessment. The candidate will present the horses/ponies in harness, put to, and ready for assessment.

Range and Equipment

Horses	Provided by the candidate – 6 years of age minimum, well shod and working as a Tandem.
Vehicle	Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate. The carriage must be of traditional type and allow for the assistant to be seated.
Harness	A set of tandem harness suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate.
Equipment	All additional equipment required for the turnout is provided by the candidate.
Assistant	A competent groom/assistant who is dressed appropriately for the turnout provided by the candidate.
Location	Enclosed safe environment, e.g. stable yard
Time	Approximately 40 minutes.

Performance Criteria

1. The horses/ponies are prepared for Presentation in a suitable style for the turnout
2. The style of preparation is suitable for the type of horses/ponies
3. The turnout is presented for Presentation
4. Health and safety of the horses/ponies, self and others is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Candidates give a self-assessment of their performance and suggest ways for

improvement.

2. Candidates identify and discuss any weakness in their performance.

Element 6.3 – Drive the Advanced Dressage Test Using the British Coaching Style of rein-handling (Reins in the Left Hand Supported by the Right)

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will drive the BDS Advanced Dressage Test from memory, using the British Coaching style of driving (reins in the left hand supported by the right hand.) Candidates will be expected to complete all the movements of the test with a high degree of competence. The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of the required paces and the requirements of a dressage test. It is accepted that not all animals can consistently perform or maintain totally correct paces. The candidate is expected to perform to a level that one would see in a reasonably successful competitor in National BC Open competitions. (This is seen as a standard where the competitor would achieve less than 60 penalties in an Open Class dressage test).

During assessment no marks will be allocated to individual elements of the test. The assessment will be made on overall performance.

The candidate must present the animals put to and ready to start. Safety checks will be carried out by the Assessor if the turnout differs from Element 6.2. Candidates will drive accompanied by a suitable groom or assistant who will be provided by the candidate.

The Advanced Dressage Test is shown in the appendix to the syllabus.

Range and Equipment

Horses/Ponies As in element 6.2

Vehicle Any sound suitable vehicle to fit the animals. The groom/assistant must be seated.

Harness Any appropriate harness which must be sound, fit the horses/ponies, be appropriate for the turnout and be presented to a high standard. To be provided by the candidate.

Assistant dressed, A competent groom/assistant, appropriate to the turnout and suitably provided by the candidate.

Location Driving arena 100m x 80m minimum. Manège or level enclosed field with suitable boards and markers.

Time Approximately 12 minutes

Performance Criteria

1. Drive the BDS Advanced Dressage test from memory using the British coaching style of rein-handling

2. Control of animals is maintained at all times
3. A high level of style and accuracy is maintained throughout
4. The required paces are demonstrated and maintained
5. Transitions are acceptably executed.
6. Salutes are performed with style and appropriate to gender.
7. Competent use of the reins and whip is maintained throughout
8. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained throughout

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the performance in respect of:
 - a) The animals
 - b) The Whip
2. The British coaching hand is discussed and understood

ELEMENT 6.4 – DRIVE A TANDEM OF HORSES/PONIES USING ANY RECOGNISED STYLE OF REIN- HANDLING. THE PREPARED TEST.

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The horses will be presented, put to and ready to begin. The Candidate will be expected to drive the tandem to a very high standard and complete the course with accuracy as well as style. The test will consist of a cone course set out as per the plan. A planned cones course is shown in the appendix.

Range and Equipment

Turnout – provided by the candidate (as in previous elements)

Location – enclosed driving arena of an appropriate size, laid out with cones as per plan

N.B. The Assistant must be seated in the carriage throughout this element.

Time – 15 minutes approximately

Performance Criteria

1. Plan a route through the course as suitable for a tandem, i.e. walk the course
2. Discuss the course and any foreseen problems with the Assessor
3. Drive the tandem within the enclosed area as requested by the Assessor. This may include slopes and corners, etc. but not obstacles.

4. Control of animals is maintained throughout
5. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved
6. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated
7. The reins and whip are used skilfully
8. The course is completed using any safe and appropriate style of driving
9. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout
10. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the performance in the cone course and identify strengths and weaknesses
2. Discuss training procedure for the horses driven.

ELEMENT 6.5 – THE SHOW

Assessor Guidance

The horses/ponies will be presented put to and ready to begin. The candidate will be required to produce a show designed to demonstrate the best aspects of their tandem to a standard that would be expected in a private driving class. It is understood that the animals driven will not necessarily be show animals. The assessment will be made on the ability of the Whip to get the best out of the animals driven.

Range and Equipment

Turnout – As for 6.4, put to and ready to begin (need not be turned out to show standard)

Location – A suitable flat driving area of appropriate size

Time - Approximately 15 minutes

Performance Criteria

1. Give a show to demonstrate the capabilities of the tandem as relevant to a BDS Private Driving Class.
2. Control of animals is maintained throughout
3. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved
4. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated
5. The reins and whip are used skilfully

6. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout
7. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the planning and carry out a show
2. Procedures when competing in a Private Driving class with a tandem and the criteria for judging tandems in Private Driving are discussed.
3. Discuss the performance for the private driving show with the Assessor
4. Identify strengths and weakness of performance. Discuss potential and possible training procedures for the horses driven.

UNIT 7 DRIVE THE UNKNOWN TANDEM

ELEMENT 7.1 – PREPARE TO DRIVE THE UNKNOWN TANDEM

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The candidate will be expected to select harness and put to a tandem of horses completely unknown to them. They will be required to drive a test in an enclosed environment as directed by the Assessor. They will be capable of choosing the correct harness for animals and vehicle provided, which will enable the animals to work comfortably as a tandem. Before starting the assessment the candidate will be required to assess the animals individually.

Equipment

Harness	Provided by the centre (not assembled) to include martingale type trace carrier.
Vehicle	Provided by the centre.
Horses	Provided by the centre – 6 years of age minimum, experienced working as a tandem and well shod.
Competent Assistant	Provided by the candidate
Location	Safe enclosed area (e.g. stable yard)

Performance Criteria

1. Assess the horses individually
2. Prepare vehicle for use
3. Secure horses using safe procedure
4. Select and assemble harness
5. Fit harness on to horses
6. Make appropriate adjustments
7. Using assistant, put horses to the vehicle
8. Turnout is checked and any further adjustments made
9. Health and safety of animals, self and others is maintained

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the turnout with reference to the horses' ability to run in a straight line and to make tight turns.

ELEMENT – 7.2 DRIVE THE UNKNOWN HORSES USING ANY SAFE STYLE OF DRIVING RECOGNISED BY THE DISCIPLINES**Assessor/Candidate Guidance**

The assessor will accompany the candidate on the drive, which will take place in an enclosed environment. The successful candidate will have harnessed up and put to in such a way as to allow the tandem to work together as a unit through tight turns as well as through flowing movements. The candidate will be capable of driving the tandem with confidence, style and accuracy. They will also be capable of making adjustments to pace and direction and employing both animals appropriately throughout the test.

Location An enclosed environment (field or tracks) which may contain undulating terrain but must also have a flat area.

Performance Criteria

1. Drive to the designated area
2. Control of horses is maintained throughout
3. Skilful use of the reins and whip is demonstrated
4. The appropriate pace is maintained throughout

5. The test is completed with safety and style
6. The turnout is returned to the designated area
7. Demonstrate folding of a tandem whip and discuss the technique required to achieve a high standard.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Strengths and weakness of the performance are identified and discussed at length
2. Possible suggestions for correction and improvement are given
3. Discuss choice of whip for use with a tandem
4. Discuss varying types of rosettes, roger rings and throat lash rings on a wheeler's bridle and discuss advantages and disadvantages of each.
5. Discuss the importance and reasons for using a martingale crupper on the leader
6. Discuss the importance and reasons for using a martingale type trace carrier on the leader
7. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of driving a tandem to:
 - a) a two-wheeled vehicle
 - b) a four-wheeled vehicle
8. Discuss in detail the role of the groom/assistant when left in charge of a tandem.
9. Explain the use of tandem bars and discuss advantages and disadvantages
10. Describe unicorn harness, the method of putting to and problems likely to occur.
11. Describe the harness used for a randem
12. Describe the rein handling of a randem and identify some problems that may occur with a randem.

Unit 8 DRIVE A TEAM OF HORSES/PONIES

Notes to Candidates, Assessor and Training Establishments

This unit is an optional unit at Advanced level. Candidates should provide their own turnout or one borrowed or hired for the occasion. A team of horses or ponies may be used but should be trained and capable of working at the level required.

Objective

The successful candidate will be capable of driving and producing a team of horses/ponies to a high standard of competence and safety. They will be able to handle the reins skilfully using recognised techniques. They will show style and elegance throughout their performance. They will also be required to show a degree of knowledge to back up the level of the performance. The Unit will be assessed partly by Accreditation of Prior Achievement as well as by direct observation of the performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge.

ELEMENT 8.1 – CARRY OUT THE TRAINING OF A TEAM OF DRIVING HORSES/PONIES

N.B. This unit will be assessed by Accreditation of Prior Achievement

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

Candidates should provide evidence of their ability to train and produce a team of horses/ponies capable of competing at County Shows, National BC competitions or any other appropriate driving discipline at the same level. They should produce project work which will include detailed explanations of the structure and psychology of their training methods, fitness programme and the pros and cons of using training aids as well as methods and techniques used for correcting faults and improving performance. Methods of providing evidence may include videos and tapes but must include portfolio, witness statements and project work. The portfolio should provide sound evidence of a proven track record.

This work, together with any videos, tapes, etc. should be sent to the BDS office with entry.

N.B. Candidates who submit suspect or incomplete evidence will be asked to rectify and re-submit and an extra charge will be made.

Element 8.2 – Prepare to Drive a Team of Horses/Ponies – Presentation

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will be capable of producing a turnout to a **standard** suitable for County Shows. The full turnout will be provided by the candidate but need not be the property of the candidate. The candidate must provide suitable assistants/grooms (minimum 2) who will assist in the putting to and at other times when considered necessary in the interests of health and safety. The Assistants must be suitably dressed and appropriate for the turnout and will be considered in the assessment of the presentation of the turnout.

The horses/ponies may be brought to the Examination Centre bathed, trimmed, with manes plaited and tails pulled if appropriate. All final preparations will be carried out by the candidate at the Examination Centre. The harness and vehicle should be prepared prior to the assessment. The candidate will present the horses/ponies in harness, put to, and ready for assessment.

Range and Equipment

Horses/ponies	Provided by the candidate – 6 years of age minimum, well shod and working as a team
Vehicle	Suitable for the turnout and provided by the candidate. The carriage must be of traditional type with 4 wheels. The carriage must allow for the Assistants to be seated.
Harness	A set of team harness suitable for the turnout and provided by the Candidate
Equipment	All additional equipment required for the turnout is provided by the Candidate.
Assistants	Competent grooms/assistants (minimum 2) who are dressed appropriately for the turnout provided by the candidate
Location	Enclosed safe environment, e.g. stable yard

Time Approximately 40 minutes

Performance Criteria

1. The horses/ponies are prepared for presentation in a suitable style for the turnout
2. The vehicle is prepared for use.
3. Horses/ponies are secured using safe procedure.
4. Harness is selected and fitted to the horses/ponies.
5. Adjustments are made where necessary.
6. Horses/ponies are put to the vehicle.
7. Appropriate use is made of the assistants/grooms.
8. The turnout is checked and any necessary adjustments made.
9. Health and safety of animals, self and others is maintained throughout.
10. The turnout is presented for presentation.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. The Candidates give a self-assessment of their performance identifying strengths and weaknesses.
2. Discuss varying types of terrets, rosettes, overhead terrets, roger rings and throat lash rings which may be used on the wheelers of a team, giving reasons for advantages and disadvantages.
3. Discuss choice of whips for a team
4. Discuss coupling rein adjustments and leader rein adjustments with reference to:
(a) Differing head carriages or lengths of necks
(b) Moving animals into draught on the reins

5. Discuss leader rein adjustment in hand with reference to moving animals in to or out of draught (rein machine may be used to demonstrate).
6. Discuss correct adjustment of breeching with breast collar harness.
7. Discuss correct adjustment of pole straps and pole chains.
8. Discuss different methods of draught for wheelers and leaders
9. Explain the difference between road coach and park drag harness and give reasons for their use.
10. Discuss ceremonial harness for use with a team.
11. Discuss and identify vehicles suitable for a variety of activities with a team.
12. Describe and discuss some other national styles of team harness eg Russian, American, Hungarian etc.
13. Describe and discuss the harness and use of a cock horse.
14. Discuss suitable dress codes for use with a team, including livery.

ELEMENT 8.3 – DRIVE THE ADVANCED DRESSAGE TEST USING THE BRITISH COACHING STYLE OF REIN-HANDLING (REINS IN THE LEFT HAND SUPPORTED BY THE RIGHT)

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The successful candidate will drive the BDS Advanced Dressage Test from memory, using the British Coaching style of driving (reins in the left hand supported by the right hand). Candidates will be expected to complete all the movements of the test with a high degree of competence. The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of the required paces and the requirements of a dressage test. It is accepted that not all animals can consistently perform or maintain totally correct paces. The candidate is expected to perform to a level that one would see in a reasonably successful competitor in National BC open competitions. (This is seen as a standard where the competitor would achieve less than 60 penalties in an Open Class dressage test).

During assessment no marks will be allocated to individual elements of the test. The assessment will be made on overall performance.

The candidate must present the animals put to and ready to start. Safety checks will be carried out by the Assessor if the turnout differs from Element 8.2. Candidates will drive accompanied by suitable grooms or assistants who will be provided by the candidate.

The Advanced Dressage Test is shown in the appendix to the syllabus.

Range and Equipment

Horses/Ponies As in element 8.2

Vehicle Any sound suitable four-wheeled vehicle to fit the animals.
Grooms/Assistants must be seated.

Harness Any appropriate harness which must be sound, fit the horses/ponies, be appropriate for the turnout and be presented to a high standard. To be provided by the candidate.

Assistants Competent grooms/assistants (minimum 2), appropriate to the turnout and suitably dressed
provided by the candidate.

Location Driving arena 100m x 40m minimum. Manege or level enclosed field with suitable boards and markers

Time Approximately 12 minutes

Performance Criteria

1. Drive the BDS Advanced Dressage test from memory using the British coaching style of rein-handling.
2. Control of animals is maintained at all times
3. A high level of style and accuracy is maintained throughout
4. The required paces are demonstrated and maintained
5. Transitions are acceptably executed
6. Salutes are performed with style and appropriate to gender
7. Competent use of the reins and whip is maintained throughout
8. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained throughout

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the performance in respect of:
 - a) The animals
 - b) The Whip
2. The British coaching hand is discussed and understood

ELEMENT 8.4 – DRIVE A TEAM OF HORSES/PONIES USING ANY RECOGNISED STYLE OF DRIVING. THE PREPARED TEST

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The horses/ponies will be presented, put to and ready to begin. The Candidate will be expected to drive the team to a very high standard and complete the course with accuracy as well as style. The test will consist of a cone course set out as per the plan. A planned cones course is shown in the appendix.

Range and Equipment

Turnout – provided by the candidate (as in previous elements)

Location – enclosed driving arena of an appropriate size, laid out with cones as per plan

N.B. The Assistants must be seated in the carriage throughout this element

Time – 15 minutes approximately

Performance Criteria

1. Plan a route through the course suitable for a team, i.e. walk the course
2. Discuss the course and any foreseen problems with the Assessor
3. Drive the team within the enclosed area as requested by the Assessor. (This may include slopes and corners, etc. but not obstacles)
4. Control of animals is maintained throughout
5. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved
6. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated
7. The reins and whip are used skilfully
8. The course is completed using any safe and appropriate style of driving
9. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout
10. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the performance in the cones course and identify strengths and weaknesses
2. Discuss training procedure for the horses driven

ELEMENT 8.5 – THE SHOW**Assessor Guidance**

The horses/ponies will be presented put to and ready to begin. The candidate will be required to produce a show designed to demonstrate the best aspects of their team to a standard that would be expected in a private driving class or a coaching class. It is understood that the animals driven will not necessarily be show animals. The assessment will be made on the ability of the Whip to get the best out of the animals driven.

Range and Equipment

Turnout – As for 8.4, put to and ready to begin. Must be turned out safely to a high standard but not be to show standard.

Location – A suitable flat driving area of appropriate size

Time - Approximately 15 minutes

Performance Criteria

1. Give a show to demonstrate the capabilities of the team as relevant to a BDS Private Driving Class or a Coaching Class
2. Control of animals is maintained throughout
3. A high degree of style and accuracy is achieved
4. Intelligent use of the ground is demonstrated
5. The reins and whip are used skilfully
6. Appropriate speed and pace is maintained throughout
7. Health and safety of horses/ponies, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Discuss the planning and carrying out of a show

2. Discuss procedures when competing in a Private Driving class or a Coaching Class with a team and the criteria for judging teams in both are discussed.
3. Discuss the performance for the show with the Assessor
4. Identify strengths and weakness of performance. Discuss potential and possible training procedures for the horses driven.

ELEMENT – 8.6 DRIVE THE TEAM OF HORSES/PONIES USING ANY SAFE STYLE OF DRIVING RECOGNISED BY ANY DISCIPLINES

Assessor/Candidate Guidance

The Assessor will accompany the candidate on a short drive of approximately twenty minutes on the public highway or suitable tracks. The team will be prepared ready for use. The candidate will have harnessed up and put to in such a way as to allow the team to work together as a unit, through tight turns as well as through flowing movements. The candidate will be capable of driving the team with confidence, style and accuracy. They will also be capable of making adjustments to pace and direction and employing the animals appropriately throughout the test.

Location Suitable tracks or public highway which may include undulating terrain.

N.B. Horses will be presented ready to begin.

Performance Criteria

1. Drive to the designated area
2. Control of horses is maintained throughout
3. Skilful use of the reins and whip is demonstrated
4. The appropriate pace is maintained throughout
5. The test is completed with safety and style

6. The turnout is returned to the designed area
7. Demonstrate the folding of a team whip and discuss the technique required to achieve a high standard

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Strengths and weakness of the performance are identified and discussed at length
- 2 Possible suggestions for correction and improvement are given

ELEMENT - 8.7 TAKE OUT AND ATTEND TO HORSES/PONIES AND VEHICLE AFTER USE

Performance Criteria

1. The vehicle is halted in an appropriate position for taking out and secured.
2. The use of the assistants is effective and safe
3. Safe dismounting procedure is followed
4. Horses/ponies are taken out of the vehicle using safe procedure
5. Control of the horses/ponies is maintained at all times